

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

January 2020

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From Travis

I've got three things on my mind that I want to share with you: one, the year of welcome; two, *Believe It or Not*. sermon series; three, an update on the Palmer Grant.

One, as Brad Joern, Judson's moderator, and Laura O'Halloran, Judson's vice-moderator, and I had lunch the other day, we centered on the theme and practice of welcome. We noticed that Judson Church does a good job of an initial welcome; we need to improve, however, on our secondary welcome. For instance, we do a great job of saying hello but not as good of a job of getting to know one another on a deeper level. So Laura proposed 2020 as The Year of Welcome. Great idea. More will be forthcoming, but till then, think about how you can be more welcoming.

Two, the other day, I sat down to scribble some ideas for an upcoming sermon series. I remembered the series last year on Religion for Atheists. I liked that series but wanted to do more. As I walked to the coffee shop the phrase 'Believe It or Not' fell into my idea box. Hmm...so I sat with this phrase as I sipped my hot cocoa. Then something this happened - I started reviewing all of the questions people have brought to me over my 20 years of pastoral ministry. I came up with a shortlist, which I noticed interestingly how each question paired quite nicely with themes for upcoming Sundays. Kaboom. An instant sermon series. You're probably saying oh yeah well how that pair with Artist month (which January is) will? All I can say is, "quite nicely."

Three, the details for the Palmer Grant continue to unfold. Jeff Cowmeadow (pastor at Calvary Church) and I have met to discuss the five core questions we want to explore Jan.-Oct. Till then...our first Sunday Evening Salon will take place on January 12th. The theme is Home. Why home? Home has been a repetitive theme when I talk with people in the community. The January 12 event will be a "test-run" or soft-opening for Judson folk. We will open this up to the community on January 26th.

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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.

WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2020

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this, some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

Warm your soul with worship at Judson during January. Our pastor, G. Travis Norvell, is marking his 20 years of pastoral ministry in 2020. He (and guests) are offering sermons on questions that keep folk up at night. He has found in times of stress, anxiety, and change people know for certain what they do not believe, and yet...they fall back on beliefs or faith systems that bring pain and confusion. The sermon series for January – *Believe It or Not* – will invite reflection and reconstruction of basic beliefs for a flourishing and healthy life.

Bring your hopes. Bring your doubts. Feed your soul. All are welcome!

January 5th (Epiphany Sunday & Communion)

Meditation: G. Travis Norvell

Worship Leader: Barbara York

Music: TBD

We will close the “Twelve Days of Christmas” with our observance of Epiphany (the day when the wise ones from the East brought to Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh). It is a relaxed and fun worship with whimsy, carols, and communion.

January 12th

Sermon: G. Travis Norvell

Believe It or Not: God Loves You?

Personal Reflection: Evan Zaremba

Worship Leader: Linda Wingader

Music: Judson Choir

January 19th

Sermon: Rev. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, author and Associate Professor of Justice and Peace Studies, St. Thomas University

Believe It or Not: The Moral Arc of the Universe Bends Toward Justice?

Worship Leader: Déadra Moore

Music: Judson Choir

January 26th

Sermon: G. Travis Norvell

Believe It or Not: The Actions of One Person Matters?

Personal Reflection: Barbara Schoening

Worship Leader: Polly Schrom

Music: Judson Choir

[Continued from front page]

What can you do? Make a list of people you want to invite to this gathering. Then invite them to come with you on January 26th at 5:00 pm. It will be part homestyle meal-part great discussion-part get to know you-part exploration. It will involve dinner; it will involve table questions; it will involve group discussion; it will involve pop culture; it will involve spiritual practices. It will last till 6:30 pm.

Peace

Travis

MODERATORS LETTER

Happy New Year, Judson!

Welcome to 2020! Wow, that has an interesting mathematical ring to it. I like that we make a note of—if not celebrate—the passing of the year. No matter how satisfying or unsatisfying, healthy or unhealthy, sad or happy, half-full, or half-empty the previous year was, by noting the closing of a year and opening another, we express some small, but a mighty bit of optimism. We say the old year is gone, and the new year has begun. We resolve and strive to do better—whatever that means to each of us. We try to live in the future as fully as we can.

I opened our December Judson Council meeting by reading a short piece from Tom Montgomery-Fate's book, Steady & Trembling: Art, Faith, and Family in an Uncertain World. This book is a collection of essays that touch on the connection between family, faith, and nature, which I thought I would share with you as well. The author was relating his experience of helping his son learn to ride a bike, which prompted him to remember his own father teaching him to ride a bike many years earlier. If you can remember that period of your life, you will remember that it was likely a mixture of good and not-so-good experiences repeated over and over until breakthrough was realized. Montgomery-Fate says:

“Things didn't change as much as I thought they would during that long, bumpy ride from son to father. I am still my parent' child. I still struggle to fit in, and to stand out, and to feel at home somewhere, I still wonder if I am good enough, and fear I am missing something. I teeter on the wheels of instinct and reason, never quite in balance.

Sometimes I remember: a family, like faith, is not a problem to be solved, but an experiment in love. No matter the parent or the child or the bike or the street, we will fall—again and again—in sparkling sunlight, in hard rain, in bitter wind, in soft mud, and on unforgiving concrete. It's all about falling, and getting up, and trying again, or not. It's about the person that helped you up, or didn't. Or that you helped up, or didn't. But falling is not failing. Sometimes it feels like an opening, like what I fall into is the presence of God.”

My hope for each of you and the Judson community in 2020 is an openness to trying new things—new programming, new ministries, new ways to use our building, to name just a few, as we attempt to transition into the future. A future where Judson is the Best, Good Enough, 150-on-a-Sunday, Progressive Church in America. Right now, we don't have a roadmap into this future. All we know is that transition is sometimes hard, but thankfully, we have an abundance of keen minds, willing hands and voices, and strong and open hearts to help us get back up when we fall.

Brad Joern
Judson Moderator

LOAVES AND FISHES.

Monday, **January 27**, is Judson's turn to help at Loaves and Fishes. It is our turn to help serve. Please arrive around 5:00 pm. The site is St. Stephen's School, located at 2123 Clinton Ave S., Mpls. Please let Gretchen Williams know if you can help out at ethereal2classic@gmail.com.



**SAVE THE DATE – JANUARY 5, 2020
CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS!!**

The Adult Education and Worship Committees are designating January 2020 as Artists' Month. The Worship Committee is hosting a kick-off celebration event on Sunday, January 5th. The Celebration will be woven throughout the Worship hour and will spill into Fellowship and Adult Education time.

Do you knit, sew, paint, weave, crochet, or quilt? Is woodwork or pottery your passion? Have you written poetry, short stories, limericks, songs, or haiku poems? What about photography, jewelry making, sculpting, or tapestry making? Do you make mouth-watering baked goods? Do you play an instrument, juggle, or produce realistic bird calls?

Please consider sharing your gifts with the Judson Community on January 5th. Or, if you are not available on the 5th, we hope to continue the sharing opportunities throughout January.

Perhaps you would like to:
write a Call to Worship;
provide a musical number
write a responsive reading or prayer
share a poem or story

Please let Polly Schrom know if you are willing to be an active participant on January 5th, or any other Sunday in January.

Thank you!!

THE GREAT WINTER WARM-UP—JANUARY 17TH AND 18TH

The Missions Committee of Judson Memorial Baptist Church is sponsoring an Outreach Service Event prior to Martin Luther King Day in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). MCC is attempting to collect 6,500 comforters nationwide to deliver to people affected by conflict and disaster around the world. **We need your help to reach our goal of contributing 110 handmade comforters by January 18, 2020.** Our plan – to turn Judson's Fellowship Hall into a comforter assembly line! You can stay in Minneapolis and make a difference to the people at the US / Mexico Border, the Kurds roaming to find a home in Syria, Afghanistan, or living in a Refugee Camp in Sudan and other places.

More details:

- Friday and Saturday, January 17 and 18, 2020
- 10 am to 3 pm in Judson's Fellowship Hall
- Please bring a sack lunch (Snacks to shared would be welcome). Coffee, tea, and hot water provided.
- If you are a "Knotter," please bring a scissor. As of January 1, 2020, we have 30 tops ready to be "knotted or tied."
- If you want to sew the tops: bring your own fabric and sewing machine and equipment. Some fabric will be provided.
- If you would like to just be involved: Fabric yardage for backs are needed! This can be a whole piece of fabric or pieces that can be sewn together. It's a great time to clean out those drawers and closets of fabric you will never use. Or, a great excuse to go Estate Sale Shopping! Talk to your friends. They may want to donate fabric.
- Youth are welcome and encouraged to join us – we'll have a job for you!

Direct any questions to Marlys Wiens at lovejoypiece@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED YOUTHLINK

We were overwhelmed by all the donations of clothing, sheets, appliances, and various items—and money—that the Judson community made to YouthLink in December.

Special thanks to Char and Barbara for the 7th Annual Holiday Carol Sing-And-Play Along, which raised \$325. And, thank you to all those who provided entertainment, treats, and attended that event.

We also want to thank Karen Weddle and the Ladybug Quilters for the amazing scarves, hats, mittens, and table runners they made; the money raised from the sales was also donated to YouthLink. And, thank you to the Judson community that bought some of these items and donated them to YouthLink. The staff at YouthLink were totally amazed when they saw these homemade items and how beautiful they were.

With the funds raised at the Sing-And-Play Along, funds raised from the sale of the Ladybug Quilters, and monetary donations made, YouthLink received a check for \$1,143.44 in December.

Christine Schwitzer, Director of Development at YouthLink, sent this special note:

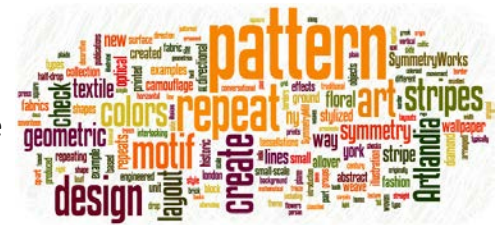
“This is amazing! Thank you so much for the Judson community’s generosity for youth experiencing homelessness. We are so grateful for your continued support, and it is truly life-changing during the holiday season here at YouthLink.”

Judson’s “Youth Experiencing Homelessness” Action Group wishes to express our thanks and gratitude to all who have supported YouthLink.

JANUARY MEETING FOR TEXTILE GROUP

A new year with many opportunities for creative expression, including textile creations. We start the year 2020 (can you believe that) on Sat., January 11th, with our meeting at 1:00 pm at Judson. Our host for the day is Fran Hirsch, thanks, Fran. If you need a ride, please email Sandy at

schatfiled1@comcast.net. Carpooling is encouraged as well. We hope to see some new faces along with familiar ones as all are welcome.



JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF NEEDS FOR JANUARY!

Let’s provide some warm and feel-good food items for Joyce Food Shelf in January by donating hot cereals and hot sauces with rice or pasta.

Please bring regular and gluten-free hot cereal items such as oatmeal, cream of wheat, farina, etc. and regular and gluten-free hot sauces with rice and pasta items such as macaroni and cheese, rice-a-roni, cheddar and pasta, spaghetti, etc. or any foods that will provide warmth for those in need.



There are baskets at the back of the sanctuary for the items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please designate “Joyce Food Shelf” on your check or offering envelope.

Thank you for your continued support of Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

NEWS FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP

In addressing racial injustice, we seek together, in community, to risk being open to exploring and reflecting on our white privilege. As a group, we intend to share resources, opportunities, and action plans to grapple with racial justice issues. Recognizing that each person approaches this work from their unique personal history, we invite others to join us in what we hope will be “brave” space to reflect, learn, change, and grow.

- Next meeting is January 27 at 1 p.m. at the church.
- Check out the announcements in the bulletin and the weekly email to find out about plays, movies, articles and other items and events we have identified as interesting and relevant to our mission.
- Check out our list of books that is posted in the church library. Some of the books are available in the library. We welcome your suggestions.
- Participate in the "All-church Read." The book is White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. See separate article about this.

JUDSON TO GET A NEW SOUND SYSTEM

On Tuesday, December 17, the church council approved the purchase of a new sound system for the sanctuary. The old “60’s something” sound system will be replaced with new speakers, microphones, amplifiers, and 6 new hearing assistance units.

Bids from three different Twin Cities firms were obtained and the system selected is from EMI Audio from Robbinsdale. An installation time and schedule will be determined after the holidays. Thanks to Doug Weatherhead, Eileen McLaughlin, and Travis for their help in selecting the system.

Larry Jacobson, property committee chair.

ALL-CHURCH READ!

Everyone is invited to participate in an "All-church Read" organized by the Racial Justice Group. The book is White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. It is widely available and we will have books at church for purchase at a discounted price. We also have a "pay what you can" option available. Discussion of the book will be at the church on January 30, 2020 at 7 p.m. We will break into smaller groups as needed. Transportation will be provided to those who need it. Please RSVP to Leslie Rapp at lesliejrapp@gmail.com so we can get an idea of how many might be attending. If you have any questions call or text Monica Lewis at 612-226-8349 or email her at lewis145@q.com.

WAC-WEDNESDAYS AT CURRAN'S

You have an open invitation for you to join Judson folks at 9:00 any Wednesday morning at Curran's (4201 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis). Put it on your calendar as “WaC” = Wednesdays at Curran’s. It's another opportunity for us to connect. Just show up and find our group at one of the round tables or a long table. Have breakfast, or just coffee; no agenda or topic-just conversation as we enjoy spending some time together. If you have questions, contact Keith Ford or Wayne Urbaniak.

ADULT EDUCATION - JANUARY 2020

The new year will bring us an opportunity to explore art and spirituality again with new topics and artists. Last year's positive response to our series about ways art feeds our spirit encouraged us to expand the topic. Our upcoming four-part series will include wood-turning, folk music/performance, and the art of craft-making and conversation. The conversation will touch on the intersection of art with social issues and concerns. Stay tuned for more details in weekly emails and bulletins.

Calendar:

- Jan 5th - Worship Committee
- Jan 12th - Artist Series Part 1
- Jan 19th - Artist Series Part 2
- Jan 26th - Artist Series Part 3
- Feb 2nd - Artist Series Part 4

MAKING CHANGE IN SMALL AND BIG WAYS

Since August, Judson has been dropping extra quarters—small change—to share with people living with HIV/AIDS in Minneapolis. Residents of Clare Housing often live on less than \$90 of spending cash a month after expenses. That can mean that there may not be enough change to do laundry. Thank you, Judson, for sharing your small change--\$300.50 so far!—so that Clare Housing residents can wash clothes.

Shown presenting our check to Debbie Wyman, Community Outreach Manager, is Rich Olson, Judson member, and our new Welcoming and Affirming Minister. Rich has been a big supporter of Clare Housing since 1993. He suggests BIGGER ways that Judson can support Clare Housing in its mission to create a home, health, and hope for over 280 people living with HIV/AIDS. We can learn about Clare Housing. (See its web site and the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* August 22, 2019 article.) We can volunteer to cook and share a meal with residents in one of four homes. We can visit one of the homes and become acquainted with residents. And we can donate via their web site.



The LGBTQIA+ Action Group thanks you and invites you to continue sharing your quarters, and we invite and encourage you to become involved with Clare Housing to make a BIG change!



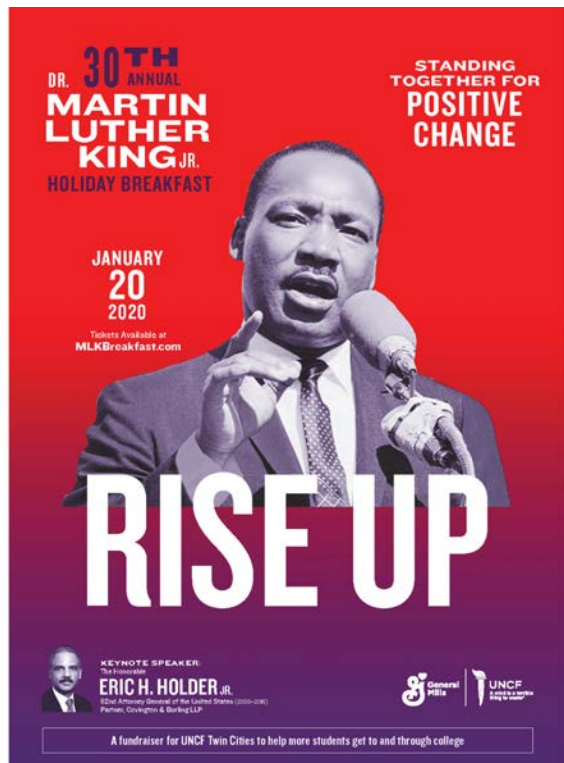
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

Join us for TRUST's 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration! It is on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 5:00 PM at Living Spirit UMC, 4501 Bloomington Avenue, Minneapolis. Featuring the Sons of Levi music. Soup and sandwich supper follows the service.



MONDAY, JANUARY 20 - 30TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY BREAKFAST**STANDING TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**

Judson will once again be the South Minneapolis Community Partner Host Site for the MLK Holiday Breakfast. Thanks to a grant from the General Mills Foundation, we will provide breakfast and a live stream viewing of the event. This year's keynote speaker is The Honorable Eric H. Holder Jr., the former Attorney General of the United States and the first African American to serve in that position. This year we welcome Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as host partners. Please go to <https://interfaithaction.org/ifaevents/mlkbreakfast/> to register.



"An individual has not started living until he can RISE above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's eloquent words are as relevant today as they were more than 50 years ago. Dr. King was trying to help us understand that we must not only care about the issues that impact our immediate community but that we must rise above and understand the world as others experience it. Building empathy and fighting for issues that do not directly impact us is the only way that we can truly improve our world. Until all of us can live with dignity, none of us can.

Each year, the General Mills Foundation and UNCF present an annual **MLK Holiday Breakfast** to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proceeds from the breakfast benefit the UNCF MLK Legacy Scholarship.

This year's keynote speaker is The Honorable Eric H. Holder Jr., the former Attorney General of the United States and the first African-American to serve in that position. He was the first African American to serve as Attorney General of the United States. TIME magazine named him to its "100 Most Influential People list."

Starfish Information—December 2019

Requesters helped: 6 Total Aid: \$5,041.58

Rental/utility assistance: \$4,841.58

Bus/Gas/Cub/Visa cards: \$200

Monthly budget exhausted: December 5, 2019

Since January 2019, we have collected \$5,447.82. Thank You!



A partnership between Bethel Lutheran and Judson Baptist to help individuals and families in temporary crisis.

December 1, 2019, Welcoming Jay Schneider in membership and receiving a shawl.



Rich Olson commissioned as Welcoming and Affirming Minister on December 1, 2019.



Carols Sing-a-long fundraiser for YouthLink on December 8, 2019



Scenes from the Christmas Pageant at Judson Church on December 15, 2019



Christmas Eve at Judson, December 24, 2019



UPCOMING EVENTS AT JUDSON CHURCH

January 5th. Epiphany Sunday with Communion

We will close down the "Twelve Days of Christmas" with our observance of the Epiphany (the day when the wise ones from the East brought to Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh). It is a relaxed and fun worship with whimsy, carols, and communion.

Believe It or Not? Sermon Series (Jan. 12 - Feb. 16)

Marking his 20 years of pastoral ministry in 2020, the pastor (and guests) are offering sermons on questions that keep folk up at night. He has found in times of stress, anxiety, and change people know for certain what they do not believe, and yet...they fall back on beliefs or faith systems that bring pain and confusion. This series will invite reflection and reconstruction of basic beliefs for a flourishing and healthy life.

January 12th. *Believe It or Not: God Loves You?*

Preacher: Rev. Travis Norvell

January 19th. *Believe It or Not: The Moral Arc of the Universe Bends Toward Justice?*

Preacher: Rev. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, author and Associate Professor of Justice and Peace Studies at St. Thomas University

January 20th.

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January 26th. *Believe It or Not: The Actions of One Person Matters?*

Preacher: Rev. Travis Norvell

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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED