



Faith United Church of Christ – July 2018  
[www.faithslinger.org](http://www.faithslinger.org)

One of my favorite hymns is, "God of Grace and God of Glory." The melody is strong and confident. The lyrics petition God's presence and intervention

"for the living of these days" and "the facing of this hour," so we won't miss God's Kingdom goal and we will not fail brothers, sisters or God.

I've been thinking a lot about that hymn these days as I watch the news, read the paper, spend time on Facebook. It seems to me that we're living in extraordinary times—times filled with a lot of anger and finger pointing. This anger, fear and suspicion of others, I think, has turned us around and upside down. Disoriented, we've lost our way as children of God. In many instances, we've allowed the cacophony emanating from individuals, political parties, groups and pundits overcome the Voice of God's Holy Spirit.

That Voice, that speaks from God's heart and reminds us of Jesus' word, life and ministry. This is the Voice that tells you and me that there's a different behavior expected of those who claim Christ, Lord. It's a Voice that calls us to remember our roots as people of faith. And it urges us to turn to the pages of scripture to read Jesus' prescription for living faithfully.

Matthew 22:34-40, stands as a touchstone for us when we're confused or uncertain of God's expectations about living as his disciples. There we find Jesus in Jerusalem on his final visit there prior to his arrest, trial and crucifixion. The religious leaders of the day are hounding him, asking all sorts of questions about who he really is, as well as his family of origin. They query him about God, God's Kingdom, the resurrection, those who are worthy to be numbered among the faithful. All of these questions were not raised by the Temple and religious leaders in an attempt to gain insight into God and God's will, however. They were raised in a way they hoped would trick Jesus into exposing himself as a fraud.

Jesus, however, understood their motives, and he meets every one of their challenges with answers that reveal God's truth.

They weren't succeeding. So, in a last ditch effort to trip up Jesus, a lawyer asks him one question, ""Which commandment in the law is greatest?" (22:36).

Jesus' answer is clear and easy to recall, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

In other words, people who claim the title Christian are called to do two things in life, "Love God. Love neighbor." All the commandments, all the rules for faithful living, all the words and teachings of the prophets can be summed up in these four words, "Love God. Love neighbor."

The love that Jesus commands us to share, is love that is different than an emotional, butterfly-producing love we might possess for another. It is a love that is different than saying you love something—as in you love to eat dark chocolate, or play a game or sport, or listen to a favorite band. It's not an emotional kind of love.

The kind of love Jesus is talking about here is a love that takes action in response to the love of God. "To love God with all one's heart, and soul, and mind, is to choose to respond to God even as God chooses to love us. Feelings and emotions do not enter into the equation. . .

"In the New Testament, the principle word used for love is *agape*. Like *philia*, or brotherly love, it is a passionless love. *Eros* is the word for passion or desire. The latter two are used sparingly in the New Testament. *Agape* in the gospels has some connection to emotion, where God cares for God's creatures and creation." (Clayton Schmit, Provost of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary)

To love as God as God calls us to love, means loving in a way that is kind and merciful, patient and generous. Loving God as God calls us to love is our duty as Christians—a choice we make. A kind of discipline we decide to follow. To love as God calls us to love means looking at our neighbor—friend and enemy alike—and choosing to love them with compassion and mercy, and without reservation or interruption. To love as God calls us to love means we choose to love our neighbor next door as well as the neighbor in Chicago, or the neighbor at the border or on the other side of the world. And we choose to love them all in the same way as we love others we're close to. To love as God calls us to love, is to choose to love the person whom we might find to be disgusting—and love them as much as we love our best friend. Maybe we don't want to love them, but to belittle and name call them. Maybe we don't feel like loving them, but feelings don't carry weight when it comes to loving as God calls us to love. We make the choice to love because God chose to love us first—warts and all—and continues to choose us, just as he would choose to love the "other" in our midst.

God is love—he breathed life into us in love. God came to us in Christ, and redeemed us through Christ because he loves us. God loves us so much, he can't bear the thought of being separated from us. God visits us through the Holy Spirit in love, calling us to love one another as Christ loved us.

And that's the kind of power he pours on us for the living of these days. It's all about love. Love God. Love Neighbor. On these two commandments, everything depends.

*Pastor Sharon*



### **Welcome Ashley!**

We're delighted to welcome Ashley Kuhaupt to the life and ministry of Faith Church!

Ashley and husband, Sam, were married at Faith last September.

Ashley's a Personal Banker at Waterstone Bank, and she also tends bar at the Iron Ridge Inn on the

weekends. Sam & Ashley are excited to announce that they're going to take on the new titles of Dad & Mom this fall, as they're expecting their first child toward the end of November.

Welcome, Ashley!



**Let's Have a Shower!** It's time for us to shower the congregation with some supplies to use throughout the year. We're most in need of the following: toilet paper; paper towels; dessert plates; plastic silverware; cleaning supplies; paper napkins; paper bowls.

The shower will continue on throughout the summer. Donations can be placed in the "shower" tub in the narthex. Thanks so much for your gifts!

### **Y'all Come & Invite Your Friends and Neighbors!**

Just a few short weeks, and it's our outdoor worship and picnic at Folk Song Farm, 4811 Pioneer Road, Slinger. If the address sounds familiar to some of you, it's Marge Mayer Slaughter's farm, which Ike and Shelly Mayer have restored. It's a beautiful event venue, and they've invited all of us to come over, Sunday, August 5. We hope you, your family and friends will join us for worship at 10, followed by lunch, games and crafts.

We'll have a picnic following worship. Everyone's invited! In fact, we're inviting the whole community to join us. We'll have brats, burgers, hotdogs and buns for everyone. We'll also have soda, water and coffee for folks. Could you please bring side dishes and desserts to share with all in attendance? Could you also please bring extra lawn chairs for people to use? Please make sure you mark them with your name.



Following lunch, we'll have games and crafts for people of all ages to enjoy. How about a little lawn Jenga, Ladder Ball, Corn Hole Bean Bag toss, Fishing for Marbles? If you'd like to bring an outdoor game along, that's great too. Please make sure you can identify yours.

If you plan on picnicking with us, we'd love to know how many people are in your group. There's a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board, or just let any member of the Outreach Team know if you'll be coming: Alan & Merrilee Lehman, Beth Miller, Rob Schowalter and Pastor Sharon. And there are no worries if you decide you can make it at the last minute! Just come and join in a beautiful day with wonderful friends in your faith community



**Swing A Hammer!** Saturday, July 14, Faith will be helping with a Habitat for Humanity of Washington & Dodge County build at 411 Kilbourn Avenue, West Bend.

If you'd like to join us, that would be great! Please let Cathy Schmidt know if you're interested. You can volunteer directly with Habitat by visiting the following web page below and apply to participate, or be prepared to fill out a release form when you arrive on the job site. Workers need to be of high school age. The workday runs from 9 am-3 pm.

<https://timecounts.org/hfhwadovolunteers/assignments/1240>

## What's That, God?



Maybe God is calling you—yes, you—to share his story with the children of the congregation. If you think that's the case, and you'd like to learn more about leading a KFC workshop on a Sunday or two during the program year, or if you'd like to provide a set of helping hands with the kids, please let Pastor Sharon know of your sense of call to this ministry.

## Spending a Weekend Away!

Join Faith members and friends for a weekend set apart for fun, fellowship and reflection, August 10-12 at Richard Bong State Recreation Area. It's a great time to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and reflect on God's love and God's presence in life. All are welcome to join in the event for all or part of the weekend.

Friday, campers are free to check in and set up on their site any time after 3 pm. Please know that everyone is asked to provide their own supper on Friday. The group will provide meals for the remainder of the weekend.

Saturday, we'll have activities for everyone—weekend and day campers. Please join us! After breakfast, we'll spend time thinking and talking about this incredible God we love and serve.



Lunch will be available between noon and 1 pm at the park, and dinner will be served after 5:30 pm. We'll have a campfire later in the evening, with traditional campfire goodies. In between enjoying all that delicious food, there will be plenty of opportunities to play lawn games, hike, swim, play cards, fish or simply sit back and enjoy some great conversation. Please come and join us for any or all parts of the day.

Sunday, the group will have a yummy breakfast, followed by an outdoor worship service, before heading home.

If you are planning on camping and haven't been in touch with Rob Schowalter yet, please do so ASAP.

Those camping the entire weekend, please bring along the following things: snacks to share with everyone; your own beverages; bug repellent; sleeping bag; pillow; lawn chair; Bible; pen or pencil; clothes appropriate for the weather forecast, and including sweatshirts and rain poncho.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with Rob Schowalter or Pastor Sharon.



Sunday Morning Fellowship gives members and guests a great chance to visit, get to know one another better, and build community. Hosts for this time are always appreciated. If you'd like to be one of those hosts, you can talk with Rob Schowalter

**You oughta be in pictures!** We'd love your pictures of church events, activities, worship so the church's website and Facebook page can be updated. Please get out your phones, click away at church, and then send those great photos to Jenni Gordon at this address: [jenni0944@gmail.com](mailto:jenni0944@gmail.com).

### **We Give Thanks to God for. . .**



Elaine Burg for her presence and leadership in the visitation ministry to the shut-ins.

Cathy Schmidt for music leadership during worship while Rita was on vacation.

Beth Miller for organizing the fellowship trip to see *Peter Pan* at the Schauer Center.

Marilyn Nadelhoffer for hosting Rev. Kusler while he was providing pulpit supply

Linda Hautala and Barb Meyer for hosting Sunday morning fellowship one Sunday each month.

JJ & Barb Markiewicz for sharing their Marine prayer and flag on the day we offered prayers for Josh Zehner prior to his deployment.



**In Our Prayers:** Prayers are asked for healing for Ivan Schall, Jed Dolnick, Darlene Endres, Edna Schall, Dianne Wiedmeyer, Greg Ruchi, Bruce Miller, Beth Miller, Judy Schowalter, Elizabeth Melius, Dick Mayer, Jean Happel, Ami Cooper (Dick & Marilyn Mayer's granddaughter), Amy Meyer, Don Jackson, Annette Egan, Orlyn Mayer, Kathy Baumgart, (friend of Nancy & Mark Cardinal), Julie Stier, Laurie O'Farrell (Pastor Sharon's sister-in-law and sister). Please remember the homebound members of the congregation including: Edie Pickhard and Don & Sandy Jackson.

## **Sunday Worship Leadership Responsibilities**

**Altar Guild:** Sue Klein & Nancy Cardinal

### **Communion Servers**

**July 1:** Rob Schowalter, Alan Lehman, Jim Melius, Jim Sachse

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Bell Ringer</b>
7/1	Paul Melius	Patrick M	JJ & Barb Markiewicz, Sue Nehm	Jim Sachse
7/8	Cheryl Asmus	Ashley N.	Karen Nehm, Carol Wagner Curtis Nehm	Dan Neuburg
7/15	Reuben Schowalter	Patrick M.	Dan Neuburg, Bill Nehm, Joyce	Rob Schowalter
7/22	Cathy Schmidt	Aaron N.	Barb Meyer & Reuben S.	Dick Mayer
7/29	Nancy Schilling-Genz	Landon	Karen Nehm, Carol Wagner, Curtis Nehm	Alan Lehman

### **Supporting Ministries that Share Christ's Love**

Want to lend a hand to ministries that help our brothers and sisters in need? There are plenty of upcoming events to which you're invited. Faith has supported these ministries through financial contributions from the Mission Fund and has spent time volunteering with these ministries. Here are some of them:

### **'68 Mustang is the Grand Prize for Elevate Raffle**

Elevate has been working hard to help our communities respond to the opioid crisis that has hit Southeastern Wisconsin. They are expanding their efforts to prevent youth from getting involved with drugs and alcohol in a targeted and research-based approach. They have strengthened their partnerships with the Criminal Justice system to divert individuals with an addiction out of jail and into long-term recovery. They have expanded their efforts to help families struggling because of a loved one's use of alcohol or drugs and are working to help more individuals find recovery using Certified Peer Specialists

They also continue to recognize the value of collaboration and partnerships. They were recently approached by Senior Citizens Activities to partner with them on a unique fundraiser. While people don't often think that an elderly person may become addicted, it happens much more frequently than you suspect. In fact, many of the recent overdose deaths in Washington County are men in the 50-60 year old age range. Bringing these two agencies together to raise money for our individual missions seemed like a win-win to Elevate.

So, what is the fundraiser? Elevate is raffling off a 1968 Ford Mustang! Tickets are available at \$25 each, or 5 for \$100. For more information and to find out where you can see the car in person, visit [www.classicsforacause.org](http://www.classicsforacause.org)

## Volunteers Wanted and Appreciated!

Would you lend a helping hand to help make Germanfest a success, please? The proceeds from the event will make it possible for Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Washington or Dodge County. The home's built in partnership with a hard-working family whose family needs a simple, decent place to live.

There are lots of ways to help, from serving beer, to helping in the Kinderzone, to providing security to serving delicious German desserts, and if Sheepshead's your passion, you can help with the tournament. Players are welcome to help sit in on shifts and award prizes,too.

Your help would be greatly appreciated at various times throughout the weekend of August 23-26. For more information, or to sign up to help, visit the West Bend Germanfest website: <http://westbendgermanfest.com/> or call the Habitat office at 262-338-0690.

Located Downtown West Bend, WI  
At S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Walnut Street



August 23 – August 26

Free Admission / Free Parking

**Thursday, August 23, 2018**

**CHASIN MASON** 5 PM – 8 PM *Rooted in Country, Laced with Rock & Roll*

**THE CHEAP SHOTS** 8 PM – 11 PM *Milwaukee's Premier High-Energy, Party Rock Cover Band!*

**Friday, August 24, 2018**

Cedar Singers	10 AM – 11 AM
Carol & The Keynotes	11 AM – 1 PM ♦ 2 PM – 3 PM
Barefoot Becky	1 PM – 2 PM ♦ 3 PM – 4 PM ♦ 5 PM – 6 PM
Julie Lee	4 PM – 5 PM ♦ 6 PM – 7 PM ♦ 8 PM – 9 PM
Goodtime Dutchman	7 PM – 8 PM ♦ 9 PM – 11 PM

**Saturday, August 25, 2018**

Pommersche Tanzdeel	10 AM – 11 AM
Julie Lee	11 AM – 1 PM ♦ 2 PM – 3 PM
The Music Connection	1 PM – 2 PM ♦ 3 PM – 4 PM ♦ 5 PM – 6 PM
Box On	4 PM – 5 PM ♦ 6 PM – 7 PM ♦ 8 PM – 9 PM
Gary's Ridgeland Dutchman	7 PM – 8 PM ♦ 9 PM – 11 PM

**Sunday, August 26, 2018**

River City Blaskapelle	11 AM – 1 PM
Box On	1 AM – 2 PM ♦ 3 PM – 4 PM ♦ 5 PM – 6 PM
Steve Meisner	2 PM – 3 PM ♦ 4 PM – 5 PM ♦ 6 PM – 7 PM

**Sheepshead Tournament** **9 PM LAST GAME**

Thursday: 5 PM – 9 PM  
Friday: 11 AM – 9 PM  
Saturday: 11 AM – 9 PM  
Sunday: 11 AM – 6 PM

**Prizes**  
Door Prizes  
High Scorer of the Day  
High Scorer of the Weekend

\$3 per Game  
Play all day: Friday \$15, Saturday \$15, Sunday \$10  
Coupons for FREE "Next Day" Game!



**Kinderzone for kids**

Thursday: 5 PM  
Dance with the Sausages

Friday & Saturday: 11 AM – 5 PM  
Sunday: 11 AM – 4 PM

Make Bird Houses ♦ Face Painting ♦ Hair Spray ♦  
German Bingo ♦ West Bend Children's Theater ♦  
German Songs and Games ♦ Dance with the Sausages.

**Yoga & Beer**

Saturday 8:30 AM  
On the Dance Floor!

**blue luna**  
YOGA & WELLNESS

MENTION **GERMANfest**  
TO RECEIVE YOUR \$99 RATE!

**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
by Hilton

P: 262-438-1500  
1095 SOUTH 15TH AVENUE | WEST BEND, WI

Located Downtown West Bend, WI – S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave & Walnut St.  
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