

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

May 2020

M e s s a g e s

From Travis

According to my logbook, we have completed six-plus weeks of stay at home, self-quarantine, and suspension of worship services experiences. According to my journal, we are doing as good of a job as any other congregation in the nation! **We are connected**, probably more than ever, with the church council, congregational care, and one special caller checking in on every part of the community. Throughout the course of a week, 200 households will read one of our almost daily emails; we have gained 60 likes/followers on Facebook, and more people are engaging with us via other social media avenues.

Financially, we are doing well (considering the circumstances). Many of you have switched to online giving, many of you increased your giving for the 2020-2021 church year. Many of you have responded generously to the establishment of the Judson Fund (for those experiencing financial hardship during this pandemic), and we were approved for the PPP (Payment Protection Plan). **Worship and Adult Education** continue via Vimeo and zoom. I know it is not the same, but it is still comforting to see the faces and hear the voices from the Judson community.

May would normally be the month we hold an Annual Meeting, recognize the graduates, prepare for baptisms, say thanks for the Sunday School year, say goodbye to the choir as they go on summer holiday, playfully fight with one another over Great Gatherings options, and start fretting about worship at the Bandshell (that's probably more me than anyone else). But this year, who knows what May will bring? We are working on a way to honor our graduates (this month or later in the summer?), we are offering an alternative to the Annual Meeting (see the Moderator's column), and Great Gatherings will take place sometime in the future along with baptisms. And according to some recommendations in Europe, all worship services should be outside for the summer and fall!

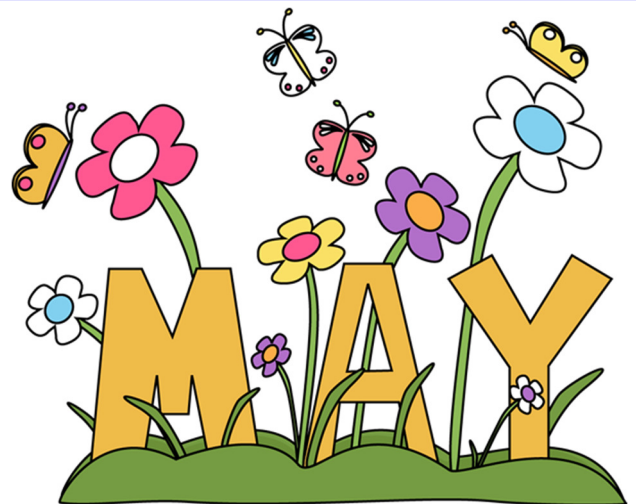
All I know is that I am extremely proud of the work you are doing during this pandemic. I feel like we are being the church in the best ways we can during trying times. And I know I consider it an honor to be your pastor during this time. We will get through this together. When we emerge on the other side of this experience, I know we will be a stronger and deeper congregation (we already are now).

Peace & Love,

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

April 28, 2020

Dear Judsonites,

This is week 7 of our suspension of large non-essential gatherings at Judson—counting from March 16. And as you all know, our changed church experience isn't the only thing that has changed during this time of social distancing, sheltering in place, or quarantine. Each of our lives, and the lives of those we love, has been or will be affected in some way by the coronavirus.

I found myself thinking the other day about the monarch butterfly. Maybe because each spring, I hope to see an increased—or at least a constant—number of these beauties in our yard as the flowers bloom and attract various pollinators. That led me to wonder if the monarch caterpillar has any sense, any instinctual knowledge, any hint of what it will become when it spins itself into its cocoon—into its “quarantine space”? Does it have any idea as to the magnitude of change that is coming its way? If a monarch caterpillar and a monarch butterfly met on a leaf, would they recognize the other as itself?

I feel that our current “quarantined space” is similar to that of the caterpillar. We wait—sheltered until the day when it is time to come out. We change—into what we don't yet know. We wonder—how will the world we emerge into be changed? We try to maintain a sense of “normal.” We try to stay in touch in new ways. We try to “learn something” from this experience. We offer our help and friendship to others in small, yet meaningful ways. We stay busy, trying some new things to keep our minds and bodies fresh. In my own life, I trust that change is happening.

Think about the ways Judson has already adapted to this “quarantine stage” of life. We are holding worship services on-line, we are holding adult forums on-line, we are holding committee meetings and council meetings on-line. We are doing what we can to take care of each other, more of us have signed up for electronic giving, we are conducting a stewardship campaign and more. Soon we are going to attempt to conduct important business without gathering for our usual annual business meeting. Watch for more news about that in the days and weeks to come.

Through this cocoon period of change, it has been my privilege to have the opportunity to work with the Judson Staff and Judson Council as we attempt to carry out Judson's mission and business during this time. I have watched and been blessed as people have stepped up to the tasks at hand. Some of this work is very visible while some are less so—but all is vital to the life and health of the extended community.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of the changing world.

Brad Joern
Judson Moderator

Starfish Information—April 2020

Requesters helped: 7 Total Aid: \$2,402.92

Rental/utility assistance: \$4,201.61

Bus/Gas/Cub/Visa cards: \$0

Monthly budget exhausted: April 6, 2020

Everything is being done by phone, texting and by email.

There is no person to person contact so no gift cards given.



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

EARTH DAY REFLECTIONS FOR APRIL 26TH, 2020—Larry Jacobson

My name is Larry Jacobson and, I, along with the rest of Judson's Climate Justice Team, would like to wish everyone a belated Happy Earth Day! As you probably have heard, this year was the 50th anniversary. I would like to take some time this to reflect on the significance of Earth Day and draw some similarities between that Day in 1970 and the one we celebrated this past week. For those of you old enough to remember the first Earth Day, you probably recall that during the spring of 1970, the country was very divided, possibly even more so than today. The big issue then was the US's involvement in the Vietnam War that sparked many protests on campuses and cities throughout the country. Also, there were still issues from the civil rights protests that the country experienced only a year or two earlier. Besides these issues, there was a growing concern that the environment was being severely harmed by industrial, agricultural, and governmental actions.

In January of 1969, a pivotal point was reached when a large oil spill occurred on an offshore platform near Santa Barbara, California. The spill resulted in oil-soaked beaches and killed many marine animals and fish in a location that was very visible to the country and world. As a result of this catastrophic event, two members of Congress, Rep. Pete McCloskey, a Republican from California and Sen. Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, formed a nonprofit group called Environmental Action in the summer of 1969. Later that year, this group organized and scheduled, what was called "Teach-In" on the Environment classes on college campuses and high schools around the country. These grassroots activities eventually lead to a final national event on April 22nd that became Earth Day. A number of us at Judson were in college during this time, including me. We either participated in these events or heard about them on our campuses. According to news reports, an estimated 20 million people (or 10% of the US population at the time) participated in marches, demonstrations, or other activities on that first Earth Day, so it was a major event around the country and world.

Senator Nelson, when asked years later what his goal was for Earth Day, said he just wanted the public to become aware of the issue. Well, the event accomplished and even exceeding that goal, since within several months, President Nixon signed a law that established the Environmental Protection Agency, and Congress passed within a year, new Clean Air and Water legislation that provided many of the environmental regulations we have today. The environmental movement grew rapidly and soon shifted down to states, cities, and local communities.

I know the Judson community has had a long history of environmental consciousness. I joined the church in the mid 70's and recalled numerous members who participated in environmental programs that the church organized and/or supported. Several present members remembered a formal "green team" group that was active for several years that met monthly to share ways to conserve water and energy in their homes. Others in the congregation became interested in locally grown food and helped organized community-supported agriculture groups or CSA's.

The congregation took a major environmental step in 2001 by replacing our building's inefficient natural gas central boiler to an efficient electric, geothermal / heat pump system for both heating and cooling. Unfortunately, the geothermal part was not possible due to caves found deep below the church from test wells, but the heat pump part of the system was installed. After adding the preschool and office areas to the system in 2014, we now have 20 heat pumps throughout the church that allows us to zone heat/cool various rooms and sections of the building, saving energy and providing a more comfortable working environment for occupants. In the last five years, the church has repaired and painted many of our stain glass windows, built rain gardens to capture runoff water from our roof, added both regular and organic

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recycling, and replaced many of our old light fixtures with LED bulbs. Next month the congregation will have the opportunity to approve the addition of solar panels to our building's roof that will significantly lower our carbon footprint and produce an estimated 1/3 of our annual electrical energy usage.

As mentioned earlier, I believe we have a similar situation in our country today as there was in 1970. At the moment, we are dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic. It is changing so many aspects of our daily life. Still, there may be a silver lining to the quarantines, since scientists and others are seeing a measurable improvement in air quality, traffic, and lower carbon emissions because of the reduction in travel, commerce, and education activities. The pandemic could turn into an environmental renaissance like it did in 1970 that changed public opinion and spurred policy changes and actions that could improve our air and water quality and most importantly, address climate change.

Now, I would like you to picture in your mind for a moment the popular "Earthrise" photo that Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders took on Dec 24, 1968, during their historic moon orbiting mission. It has the moon surface in the foreground, with the earth rising against the darkness of space. The picture was a compelling image that provided people, for the very first time, the opportunity to see that the planet's resources are limited and in need of conserving since there is only one earth out there. This "earthrise" photo became the unofficial symbol of Earth Day, and many felt it played an important role in convincing people to participate and moved public opinion that changed environmental policy in this country and throughout the world.



IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM JOYCE UPTOWN FOODSHELF

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is open and a resource for those concerned about food scarcity. Our model and service hours have changed. To focus our efforts on safely serving our community and to conserve volunteer and staff resources, we are asking individuals and organizations to please temporarily refrain from bringing food donations to Joyce Foodshelf.

Our most immediate need is monetary donations. Monetary donations enable us to buy foods we are not receiving from foodbanks. Also, these donations help us buy the specific foods we need in bulk from our foodbanks to use for our prepackaged bags.

You may send a check to Judson Church indicating on the memo line it is for Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and Eileen will put in the foodshelf account and send them a check. Or, you can process an online donation by using Vanco: go to the judsonchurch.org website, click on "Give," then "DONATE NOW," then put your donation amount in the food shelf box, then "continue"...



Please tell those in need; our hours are Tuesdays 1:00-3:45 p.m. and Thursdays 1:00-3:45 p.m.

We are so grateful for your continued support in this unprecedented and ever-changing process.

JUDSON NEWS FLASH—April 28, 2020

What's Happening?

At its April 21, 2020 meeting, the Judson Council focused on the process for conducting Judson business in the time of COVID-19. The Council passed two motions that address business that would normally be considered during an annual business meeting. **The highlights of these two motions are:**

- To notify and inform the congregation (via this news flash and an early-May mailing) of a project to replace the flat roof over the Judson Preschool and install solar panels on the new roof, and to solicit approval of this project from the congregation through mail-in ballots due in the office by May 25, 2020. (See the section below “What Does the Judson Council Want from You?” for more information about how this will work.)
- To postpone the adoption of a 2020-2021 budget and election of new Judson Council and committee members until about August 1, at which time we hope to be able to gather again for an actual meeting. The current Council and committee members will continue to serve until that time, and the current budget will serve as a guide for spending in the interim.

What's Going On With the Roof?

The flat roof over the Judson Preschool needs to be replaced. Why?

- The current roof is 30+ years old. Replacement is due under normal circumstances, but in the last few years it has frequently leaked during rains. Several valiant attempts to stop the roof from leaking have been made by the Property Committee and professional roofers. There is general agreement that the roof has seen its day.
- Solar panel contractors have told us that we must replace the roof before the panels can be installed, but as noted above, we need to replace the roof regardless of the solar opportunity.
- We anticipate the cost of a new roof to be in the \$90,000 to \$110,000 range based on the bids received so far. The Finance committee believes that by using some of our Property Reserve Funds in combination with our line of credit we can finance the roof project without conducting a capital campaign.

What You Need to Know About the Solar Project.

This is a fortuitous time to pursue the potential of creating some of our own energy through the use of solar panels:

- First and foremost, reducing Judson's carbon footprint is consistent with the desire to be good stewards of the earth. The 50th anniversary of Earth Day seems like a good time to be acting on this possibility.
- Our relationship with Minnesota Inter-Faith Power and Light has enabled us to partner with other churches and non-profits to create an economically viable coalition of solar energy users. This opportunity is available now at favorable terms with Xcel Energy.
- Loans to purchase and install the solar equipment emanate from the Minnesota Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program at a moderate rate of interest.
- Projected energy cost savings resulting from installing solar panels on the flat roof above the Judson Preschool will be more than sufficient to pay for the PACE loan.
- We must have a signed contract in place with the solar installers by May 31 in order to be eligible for the terms currently available. Delaying could reduce our savings.

What Does the Judson Council Want from You?

We will mail you additional details in early May (including a Q&A) about the solar project and roof replacement.

The mailing will also include an appropriate motion printed on a mail-in ballot. Please:

- Read the information about the benefits of installing solar panels on the new roof, focusing on how the opportunity exists now, on the potential energy savings to Judson, and on the benefits to the environment.
- Read the information about the need for replacing the roof and how it will be financed.
- Consider attending one of the information sessions that are being planned via Zoom.
- **Mail your completed ballot** back to Judson so that it is received by May 25.

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The Two-Month Committee and Budget Extension

The Judson Council recognizes this is a challenging time in many ways for all people, and the challenge trickles down to the level of deciding on a 2020-2021 expense budget and the slate of officers and committee members in a manner consistent with our practices and values. Our intent is to conduct Judson's business in such a manner that includes as many people as possible during a time when we cannot gather. As a result, the Judson Council has voted to implement what might be called a "continuing resolution" which pushes the formal 2020-2021 budget and committee slate decisions off until the first part of August, when we hope to be able to meet again in person. In the meantime, the current Judson Council and committee members will stay in place, and spending will continue at the level adopted in the 2019-2020 budget. If we still cannot meet in early August, an alternative approach to soliciting your input and vote on church officers and expense budget will be implemented.

We know this alternative process is not what we are accustomed to. We are trying to be consistent with the spirit of the Judson Constitution regarding decision making but are somewhat hindered by the effects of the coronavirus. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and action in this time. We are blessed to be in such good company.

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

STARFISH—MORE THAN EVER

Starfish is a joint ministry of Judson and Bethlehem Lutheran, through which we assist people in our community with emergency needs. Often this assistance is in the form of rental aid; sometimes, it includes help with utility bills or other needs. Also, Starfish often gives gift cards for food, gas, or MTC bus costs.

Starfish is definitely still operating during this COVID-19 situation. Obviously, the needs of people have increased. Starfish has made procedural adjustments given social distancing guidelines, but Starfish guidelines still apply. For instance, requests for assistance are carefully considered through phone "interviews" and carefully vetted through verification with landlords / rental agencies, utility companies, and Hennepin County records. Checks are sent directly to the landlord or rental agency, for instance, on behalf of the person needing assistance.

In April, seven people received Starfish assistance, for total payments of \$4,201.61. Four of the seven were for rental assistance, one was for mortgage assistance, one was for a water bill, and one was for car repair. An example from April was Coretta (not her real name), whose small catering work had been mainly for church gatherings. She had applied to Wells Fargo for a deferment on her mortgage payment but needed "emergency bridge assistance" in the interim.

The Starfish budgeted funds for April were depleted on April 6; the Starfish phone message was changed to say, "If you still have a need, you may call back on May 1." Starfish gives priority to people from Judson and Bethlehem, though 95% of the people assisted are from the community at large, not affiliated with either church. One of the Starfish guidelines is that when a person receives assistance, they are not eligible to receive help until at least one year has passed.

Judson has supported Starfish since this ministry began ten years ago. In recent years, Judson has encouraged people to make special Starfish donations on the first Sunday of each month; many people have put those donations in the offering. Given that our in-person worship services are suspended, we still want to encourage people to support Starfish—the need is greater now than ever.

You can send a check to the Judson office. Make the check out to Judson Baptist Church, and indicate "STARFISH MINISTRY" on the memo line. Or, you can process an online donation by using Vanco: go to the judsonchurch.org website, click on "Give," then "DONATE NOW," then put your donation amount in the "Starfish Fund" box, then "continue"...

If you have questions, leave a message for Eileen at the church office. If you want more information about Starfish, call Wayne (612-222-4102) or Kathy (612-232-3924) Urbaniak. Thank you for your prayers and support of this vital ministry.



Published monthly by
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Working from home in May
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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED