

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

April 2020

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From Travis

I write this without any clear idea when we will assemble again for worship or to fellowship. It is such an odd and bizarre experience.

Nevertheless, even though the church building is closed and we are not holding in-person gatherings...the work of Judson Church continues.

We are still providing pastoral and congregational care,
we are still holding one another in prayer,
we are still planning for the future,
we are still having meetings,
we are still worshipping,
we are still staying connected,
we are still supporting one another,
we are still growing,
we are still learning to love.

I don't know what life will be like on the other side of this experience, but I know because of our response: our strengthening of connection and care, we will be a stronger and more compassionate community.

May you continue to be a force for the common good and the kingdom of God.

Peace

Travis

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2019-2020**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Moderator	Brad Joern
Vice Moderator	Laura O'Halloran
Secretary	Karla McGray
Treasurer	Bill Forsyth

FAITH & SPIRIT CLUSTER

Christian Education	Kristine Revak
Adult Education	Cindy Clague, Pam Joern, D'Ann Lesch, Austin Mason, Leslie Rapp, Lian Partlow*
Congregational Care	Luise Forseth
Hospitality Team Leaders	Barb Balcom, Sandi Knoche, Polly Schrom, Kathy Urbaniak*
Missions	Jackie Thureson
Worship	Polly Schrom

ADMIN & SUPPORT CLUSTER

Building Use/Communications	Steve Hirsch
Finance	Bill Forsyth
Personnel	Tom Zaremba
Property	Larry Jacobson

VISION & COVENANT CLUSTER

Membership/Leadership/Stewardship	Beth Waterhouse
Planning & Policy	

OTHER GROUPS

Judson Historian	Tom Balcom
Judson Preschool Board	Sandy Chatfield, Monica Lewis, Susan Mason, Polly Schrom*
Formerly Known as Knitting Group	Sandy Chatfield
Loaves & Fishes	Gretchen Williams
Messenger	Eileen McLaughlin
Spiritual Voyagers	Ron Cottone
Starfish Ministry	Wayne Urbaniak
The Gathering	Kathy Urbaniak
TRUST Reps	Clay Gustafson & Jim ten Bensel
Ushers	Office Coordinator

The Pastoral Relations committee includes the following people: Joel Frederickson (chair), Greg Lehman, Mary Gustafson, Pam Joern, and Karla McGray. Feel free to speak with any of these people to share ideas, concerns, or thanks.

(*Subcommittee members are listed alphabetically)

Articles for the next issue of the Judson Messenger can be submitted to judsonmessenger@yahoo.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month.

For hardcopy submissions, see the editor listed on the address page.

MODERATORS LETTER

Dear Judsonites,

I am going to go out on a limb and assume you all read everything that comes to you from Judson Church via email, Facebook, our website, and in paper form. If I am right, then you know that on Sunday, March 15, the Judson Council met and voted to suspend all large non-essential gatherings for now. The Council also voted to re-evaluate the situation near the end of March to assess the possibilities for lifting the suspension going into April based on the prevailing wisdom and directives of our government officials and health care professionals at that time. We will use the special edition email to inform you of our decision.

Even though we will not see much of each other in person for a while, the work of Judson staff, committees, and Council continues, including the following:

- Council members have divided up the 2020 Judson Directory into a calling tree. We are calling all local members and friends of Judson weekly to stay connected, to find out if people are in need of anything like food or medications, or just to chat. My experiences of calling this past week have been heartwarming, and I look forward to connecting again next week.
- The Property committee, along with the Finance committee, have been in conversation with Buff Grace from Minnesota Inter-Faith Power and Light to discuss further the potential for putting solar panels on the pre-school roof. I sat in on a Zoom session yesterday (video conferencing capability), in which we learned more about some new program details. More to come on this in the upcoming weeks. During the worship service on March 8, I made the first of four required announcements regarding a special meeting to consider this project. Given our current state, that special meeting is postponed too.
- The Membership, Leadership, Stewardship committee continues to run the 2020-2021 pledge campaign. You should have received a letter in the mail last week inviting you to make a pledge for the upcoming year. This period we are going through reminds me of the importance of my faith community in my life. My guess is the same is true for you. Please spend some of this strange “down” time thinking about how important Judson is to you, and prayerfully make your pledge accordingly. You can mail your pledge card in at any time. You don’t need to wait until pledge Sunday. Eileen will get it.
- Laura O’Halloran is working diligently to assemble the slate of Judson officers, committee chairs, and committee members for next year. Here’s an idea! You can use this time to also consider how you might bring your gifts to bear in the work of Judson.
- The Congregational Care Committee is working overtime to stay connected with those among us who have enhanced needs—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. If you would like a call or visit, or if you want to help, please contact Luise Forseth (952-250-4642) or Pastor Travis (612-300-6746).

The work of Judson indeed continues even when we aren’t gathering, and this brings me to one last point. Ongoing bills need to be paid, payroll and utilities being the largest expenditures. Cash flow could become a problem if we have to continue the suspension for several weeks. Please consider initiating electronic giving if you haven’t done so already. It’s easy—I did it last week. Go on the Judson website and click on the “Give” box at the top of the landing page. This takes you to a page where you can create an account so that you can then specify one-time or periodic contributions from your checking account. You specify the amount and frequency but need to enter your banking data. If you try and have any questions, please contact Eileen (612-819-7969). I’ll bet you do it with other bills, why not do it with your contributions to Judson?

Stay well, folks. I look forward to seeing each of you and hearing your stories on the other side of this thing.
Brad Joern, Moderator

JUDSON NEWS FLASH

March 31, 2020

What is happening?

The Judson Council voted yesterday via email to continue the suspension of all non-essential gatherings at Judson through the month of April. We assume this decision comes as no surprise to you since it is consistent with the views of government officials and health professionals both in Minnesota and at the Federal level that we should be staying at home. The Council will review and discuss the status again near the end of April, hoping for an improved situation.

What does this mean?

For now, we will continue to connect with each other via phone, email, Judson Facebook, the Judson website, and our newest friend—Zoom. **Pastoral care and the ongoing work of the Congregational Care Committee will continue as usual. If you or a loved one has specific needs such as groceries, prescriptions, etc. resulting from the virus or any other cause, please contact Travis (612-300-6746) or the office (612-822-0649).** Meals on Wheels and the services of Grove Counseling have been deemed essential services, so they are continuing at Judson but in a way that reduces exposure to other people. The Judson staff will continue to “work from home”—only coming to the building when necessary to pick up the mail, check phone messages, and conduct essential tasks. The building will remain heated as usual on non-worship days. The church will get a special cleaning before we resume our usual activities.

How will we worship? What about Easter?

Easter is called, in the official liturgical language, a “Moveable Feast,” which means its date changes from year to year, unlike Christmas. We will have Easter at home this year, but as soon as we are back together, in-person, as a community, we will hold “Easter Worship.” We encourage everyone to continue to keep Sunday mornings for an electronic Judson worship experience. Videos of Travis offering mediations, prayers, and other inspirational thoughts each week will be available. Videos will be posted on the Judson website at www.judsonchurch.org. Other inspirational messages will be posted as well.

How will we stay connected?

We hope you all are receiving weekly calls (or phone messages) from a Judson Council member. We initiated a **Judson calling-tree** in mid-March as a way to touch base with every member/friend household at least once per week. Council members have all enjoyed those connections, and you are encouraged to reach out to others as well. We will all need more than a little TLC before this is over. Some Judson committees and focus groups are continuing to meet on-line. Some folks have had virtual meals or happy hour gatherings using Zoom. If anyone would like to know how to access free Zoom, please let Travis or Brad know.

What if I have a special need, such as the death of a family member?

We hope that this doesn't happen, but in the event of a death, we will consider conducting a public funeral on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the intensity level of the virus at the time, the number of potential attendees, whether the funeral could be postponed, etc.

We had all hoped that we might be back at Judson by now, or by Easter at the latest. That hope will have to be replaced by some other hope as we weather this period in our lives. Stay well. We will get through this. Wash your hands, don't touch your face, keep the faith, and use the wonders of technology to stay connected. Some interesting and new things are sure to come out of this.

Travis Norvell, Pastor; Brad Joern, Moderator; Judson Council Members

SEND YOUR PLEDGE CARDS TO 4101 HARRIET SOON

Yes, it is spring stewardship season at Judson Church, as you could tell by the mailing that came out mid-March*. Yes, it is weird to be trying to raise funds in the midst of all of the life-changing details of a pandemic virus! But yes, we are a community, and... Yes. The church will carry on.

Part of what I think we will learn from this virus episode is that we can manage to simplify, that we can discern what matters more than ever, that we can say “no” and put our priorities on family and center on those things that actually feed our souls. Part of what I want to learn is how to be a loving leader during hard times, how to adjust the communication patterns, but keep talking, how to be welcoming without the hug but just as sincerely, and how to dare to help when help is actually needed. And much more that I can’t yet articulate. Judson Church helps me grow, and living in community with you (even if we can’t meet in our beloved sanctuary for a few weeks) teaches me a lot about all of this. Judson matters, plain and simple. And that is the understatement of the day.

So you received a pledge request letter from us. **Please read it.** Don’t delay in **mailing in your pledge card**. Just use that enclosed envelope, add a stamp, and mail it in. Your pledge *absolutely makes a difference* to the fiscal year ahead. The church will continue, it will be staffed and heated and worshipping and teaching and responding to all of us... and it needs our pledges to continue.

Thank you for being part of the Judson Community. Stay well and stay in touch,

— Beth Waterhouse for the Membership / Leadership / Stewardship Committee. (952) 401-0591

(*) And if you did not receive a mailing from Judson in the past week or so, please call Eileen or me for that letter and card. We’d love to include your pledge to support the coming budget year.

= = =

Beth

Beth Waterhouse

waterhousebeth2@gmail.com

BRIAN SATROM’S BOOK IS COMING OUT!

My first book of poetry, *Starting Again*, is available for preorder. If you’re interested in reading it, now’s a great time to purchase a copy. Click [this link](#), or go to FinishingLinePress.com and enter my name in their search field. (The number of preorders helps the press determine the size of the press run, which is why I’m encouraging friends to order now.) Once you preorder, the book will come out in July.

NEW DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE

The new telephone directory is now available. If you would like a copy sent by mail or a pdf copy sent to you, please let the office know, and one will be sent to you.

MEALS ON WHEELS UPDATE



TRUST Meals on Wheels is committed to the health and safety of the individuals that we serve and the volunteers it takes to deliver meals. We have decided to make a very difficult decision to switch to delivering frozen meals once a week to all our clients. Between this change and other procedures recently put in place, exposure and contact between everyone involved is significantly reduced, and, hopefully, everyone stays healthy and safe. The Meals on Wheels program is still committed to the daily contact and interaction with our clients. That is such an important part of our program. For clients that have expressed interest, we will be doing a daily check-in phone call. We have also implemented a new volunteer buddy system (read below).

With the change in delivery, we are in need of handled grocery bags. If you have any to pass along, please consider sending them to us! Local stores have also stepped up and donated paper bags to our program. Thank you to Cub Foods on Nicollet, Kowalski's on Lyndale, and South Lyndale Liquor store. We greatly appreciate having the support of local businesses.

Metro Meals on Wheels has committed to helping pay for meals for any client that is unable to afford them. Anyone who needs food during this time will receive meals. If you have any questions or know of any one who could benefit from our service, please call the Meals office at 612-822-6040.

TRUST MEALS ON WHEELS SPRING 2020 BUDDY SYSTEM

Since the change in delivery and with everyone being more isolated, we have created a buddy system for our clients. Interested clients are paired with a volunteer who will be their buddy. This volunteer buddy calls the client once or twice a week to check on them and see if their basic needs are being met. If the volunteer cannot directly help the client, they will report back to the office so the appropriate resource will be found. The goals of the buddy system are to help clients feel more comfortable during this unprecedented time, to help ease any loneliness, and to provide another layer of support.

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON IS POSTPONED

Because of the current health situation, our annual spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, celebrating the contributions of our TRUST Meals on Wheels volunteers, is postponed to a later date. Look for an announcement of the new date in your email or church bulletin. Thank you for your understanding. We'll do it as soon as possible!

TRUST HONORS OUR MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS

One post on Next Door and a shout out for volunteers by Metro Meals on Wheels and TRUST Meals on Wheels had over 40 new people call offering to be an emergency volunteer driver during this spring. Because of the pandemic, many of our older drivers are making the smart decision to stay home. This pool of emergency drivers, consisting of college students and people working from home or recently out of work, help us continue delivering meals to over 90 clients. Thank you, south Minneapolis! Together we make a difference.



Volunteer Becky Dankowski, MOW staff Kathy Rosen, volunteer Jan Hoffer and MOW Director Eleonore Balbach surrounded by bags holding 423 meals for 91 customers. 37 cars and 1 bike were lined up to deliver!

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Dine Out, Give Back Fundraiser at The Lowbrow on Monday, July 13th

Join us at The Lowbrow, 4244 Nicollet Ave S, for dinner on Monday, July 13th! The Lowbrow will donate 10% of all food and drink purchases made on Monday, July 13th, to TRUST Meals on Wheels. Tell one, tell all! The more people who come out and enjoy a lovely summer meal at The Lowbrow, the more money is donated to Meals on Wheels. More information can be found at:

<http://thelowbrowmpls.com/news/dine-out-give-back/>. Thank you!

Eleonore Balbach, Program Director, TRUST Meals on Wheels

(612) 822-6040 phone

(612) 822-8055 fax

MOWDirector@trustinc.org

www.trustinc.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE ALIVENESS PROJECT AND DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Since 1985, Aliveness has been serving people living with HIV, helping them lead healthy, self-directed lives. On Thursday, April 30th they were scheduled to host the 26th annual Dining Out for Life event. This event has been **postponed until September 24**. This event partners them with area restaurants who agree to donate 20-100% of their proceeds for the day back to The Aliveness Project.

Dining Out for Life is their biggest fundraiser of the year and they are looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. They have reached out to local colleges and university LGBTQ+ groups and want to extend their reach to open and affirming congregations. They encourage everyone to invite friends and family to dine out on April 30th at one of their partner restaurants, but what they really need are Ambassadors. Ambassadors act as the face of Aliveness on April 30th. They are matched with partner restaurants and spend their shift (breakfast, lunch or dinner) inviting their friends to their restaurant, greeting and thanking diners, passing out "I ate" stickers and collecting donations for Aliveness. They also need volunteers to help ahead of the event at Aliveness where they will be assembling and delivering packets to restaurants. If you are interested in helping out, or have any additional questions please visit Dining Out for Life Website diningoutforlifemn.org.

Rich Olson, Welcoming and Affirming Minister, rolson@judsonchuch.org

LGBTQIA+ TEAM INVITES YOU

- 1) **The Aliveness Project** is a community center for and by people living with HIV. It offers nutrition, wellness services, and resources for leading fulfilling and healthy lives. We were excited to encourage you to join in their primary fundraising event of the year, "Dining Out for Life," on April 30--a chance to eat in local restaurants that contribute to the Aliveness Project. However, the event is **postponed until September 24**. Mark your calendars! www.diningoutforlifemn.org
- 2) **Clare Housing** offers housing and health support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Because dirty clothes continue to appear and laundry continues to need doing, please continue sending your "quarters for Clare" (in larger denominations!) via their web site: www.clarehousing.org
- 3) **Pride 2020**: Plan to participate on June 27 and 28. (Put the date on your calendar!) We are scheduled to share a booth with the University Baptist Church.

WE NEED YOU!

Yes, you! Compete in the LGBTQIA+ action group's T-shirt contest. Design (either electronically or on paper) a T-shirt focusing on Judson's accepting attitude, LGBTQIA+ safe and welcoming sanctuary & a catchy slogan. Bonus points for including words like "affirming" or "welcoming." Remember to include Judson's website-judsonchurch.org. Email or give submission to alovat001@stpaul.k12.us for a chance to win a \$25 gift card! All entries must be received by April 30, 2020. Anna Lovat.



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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED