

M e m o r i a l

From Travis

In the late 1960s, Catholic monk and spiritual writer Thomas Merton wrote an essay entitled “Religion and Race in the United States.” He began the essay with these sentences, “The idea of *Kairos* - THE TIME OF URGENT PROVIDENTIAL decision - is something characteristic of Christianity, a religion of decisions in time and history. Can Christians recognize their *Kairos*? Is it possible that when the majority of Christians become aware that ‘the time has come’ for a decisive and urgent commitment, the time has, in fact, already run out?”

I read those sentences in divinity school and wondered if there would be a race relations *Kairos* moment in my lifetime. There seemed to be a moment surrounding the events in Ferguson, but that *Kairos* came and went. There seemed to be a moment when The Charleston Nine were killed at Mother Emanuel AME Church, but that *Kairos* moment came and went. There seemed to be a moment when Philando Castile was killed, but that *Kairos* moment came and went. There seemed to be a moment when the white supremacists and neo-Nazis marched in Charlottesville, VA, and Heather Hyer was killed by a car ramming into protestors, but that *Kairos* moment came and went.

Four weeks have come and gone since the murder of George Floyd at 38th St. and Chicago Ave. Is the *Kairos* moment coming to an end, is it closing up?

On the one hand, it feels like it is. Yes, there are protests and marches and vigils and policy change meetings taking place. But the crowds have thinned, the energy has leveled off, and everyone wants to focus on getting back to “normal.” Never mind that we are still in the midst of a global health pandemic and an environmental crisis (on June 22, it was 100.4°F in the Siberian Arctic). It is the counter-narrative, on the other hand, where communities of faith like Judson Memorial Baptist Church come in!

We need to keep the pressure on our elected officials to keep this *Kairos* moment opened. We need to keep reminding ourselves of our place and our work to keep this *Kairos* moment opened.

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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—Known and Unknown,

For three months now, we have not been able to gather at Judson for worship, committee meetings, business meetings, choir rehearsal, and other things as we “ride out” the coronavirus pandemic. Prior to March 15, 2020, I tended to think of the Judson community as those who attend Judson on Sundays, whether regularly or not-so-regularly, seasonally, or even infrequently. I also thought of those who don’t attend Judson but who are kindred spirits and part of the community, even from afar.

Clearly, things have changed. Like many other churches, Judson has moved into the electronic space to maintain, enhance, and initiate connections, to announce happenings, to deliver Sunday services, to encourage those who are lonely and in pain, and to generally stir the waters of justice. We use Facebook, daily emails, Zoom calls, the Judson website, and other social media channels to connect and reconnect. We have also used the US mail on occasion to make congregational decisions.

But who are we reaching? Who are these friends of Judson on Facebook? Who is signing up for the Judson emails, viewing our website, reading the Messenger, or viewing the Tree of Life? Whose heart is being touched? Whose pain is being relieved—even a little bit? Who is inspired to act? As expected, many of those I once thought of as part of the Judson community (mostly those who attended on Sunday) are being reached, but the circle is much wider than my previous idea of the Judson community. Travis’s (nearly) daily emails—the Judson Connection—are being seen and read by many individuals that I do not know; the Sunday service is being viewed by individuals I don’t know, and I likely don’t know all of the people who have befriended Judson on Facebook.

A few months ago, I wrote in the Messenger that waiting out the coronavirus could be compared to a caterpillar being in a cocoon—waiting for the day to emerge as a butterfly, wondering what life will be like “on the other side.” I recently read, however, that scientists now believe the caterpillar body contains two sets of DNA. The first set is evident during the caterpillar stage—furry body, striped body, black and yellow, etc. Once inside the cocoon, though, the caterpillar body turns to “soup” and literally dies—never again to be a caterpillar. But not all is lost because the second set of DNA has not died. It emerges and guides the “soup” toward a new life form. The butterfly is not the caterpillar, but it could not be the butterfly without the death of the caterpillar.

For Judson, this cocoon period creates an opportunity for the emergence of a new way of understanding community. Something has drawn people to Judson on social media during this time of social distancing. Maybe people are lonely and looking for companionship. Maybe people are hungry for things of the heart, and Judson is helping them. Maybe they are trying to find out what it means to be a progressive church community in this day and age. Whatever the reason, I think we need to consider these folks who we have never met—and who we may never meet—as an important part of the new Judson community.

To me, that means when it is safe to regather, we can’t just pack up our social media presence and go home to 41st and Harriet. We will need to find a way to do both—to serve the part of the community that gathers on Sunday mornings and to serve the part of the community that experiences Judson through social media. We can’t stop meeting the needs of those who come looking for community regardless of where or how we gather. To do that, and to do it well, means that some ideas and mindsets about serving our community will have to expand.

Brad Joern, Moderator

[Travis article continued from page one]

We need to maintain the drumbeat of invitation to invite others to join us on this journey (and we need to also respond to invitations to partner with others too) to keep this *Kairos* moment opened. Remember, we are all at different places on this journey of racial justice, we need to create room for people who are just now “getting it,” while at the same time creating room for people way ahead of us to challenge and push and make us feel uncomfortable.

Recall, our prayer is not that God blesses our endeavor; our prayer is to find where God is already at work blessing in this endeavor and join hands.

Peace, Travis

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM JOYCE UPTOWN FOODSHELF

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is open and a resource for those concerned about food scarcity.

Their new and additional hours are:

Tuesdays- 1-3:45 p.m.

Thursdays- 1-5:30 p.m.

Saturdays- 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

No appointment needed! All are welcome!

And they are receiving food and non-food donations on Fridays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. However, they will be closed on Friday, July 3, because of the 4th of July holiday.

Also, Lorrie at Joyce Foodshelf has some exciting news. She said: “We received a transportation grant as part of the COVID-19 relief funding. We will be purchasing a van and starting a mobile food shelf/delivery program soon! More to come!”

She also said:

“We are working with the FFEN Foundation (Foundation For Essential Needs) to transform the main floor of our food shelf into a grocery store model where families can shop for what they need the most. More to come on this as we work on hours and structure, but we are excited to offer more food choice options back into our distribution.”

Most needed items right now:

- ◆ Diapers size 5 and 6
- ◆ Laundry Detergent (not the big ones, smaller sizes easier to carry)
- ◆ Dish Soap
- ◆ Disinfectant Wipes
- ◆ Personal Hygiene items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap.

Their other immediate need is monetary donations. Monetary donations enable them to buy foods they are not receiving from foodbanks. Also, these donations help them buy the specific foods they need in bulk from their foodbanks to use for their prepackaged bags. Please send checks to Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, 3041 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

You may send a check to Judson Church and designate Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and Eileen will get it to them. 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”...

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



UPDATE FROM THE JUDSON BAPTIST RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

June 25, 2020

Community Volunteering

Two organizations were adopted by the Racial Justice Action Team this month for the purpose of volunteering under their leadership. They are *Appetite for Change* and *We Win Institute*. Also, you heard from Travis in the 6/22/20 Sunday worship announcements, that checks were disbursed to both organizations from the newly created Judson Emergency Fund.

A group of us spent Thursday, June 18th, packing and delivering food boxes from *We Win Institute* (3751 17th Ave. South).



Then, at the Juneteenth Celebration on Friday, June 19th, at

Cub Foods on Broadway, we bagged/distributed free books and circulated through the crowd to recruit children for the *We Win* reading program.



We Win Institute focuses on academic programs for black children, most of whom are not reading at grade level. Before the pandemic, meals were part of the after-school programs. When the children could no longer come, the Institute began delivering groceries for the entire family every two weeks. *We Win Institute* was founded in 1996 by Titilayo (Titi) Bediako, a Minneapolis Public Schools teacher. You may know of the Institute because their drum group participated in an event at Judson a couple of years ago. You also may know of Titi's father, civil rights activist, Matthew Little. (We'll talk about *Appetite for Change* next time.)

Self-Education

Our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community members are busy grieving, healing, and working towards justice. It is the job of white people to educate themselves to be anti-racist allies. The Racial Justice Action Team has gathered a resource list of books, articles, podcasts, videos, etc. and we will share these resources with the Judson Community every few weeks.

Activism

Immediate and sustained engagement is required to re-structure and re-invent scores of systems that are doing great harm to BIPOC communities even though individually, most of us never intentionally inflict hurt or harm. The Racial Justice Team is actively exploring groups and leaders under whom we can work for change.

The Racial Justice Team meets via Zoom at 10 AM every Monday. To participate, contact Leslie Rapp. Others include Beth Waterhouse, Brad & Pam Joern, Carley Watts, Gayle Foster Lewis, Jean Hayes, Jim ten Bensele, Karla McGray, Keith Ford, Lynn Hesse, Margot Willett, Monica Lewis, Paul Johnson, Scott Simpson.

STARFISH UPDATE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



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

Refresh my memory: what is Starfish?

Starfish is a joint ministry of Judson and Bethlehem Lutheran, through which we assist people in our community with emergency needs.

Is Starfish still operating, given the Covid-19 situation?

Yes, definitely. Like everyone, we have had to make some adaptations.

What kind of adaptations?

Our usual protocol is to have phone conversations with possible recipients and landlords/utility companies, and then to meet with recipients at Bethlehem Church, to have conversations, fill out paperwork, and process the assistance through the Bethlehem office. In April and May, however, we went to a virtual process.

How did the virtual process work?

Pretty well. Starfish duty team leaders did even more of the protocol via phone conversations. Recipients texted or emailed photos of their drivers' licenses or state I.D.'s, and their leases or rental agreements, current utility bills, etc. These then went on Starfish's electronic record file. We missed the face-to-face conversations, however.

So what's happening now?

In June, Kathy and Wayne Urbaniak (from Judson) were the duty team. We used a hybrid approach, following the new Starfish protocol for reinstating in-person meetings. We still did most of the information-gathering and vetting via phone conversations, texts, and emails. However, in most June situations, we had short in-person meetings, too.

How did that work?

Really well. We scheduled meetings on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, arranging our meetings through Steve, Bethlehem's Director of Administration, who was at the church at those times. We wore masks and asked recipients to wear masks also. (We had extra ones available if needed, but everyone brought their own mask.) They brought their own pens for signing forms. We sat at separate tables, 10 feet apart.

So Starfish was able to help people in June?

We assisted 8 people/families, about usual, before running out of the month's funds.

What types of assistance did Starfish give in June?

Eight people/families received assistance: 4 for rent; 1 for a mortgage; 1 for utility bills; and 7 of the 8 received gift cards—primarily for food.

Is any of this Covid-19 related?

Yes, 5 of the 8 recipients had recent job losses caused by the pandemic.

I thought Judson Church had recently set up a special fund to assist people in need because of Covid-19 circumstances. Isn't that redundant with Starfish?

No. Starfish serves people who live in a defined geographic area. Requests are vetted through verification with landlords / rental agencies, utility companies, and Hennepin County records. Checks are sent directly to the landlord, rental agency, or utility company on behalf of the person needing assistance. Starfish ministry has been going on for over 10 years. Starfish gives preference to Judson and Bethlehem people, but over 95% of recipients are from the broader south Minneapolis community.

How is the Judson fund different?

The Judson Emergency Fund (“JEF”) was set up to help Judson families who experience financial difficulties due to the coronavirus. A great need for food and personal items then arose in the wider Minneapolis community after George Floyd’s death; “JEF” is channeling funds to non-profit entities serving the needs of the community.

Is there any overlap between “JEF” and Starfish.

Not really overlap, but there is cooperation. For instance, this month, Starfish was working with Green Central Elementary School social workers to give assistance to specific families who live in the Lake Street corridor; they had been impacted not only by the Covid-19 situation but also by the turmoil following George Floyd’s death. When Starfish’s June funds were depleted on June 12, there were additional extended families in need of rental assistance. Starfish passed this information along to “JEF,” which was able to give assistance to additional families with children at Green Central.

So which should I donate to, “JEF” or Starfish?

Either. Or both.

How do I donate, given we are not meeting at church on Sunday mornings?

You can send a check to the Judson office. Make the check out to Judson Baptist Church, and indicate “STARFISH MINISTRY” or “JUDSON EMERGENCY FUND” 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, or “Other” and type in “Judson Emergency Fund,” then “continue”...

What if I have other questions?

If you have donation 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.

Anything else I should know?

Yes. Thank you for your prayers and support. As the “Starfish” story says, “We cannot help everyone, but it makes a difference to this one.”

THANK YOU FROM EN VÍA

Dear friends at Judson Memorial Baptist Church,

On behalf of all of us here at En Vía, **we would like to send a huge THANK YOU for your donation!** As you know, our main income has always been through the responsible tourism program. Now, in these particularly challenging times when we are not running tours, we are reliant on the generous donations from the family of En Vía supporters to continue to support the women in the communities around Oaxaca.

We are still giving interest-free loans and have relaxed the repayment schedule, so the women-only pay what they can afford at the moment. We’ve also set up new collection mechanisms to avoid unnecessary travel into the communities and the attendant possibility of infection.

And our **Growing Strong** fundraising campaign raised money specifically to help our entrepreneurs increase their self-sufficiency by raising chickens and growing their own produce.

You can find out more about how we are moving forward by subscribing to our [newsletter](#) and following us on Social Media ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)).

Again, thank you so much for your donation and continued support.

With sincere gratitude,

The En Vía Team



info@envia.org / www.envia.org

THE JUDSON EMERGENCY FUND

Here is the guiding principle of the Fund as approved by the Judson Church Council:

“The Judson Emergency Fund will have a two-fold purpose. The first, to collect and disburse funds to the Judson community members who are experiencing difficulty due to COVID 19. The second to collect and disperse funds within Minneapolis to help organizations, non- profits, and local businesses who are helping to feed, house and heal people after the event emanating from George Floyd’s death. Distribution of the funds will be managed cooperatively by a team consisting of the Pastor, a member of the Judson Congregational Care Committee, and the Moderator. Additional oversight will be managed by having the church administrator prepare the checks to be signed by the Judson Financial Secretary. Requests will come to the Pastor and be discussed with the other team members before a final decision is made. At the very least, each month, a report will be included in the Messenger, to the Judson Council and other donors, detailing disbursements. (with privacy concerns taken into consideration.)”

Funds collected thus far: \$35,870

Disbursements for Judson community needs: \$570.

Disbursements for broader community needs: \$24,000

\$15,000 Appetite for Change (parent organization of Breaking Bread Cafe) They are providing over 1,000 meals a day for families in North Minneapolis.

\$2,500 Calvary Lutheran Church (Food Shelf)

\$2,500 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Food Shelf)

\$2,000 We Win Institute (book drop program)

\$2,000 Green Central PTA (helping Green Central families with rent/utilities/food)

Balance: \$11,870 (\$7,000 for Judson Community, \$4,870 for broader community)

If you would like to donate, please indicate on your check or online donation: Judson Emergency Fund.

VIRTUAL MS RIDE THIS YEAR!—Larry Jacobson

Last winter, I signed up for my 5th MS Ride Across Minnesota, which was scheduled for Southeast Minnesota during the last week of July this summer. Unfortunately, like many events this year, it has been canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

However, the MS Society still needs to raise money for multiple sclerosis research and treatment since many people, some of whom you may know, suffer from this disease.



So, I would greatly appreciate your support for my "virtual" ride in summer. The easiest way to contribute is to go to my personal fundraising page at [Larry's page](#) and donate. My goal is this year is to raise \$1,000 again. I have done that with the help of many of you, and I hope to match that amount again this year.

Thanks, Larry Jacobson

TRUST HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

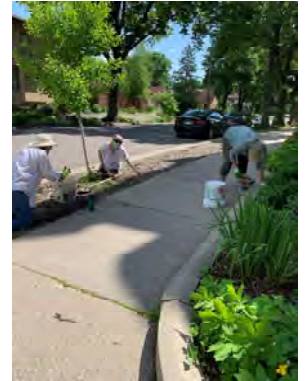
As of Monday, June 15, Toya Richards is the new Executive Director of TRUST. More information to come in the next newsletter.

REQUEST FROM THE PROPERTY CHAIR, BUILDING USE CHAIR AND THE LIBRARY COORDINATOR

We would like to request that NOTHING, not furniture, electronic equipment, boxes of books, nothing be brought to the church, and left there without prior approval from the chairs of Property and Building Use, and the Library (currently, Larry Jacobson, Steve Hirsch, Karla McGray). It takes time, effort, and expense to dispose of unwanted items. A pandemic is a great time to declutter, but we recommend ARC, Goodwill, or the Salvation Army for your donations. We appreciate your generosity, but we will post occasional wish lists for items that may be needed. Thanks in advance for respecting our church space.

GATHERING AT THE RAIN GARDENS

Come to Judson at 10:00 on Monday, July 13th, and join us in cleaning up our gardens, boulevards, and alley. We've been meeting for 2 hours monthly and enjoy seeing each other as much as seeing what is blooming. We will provide yard waste bags and tools. Just come and join in the camaraderie. Last month we picnicked at Lake Harriet after we worked. So bring a sandwich and beverage if you want. We can social distance under the roof at Beard's Plaisance.

**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 \$36,000 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

Eileen is now working five days a week at the church office. Her hours are from 9 am to 4 pm. Please feel free to contact her at the office, and if she is 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. Eileen

MONTH IN REVIEW (Photos courtesy of Travis Norvell)



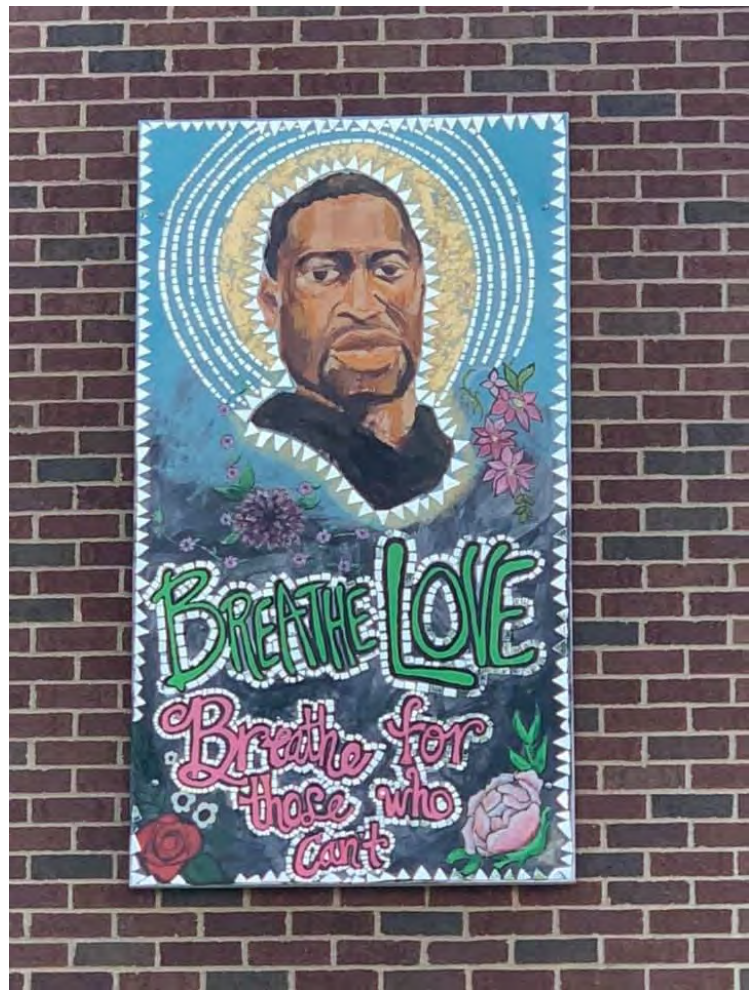
Say Their Names Memorial (37th St. & Park Avenue)



Lake Street and 27th Avenue



Entrance to the alley behind Judson Church



Artwork on the 34th St side of Park Ave. United Methodist Church



Mural on a business at 38th St. and Chicago Ave



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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED