



# MESSENGER

## Message from Travis

A couple of Judson Council meetings ago, Beth Waterhouse, chair of the Membership, Leadership, Stewardship committee (aka MLS), asked a series of probing questions about church life. What does church membership mean now? How can one be 'in community' when you live in another region or state and cannot or do not attend Sunday worship? How do we take all of the transformations from the pandemic and bring them into our new future?

A little background. The Judson Council is made up of the Judson staff (ex officio members who attend and participate but do not vote), chairs of each committee, plus the Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Church Clerk. We meet for about 90 minutes every month on the third Tuesday. We try to devote a significant portion of our meetings to generative discussions, forward-thinking, innovative time.

Beth's questions are probably the same questions you ask, too (I know I've been asking them). As the discussion continued, I thought of a sermon series after the first of the year on her questions, then Kristine Revak gifted us with one of the greatest sermon series acronyms in the history of sermon series acronyms: BBQ (Beth's Big Questions).

Like any fantastic BBQ, this will require a slow roasting process, indirect (not direct) heat, some experimentation, and tending to the fire accompanied by great friends. We will do likewise on Jan. 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. On those Sundays, we will have conversations on these big questions, slow conversations, experimental conversations. Conversations over indirect heat (off to the side) accompanied with great friends (all of you!).

I will present Sunday sermons showing ways forward, and then we will convene over zoom at 11 am for coffee/tea/hot cocoa and conversation on these questions. I do not propose to have the answers, but I can see some new forms already developing if I squint.

This month let us say goodbye to 2020 (all the pain and lament and frustrations along with the joy and moments of grace) and welcome 2021 (it will be another challenging year, but also a year with hopeful possibilities).

Peace,  
Travis

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**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2020-2021****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Moderator	Laura O'Halloran	Vice Moderator	Monica Lewis
Secretary	Brian Satrom	Treasurer	Bill Forsyth

**FAITH & SPIRIT CLUSTER**

Christian Education		Kristine Revak
Adult Education		
Congregational Care		Luise Forseth
Hospitality Team Leaders		Polly Schrom*
Missions		Keith Ford
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*	
Textile Group [Formerly Known as Knitting Group]		Sandy Chatfield
Loaves & Fishes		Gretchen Williams
Messenger		Eileen McLaughlin
Marketing Team:		Brad Joern (Organizer)
Spiritual Voyagers		Ron Cottone
Starfish Ministry		Wayne Urbaniak
The Gathering		Kathy Urbaniak
TRUST Rep		Jim ten Bensel
Ushers		Office Manager

The Pastoral Relations committee includes the following people: Joel Frederickson (chair), Greg Lehman, Mary Gustafson, Pam Joern, Leslie Rapp, 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](mailto: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.

### MODERATOR'S LETTER

In 2015 I digitally scrapbooked my entire year. As in every day, a layout every week, 52 (times 2) pages of scrapbooking. This largely grew out of the response that I now had three kids, and I didn't remember anything from my youngest's first year. I was asked when I finished the year if I was going to continue. My answer went (sort of) like this, "HA! NO WAY! But I could see myself doing it again in 5 years. Yeah, maybe in 2020". January 1, 2020, landed on a Wednesday and came a lot faster than you would think. It took a couple of weeks to get back into the rhythm of scrapbooking a layout a week, but I did it. I started documenting my year again. Here is what I have learned: Life doesn't get any easier; it just changes. Oh, and 2020 was really, really hard.

How did you survive this pandemic year? I lived in a house for two months with four generations in it, including my parents (which I promise you is something that I never imagined would happen again). I had to become my kids' school teacher, which included becoming a special ed teacher (which I am not very good at). I became your Moderator for better or for worse (remember when you voted yes to me? Back when we were in the same room together?) I've gotten into the habit of staying up way too late because that is the only alone time I get these days. I've started drinking black coffee. I may have started drinking more wine too. I've lost muscle mass and have gained inches. And yet. And yet (and this is the gift of remembering), mostly what I see are the gifts when I look back at this year. It may have been extremely hard to see them in the moment, but there were gifts of rare opportunities, gratefulness, love, and the gift of time. What are you remembering from this year?

For Judson, we have also been given the gift of time. Time to learn new things, to question, to ask, to struggle, and time to live out. Being apart from everyone has been hard for sure. And yet. And yet, we have continued our faith practice. We have lived into the questions, and we have continued our worship in a new way. We have expanded our faith community in new ways. We have continued to meet online as a Council, as committees, as a bible study group, as a racial justice team, or in the case of property, on-site with SunDial Energy installing solar panels living out some of our core values.

Has any of this been ideal? Hardly. But necessary? Yes. Has this year changed us? How could it not have? Are the next six months going to continue to be hard? Guaranteed. In the meantime, continue to be your creative selves. Continue to reach out to each other. Continue to be the hands, the feet, and the heart of our church. Continue to live intentionally, to be open and love greatly. And as Travis always reminds us, let's continue to love this world into a new existence. We are ready for you 2021.

Laura M. O'Halloran

### THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for your outpouring of care and concern following my moms death. I am overwhelmed and so grateful for your kind words. Thank you.

Doug Harvey

**THANK YOU JUDSON**

Thanks to Judson Church from all of us at En Vía - but especially from me - for the generous donation to the Staying Strong Program. I'm very grateful to have a faith community that has been so supportive of this organization ([www.envia.org](http://www.envia.org)) with your interest, time, talents, and monetary contributions. In normal times, our interest-free loan program for women in Oaxaca with small businesses is 80% self-sustaining through our responsible tourism program. In 2020, however, nothing has been normal, and we have had to discontinue tours, cut staff, and decrease the loans and classes we can offer. If you'd like to know more about our Growing Strong and Staying Strong initiatives (designed to help En Vía and our female entrepreneurs develop strategies to cope – and even flourish – during COVID19), check out recent posts on our blog: <https://www.envia.org/blog>. [ctrl click] To donate to Staying Strong, please follow the link (donations of \$100+ during December will be matched):

<https://www.omprakash.org/global/fundacion-en-via/crowdfund/staying-strong>. [ctrl click]

AND, if you're looking for the **perfect holiday present** for that special person...**Gift a Donation** is now also available! You can choose a specific program to receive the money or make a general donation of any amount. Either way, the recipient you honor will receive a beautiful photo card that we can personalize with a note, or you can download and send yourself. Click here for all the info:

<https://www.envia.org/gift-a-donation> [ctrl click]

¡Muchas gracias y feliz Navidad! Sarah Baker

**Starfish Information—November 2020**

Requesters helped: 9 Total Aid: \$5,921

Rental/utility assistance: \$5,871

Bus/Gas/Cub/Visa cards: \$50

Funds exhausted: November 3, 2020

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

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

**JANUARY NEEDS FOR JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF**

For the month of JANUARY, Joyce Food Shelf needs DIAPERS (any size or brand) and CLEANING SUPPLIES (laundry detergent, dish soap, etc.) Bring these items to Judson Church any time in DECEMBER that is convenient for you, and Jim TenBensel will deliver them to Joyce Food Shelf.

You may also drop any items off at Joyce Food Shelf at 3041 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55408 between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm on Fridays. Thank you for your continued support of Joyce Food Shelf.





### PROPERTY UPDATE

It has been a busy last few weeks concerning property issues at the church, first preparing physically and bureaucratically for, the actual construction of our new solar energy system.

We had been waiting for most of the fall for Xcel Energy to OK an interconnection agreement with the church so we could connect the new solar energy system to our internal electrical system and to their distribution grid. After a fair amount of discussions between Sundial Energy (our solar installer) and Xcel Energy, Xcel gave us the green light, with no restrictions nor additions to our infrastructure, on the day before Thanksgiving.

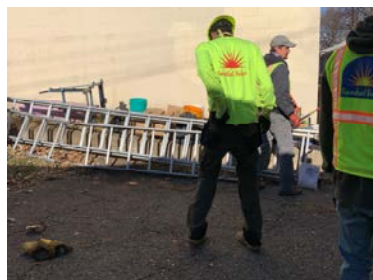
That opened the floodgates, so to speak, for the rest the items that needed to get done so construction could begin. This included signing a solar project agreement (SPA) with Collective Sun (the 3rd party organization that will allow us to receive a 12% federal tax rebate on our solar energy system), building stairs for the roof door so there would be safe access to the roof, and applying for a PACE loan for the system and getting a down payment to Sundial before construction could begin.

On the right is a photo of the stairs that Bruce built for roof access. You can also see the rerouting of the electrical cables; these are for the downspout heat tapes along the perimeter of the flat roof. That rerouting prevents interference with the new solar array shown below.



As you can see, only the flat roof solar panels (95 of them) have been installed so far. The remaining 45 panels, which are stacked on the elevated roof in the photo, will be installed early next year. Also, early next year the electrical wiring will be done connecting the inverters (changes the direct current (DC) produced by the panels to alternating current (AC)) to our electrical system and Xcel Energy's distribution system. This will involve both work outside on the roof and inside our building, mainly in the old coal room where our electrical service panel is located and where the solar metering system will be located. I will let everyone know when construction is completed. I was told that once Sundial is done with their work, it will need to be inspected (electrical) by the city and final approval by Xcel Energy, so we should not expect the system to be operating (generating energy) until after the first of the year.

Larry Jacobson



### SHAPAN ORPHANAGE DONATIONS

For almost a decade, you have said “yes” to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education to 45-50 children, ages 3-17 in the Kachin State, Myanmar (Burma), located on the eastern border near China. These children have no mother or father because their parents have been forced into the army, trafficked, or into the slave labor market.

**The children are grateful to you for your generous spirit and kindness. In 2019-2020, you gave from your heart and raised \$18,000 for these children who live 8,200+ miles from you and our church. Your generosity provided 12 months of funding for their necessities: food, clothing, housing, health care, and education for their mind, bodies, and spirits. Plus, they have a treasure they did not experience in their young lives until now: a safe place to just be kids.**

**We recognize that these times are deeply challenging for you.** Some of you have taken care of loved ones who have suffered from COVID-19. For others, the economy has caused you to work less or not at all. For those of you with a child or children, you have the **herculean job** of helping with their on-line learning while you continue to work from home. Your youngster(s) has/have had to adjust to remote learning and fewer connections with their friends.

**We recognize these are hard and uncertain times for the staff and the children at the Shapan Orphanage.** They are facing challenges, compounded by the pandemic and military pursuits nearby.

As 2021 nears, please consider sponsoring one child at \$30/month. Feel free to sponsor more than one child (each at \$30/month) if you have the means. Your gift will provide the following for each child you sponsor:

Three nutritious meals every day for a month.

A place to call “home” to make friends, eat, play, learn, sleep and dream.

An education in math, language, geography, history, faith, music, and government.

Love from the Shapan staff and the surrounding community.

A safe haven from the danger of being trafficked, becoming a slave laborer, or a war soldier.

**Your financial gift is crucial: the Myanmar government continues to deny aid to Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Kachin State. Because the Shapan Orphanage is located near the IDP camps, the Myanmar government will not give funds to the orphanage.** You may recall Mrs. Lum, the Director, visited Judson in 2018 to thank us for our financial commitment because the orphanage can only receive funds from private donations. There are no administrative fees, so every penny you give goes directly to the orphanage.

**Here’s the bottom line: the gift you give will help the children dream about their future in this safe and loving environment. The proof shows in these facts:**

three Shapan students graduated from college last year,

nine students graduated from high school, and some are applying to attend college,

three students are finishing their studies in education, which pleases Mrs. Lum (who is 78). She laughs and says:

***“I am a very old grandmother. Our college graduates will come back home to teach and take over this work.”***

As people of hope and generosity, we ask you to consider making a financial gift to nurture these children. See how far your gift will go to provide children with food, clothing, health care, education, and a safe haven:

1 child - \$30/month

2 children - \$60/month

3 children - \$90/month

1 child - \$360/1 year

2 children - \$720/1 year

3 children - \$1,080/1 year

#### Judson Mission Committee

Keith Ford

Kate Brady

#### Thailand/Myanmar (Burma) Community

Joel, Trish, Nika, Celia, Katiana Magal-Hoefle

Mrs. Htu Lum, Director, Shapan Orphanage, Awng Ra, Teacher  
The Shapan Community

## UPDATE ON SHAPAN ORPHANAGE SUPPORT

Joel, Trish, Nika, Celia, and Katiana Hoefle shout out a big "THANK YOU" for your generous support of the Shapan Orphanage in Myanmar. We have currently received \$13,695 in contributions to provide food, clothing, housing, education, healthcare, and a safe haven for 45 children. Without your support, these children would be forced into a life of prostitution, slave labor, or conscripted into the military.

We have \$4,305 more to raise to reach our goal of \$18,000 to care for the children through fall 2021. Please help us raise the remaining \$4,305, so the children thrive in this nurturing and loving environment.

You can pay by Check (send to church with Shapan on the memo line), Via online Judson/[Vanco Account](#), [ctrl click] or by Stocks

Blessings to you from the children at the Shapan Orphanage, the Magal-Hoefle Family, and the Judson Mission Committee.

Kate Brady

## 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 \$39,000 in donations. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, do not hesitate to email or call Travis 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](mailto:gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org)) or send them to Eileen at ([info@judsonchurch.org](mailto:info@judsonchurch.org)).



### DIRECTORY REQUESTS

If you need an updated copy of an updated Judson Directory, please let Eileen know at ([info@judsonchurch.org](mailto:info@judsonchurch.org)). You can request a hard copy or a PDF copy sent to you by email. If you have changed your address, phone number, or new email, please contact the church office.

### OFFICE UPDATE

Eileen is now working five days a week at the church office. Her hours are from 9 am to 4:30 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](mailto:info@judsonchurch.org)).



**RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES – DECEMBER 2020**

The Racial Justice Team has been charged with providing concrete examples and practices to show the way for the broader Judson community to "make the beloved community a reality." Our intent is to provide a range of educational, reflective, and action-oriented practices monthly. Past suggestions can be found on the Judson Website under the ACT tab. **If you have a resource you'd like to share, please email Carley Watts, and we will add them to our resource "library."** [carleybwatts@gmail.com](mailto:carleybwatts@gmail.com). [ctrl click]

**BOOKS:**

***Just Us* by Claudia Rankine.** This book is a collection of vignettes, photos, excerpts, and Rankine's own experiences as a Black woman. "Rankine challenges herself and her readers to ask questions about privilege, racism, and bias, and then to listen...." "Rankine annotates her own words and thoughts, as a way of reminding the reader of her commitment to understanding the evolutionary nature of thought, identifying bias, and then addressing it. In so doing, she encourages the reader to be ever vigilant and open to conversation." Al Woodworth, Amazon Book Review

***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho.** Acho is a former NFL player and is now an analyst on Fox Sports. In this book, "Acho tackles difficult topics with the depth of an engaged cultural thinker and the style of an experienced wordsmith. Throughout, Acho is a friendly guide, seeking to sow understanding even if it means risking just a little discord." —Kirkus Reviews

**FILM:**

***Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson.** Based on the play of the same name, this film chronicles the tensions between the trailblazing blues singer Ma Rainey (Viola Davis), her ambitious horn player Levee (Chadwick Boseman), and the white management determined to control her music in 1920s Chicago. This was Chadwick Boseman's last performance before his death in August 2020. The film is produced by Denzel Washington and streams on Netflix beginning December 18<sup>th</sup>. Check out the trailer

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81100780> [ctrl click] or watch **60 Minutes** interview with Viola Davis.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/viola-davis-ma-rainey-black-bottom-60-minutes-2020-12-06/> [ctrl click]

**ACTION:**

**Support BIPOC owned Businesses this holiday season.** Remember our first Black-owned book store, Black Garnett Books <https://bookshop.org/shop/blackgarnettbooks> [ctrl click]. The link below will take you to numerous Black-owned businesses with descriptions of their products.

<https://blackbusinessisbeautiful.org/shop> [ctrl click]

***Coming to the Table*** virtual event, sponsored by Minnesota Peace Builders. These gatherings are racial healing talking circles to address interpersonal, community, and structural racial violence and trauma. Descendants of those who were enslaved, descendants of slave owners, Indigenous community members, and all those interested in engaging in safe, constructive dialogue are invited to come together to envision Minneapolis as a just and truthful community - one that acknowledges and seeks to heal the racial wounds from the historical trauma of slavery, the genocide of Native Americans, and the racism these collective traumas continue to spawn.

Reserve your virtual seat at <http://www.mnpeace.org/events.html> [ctrl click]



**A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER**

Hello, Fellow Judsonite Gatherings or Dinner and a Show. This year Since we have not been able to do our GreatGatherings or Dinner and a Show, I have been asked by the Finance Committee to help Judson create a Virtual Fundraiser. I've talked to a few people already, including Travis, Brad, Laura, Doug and Monica, and the Finance Committee.

So far, we are thinking of putting a presentation online that would include entertainment and possibly a silent auction. I have a couple of volunteers who have offered to be on a Fundraiser Committee with me.

It would also be helpful to have YOUR ideas about a Virtual Fundraiser. For example, maybe you have a suggestion for a name for the event, or you have ideas for ways we could raise money by using a Virtual Fundraiser, or . . . well at this point, we are open to hearing any and all ideas.

If you have ideas to share or want to participate on the committee or help out in any way, please call or email me. You can contact me by phone at 612-834-4547 or by email at [startime7@gmail.com](mailto:startime7@gmail.com)

Best to all of You!

Scott Simpson

**REV. DR. PAULA NORTHWOOD TO RETIRE**

A note from Beth Waterhouse.

I read that Rev. Dr. Paula Northwood, former youth minister at Judson and now Acting Senior Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. is retiring this month. She joined the Plymouth clergy in 2003.

Fun to note that the congregation is voting to bestow the title of "Lead Minister" upon Paula as she leaves. Paula has created a team ministry approach and has been serving in the lead role without the title.

Paula has been with them for seventeen years, the final three being in that Lead Minister role. They state, "it will be joyous to celebrate the wonderful work, wisdom, and witness Paula has provided for our community over all these years."

Paula was employed as Minister of Christian Education for Children and Youth at Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Minneapolis, from 1998-2003.



## WE WIN GROCERY PACKERS

Here are the Judson grocery packers at We Win. Unfortunately, I couldn't get the drivers who arrive in shifts. This month we packed a couple of thousand pounds of food for the holidays. That is Titi Bediako on the left, then Scott, Yin, Karla, Sarah, Clay, Willie, and Jim. Jean Hayes is usually with us also.



[Photograph by Karla McGray]

## DON'T RECYCLE YOUR PAPER GROCERY BAGS! REUSE THEM INSTEAD.

Continuing our relationship with the We Win Institute, Judson is helping to package and deliver free groceries to families in north Minneapolis. But we need your help; we need grocery sacks.

Rather than just recycle grocery sacks, you can help with a crucial project. Just save your bags and bring them to Judson. Deposit bags in the covered, marked, blue tub right outside the Arcade door. We will deliver the grocery bags to the WWI Grocery Project. Want to do more? Ask your neighbors to give you their bags. Questions, call Keith Ford (612.590.5664). Want to help package and deliver groceries? contact Karla McGray ([karlamcgray@hotmail.com](mailto:karlamcgray@hotmail.com)). [ctrl click]

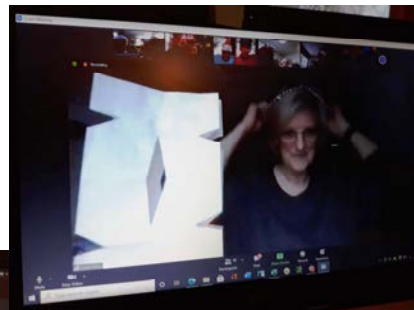


Some of the donations that have been dropped off at Judson.





VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT—DECEMBER 13, 2020







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## JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**