



MESSENGER

Message from Travis

A few months ago, the Judson staff focused all of its energies on Rally Day, September 12th, as our “Grand Gathering Sunday.” We thought, by then, everyone aged 12+ would be vaccinated, with vaccination plans for children aged 2-11 on the horizon. We thought...

So, we re-imagined all of the plans...Here is a portrait of September:

For the foreseeable future, we will be masked, socially distanced, and not offering church coffee. FYI: all members of the Judson Church staff are fully vaccinated. Worship, starting September 5th, will begin at **9:30 am**. We will not offer a formal “Second Hour” offering, but there will be occasional events after worship in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School for our children, but starting **September 12th, Shefali** will be present to offer care for younger children during worship services. The choir will be offering their gift of music during worship but in a limited capacity. Personal reflections will begin on September 12. We will continue to offer a midweek online service, and we will look to expand our online offerings.

The grand theme for this fall is *Blessed Among Us: Learning from Our Ancestors*. Each Sunday, we will pair together the gospel lesson and a holy ancestor as guides for us to put our faith back together Sunday by Sunday. Each worship service will have educational, experiential, spiritual, uplifting, and intergenerational elements to them.

We will continue to draw on the creativity, vitality, and abundantly generous spirit of the Judson community as we greet the challenges before us.

Peace,
Travis

Worship in person at 9:30 am Sunday mornings—Masks required.

Inside this Issue

Officers and Chair people 2021-2022	2
Moderator Letter	3
Bryant Kumlin/ Property Update.....	4
Rain Garden / Pride / Starfish / Mahjong.....	5
Racial Justice Report / Judson Preschool	6
TRUST Updates / Thank you	8
Covid Guidelines review	9
Month in Review	10
Odds & Ends / Flu Shot Clinic / Choir starts	11



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2021-2022**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Moderator	Monica Lewis	Vice Moderator	Joel Frederickson
Secretary	Brian Satrom	Treasurer	Bill Forsyth

Building Use/Communications	Steve Hirsch
Congregational Care	Luise Forseth
Finance	Bill Forsyth
Missions	Keith Ford
Outreach & Engagement	Brad Joern
Personnel	Jeff O'Halloran
Property	Clay Gustafson
Spiritual Formation	Kristine Revak
Worship	Polly Schrom

OTHER GROUPS

Welcoming & Affirming	Rich Olson
Marketing & Communications	Bryant Kumlin
Judson Historian	Tom Balcom
Judson Preschool Board	Sandy Chatfield, Carolyn Kolovitz, Susan Mason, Polly Schrom*
Textile Group [Formerly Known as Knitting Group]	Sandy Chatfield
Messenger	Eileen McLaughlin
Marketing Team:	Brad Joern (Organizer)
Spiritual Voyagers	Ron Cottone
Starfish Ministry	Wayne Urbaniak
The Gathering	Kathy Urbaniak
TRUST Rep	Karla McGray, Jim ten Bensel
Ushers	Office Manager

The Pastoral Relations committee includes the following people: Mary Gustafson (chair), Joel Frederickson, 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.

MODERATOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Let me introduce myself: I am Monica Lewis, Judson Church Moderator, as of August 1, 2021. Many of you know me, and others have never met me. What is a Moderator? My job is to convene our church council and to act as the lay leader of the church. I work closely with the pastor(s), the other church officers, and the chairs of the committees and task forces. I will gladly speak with anyone who has ideas or concerns about Judson Church.

This is my second time as Moderator. The first was 15+ years ago, and it would be an understatement to say that those were "different times." I think every era has its challenges, but the past couple of years have been without precedent. I want to shout out a huge thanks to Laura O'Halloran, our previous Moderator, who piloted us through unbelievable challenges during, of all things, a pandemic. Laura likes to say, "I didn't sign up for this!" but she sure did a fantastic job. Thanks to Laura and to the other council members for a job well done.



What about the future? Judson Church has been changing. Pastor Norvell came back from his sabbatical leave a few years ago determined not to see Judson become a "3D church: Dark, Dank and Dead" like the beautiful and lonely churches he saw in Scotland and England. The congregation took a racial awareness trip to Memphis and started cranking up with new focus groups like Racial Justice, Climate Justice, Homeless Youth, and LGBTQIA+, in addition to other volunteer and mission groups.

In the fall of 2020, the Marketing/Communication Team was created, and in March 2021, it presented the council with its report: *A Singular Opportunity: Recommendations From the Marketing/Strategy Team*. This amazing report describes how Judson can avoid becoming a 3D church and thrive, even in times of pandemics! We have already made some important strides in implementing the plan, including making the Team into a standing committee (Outreach and Engagement) and hiring a staff person to be Judson's Marketing and Communications Coordinator. In addition, the council (with a confirming vote by the congregation) tweaked the committee structure to make us more transparent, fluid, and reflective of actual practices.

I look forward to continuing the work started by my two predecessors, Brad Joern and Laura O'Halloran, and to working with the Outreach and Engagement Committee. We are further blessed to have a very capable and creative group serving as council, and I look forward to working with them as well as the other teams and interest groups. I feel very positive about where we are and about where we are going. I believe Judson has a bright future and that we will continue to open our hearts and minds to new and exciting things.

Monica Lewis
Judson Church Moderator

P.S. I highly recommend reading the report: *A Singular Opportunity: Recommendations From the Marketing/Strategy Team* and the book [Fishing Tips - How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith](#) (not about fishing or about being "fishers of men") by Rev. Dr. John Pentland. Both are full of wonderful ideas. Contact the church office for how to get them.

BRYANT KUMLIN ACCEPTS POSITION OF MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT JUDSON!

On September 1, 2021, Bryant Kumlin will join Judson's staff as part-time Marketing/Communications Coordinator. Bryant accepted the position after the Judson Council voted to extend him an offer of employment. He will be supervised by Pastor Travis Norvell.

Over the last few months, a team consisting of Travis Norvell, Leslie Rapp, Michele Molstead, Doug Harvey, and Brad Joern created a job description and posted it on several job sites. They also informed several non-profit organizations of Judson's staff needs. After receiving and studying about 20 applications, the team reached out to 9 for screening calls. For a variety of reasons, two candidates rose to the top of our list. Zoom interviews were then conducted, and Bryant was selected as our top choice. The Judson Council was then asked to consider and vote on the offer to Bryant.



Bryant has an undergraduate degree in geography from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts in the History of Christianity from Luther Seminary. In his cover letter to his application for our position, Bryant wrote, "This position is particularly compelling for me, as not only does it draw on my existing work with content creation, social media management, and writing and editing, it allows me to use my skills and knowledge in church history and religious literacy to help a local congregation that does good work." He also stated that he has a "strong commitment to creating an atmosphere that is inclusive and affirming of diverse human experiences." Bryant's undergraduate degree in geography has also equipped him with deep experience at accessing and evaluating population data, which could be very useful as we try to stay abreast of the changing Kingfield neighborhood. His undergraduate thesis focused on "opioid overdose death: interventions and policy in Minnesota."

Bryant will be working for Judson about 15 hours per week, a portion of which will be on site. His primary job will be to help Judson grow in our relationship with the Kingfield neighborhood and beyond. He will support our outreach and engagement efforts through a variety of channels, including the Judson website, newsletters, promotional material, videos, YouTube, and others.

Please welcome Bryant to the Judson community!

PROPERTY UPDATE FROM CLAY GUSTAFSON, THE NEW CHAIR OF PROPERTY

Playground - By the time you read this, Judson's playground/drainage project will have been completed. The project's main objective is to eliminate the perpetual late winter/early spring creation of an ice skating rink at the church and preschool's main entrance. Drainage pipes will take water from the downspouts and channel the water to the alley along the south side of the preschool. As part of the project, the ash tree and two tree stumps were removed. The playground also got a new, safer, natural surface. This will result in a better, more appealing playground for the preschool, Judson kids, and our neighbors (not to mention an ice-free arcade entrance!).

Solar panels - The solar panels continue to generate enough electricity to supply Judson's needs as well as allowing us to add electricity to the power grid, thereby reducing our overall electric cost. After some persistence from past property chair Larry Jacobson, Xcel Energy finally came to Judson and made the switch in order to allow us to receive credit for the energy we are producing. With three months of production accruing, we expect a nice refund on our upcoming electric bill.

Gardening - Thanks to Barb Balcom and Jane Jacobson for continuing to coordinate the Judson gardeners and keeping the church exterior looking good. Though the weeds have not been as prolific due to the dry weather, maintaining the gardens alive and looking good has been a challenging. The next dates for the gardeners are September 8th and October 6th. We get started at 9 am and work (and talk) until about 11:00.

JUDSON RAIN GARDENS!

Just in case you want to mark your calendars, September 8th and October 6th are the next two garden parties. Times to be announced. We hope it will not be dark in October. On their last workday, the group went to French Meadow for lunch. Despite the drought, the group has done a fine job keeping our landscaping and rain gardens looking beautiful.

JUDSON AND UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCHES PARTICIPATE IN THE PRIDE CELEBRATION THIS YEAR

This summer, Judson and UBC joined together to carry a message of love, welcome, and hope at the Twin Cities PRIDE Festival on July 17-18 at Loring Park. Things were a bit different this year. It wasn't until late spring the organizers invited vendors to participate (COVID restrictions prevented the event last summer). Eileen received an email from UBC asking if Judson would be on board. There was a flurry of emails, some misunderstandings of when the festival was to actually take place, and who could help.

Déadra Moore volunteered to recruit Judson folks to be at the booth in 2-hour time slots. Thank you so much to all who volunteered: Char and Barbara Engen-Mangskau, Doug Weatherhead and Monica Lewis, Barb and Tom Balcom, and Joe Moore.

The interactions at the table ranged from dismissive glances, requests for candy, questions about "what are Baptists and how are they different from other churches?", expressions of surprise, "Whaaaaatttt? Baptists who are Welcoming????", and many expressions of gratitude for our presence at the festival.

It was a joy to work with folks from UBC, especially this year's coordinator, John Medeiros. We did much brainstorming about how to make our booth noticeable and how we might update our communications. Stay tuned for an invitation to get started early on planning for next year's PRIDE festival!

Respectfully submitted,
Déadra Moore

(COVID restrictions prevented the event last summer).



Starfish Information—August 2021

Requesters helped: 8 Total Aid: \$6,169.29

Utilities/Car Repair Assistance: \$6,069.29

Bus/Gas/Food/ cards: \$100

Funds exhausted: August 20, 2021.

MAHJONG IS BACK AT JUDSON

Thursday evenings at 7 pm, a group of people get together to play Mahjong at Judson, in the Ann Judson Room. We usually play from 7 to 8:30 or 9. If you are interested in learning to play or need a refresher, there are a couple of people in the group who are willing to work with you. If you are interested, please let Barb Balcom know at barb.balcom@yahoo.com.

RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM AT WORK

Judson Memorial Baptist Church is a primarily white Christian congregation in a mixed-race neighborhood 15 blocks from where George Floyd was murdered 15 months ago. The horror and shock of that event triggered a worldwide awakening to institutional racism that is entrenched in virtually every modern societal system.

In response to the George Floyd murder, organizations, institutions, governing bodies, groups, and individuals from every imaginable sector cried out, protested, demonstrated, and formed task forces to organize and activate for change. Study groups, self-analysis, education, and training were initiated. Where does Judson see itself in this effort, and what are we going to do now?

Judson's Racial Justice Team was established (under the Mission Committee) after the all-church trip to Memphis in 2018. The Memphis trip was one of several concerted efforts by Judson over the last 50 years to study and discern ways to work toward racial justice. Since the Floyd murder, the Racial Justice Team has grappled with how to address racism as a church and as individuals. We learned that we are responsible for our own internal work and self-analysis; we have read, watched, listened, and discussed a lot of material, trying to discern our own biases and needed changes. We shared resources with the congregation (Messenger, website, and email News Flash). We have learned a lot, and maybe you have, too.

Yet, we are still afraid that we might say or do things that are inherently racist without knowing it. We still don't know how/where to focus our energy in ways that are meaningful and effective in bringing us closer to racial equity. We don't know what the rest of the congregation thinks or feels. We know that everyone has a different perspective about what racism means. Maybe we are all afraid, confused, and unsure about what needs to be done.

We have some ideas for going forward that we'd like to share with you. We want to hear from you: your fears, concerns, hopes, and ideas. Please join us on **September 26 following morning worship**.

Jean Hayes, Facilitator for Judson's Racial Justice Team

JUDSON PRESCHOOL STARTING

The first day of preschool is just around the corner! We are so excited to welcome our little ones back on September 7. The weeks leading up to our first day will include a parent information morning on the playground on August 25 and individual classroom visits the week before school starts. We can't wait for the joyful noise to return to our hallway.

Anne Krocak, Director, Judson Preschool



YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACTION GROUP

Our Youth Experiencing Homelessness Action Group connects with YouthLink at 41 North 12th St., downtown Minneapolis.



Open for more than 45 years, YouthLink serves nearly 2,000 young people annually who are without a safe, stable home. 90% of whom are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People Of Color). YouthLink's mission is to support and empower young people on their journey to stable housing and self-reliance.

Sonya Yermishkin is the new Volunteer and Donor Engagement contact person at YouthLink. Jackie Thureson, and Wayne and Kathy Urbaniak met with her on Wednesday, August 18th, at Judson Church. She informed us of volunteer and donation opportunities and ways the Judson congregation can engage with activities at YouthLink. We hope to begin serving breakfast and dinner meals starting in September. In the meantime, there are some volunteer and donation opportunities listed below.

Some volunteer opportunities are:

Sorting and organizing clothes in the clothing shop open to all clients.

(Talk to D'Ann and Micah Lesch about this opportunity. They have volunteered to sort clothes for the past 8 months.)

Putting together "Welcome Baskets" for those moving into Nicollet Square or some other apartment.

Putting together kits of travel-size toiletry items, outreach kits, and new parent kits to distribute to youth experiencing homelessness.

Some donation opportunities are:

Food donations—Clothing donations- Personal care or hygiene donations—Gift Card donations

If you have items you wish to donate or are interested in volunteering at YouthLink, please contact Kathy Urbaniak, 612-232-3924.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACTION GROUP OR HELP US SERVE MEALS AT YOUTHLINK THIS FALL.

JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF SEPTEMBER NEEDS

"BACK TO SCHOOL" ITEMS

JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF needs "Back to School" items used for packing lunches during the month of September. Such items include **chips, pretzels, applesauce and/or fruit packs, granola bars, raisins, small packages of snack cookies or cheese and crackers, etc.** All items must be non-perishable and shelf-stable.

Please bring these items to Judson Church anytime during September, and Jim ten Bensel or Kathy Urbaniak will deliver them to Joyce Food Shelf. Or you may drop off food donations at Joyce Food Shelf at 3041 Fremont Ave. S. on Fridays from 9-1 p.m.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. You may send a check to Judson Church and designate "Joyce Food Shelf." Or, you can process an online donation by using Vanco:

- Go to judsonchurch.org, website,
- Click on "MAKE A DONATION,"
- Put your donation amount in the food shelf box
- Click continue.



Thank you for your continued support of Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

TRUST INC. UPDATES

TRUST Main Office is looking for volunteers to answer phones, help with mailings, filing, and other light office work. Contact Office Coordinator Whitney Jones at 612-827-6159

August 24, 2021



NEWS RELEASE

TRUST Inc., a South Minneapolis non-profit organization that unites and mobilizes congregations and the community to serve and empower its neighbors, has promoted Whitney Jones into the new position of Operations Director. Jones, who currently serves as the agency's Office Coordinator, will step into the role on Aug. 30 and work out of TRUST's main office at 9 W. Rustic Lodge.

"Whitney joined our operation in February of this year and quickly excelled in her duties," said Rev. Toya Richards, TRUST's Executive Director. "She has exhibited tremendous talent and leadership and will be an asset in this vital management position."

Jones has 10 years of experience working in Twin Cities' non-profit organizations. She also is a native of South Minneapolis and actually grew up on Rustic Lodge, where her mother still lives.

"I am thrilled to move into this position and help grow TRUST," said Jones. "I am also glad to be back serving my South Minneapolis neighbors."

TRUST's Board of Directors approved adding the position of Operations Director to the organization's structure at its meeting on Aug. 17 and affirmed Richards' decision to elevate Jones.

Jones' primary duty will be to coordinate the daily operations of the agency. Her responsibilities will include overseeing finance and accounting operations, supervising administrative volunteers in the main office, working with the Executive Director on budgeting, grants, and long-range planning, and managing the physical structure of the agency's main office.

"The Board and I recognized that for TRUST to advance, it needed to strengthen its leadership team and better define roles," Richards said. "The addition of Operations Director provides more continuity for the 51-year-old non-profit and enables it to better serve in a consistent and intentional way."

Jones joins Eleonore Balbach at the director level. Balbach leads TRUST's Meals on Wheels Program, which operates out of congregational partner Judson Memorial Baptist Church. TRUST also includes four program coordinators, a program assistant, independent contractors, and a host of volunteers. To learn more, go to www.trustinc.org, email trust@trustinc.org, or call 612-827-6159.

TRUST Inc. | 612-827-6159 | trust@trustinc.org | www.trustinc.org

Thank You

Our new Communications & Marketing person will take over the Messenger next month. It has been a privilege to have produced this for the last 11 years. I hope you enjoyed them. This was one of the ways I could give back to Judson. I enjoyed doing it. Thank you. Eileen McLaughlin

COVID TASK FORCE REPORT

Judson's Covid task force met on August 23. We reviewed and updated past guidelines for Judson Church, including worship services, small group gatherings, memorial services, weddings, and general church building usage.

This summer's "soft opening" for in-person worship services has gone well. We have had better-than-expected attendance, and our gatherings have felt safe and comfortable. We are thankful for everyone's cooperation, even as some factors changed during the summer. We will continue to be cautious and flexible.

Below are Judson's current guidelines for Sunday worship (dated August 23, 2021).

1. Masks are required for all people attending worship services.
2. Travis, Carolyn, and worship leaders will wear masks but temporarily remove them when speaking.
3. We encourage people to fellowship outside after the service.
4. The first few pews will remain vacant. The sanctuary remains marked for social distancing, and alternate pews remain roped off.
5. Adjustments so far have worked well and will continue:
 - using the small individual containers for communion
 - the practice of shared prayer requests
 - one offering basket in the back
 - no bulletins
 - printed information sheets at entrances
 - Masks and hand sanitizers available at several spots.
6. We are thankful that the vast majority of Judson people have been vaccinated; we continue to strongly encourage getting vaccinations.
7. Continue to check Judson's emails for ongoing updates and reminders.

Below are additional general points related to the use of Judson at other times.

1. Wear masks upon entering and exiting the church. Be especially mindful of this when preschool children are present.
2. Each small group meeting at church can use its judgment as to whether to continue to wear masks during that meeting.
3. We continue to strongly recommend getting vaccinations.

Karla McGray has written a rough draft of "Judson Baptist Church—Memorial Services/Wedding Covid-19 Guidelines for the Use of the Church Building." A finalized version will be completed by August 31.

Present covid-19 task force members are Eileen McLaughlin, Travis Norvell, Polly Schrom, Karla McGray, Barb and Tom Balcom, and Kathy and Wayne Urbaniak. We are planning to add a couple of new members, as we substitute for snowbirds, and given that this task force will continue as covid conditions change. The next task force meeting is at 9:00 on September 20.

Again, we thank all who have been using Judson Church for the excellent cooperation and sensitivity this summer.

Wayne Urbaniak

MONTH IN REVIEW

The Jumpin Jehoshafat's at the 8/15/21 service. Joy judge, Fred Richardson, Barbara York, Lyndy Zabel, and Jim ten Bensel joined.



Moderators meeting

Congregational Care Meeting at church on 8/15/21

Kingfield Bike Tour after church with Lori Norvell, Tom Balcom, and Jason Milano 8/15/21



Travis Norvell, Marlys Wiens, and Steve Hirsch visited Jerry Larsen



In person Finance Meeting at Terry Larkins on 8/9/21



Wendell & Laquita at Farmers Market on 8/1/21

New Playground 8/26/21



Seneca Norvell & Landon Peterson talking about Covid and college on 8/1/21



Visit from Molly Marshall 7/18/21



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.

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.

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!



FLU SHOT CLINIC AT JUDSON

On Sunday, September 19, Judson will again be offering Flu shots. They will be available from 10:30 to 12 in the Ann Judson Room. Would you please let the office know if you would like a shot?

More details will be available later.

CHOIR REHEARSALS TO START AGAIN AT JUDSON

The Judson Choir starts its regular fall weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1. We are so excited to be back together rehearsing and performing for church services on a regular basis!

If you are interested in joining the Judson Choir, please email Eileen (info@judsonchurch.org) or me (dehaa006@umn.edu) OR, just show up on Wednesday at 7!

John De Haan, Director of Music



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

September 5th - 9:30am

Blessed Among Us: Learning from our Ancestors: The Syrophoenician Woman

September 12th - 9:30am - Gathering Sunday

Blessed Among Us: Learning from our Ancestors: Jesus of Nazareth
Neighborhood Bike Tour after worship

September 19th - 9:30am

Blessed Among Us: Learning from our Ancestors: Hildegard of Bingen
Blessing of the Solar Panels/Playground after worship

September 26th - 9:30am - Michaelmas

Blessed Among Us: Learning from our Ancestors: Howard Thurman
Racial Justice Team Presentation after worship

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Judson Memorial Baptist Church

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JUDSON NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED