

May 2022



A TRUST CHURCH



A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CHURCH

# JUDSON

Memorial Baptist Church

4101 Harriet Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55409

612-822-0649

[judsonchurch.org](http://judsonchurch.org)

# MESSENGER

Worship in person at 9:30 am Sunday mornings—Masks admired not required.

During Holy Week, Elvis Costello posted a picture of his home church in Liverpool, England. It was a church with boarded up windows and doors that were chained and padlocked. He captioned the picture with these words, “My old parish, still trying to keep sinners out.” This is an image all too many people have of the church: a closed, dying, unwelcoming institution.

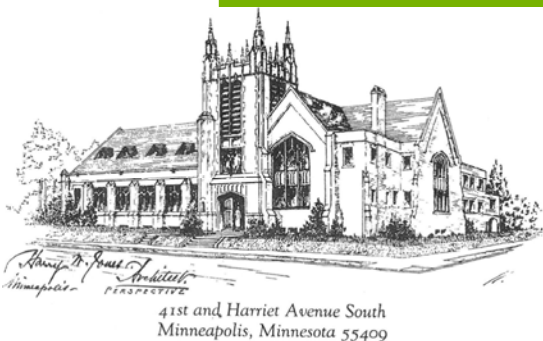
Contrast Costello’s image with the image of Easter - the stone rolled away. At the scene of the Resurrection there is no door to close or open, the door has been thrown away. The door is always open.

This past month Judson Memorial Baptist Church got tons of free, feel-good press from the publication of my book, Church on the Move, in the Star Tribune, MPR, Strong Towns, Minnpost, The Christian Century, The Christian Citizen, even Forbes.com. This month there will be further opportunities with Talking Headways podcast, sermon and book discussion on Day One radio, webinar with the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, and the book celebration this month on May 22nd.

The takeaway from all of this attention: **people are interested in what we are doing at Judson Church! People want to know who we are!** I have had more emails for partnership inquiries since March 15th (publication of the book) than all of the time previously serving as your pastor!

There is a hunger for a church whose invitation says: Bring Your Hopes, Bring Your Doubts, Feed Your Soul. There is a deep need for a church whose core values are: Creative, Relational, & Inclusive. And there is an urgency for this church to roll away the stone, to take some risks, and be the kind of church/faith community many people are searching for.

Peace,  
Travis



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**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         | Carolyn Kolovitz, Kristine Revak |
| Worship                     | Polly Schrom                     |

**OTHER GROUPS**

|                                                  |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                        | Bryant Kumlin                                                 |
| 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 [bkumlin@judsonchurch.org](mailto:bkumlin@judsonchurch.org). 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,

I started my term as church moderator for Judson's calendar year 2021-2022 on August 1, 2021. The past 9 months have just flown by. Despite all of our challenges in living through the second year of a pandemic, we have done remarkably well.

My theme for the year was "Say Yes," and I really think that we have learned not only how to say yes, but also how to open our hearts and get creative in making things happen. The excitement at Judson is palpable as people participate in the many opportunities to be part of a community that is caring, creative, questioning and active in justice issues of many kinds. We are spreading our community to the online world and we're building back up our in-person gatherings. We are happening!

I give great credit to our Judson staff for being part of our journey. Many thanks to Jim, John and Eileen. Thanks to Bryant who joined us this year and helped us with our communications needs. Thanks to Carolyn for her beautiful spirituality work that speaks to us in a new and wonderful way. And special thanks to our fantastic pastor, Travis, for daring to be himself, for encouraging us to open our hearts and minds, and for inspiring us to become our truer selves.

Thank you to our Council members for all of their hard work and great ideas. I appreciate your respectful, intelligent and thoughtful approach to serving.

Thanks to all for a job well done. I am very pleased with our progress in embracing the "Say Yes" theme and in being open to all that it brings.

Your moderator,

Monica Lewis

**STARFISH INFORMATION - MARCH 2022**

Requesters helped: 14 with 13 new to Starfish

Rent/Utilities: \$10,092.00

Gift Cards: \$300.00

Total Aid: \$10,392.00

Funds Exhausted: March 4, 2022

**JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF NEEDS  
DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**

Items needed are diapers (any size, but 3-6 is most popular) baby wipes, dental hygiene products (toothbrushes, toothpaste), feminine hygiene products (tampons, pads), and other personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, deodorant). Also, paper grocery bags with handles needed.

You may drop off items at Judson Church any time that is convenient for you during the month of May, and Jim TenBensel will deliver the items 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 am UNTIL 1 pm

Monetary donations are also accepted, and very much 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](http://judsonchurch.org), website, click on "MAKE A DONATION," then put your donation amount in the food shelf box, and click continue.

Any donations, whether monetary or otherwise, are helpful at this time and greatly appreciated! Thank you for any donations you can make at this time to support

**JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF!**

## **Judson Church is honored as one of 22 Certified Climate Justice Congregations in Minnesota**

On Earth Day 2022, Judson Church and 21 other faith communities across Minnesota were honored as certified Climate Justice Congregations by Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL), a statewide climate justice organization representing thousands of people of faith and conscience. By joining or continuing in the program, these congregations are demonstrating their commitment to living out their faith and values through effective, sustained action on climate justice.

MNIPL's year-long certification program gives congregations the focus, resources, and support to galvanize their community into powerful climate action. Climate Justice Congregations create annual action plans that incorporate a "three-legged stool" climate action approach with practical, systemic, and spiritual/relational goals. Some of the goals identified by Judson's Environmental/Climate justice team in their action plan for 2022 includes the following:

- Complete change over to all LED light bulbs in Sanctuary & Preschool classrooms.
- Disseminate and celebrate the energy and carbon savings from the new solar panels.
- Hold information sessions on the value of carbon offsets, how to estimate personal carbon footprints, and how does our own diets impact climate change.
- Judson will hold a forum, led by an expert, on the psychology of climate action.
- Sponsor/host a divestment seminar for church & community members.
- Encourage Judson's finance committee toward climate friendly investments.
- Encourage participation in climate/environmental lobbying efforts.
- Throughout the year, the team will inform church members and the greater community of seminars, workshops, webinars, and other climate educational opportunities.

The full list of 2022 Climate Justice Congregations includes:

- |                                                          |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| All Saints Episcopal Church, Northfield                  | The Grove United Methodist Church, Woodbury        |
| Ascension Episcopal Church, Stillwater                   | Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Minneapolis        |
| Beth Jacob Congregation, Mendota Heights                 | Lyndale United Church of Christ, Minneapolis       |
| Centennial United Methodist Church, Roseville            | Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul                  |
| Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury                        | Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis        |
| Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester                | St. John's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis           |
| Community of St. Martin, Minneapolis                     | St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, St. Paul |
| Concordia Lutheran Church, Duluth                        | Sts. Luke & James, Minneapolis                     |
| Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina                   | Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis      |
| First Congregational Church of Minnesota,<br>Minneapolis | St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duluth                |
| Hamline Church, St. Paul                                 | Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom                 |
|                                                          | Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul                   |

**Submitted by Larry Jacobson, Co-facilitator of the Environmental/Climate Justice Team**



## BOOTLEG COUNCIL REPORT\*

Judson Council met on April 5, 2022. Here are some highlights:

- Jeff Woods, General Secretary of the American Baptists Churches, USA presented on Changing Church Culture. He spoke of the importance of values, that values are the stuff of culture and that we use values to transform culture.
- The Employee Retention Tax Credit is money repaid to non-profits to help them retain employees. Judson recently received checks for a little over \$87,000 via this program for the Church and Preschool. The Finance Committee unanimously supported accepting the money and the Council unanimously voted to accept and deposit the checks.
- The Council voted to confirm the email vote that established an Operations Manual Task Force with Wayne Urbaniak and Monica Lewis as coordinators.
- The Council approved the Preschool Board's amendment of its Bylaws to, among other things, add a board secretary, reword the treasurer's responsibilities, update language and designate an authorized agent.
- The current term limit for Committee chairs is four years. Council discussed the possibility of adding a clause to the Constitution that would allow the Council to extend the term if needed.
- Brief written updates were provided to the Council from all of the Task Forces/ Teams.

\*A quick summary by your moderator of this month's council meeting. Not from approved council minutes. Corrections and approval of minutes will take place at the May 3rd council meeting.

**JUDSON FUN FAIR  
VIRTUAL CONCERT  
& ONLINE AUCTION**

**SAT. MAY 14  
7PM**

**Bid on  
Cool Gifts &  
Great Gatherings**

**Music  
Art  
Humor(?)**

**www.JudsonChurch.org**

## **VOLUNTEER FOR A “HANDS ON LANDSCAPING PROJECT” at NICOLLET SQUARE, 3710 Nicollet Avenue**

Our Youth Experiencing Homelessness Action Group has been in contact with YouthLink about volunteer opportunities. We had asked for “hands on opportunities” rather than monetary or item donations. Per our request, Carley Kleinhans, the volunteer coordinator, let us know that Nicollet Square at 3710 Nicollet Ave. has a landscaping project they really need help with. Our committee would help finance the project. We are hoping to work on this project some time during the week of May 16-20th or May 23-27th depending on the volunteer help available and the weather.

The new CEO, Rich Mezler, and Carley will be at Judson on May 15th to share information about YouthLink, and the landscaping project.

Please let Kathy Urbaniak know if you may be available to help with this project. You may contact her via email: [kathyurbaniak@gmail.com](mailto:kathyurbaniak@gmail.com) or her cell phone: 612-232-3924. Please contact her on or before May 9th. Below is a brief description about Nicollet Square.

Nicollet Square is 42 units of permanent supportive housing aimed at young adults transitioning out of homelessness and foster care. Nicollet Square’s tenants are between the ages 16 and 21. At least half the units will be for individuals experiencing long-term homelessness, the remaining units will be for those transitioning out of foster care.

## **HELLO GARDENERS— REQUEST FOR LANDSCAPE/GARDEN CLEANUP**

On Thursday, May 19th, from 9:30-noon, Barb Balcom, Jane Jacobson and we hope some of you, will join us at our beloved church building. We hope to clean up the gardens and boulevards around the church and plant the flower boxes. We want Judson to look beautiful, cared for, and inviting for the preschool families, neighbors walking by and for us now that we are worshiping in person. Lawn bags and some tools will be provided, or bring your own favorites. We can enjoy lunch at Turtle Bread Restaurant in Linden Hills afterwards. We hope you can come.

## YOUTHLINK SPEAKERS MAY 15TH

Rich Melzer, CEO and Carley Kleinhans, Volunteer Manager

After the worship service on May 15th, Rich Melzer, CEO, and Carley Kleinhans, Volunteer Manager, will give a short presentation about YouthLink. YouthLink located at 41 North 12th street is a drop in center for those experiencing homelessness who are between the ages of 16-24. The drop in center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-4:30 p.m. It is open by appointment on Wednesdays. The drop in center provides access to showers, laundry, hygiene products, various resources (shelter, health & wellness, education), and hot meals. Below are pictures of them, and a short statement about their beliefs.

Rich Melzer

Chief Executive Officer / 612-252-1247 / [melzer@youthlinkmn.org](mailto:melzer@youthlinkmn.org)

I believe all of us who serve young people for a living have truly meaningful things in common. We obviously value young people and providing them with the tools to see them succeed. For me, also being able to work alongside like-minded individuals who share common core values and empathy for others moves me in a way that's very rewarding and enjoyable.



Carley Kleinhans

Donor Relations and Volunteer Manager / 612-252-1280 / [kleinhans@youthlinkmn.org](mailto:kleinhans@youthlinkmn.org)

I appreciate that YouthLink takes a holistic approach that values each young person's physical, mental, spiritual and social health.

I love connecting community members to our work and mission.



Please join us on May 15th after the worship service for coffee and treats  
and to visit with Rich and Carley.

This is being sponsored by the Youth Experiencing Homeless Action Group





Elizabeth Jeanne Wedekind, known to her many friends simply as “Betty”, passed away peacefully in her sleep, moving from the tender embrace of her family into the loving arms of God on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the age of 99. Betty was preceded in death by her loving husband of almost 62 years, Edwin; parents Esther and Ernest Nelson; her two brothers Donald Nelson and Douglas Nelson. Survived by son John (Jolynn) Wedekind and daughter Barbara (Phillip) Wedekind Selton.

Visitation will be held at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home located at 2300 Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, Minnesota on Thursday, April 28th from 5-8 pm.

Celebration of Life/Memorial Service will be held at Judson Memorial Baptist Church located at 4101 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota on Friday, April 29th at 2:00 pm.

Private interment - Ft. Snelling National Cemetery

Memorials to Judson Memorial Baptist Church

Eileen McLaughlin

Judson Memorial Baptist Church



## News from Judson’s Environmental/Climate Justice Team

The Judson Solar System had its one-year anniversary on April 29<sup>th</sup>!! Our 140-panel solar array produced about 62,000 kWh of electrical energy (roughly ½ of Judson annual usage) during its first year of operation. More importantly it has saved nearly 46 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (equivalent to 2,270 trees).

The annual production for our solar system was estimated to be a little over 65,000 kWh by Sundial Energy who installed the array, so we were a little under their predicted level. This was possibly due to more cloudy/hazy days and frequent snowfalls this past year than in a typical year. We look forward to following the year 2 data.



Looking for an excuse for not cutting your lawn in May? We have one! It is called **No Mow May**. You may have read about this in the Stribe or in your local city newsletter. No Mow May encourages residents who live in owner-occupied or rented properties to protect pollinator food and habitat during the critical transition from winter to spring by avoiding mowing their yards during the month of May. Some cities require program registration and participants can pick up a yard sign to show their support for the “**No Mow May**” program and keep

the “lawn police” at bay! Unfortunately, the temporary suspension of these lawn height ordinances will end in early June and you will need to start cutting the lawn again!



**Submitted by Larry Jacobson, past chair of property**

## ODDS AND ENDS

### PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any updates for the Tree of Life (the Judson Prayer List), either send them to Travis at ([gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org](mailto:gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org)) or send them to Eileen at ([info@judsonchurch.org](mailto: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](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.

### 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!

### HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE MESSENGER?

- Email Bryant at [bkumlin@judsonchurch.org](mailto:bkumlin@judsonchurch.org) by the 20th of the month and let him know what you'd like included!



Bring Your Hopes, Bring Your Doubts, Feed Your Soul.



## HOW TO STAY CONNECTED TO JUDSON ONLINE

Check out Judson's Linktree for a quick access to our digital presence:

[www.linktr.ee/JudsonChurch](http://www.linktr.ee/JudsonChurch)

If you're not signed up for the weekly emails, click the button to sign up! Email is a great way to get a constant update of what we do here at Judson and how to stay involved.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2022 AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 1** - Communion Sunday

**9:30 am** - Poet Mary Moore Easter – Worship and second hour reading

**1-2:30 pm** May Day event with Judson Preschool

**3:00 pm** - Minneapolis Trombone Choir Concert

**May 8** - Rev. G. Travis Norvell, preaching - Mother's Day

**May 14th – 7 pm** Judson Fun Fair '22 (including silent auction) - online

**May 15** - Rev G. Travis Norvell Preaching  
YouthLink presentation following worship

**May 22** - State of the Church Address

**10:30 am** Annual Meeting following Worship

**4:00 pm** – Book Release Celebration for Travis

**May 29** - Rev. Korla Masters, preaching - Memorial Day Weekend

**June 5th**—Recognition of Graduating Seniors

Carter Gustafson, Micah Lesch, Brooks Peterson, and Evan Zarembo

Post-worship education with Dr. Christie Manning

**11:30 am-4 pm**—Open Streets Lyndale.

Published monthly by

Judson Memorial Baptist Church

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8:30 am--4:30 pm

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## JUDSON NEWSLETTER

**Judson Memorial Baptist Church**

4101 Harriet Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55409

**Change Service Requested**