

The Lily Pad



"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." Solomon

2:1



Dear Fifth Avenue Friends and Family,

it is with great honor and humble thanksgiving that we give God the highest praise and thanks for His wonderful kindness as we continue the preparations to celebrate our **170th Church Anniversary!**

For a century and seven decades, Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church (FAUMC) has anchored this community as a mighty fortress for serving God. Since 1848, our worship and our outreach ministries have served God's people in this community and made our church a cherished place of refuge for the spiritual and social needs of God's people.



Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church 1872- 1942

A church anniversary is a time we set aside to reflect our past, but more importantly to appreciate the present while focusing on a divine vision for our future. We are standing on the shoulders of many courageous believers who opened the doors of the church 170 years ago and worked tirelessly to win souls for Christ and provide a safe haven of fellowship for the Beloved Community. Many are now with the Lord and we accept the responsibility to continue Fifth Avenue's legacy of loving God and serving Creation. Our 170th Anniversary Celebration theme: **"MANY GENERATIONS CONTINUE TO PRAISE THY WORKS"** Psalm 145:4.

Throughout these years we have evolved into a strong, vibrant, and vital congregation because of the past loyalty and present devotion of our members. Our church has made major contributions to the preservation of Christian life in Washington County. Our past accomplishments represent the building blocks upon which we will erect a future dedicated to the religious, educational, and spiritual needs of our congregational family, community, and the world.

It is an honor to be the Shepherd (Pastor) for such a dynamic and blessed church. I am humbled that God would use me to lead and connect the faithful, passionate, and fruit-bearing servant-leaders of FAUMC to carry out God's Great Commission – **"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."**

FAUMC, God is calling us higher. Out of a place of feeling stuck spiritually, yet passionately craving to move closer to God. My Christian Sisters and Brothers, we know what needs to happen, but are you willing and trusting to take these steps of faith? God is calling us to come out of our **"stuck"** season, out of the shallow end of our faith and step out into the deep, risking drowning to have a deeper Trinitarian experience! You've got to go deeper! Go into the deep, submit your heart to God!

One more time.

Throw out your nets one more time.

When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “**Put out into the deep water** and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered and said, “*Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets.*” Luke 5:4-5 (NIV)

Simon was exhausted. Casting the heavy nets into the water and lugging them back in over and over was a chore. When the nets came back empty every time, it was disappointing. But he did it. He took the clean nets and pushed out into the deep and he let them down. Fish scrambled into the nets so quickly that it nearly capsized his boat.

I love this story, but I understand and empathize about what “**one more time**” might mean.

- *Pray one more time over that hurting marriage or relationship.*
- *Believe one more time for that prodigal child.*
- *Take one more step even though it seems to lead to nowhere.*
- *Plant one more seed in that dream that seems futile.*

FAUMC, for 170 years you have faithfully been casting your nets over and over again – to try one more time when so far, you have had little to show for it. **But God said it.** . . . and He knows you far better than you know yourself and as your Pastor, allow me to *whisper yes* into the life of FAUMC where “**no**” **wants** to take root.

Simon Peter was weary and all he wanted to do was to climb into his comfortable bed and forget about this long day. Jesus understood that Simon was tired. That the nets were heavy. That it was discouraging. Jesus saw under the water line. He saw what Simon Peter couldn’t and it wasn’t just fish. **It was the deep.**

Our invitation from Jesus is to push into the deep. In the deep it’s a partnership. We put our hands on the rugged boat and push out. We take a step out and God takes a step in as He meets us. For Simon, the miracle wasn’t the catch of fish but that he became a “catcher of humanity.” That’s the transformation that takes place inside of us as we **push into the deep.**

One more time. We are all asked to push out into the deep “one more time” in our calling and ministries.

Some may want to throw their hands up and give up. Some may want church life to say the way it is. Still others will just go along for the free ride. FAUMC let’s throw our hands up in surrender. If our ministries are about Jesus, it’s not about how much we “**catch**” or **how long it takes**, but “**one more time**” is watching God work in the thousands or the one, that will come seeking a personal relationship with Him.

Sisters and Brother in Christ, in the deep I pray we realize that he’s not going to let us sink. “**One more time**” means that He’ll pull us up, over and over again until we no longer feel that the deep is over our head. We’re no longer afraid - to invite people to worship; to smile and share the Fifth Avenue GLOW; to change; to move out of low season of faith. And this is the miracle! We turn around and start pulling others up with His help, because we get it – salvation is free. We know how hard it is to navigate this Christian Life, but we also know what it is to be saved by the blood of the Lamb. We are asked to push faithfully out into the deep “**one more time.**” **Will you say, “YES!”**

Are you ready for a major break-through as we excitedly witness what God will do with our lives as a Church that is being revitalized through the power of the Gospel of Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Let us rejoice in the opportunities we have to love as Jesus loved. Let us rejoice that we can be Christ for others. St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) wrote:

*Certain portions of the Lily Pad were adapted.

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

1 July will begin our third appointment year at FAUMC! As your “new” Pastor, I give all praise and thanks to an awesomely amazing God for showing me his grace and favor to Shepherd His FAUMC flock. I look forward to continuing our work in the mission fields of West Bend, Washington County, the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and globally. My continued hope is that we can fully engage in Kingdom Building work, leading us into a future of abundant blessing and abundant growth as we reach out to those in our community and beyond who do not know the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Martin, our Young Adults, the three Girl pets, and I, love Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church and are so very thankful to be a part of your incredible history.

Pastor Clarissa & Martin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIANCHA!!! JULY 4TH



*Certain portions of the Lily Pad were adapted.



She definitely rules our congregation's world. Ms. Alana is the crucial, hidden link in the chain of our church projects and ministries. Unfortunately, her value is often taken for granted-until the chain breaks or **she goes on vacation!**

Yes, even Ms. Wanda Wiggins needed a vacation!

Ms. Alana will be taking vacation and we are asking for volunteers to provide secretarial coverage during her absence. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the joy of serving our community and our congregation as you handle the day to day business of our church. Whether you can spend one day or one week in coverage, we extend our sincere appreciation. Please contact Ms. Alana of your availability.

Vacation dates: 9-13 July; 6-10 August; 10-14 September.

Church Anniversary Coordinators Needed!

FAUMC will officially celebrate our 170th Church Anniversary on 20 & 21 October 2018. 20 October 2018 will be an anniversary service followed by dinner. Sunday, 21 October 2018, Bishop Hee Soo Jung, presiding bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, will be our guest.

We urgently need coordinators to put all the pieces together for this royal celebration and we need your assistance! Contact the church office to sign up for Church Anniversary Coordinator.



Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week. Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God's grace." — Melvin Amerson,

What if stewardship were more than a campaign? What if it were a mindset? And what if stewardship were incorporated in every season?

We are inviting and seeking FAUMC Family and Friends to step forward as we pray, listen, and develop a stewardship celebration for FAUMC. In preparation for this event, we will receive training, guidance, and support from Wisconsin Foundation.

You are invited to join us! Please call the church office to register or find out more information.

*Certain portions of the Lily Pad were adapted.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us