



MESSENGER

Message from Travis

When I was growing up, I always loved it when my cousin Steven cleaned out his closet because that meant I got his hand-me-down toys. One day he gave his heavily used Stretch Armstrong doll. I employed the descriptor heavily used because Stretch barely stretched anymore. His arms were long and floppy; they would only contract if I dipped him in hot water then into an ice bath - even then, there wasn't much contraction.

As we enter a year plus of being a church during a pandemic, I kind of feel like we are all that heavily used Stretch Armstrong doll. I feel like all of our souls have been stretched and pulled and elongated. We've learned new skills, adapted to new situations, acquired new habits and practices, and realized what we miss most and what we need to say goodbye to.

Just like the old heavily used Stretch Armstrong doll (sorry, the analogy is about to lose its strength soon), once you stretch your soul and open your heart wide, there is no going back to the way things used to be. Once you make the circle wider, once you pull up more chairs to the table, once you start expanding your circle of care and compassion, there is no going back.

After the Resurrection, Jesus didn't say, "Good job, folks, that'll do." He said, *be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. I'm excited to walk this way with you.*

Stay safe, stay connected, and stay limber.

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. 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

The important thing is the fact that beyond the zero point of endurance there are vast possibilities. There is a bottomless resourcefulness in individuals that ultimately enable them to transform “the spear of frustration into a shaft of light.”

~Howard Thurman

Transition (n): 1a: passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another: CHANGE b: a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.

As a way to navigate this year, I have been reading a few passages from Elizabeth Harper Neeld's book, *Tough Transitions* at our Council Meetings (it was the only book on my bookshelf remotely resembling a “What to do During a Pandemic” book). Moving through the stages of “Responding” and “Reviewing” as a community, I believe that we have now entered more of the “Reorganizing” and “Renewing” phases. (If I was going to compare this time period to a pregnancy, I'd say we were close to the 32-week mark. Definitely not at the end, but close enough that you'd better be working on names.) Here are some phrases from those two chapters that are resonating with me this month: “Jettisoning the Outdated,” “Articulating our Faith and Values,” “Creative Outcomes,” “New Ideas and New Vantage Points,” and “Doing New Things.” All of these phrases are forward-thinking. It's true that our collective future is still tentative and unsure (as of my writing today, vaccines are up, and so are new cases), but Judson is continuing to look toward the future and envisioning what that might look like.

At our last Council meeting, we were joined by the Marketing/Strategic Committee, which consisted of Brad Joern as Facilitator, Doug Harvey, Michelle Molstead, Travis Norvell, and Leslie Rapp. They presented an 18-page report on their work that included 7 different areas where we can actively move toward others hearing our message of Love, Inclusion, Acceptance, Justice, and Welcome (a message that pre-Pandemic, this writer drove 45 minutes every week to hear). These things are not just bullet points and goals, they are part of a calling that began long before the pandemic.

Council was highly energized and excited about the recommendations presented by the Marketing/Strategic Committee, and we are hoping that we will be able to implement all/most of the recommendations, including hiring a part-time Communication Staff person this upcoming year.

We are currently living in a pretty major threshold event, and we can either focus on *what is* or look ahead to *what can be*. Judson has always been a place that looks ahead, it's part of our DNA. Let's use this transition to our advantage and continue to move forward.

Humbly,

Laura M. O'Halloran

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD—LIVING AND GIVING TODAY*A Stewardship Reflection—Wayne Urbaniak*

Look back. Think back to the last times you worshipped at Judson. Let your memory glide around the sanctuary.

Picture yourself sitting in your pew. Recall those who sit in front of you, then to your left and right. Imagine turning your head to see those in the back pews. Can you see their faces? Hear their voices? Receive their smiles? Feel their presence?

Look to the front of the sanctuary: Travis on the left side; a worship leader and the person giving a reflection on the right. Now hear the music: the organ, the piano, the choir, a soloist. Join in the singing of a familiar hymn. Now, remember Time with Children. Picture the children (and teens and a few adults) sitting on the steps, Carolyn bringing a lesson to them—and to all of us. Take a breath and look upward to the stained glass panels, portraying the Biblical stories.

We remember; we are blessed with our individual and community memory.

Look forward. Imagine walking into Judson again, entering the sanctuary, seeing the familiar faces. Everyone looks good—a year and a half older, but good. So good to be together again. Take a breath: it sends a shiver, brings a tear. When we get back together again, we will have a deeper appreciation of what a gift it is to gather together.

Live today. We are thankful for technology: for worship services and zoom gatherings on the computer, emails and telephone calls and text messages, for prayers. We are thankful that we have stayed connected and even expanded what “Judson” means. It’s not the same, but we are still together, sustaining our love for one another and our love for God, even (especially) during this pandemic. Let us continue that—the awareness, encouragement, and love we have for one another.

Give today. It’s strange to have our stewardship campaign without physically being together. As we look back and look forward, what do we do today? We give. Our pledges verify our faith, our love, our generosity. We pledge what we can, what the Spirit leads us to give. If circumstances mean we cannot give, but in fact need assistance, we contact Judson; people have donated so that Judson can help.

To those of you who have received a pledge card in the mail and already returned it, thank you. If you have not yet responded, we hope that you do by Easter Sunday. Send in the pledge card, or call the church office (612-822-0649).

We will continue as a community. We will look forward with hope and confidence. We will plan our 2021-2022 budget. We will continue in God’s love—together. As the pledge card states, *Your gifts of financial resources, time, talent, and vision are at the heart of every program and service at Judson Church. Thank you for your investment.*



April 2nd Good Friday - Joint Service with University Baptist (YouTube)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, April 4th Easter - "Live Zoom Service" at 10:00 am.

Sunday, April 11th - This is a break from online worship. We invite you to worship online with other communities or create your own worship experience.



April 18th Earth Sunday. Rev. Jamie Washam, pastor of the First Baptist Church in American (Providence, RI) guest preacher. The Worship service will premiere on YouTube at 10:00 am.

Sunday, April 18th - Reception of New Members during the service.

April 19th - New Members Class. Over the past year, the number of those who call Judson home has expanded. Many of you have asked to explore what it means to be a member of Judson. On Monday, April 19, at 7:00 pm, the pastor will hold a forum via Zoom for those interested in becoming members and for those who would like more information about the church. Please email the pastor if you are interested, gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org



Sunday, April 25th sermon: "On the Road Again." The Worship service will premiere on YouTube at 10:00am.

ORGANIC BOB OPPORTUNITY

Organic Bob is looking for passionate individuals who are organized, motivated, and detail-oriented to expand the organization's sales in the northwest suburbs of the Twin Cities metro area. This position is a part-time, seasonal position with very flexible hours. Some evening and weekend availability is required. Comprehensive paid training, an outstanding commission rate, and a supportive management team all make taking care of the environment enjoyable and value-driven. Plus — no cold calling! All leads have already expressed interest in Organic Bob's services.

Randy Baker - 612-655-4108



JOYCE FOOD SHELF NEEDS FOR APRIL

1. Diapers, wipes, and laundry detergent.
2. Shelf-stable non-dairy milk, gluten-free and other specialty diet items, and Hispanic food items.
3. However, any donations of unopened, non-expired shelf-stable (not frozen or refrigerated) grocery items are much appreciated!

The interim director at Joyce Food Shelf also added this comment:

“I was stunned when I finished our February reporting. We distributed 75% more in February 2021 than 2020—almost double! It is with generous ongoing donations like yours that we have been able to meet the need without ever turning anyone away.”

So please drop off items for Joyce Food Shelf any time at Judson, and Jim ten Bensel will get them to Joyce Food Shelf. Or you may drop off items at 3041 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408, as they are accepting FOOD AND NON-FOOD DONATIONS ON FRIDAYS FROM 9 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M.

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated as these donations go further due to access to food banks and discount purchasing programs allowing food shelves to purchase items most needed in their community.

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 [ctrl click] website, click on “MAKE A DONATION,” then put your donation amount in the food shelf box, then “continue”...

Thank you for your continued support of Joyce Food Shelf.



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

Starfish Information—March 2021

Requesters helped: 9 Total Aid: \$6,352

Rental/utility assistance: \$6,252

Bus/Gas/Cub/Visa cards: \$100

Funds exhausted: March 11, 2021.

Everything is being done by phone, texting, and email.
There is no person-to-person contact, so no gift cards are given.

WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL OF \$18,000 FOR SHAPAN BORDER ORPHANAGE

Thanks to you, we surpassed our goal of raising \$18,000 for the Shapan Border Orphanage by \$140.

Joel, Trish, Nika, Celia, and Katiana Hoefle shout out a big "THANK YOU" for your generous support of the Shapan Orphanage in Myanmar. To date, we have received \$18,142.79 in contributions. These contributions 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.



ANNOUNCING THE JUDSON FUN FAIR - A Virtual Concert and Online Auction

This 1-hour Fun Fair will include 6 very talented rising stars performing some of their favorite originals and "covers." You can also bid on fabulous items, events, and gatherings at our Online Auction.

What:

- ◆ Music - You'll see performances ranging from Classical to Rock to Jazz, all from a generation of talent that grew up in the Judson Community.
- ◆ Online Auction - Tremendous bargains, fantastic company, and exhilarating happenings could be yours if . . . you win the bid! Lots of great stuff as we've had in years past.
- ◆ A chance to have some FUN and to donate to Judson Church!

When: Saturday, April 10, 7:00 pm

Where: Stay tuned for the online link!

Why: Fundraising event for Judson Church. Help us support our precious church and all the important work we do, like Social Justice, Climate Justice, Racial Justice and Community Building, just to name a few.

Your hosts for the evening are John Schrom, Kia Larkin, and Clay Gustafson.

RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES – APRIL 2021

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.**

Given the recent tragedy in Atlanta and the ongoing violence against Asian American Pacific Islander people in the US, we felt it was important to dedicate this month’s resources to raising awareness of these issues. Educational resources and suggestions for action are included.

General Resources:

This link <https://anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co/> [ctrl click] will take you to many resources focused on education and ways to support the Asian American Pacific Island (AAPI) community. Statistics, articles, workshops, a video on discrimination and violence towards Asian Americans streamed live on March 8 by the House Committee of the Judiciary, and ways to donate to non-profits are among the resources included.

Article:

The Muddled History of Anti-Asian Violence by Hua Hsu. This New Yorker article attempts to provide a coherent historical account of anti-Asian racism in the United States. The author includes examples of recent acts of violence and suggests that “nothing is random, even if the logic of American life tries to persuade us otherwise. These histories may help us see patterns that, eventually, others might see too.” Hua Hsu is a staff writer at the *New Yorker* and the author of the book, *A Floating Chinaman: Fantasy and Failure Across the Pacific*. https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/the-muddled-history-of-anti-asian-violence?utm_source=onsite-share&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=onsite-share&utm_brand=the-new-yorker [ctrl click]

Podcast:

#Love Your Asian Neighbors. This six-episode podcast was created by *Green Card Voices* shortly after the COVID 19 lockdown, when cases of xenophobia and race-based hate crimes targeting Asian American communities began to escalate. To combat the harmful rhetoric, Green Card Voices launched the #LoveYourAsianNeighbors campaign to highlight the narratives of Asian Americans overcoming difficulties, finding abundance in the face of scarcity, and taking action towards a better future.

www.greencardvoices.org/programs/podcast [ctrl click]

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[racial justice cont. from page 8]

Exhibit:

Race: Are We So Different explores the myth and meaning of race. “We all know that people look different. Throughout history, those differences have been a source of strength, community, and personal identity. They have also been the basis for discrimination and oppression. And while those differences are socially and culturally real, modern scientific understanding tells us race and human variation are complex and challenge us to think in new ways. This exhibit was developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota.” <https://new.smm.org/exhibits/race> [ctrl click]

Video:

Standing Together. Statement of support for the AAPI community from the Minnesota Orchestra. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Id3jsnvkEdQ> [ctrl click]

JUDSON SUPPORTS BIPOC PURCHASING

The Judson Executive Council recently adopted a policy encouraging the use of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) suppliers and contractors. The policy, developed by the Racial Justice Team, is designed to recognize and respond to the historic and continuing disadvantages BIPOC entrepreneurs face and includes specific steps to be inclusive in our purchasing.

Clearly, Judson does not purchase on a large scale, and much of those purchases of necessity go to large corporations (think Excel Energy, CenterPoint Energy). But Judson is not a little church, and each year we spend thousands purchasing goods and services. Judson’s goal is to ensure that Judson's purchasing power is directed to BIPOC-owned businesses whenever possible and reasonable.

The Racial Justice Team will be a resource for anyone making purchases of goods and services for Judson and is available to assist in identifying possible vendors and contractors. For a copy of the complete policy, contact Keith Ford (kjff11@gmail.com).

The policy deals specifically with BIPOC entrepreneurs. However, in the same spirit, we will be happy to help identify women-owned businesses.

for the Racial Justice Team

MARCUS HUNTER COLLEGE FUND

On March 5, 2021 the Star Tribune ran an opinion piece written by Marcus Hunter titled, "[I live in a cemetery called North Minneapolis.](#)" [ctrl click] Following his essay a GoFundMe page was set up to help pay for his college expenses.

Many in the Judson community have mentioned pooling our funds to help this young man. Here is an opportunity for you to increase your gift to help Mr. Hunter reach his goal of \$50,000.

An anonymous donor is offering a matching grant of \$5,000 for the Judson community. Please give [ONLINE](#) [ctrl click] or send a check made out to Judson Church, noting "Marcus Hunter" in the memo line. 100% of all donations will go to Mr. Hunter's GoFundMe account. As soon as we raise \$5,000 the church will make an announcement.

VIRTUAL PRAYER TENT

[Healing Our City](#), the prayer tent offered by Don and Sondra Samuels, is up again (only this time virtually). You can join any time you are available, or you can participate in their 8am prayer via Zoom.

The city of Minneapolis is going through a very challenging time. Some are grieving, some are hoping, and many are fearful and anxious about what is to come as we approach the trial of Derek Chauvin, the officer charged in the killing of George Floyd. We believe that God is present and active even and especially in times of disorder and loss. We have all been involuntarily called to witness the injustices of the system of racial inequity and oppression. Now we are called to voluntarily be in prayer and action for the healing of our city.

On March 9, 2021, we launched the Healing Our City Virtual Prayer Tent, an online version of the community prayer tent we hosted last summer in North Minneapolis.

Please join us daily at 8:00 AM Central Time for this approximately 20-minute prayer experience which begins with a timely daily reflection from a spiritual leader. The reflection is followed by a period of 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silent prayer – the length of time Officer Chauvin had his knee on the neck of George Floyd, resulting in his tragic death.

Our virtual prayer tent will continue daily throughout the course of the trial. You may access this it as a livestream on our [Healing Our City Facebook page](#). [ctrl click]

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The children and youth of Judson Church will experience the love of God within our faith community. Here, the Christian story will take on meaning and relevance for their lives so that they become persons of faith: biblically literate, prayerful, seekers of justice, and equipped to reflect on moral decisions in light of faith.

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 \$43,675 in donations. We have given out \$39,808 to help out people and the community. 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) or send them to Eileen at (info@judsonchurch.org). [ctrl-click]



DIRECTORY REQUESTS

If you need an updated copy of an updated 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. If you have changed your address, phone number, or new email, please contact the church office.



OFFICE UPDATE

Eileen is working five days a week at the church office. Her hours are from 8:30 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).

LULU JOHNSON'S BLOG

We wish blessings on Lulu's travel and study. Lulu is on her **Fulbright Scholarship** in Seoul, South Korea. [She will blog about her experience here](#). [ctrl click]

CHURCH CALENDAR ON WEBSITE

-If you have a Judson gathering (a meeting or an event), please let Eileen in the office know so we can put it on the [Judson Church Calendar](#). [ctrl click] Again, this is another tool to share with others the good news of this congregation. We are doing lots of good work; let's not cover up that light!

SUNDAY SERVICE

If you would like to be a part of Sunday Service taping, you are welcome. We tape on Monday mornings at 10:30 am. It usually takes less than an hour to do the recording. We record the call to worship, a prayer, and usually sing a hymn. The Jazz Band gets together at noon and plays for an hour or so. You are welcome to come in and listen (just call the office to make sure they are there).

INTERVIEW WITH COLETRANE JOHNSON

The full interview with Coletrane (29 minutes) from the March 7, 2021 service is available on our YouTube channel. Here is the link – <https://youtu.be/SWsqktJScE> [ctrl click]

INTERVIEW WITH DANIELLE SIVER

The full interview with Danielle Siver from the March 14, 2021 service is available at this link - <https://youtu.be/T9BxceRQZNg> [ctrl click]

See page 7 for more information.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED