

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

June 2020

M e s s a g e s

From Travis

I planted a couple of grapevines in my yard a few years ago (I reckoned as a preacher ought to have one). My gardening bible (Garden Primer by Barbara Damrosch) suggested I plant the vines between two poles fifteen feet apart. On the poles, I placed two wires perpendicular to the ground so I could train the vines on. Now here is why I am mentioning this: the wires were attached to the poles with eye screws. The idea is that once the wires sag, I can tighten the eye screws and thus tighten the wires.

We are now into week 12 of suspended in-person worship service, and if we are not careful, I can see the wire will start to sag. Right now, there is sagging. We continue to have over 200 households reading the Judson Connections emails; we continue to gain new likes via Facebook (over 350 now). We continue to have more people watching our Sunday services online than we had attending in-person worship on Sunday mornings. People are attending Adult Education, committee meetings, and informal check-ins via zoom, over 100 people voted for the roof repair/solar panels (over 100 people!), and financial giving is consistent. Two members joined the church, and we have raised over \$11,000 for the Judson Fund. But after 12 weeks we are all experiencing “zoom fatigue,” we all want to see one another, we want to hug someone, and just be present with each other.

I wish I could say in just a little while we’ll be back to normal. But you and I know that will not be the case. I do not know when we will start the process of holding in-person worship services. When we do, it will be a slow process; we will start with small groups and slowly expand.

We will keep the wire taut by doing a few things differently and lots of things the same. Call someone new this week. Pick someone in the directory and send a postcard. Record yourself saying hello and send it to me so I can include it during our Sunday worship services. Join the Judson summer reads online book group, first book The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr. Invite a few people to join you for a zoom happy hour with no agenda other than to say hello, I miss you, and it is good to see you.

We will make it through this time together. We will continue to reach out to others; we will continue to lean in with curiosity; we will continue our holy work of loving God, our neighbor, creation, and ourselves. Light a candle, say a prayer, take a deep breath, and know for certain God loves you, Judson Church loves you, and I love you.

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,

When the Judson Council voted in mid-March to suspend large non-essential gatherings in the church, I was not sure how we would respond. Would we slowly drift apart, or would we remain a connected, committed community? I am not aware of a set of attributes that describe a committed community during a quarantine, but here are some things that I observe:

- The daily emails from Travis have been a strong point of connection for me. They come at the end of the day when I am in a mood to reflect on my day. They are sweet, supportive, and recognize that these are tough times. As I read and listen to them, I think of you.
- The Sunday morning services create a rich opportunity to join in a weekly ritual that otherwise would be missing. Thanks to the regular appearance of Travis, Polly, Carolyn, Jim W., John, Eileen, Jim T., and the occasional appearances of many other Judson members, we are being served with a meaningful visual, auditory, emotional, and spiritual experience. Sunday morning at our house has become a sacred time—Pam and I settle in on the couch after breakfast with our coffee (me) and tea (Pam), light a candle, and “go to church,” envisioning that we are all doing the same thing at the same time. We continue to look forward to the day when we can again gather at Judson.
- By any reasonable measurement during this time, the 2020-2021 stewardship campaign was a huge success, raising over \$211,000 in pledged giving. Thanks to the MLS committee members for their work. And thanks to all who support the ministry of Judson. Whether it is monetarily or some other form of a spiritual gift.
- More than \$10,000 has been given to the newly formed Judson Fund, specifically created to provide help to Judson members who are experiencing financial issues during this time.
- Two people have officially become members of Judson during our suspension! Please welcome Beverly Bockus and Margo Willett. Their decisions to join at this time give me great hope.
- The ongoing work of the Congregational Care Committee has been a source of love and comfort to many among us. Their work often goes unnoticed by the majority but is extremely important to those in need of support by their faith community.
- Adult Ed has conducted several Sunday afternoon on-line gatherings covering the specific topics of gratitude and humility as well as providing a safe space for expressing our personal response to the implications of the epidemic.
- The Finance Committee and Property Committee continue to do their important maintenance work so that the church is taken care of physically.
- Many of you are continuing your personal ministry in ways of which I am unaware—connecting with others in ways that say “you are loved.” Thanks for your consistency.
- Finally, for the first time that I am aware of, Judson conducted a mail-in ballot to decide a major initiative. I am speaking, of course, about the project to replace the flat roof over the Judson Preschool and to install solar panels on the Judson roof. More details will be furnished in a Judson News Flash in the next few days, but we can now report the following:

- ◇ **Over 60 percent of Judson’s eligible voting members cast a vote.** When was the last time we had 60% of our voting members at a business meeting? Maybe when we called Travis.
- ◇ **The vote was nearly unanimous in favor of replacing the roof and installing solar panels! Look for more news about this in the coming weeks and months.**

[continued on page 4]

TRUST PARISH NURSING FUNDRAISER

If we were able to meet at church on Sundays, imagine me going up to the lectern and making this announcement:

Good Morning, I'm Clay Gustafson, one of Judson's TRUST representatives. On June 6th, TRUST will be having a fundraiser for TRUST Parish Nursing in conjunction with the Walker 5k walk/run. TRUST uses that event to allow race participants to also collect donations for TRUST Parish Nursing. Ann Dunagan, the TRUST Parish Nurse, works primarily with TRUST's smaller congregations to provide support to congregational care committees. She sets up flu shot clinics and educational programs, visits clients, makes phone calls, distributes prayer shawls, loan medical equipment. And be a general resource for people facing life changes as they or their parents grow older. TRUST Parish Nursing is an excellent example of TRUST providing daily needed support to seniors in our community. You know that TRUST is a visible, tangible example of our outreach dollars doing important work for our friends and neighbors. Last year, this wonderful, supportive congregation gave \$200 after I made a single plea on a Sunday morning. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could exceed that amount this year?

Here's my addendum to that plea in light of the coronavirus pandemic, social distancing, and the Walker 5k being canceled and going virtual this year:

For all who donate to support TRUST Parish Nursing, I will hand-deliver by bike a personal thank you on behalf of TRUST. I can guarantee you that the distance covered will be well over 5k. Of course, my delivery range does have limits, but time is on my side, and I'm getting a new seat for my bike, which will give me (and my butt) much more endurance. Donations can be sent to Judson; write TRUST Parish Nursing on the memo line of your check. Please email me with any questions: cclaygus913@gmail.com

As always, thank you, Judson, for your support of TRUST and all the vital services it provides in south Minneapolis!



STRIDE FOR SENIORS
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 AND IT'S VIRTUAL!



Perfect date.
Perfect location.
Perfect cause. Join us.

RAISE MONEY FOR TRUST PARISH NURSING!

TRUST UPDATE

At TRUST, we are still providing Meals on Wheels, Chore services, Parish Nursing, Grocery Transportation, Loaves and Fishes, and TRUST Youth (via zoom). Trusty Salers Estate Sales, TRUST Builders, the Gathering, and Grief support groups are on hiatus. So, we are still spending money and having less come in. 30% of each estate sale is gone for now. We canceled the Caritas concert. So now you have a chance to give to our regularly scheduled Walker 5K/10K Stride for Seniors. Each year, Walker holds the race at Lake Harriet, and TRUST piggybacks onto it by having walkers gather sponsorships for Parish Nursing. This year, they have gone virtual. So, we are too!

Try it and see. We can continue to do good together.

Nancy Biele

Interim Executive Director

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ODDS AND ENDS

Please follow the [Judson Channel on Vimeo](#) (ctrl-click) so you can receive the latest worship services.

-Please [like Judson Church on Facebook](#). (ctrl-click)

-And please forward [this sign up link](#) (ctrl-click) to your friends and encourage them to sign up for our daily emails.

JUDSON EMERGENCY FUND

You have given generously to the Judson Emergency Fund, we have collected over \$10,000 in donations. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, do not hesitate to email or call me with a request.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any updates for the Tree of Life (the Judson Prayer List), either send them to me at (gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org) or send them to Eileen at (info@judsonchurch.org).

DIRECTORY REQUESTS

If you need an updated copy of the Judson Directory, please let Eileen know at (info@judsonchurch.org). You can request a hard copy or a PDF copy sent to you by email.

OFFICE UPDATE

I will start work 1/2 days a few days a week at the church office. I will also continue to do other work for the church at home. Please feel free to contact me at the office, and if I am not available, please, leave a voicemail or send an email to (info@judsonchurch.org). There are still bills to pay, payroll to process, reports to send out, checks to deposit, the messenger and tree of life to send out, among other things. Plenty to keep one out of trouble. Eileen



Thank you to the Garden team that showed up this week to clean up the Judson Gardens: Clay Gustafson, Diane Kolodziej, Fran Hirsch, Jackie Thureson, the Balcom's, and the Jacobson's.

ARE YOU FOOD INSECURE?

Dry and canned goods are available for those needing food at our Free Little Library just outside the playground at Judson Church, 41st and Harriet.



The first three pictures are our cactus, our oleanders, and our Palo Verde tree blooming in our backyard. The last picture is our prickly pear blooming in our front yard. The other cactus are from houses we pass on our walks. Wayne and Kathy Urbaniak





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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED