



Faith Family

News

April 2023

*In response to God's grace flowing
through Christ, we grow in faith
and show Christ's love.*

We Are All One in Christ Jesus

When we landed in Uganda, there was no doubt that we weren't in Illinois anymore. It was approaching midnight, the airport was nearly empty, and the hot, humid air washed over us. We made it through immigration and customs without a hitch, and then, when we walked outside, we were greeted with clapping and screaming from an elated welcome party who smothered us in hugs. Our ears strained to understand everyone. English is the national language of Uganda, but each spoke it with their own dialect and accent. Then came the drive... oh the drive! In Uganda, cars don't follow one another in order, they swarm and swell all over the place like a school of fish, taking any open bit of spare pavement or dirt, swerving out of the way for oncoming traffic at the last second. We drove through the dark, unable to see the landscape and community around us, but so aware that it was something we had never seen or experienced before.

After about an hour, we drove the washed out, dirt road that led us to Pillars and Patrick and Medina's house. It was almost 1:00 a.m. and they had prepared a feast for their American guests. We dined on rice, chicken, beef, bananas, and sweet mangos and pineapple. In the light of Patrick and Medina's dining room (the only room in their house other than three small bedrooms for their family of seven), we were able to look into the eyes of our Ugandan friends, see their smiles, and hold their hands. The eyes of our hearts began to open. A journey of discovery unfolded and the words of Paul in Galatians 3:27-28 came to life... *"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."*

We've all experienced it before. The discomfort, uneasiness, and sometimes downright fear when we are in places or with people different from us. We are taught at a young age that different is dangerous, play it safe, and stick together with "birds of a feather." It is a natural reaction that requires the supernatural to overcome. What is this supernatural? Christ!

From then on, we grew closer and closer with our Ugandan friends, learning about their lives and ministry. The words of Tyler Merrit, author of "I Take My Coffee Black," came to mind: "proximity breeds empathy." We may have arrived in Uganda with sympathy in our hearts as we "felt sorry for" the struggles of Pillars and their children, but the more we saw, learned, and the closer we grew, sympathy was replaced by empathy as we now "felt the pain with." As the days went by, we were no longer aware that we were the only "muzungus" (white people) around. We began to understand their culture and embrace their way of living... all but their "hole in the ground" toilets. What happened was the supernatural, the work of God, differences dissolving and boundaries breaking down because of the One who made us one in faith, love, and service to one another - Jesus Christ.

By the end of our time in Uganda, we were family. While returning home brought such sweet bliss, our hearts ache for those with whom we became one. I wonder... if God can place us on the other side of the world to embrace people who are so different from us, work with them in a different culture, find common purpose and mission while holding different beliefs, and even use a hole in the ground for our toilet... maybe we can walk across the street and do the same thing here...

- Pastor Adam

Faith Family Updates

What's new around Faith? Maybe you haven't been here in awhile or you just haven't noticed, but our ministry is constantly changing.

Marilyn Dichsen Nominated to Synod Council Youth Representative

Marilyn Dichsen was the only nominee to serve as the youth representative on the Central/Southern IL Synod Council at their first session of the Synod Assembly. The official vote will take place at the in-person assembly meeting in June.

Council Members Installed

On March 5, we installed Faith Council members for 2023. We welcome new members Malinda Carlson, Greg Kimler, Patty Nelson, and Monica Proefrock. Continuing members are Ken Devlin, Kelly Hartz, Mike Oldenettel, and Kelly Street. We also welcome Marilyn Dichsen as our Youth Representative.

Music Rehearsal Time Changes

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir are trying out a new rehearsal schedule to encourage more to be a part of the music program here at Faith.

**Chancel Choir meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;
Exaltation Ringers on the 2nd and 4th Sundays;
all from 10:45-11:15am**

Why should you consider joining us? How about free singing/ringing lessons, do something for yourself, and learn something new? Music is a gift of God... wouldn't it be a boring world without it?

Making music together also relieves stress, stimulates the immune system, increases pain threshold, may help snoring, improves lung function, develops a sense of belonging and connection, enhances memory, helps with grief, improves mental health. (*Source: Healthline*)

I hope to see you on **Sunday mornings** for these rehearsals at 10:45am in the sanctuary!

Jean Welch 
Director of Music

We Remember Charlie Heitbrink and Imogene Lovekamp

Two of our members entered the Church Triumphant in the past 2 months.

Charlie Heitbrink died on February 23; a funeral service was held at Faith on March 24, and he was buried at Diamond Grove Cemetery.

Imogene Lovekamp died on March 15, and a funeral service will be held on Monday, April 3 at 11:00am at Williamson Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 9:00am. We give thanks to God for our partnership in ministry and for the hope we share in eternal life.



First Communion Instruction

Do you have a child interested in receiving communion? If they are in first grade or older and you feel they are ready for this step in their faith, come talk to Pastor Adam. He will be leading a three-session course that will include teaching, discussion, making chalices, and baking communion bread. The classes will be held in April and May with plans to celebrate First Communion with the congregation on Mother's Day, May 14.

Living Our Mission... Vibrant Worship

An expressed goal for 2022 was the continued fostering of vibrant worship. This specifically supports our mission as “we respond to God’s grace flowing through Christ.” In worship, God’s grace flows to us through sacraments, Word, and community, and we respond with joyful praise.

What is Holy Week?

Have you ever wondered what all took place on Holy Week? Did you realize that the gospels don’t share the same timeline from Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his death and resurrection? What significance does this have for us today? Join our confirmation class on **Wednesday, April 5** for a night of intergenerational fun as we walk through the events of Holy Week with discussion, trivia, and games. Bring a dish to share for a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and stay for the events beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday - April 2 **“A Different Savior”**

Start off Holy Week with us as we gather in the entryway for our palm procession. We will hear about Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and how he is a different savior than was expected... both 2,000 years ago and today.

Maundy Thursday - April 6 **“A Different Meal”**

Holy Week continues on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. as we gather with Jesus at the Lord’s Table for a different meal. For Jesus and his disciples, it is a Passover meal “with a twist.” That twist continues to give forgiveness and life to this day.

Good Friday - April 7 **“A Different Death”**

Join us on Friday at 7:00 p.m. for this traditional Tenebrae service. “Tenebrae” means “darkness or shadows” in Latin. As we read Matthew’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion, the shadows grow long and darkness claims the sanctuary and our hearts. We place nails in the cross to remember Jesus’ death for us. The Christ Candle departs to signify Jesus sealed in the tomb, but returns to give us hope in despair and light in the darkness.

Easter Sunday - April 9 **“A Different Reunion”**

Come celebrate the resurrection with us! Matthew’s gospel details a shocking and grand reunion between the women and the risen Christ. It is a reunion that not only gives comfort and cause for celebration, but a promise that God is with us. Bring a friend to worship this Sunday to share with them the good news and welcome them to this wondrous reunion.

Easter Altar Plants

We will adorn our altar with live plants on Easter again this year. To make a donation, mark your check or envelope as “Easter Altar Flowers” and place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office. If you would like to take any plants home for your yard, you can pick them up on Tues., April 11. Plants that remain will be used to landscape our outdoor worship area and church yard.

Youth Easter Breakfast **10:30a.m.**

Join us after worship for a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, and fruit salad. A free-will donation will be collected to support youth retreats and activities this summer. **If you would like to donate food** (casserole, coffee cake, fruit salad, milk, or orange juice), there is a signup sheet on the counter by the Fair-Trade Coffee sales.

Living Our Mission ... Faith Formation

It's a new year with new opportunities for Small Groups!
Check these out and consider how you might get involved..

Discipleship Group

Join us at 10am on Wednesday, April 19, in the Faith Library as we meet for great conversation and fellowship time. If you haven't attended before, now's a great time to give it a try! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join us on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00pm as we celebrate Earth Day by painting flower pots. Take it home with a flower for yourself or give it to a friend. Plus we'll have dirt dessert for a treat! Please **RSVP to Monica by Sunday, April 16.**

Faith and Film

Do you like the ways movies nurture and challenge our faith? Come check out this new small group as we gather for fellowship and lunch, then watch a movie and have discussion. Our next potluck and movie will be on **Monday, April 24 at noon.** The movie will be *A Man Called Otto*.



Men's Breakfast

Join us on Saturday, **April 1** to hear from the guys who went to Uganda. Come at 8:00 to help in the kitchen and at 9:00 for food and conversation.

Ken Bradbury Show — “The Bystanders”

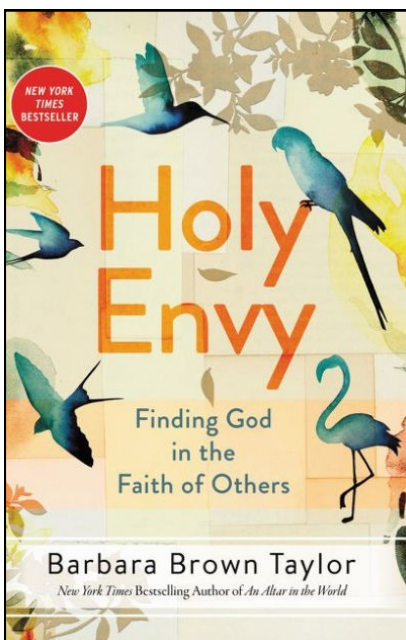
All are welcome to attend Ken Bradbury's one-act play, "The Bystanders", being performed **Sunday, April 16** at:

10:00 am First Presbyterian Church, 870 W. College Ave.

1:00 pm Faith Lutheran Church, 1385 W. Walnut St.

**5:00 pm Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church,
1447 Merritt Road**

This one-hour play is a collection of monologues; eight stories shared by those who were around Christ before, during, or after the Crucifixion. This powerful drama features Tim Chipman, Christine Smith, Audra Nelson, Buford Stowers, Cooper Stowers, Emma Guidish, Doris Robinson, and Keith Bradbury. Admission is free. For information call 217-473-4735.



New Pastor's Pick for April:

“Holy Envy” by Barbara Brown Taylor

Taylor contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques. Troubled and inspired by what she learns, she returns to her own tradition for guidance, finding new meaning in old teachings. Re-imagining some central stories from the religion she knows best, she takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders how out-of-bounds God really is. Pick up a copy for \$10, and join Pastor Adam for a discussion on April 26 at noon or 6:00 p.m.

Living Our Mission ... Showing Christ's Love

Our mission calls us to “show Christ’s love” as we share the love of Jesus with one another at Faith and our neighbors near and far. Here are some ways you can join us!



The Central Southern Illinois Synod and its New and Renewing Congregations Committee is sponsoring a **Fresh Expressions Vision Day** for our congregations to expand their mission reach and deepen discipleship. Fresh Expressions is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet part of any church. At its heart, Fresh Expressions is about two things: 1) Proclaiming that established churches have a critical, if not central, role to play in God’s mission in our time. 2) Empowering and equipping God’s people in every congregation to develop creative ways to reach the increasing diversity of our society.

A true movement of God begins with a sense of awe and wonder. So let us wonder. Where are the people we want to reach? Who are they? How do we work outside the walls of the church—but in partnership with the church to do so? **We are looking for volunteers to be a part of this exciting conversation!** Faith will cover your cost to attend the Fresh Expressions Vision Day **on April 15** at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Springfield from 9:30-3:30. If you would like a ride, we will meet at Faith at 8:30 a.m., go out for ice cream in Springfield after the sessions to discuss what we have heard, and return to Jacksonville by 5:30 p.m. **Sign up at the Mission and Ministry Center and talk to Jean Welch for more details.**

Worship, Celebration, and Dinner... *UGANDA STYLE!!!*

On Sunday, April 30, join us for a worship service that breaks us free from our typical Lutheran norm as we incorporate music and prayer from our Ugandan neighbors at Pillars of Africa. Afterwards, we will host a meal similar to the cuisine our team enjoyed. As you eat, we will tell stories and show pictures of our adventures and share more about opportunities to walk more closely with the programs at Pillars as we help them become more sustainable. And look for the crafts! We brought three suitcases back filled with crafts from their Pillars Empowerment Program that supports local crafters and gives them training to improve their skills.

Jacksonville Food Center

Instead of the usual statistics quoting money spent for the biweekly food boxes filled according to family size, or the statistics for the weekly produce and meat table give-aways, I thought that the kind and thoughtful donations that were quoted at the monthly board meeting this month would be very appropriate.

The Boy Scouts had a food drive and gave a large donation. In January and February, food donations collected at First National Bank resulted in 310 pounds of food worth \$1,500. Jacksonville Middle School and Our Saviors School had a “Raising Food Contest”, and Our Saviors also had a “Souper Bowl”

drive, so a lot of soup was received. Over 700 pounds of food were received.

The Food Center is anticipating bigger needs because there will be less government help due to elimination of pandemic and extra Food Stamps help. Also, this summer, children will be missing weekday school lunches. Suggestions for food donations that the children can fix for themselves are: taco shells, canned tuna, canned spaghetti, soup, canned fruit, and juices. Pop top cans are best, if possible.

In January, Faith Lutheran Church donated \$175 to the Food Center. In February, Faith donated \$265.

Lillian Korous

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

April 2 Kim Heise
April 6 Kris Roth (M. Thursday)
April 9 Karen Sibert (Easter)
April 16 Pat Glyshaw
April 23 Martha Krohe
April 30 Kris Roth

Coffee Hosts

April 2 Kim Heise
April 9 *Easter Breakfast*
April 16 Kay Schnitker
April 23 Terri Kimler
April 30 Judy D. & Vicki R.

Communion Assistants

April 2 Hallie Mayner
April 6 Ken Devlin (M. Thursday)
April 9 Karen Sibert (Easter)
April 16 **need volunteer**
April 23 Kay Schnitker
April 30 Pam Devlin

Greeters

April 2 Debbie, Ethel, & Gayla
April 6 Lynette Hamilton (M. Th.)
April 9 Lillian Korous (Easter)
April 16 Verla Buckner & Laura S.
April 23 Hallie Mayner
April 30 Barb Fishback

Readers

April 2 Mike Fenner
April 9 Barb Davenport
April 16 Terri Kimler
April 23 Carol VanderKloot
April 30 Mike Fenner

Ushers

April 2 Angie & Mike Fenner
April 6 Pat Glyshaw (M. Thursday)
April 7 **need volunteer** (G. Friday)
April 9 Hallie M. & Liddy S.
April 16 Pat Glyshaw
April 23 Larry Kuster
April 30 Angie & Mike Fenner

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors.

Altar Plants

(\$15 donation appreciated)

Plants are placed in the chancel that remain for an extended period of time.

If you would like to donate,

please call or email the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area at the podium by the east doors;**

please make checks payable to

Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

April 2 By Vicki Robson in memory of Kelly's birthday
& By Judy Dillard in memory of her anniv.
April 9 By Lloyd Kleinlein in memory of Margie's birthday on March 29
& By the Dichsen family in celebration of Rigby's 11th birthday on April 10
April 16 By the Roth family in celebration of Maria Snodgrass' birthday today
& By Carol Rauen in loving memory of Chick Quandt
April 23 By Gaylon & Marty Martin
April 30 **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

April 2 Mindy Carlson & Greg Kimler
April 9 Ken Devlin & Monica Proefrock
April 16 Mindy Carlson & Kelly Street
April 23 Kelly Hartz & to be determined
April 30 Kelly Hartz & to be determined

Newsletter Deadline

April 16

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

will be available soon in the gathering area — the printing has been delayed, but the company will get them to us as soon as they can. **Please be assured all offerings and donations are being correctly recorded in your name.**

After they come in, if you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Faith Telephone Directory

A new Faith Telephone Directory **is available** for all to take home (1 per household, please). These are located on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center.