



*Faith United Methodist Church*

*432 59<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Downers Grove, IL 60516*



**10AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

Join us on Facebook Live every Sunday

<https://www.facebook.com/FaithUMCDownersGrove/>



May God  
continue to  
bless us;  
let all the  
ends of  
the earth  
revere him.  
Psalm 67:7, NRSV

# SEPTEMBER/AUGUST ECHOES OF FAITH

**Faith United Methodist Church**  
432 59<sup>th</sup> St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

Rev. Dr. Charles I. Yoon

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Dear Friends and Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference (NIC):

Blessings and peace to you all! I trust that you are able to enjoy these wonderful months of summer and have time for rest and relaxation! As you remember, I was initially scheduled to retire on September 1, 2020, but with the onset of the coronavirus and its disruption of General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference (where bishops are elected), and our own annual conference, I delayed my retirement to be effective January 1, 2021. That way I can see through our virtual annual conference session, scheduled for November 14.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference (NCJ) will be held November 10-12, 2021, at which time bishops will be appointed. A couple of months ago, the NCJ bishops (called the College of Bishops) began to meet and discuss how to provide coverage for the NIC during the 2021 year. In consultation with the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy, the NIC Committee on Episcopacy, and the NIC cabinet, a strong preference was made for a retired bishop to provide coverage.

The College of Bishops began to contact many retired bishops in both our jurisdiction and outside of our jurisdiction; men and women, bishops of color and white, and a variety of theological perspectives. With the approval of the Council of Bishops, retired Bishop John Hopkins (former episcopal leader of Minnesota and East Ohio) was asked, and accepted, to become the interim bishop for the NIC.

In response to his assignment to the NIC, he said, "I look forward to overseeing the good work Christ has already begun in Northern Illinois. In this time of COVID-19, racial injustice, and deep cultural divisions, I have faith in the power of God to transform the world through the witness of the church. I seek to serve you in the words of Ephesians 4 and 'lead a life worthy of the calling to which (I) have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.' "

I am thankful for his willingness to accept this year-long interim and commend his leadership to you! Please keep him and his wife, Elaine, in your prayers as they prepare for this major change in their lives and you, as an annual conference, will be in my prayers when I depart at the end of December.

Blessings on you all!  
Sincerely,  
Sally Dyck



Bishop Sally Dyck



Bishop John Hopkins

**Children and Youth Ministry**  
**Sanha Kang, Director of Children and Youth Ministries**



**Quarantine News**

**Virtual Bible Studies:**

**Zoom Meeting & Bible Study**

-The children and youth have been meeting with me on Zoom weekly, and I have assigned them Bible Study readings. If you or your child have not received either the Zoom meeting link or Bible Study readings, please contact me. The Zoom link is on our Friday E-blast and will be up on the website as well. At the moment, the children have been meeting consistently at 12:30 on Sundays, and the youth have been meeting consistently at 2:00 on Sunday. Please note that the times and days may change depending on everyone's schedule, so it is important to let me know if you are receiving regular updates from me, as I send out group emails and texts every week that have the time and date.

-In the Zoom meeting, we always start with a check-in where we go over how we're doing and what we've been doing that week, then move onto a discussion of the Bible reading for the previous Sunday, then do announcements before ending in prayer. With the children, we are going through the Deep Blue Curriculum together while the youth are going through the book of Matthew.

**Annual Events:**

**Cancellation and Replacement**

-Due to the pandemic, our events that we have annually, such as Trunk or Treat, will have to be cancelled. However, I do wish to replace that event with something smaller and safer. Perhaps a group Bible study day with candy involved or a collective art project. I am still trying to figure out what we can do, so please wait for an email or announcement from me.

**Children's Ministry**

**Completed Events:**

**Mini-VBS – Noah's Ark**

-The mini-VBS was sent out in early August by email. I also sent out an email about T-Shirts. Please respond to that as soon as possible.

**First Church Virtual VBS**

-First Church in Illinois's VBS was completed by the end of July. For those who did not follow along their schedule, you are free to complete the VBS at your leisure using the instructions in the VBS bag and emails, though the video lessons may no longer be available.

## **Youth Ministry**

### **Future Events:**

#### **Youth Play**

-Due to the COVID-19 discovery in the Hispanic congregation, the play was naturally postponed. Rehearsal for the play will be on September 6<sup>th</sup>, and the play itself will be on September 13<sup>th</sup>. I have been talking with the youth, but parents, please remind your children of these dates. If your child cannot make it to church because of the lack of a ride, please let me know.

### **Children and Youth Ministry:**

#### **Completed Events:**

##### **Group Bible Study and Game Day**

-This event went off without a hitch. We had almost everyone show up to this event, and both the Bible study and the game day were successful and fun. I will plan another day like this sometime in the future once I know everyone's schedule in the school year.

#### **Future Events:**

##### **Hallway Banner**

-Still in progress. There is no official due date for this project, so do not feel like you need to hurry. We can take our time with this project.

##### **A Second Group Bible Study and Game Day**

-As I mentioned above, I plan on doing another one of these days, most likely in September, or at the very latest, October. Once I know that all the children and youth are free on a certain weekend, I will send out emails and texts about this day. If you have not gotten emails or texts from me before, please let me know so that I know to send one to you.

	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<b>Children's Message</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
Sept. 6	Hope Alcantara	Sanha Kang	Terry Paulhus
Sept. 13	George Welson	Chelsea Octava	Rita Bair
Sept. 20	Matt Francisco	Sanha Kang	Sarah Alcantara
Sept. 27	Krystina Corre	Sanha Kang	Elaine Carmichael
Oct. 4	Yanna Madrid	Robyn Pagulayan	Joyce Apostol
Oct. 11	Moranda Francisco	Sanha Kang	Alvin Madrid
Oct. 18	Bella Madrid	Puppet Moment	Nancy Gehrs
Oct. 25	Alex Alagano	Sanha Kang	Rose Paulhus



# Blessing of the Backpacks

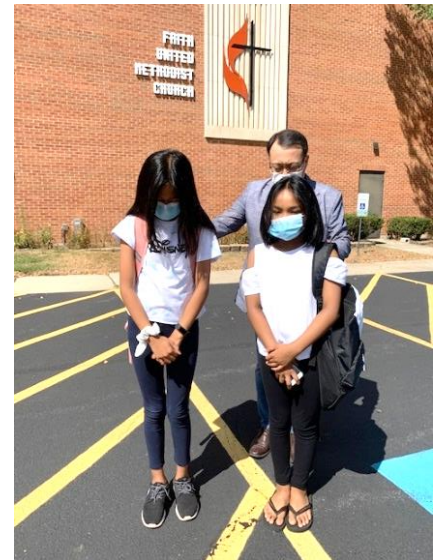
August 30, 2020





# Blessing of the Backpacks

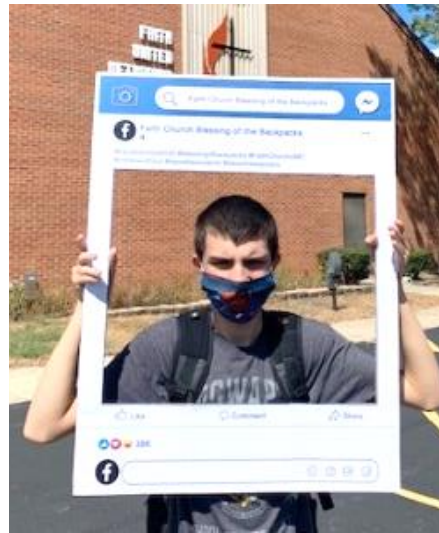
## August 30, 2020





# Blessing of the Backpacks

August 30, 2020





# MISSIONS

News

May 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

A few days after our march newsletter went out, the shut-down began. Our furlough speaking was put on hold and we had to cancel two and a half months of speaking engagements. Our return to Tanzania has been postponed.

Like so many, this has been a turbulent time for our family. Our family members in Africa made it out on the last flights available for their country. The virus was spreading. Now flights there have been stopped. Back in the USA, they had to quarantine for 14 days.

At the end of march our son Luke strongly suggested we come to them. They thought if any of us got sick, we could help each other. We headed to a remote campground in Georgia with our truck and camper. (We are so blessed by God to have this truck and camper which is our home on wheels.) We spent a month camping next to our son's family with the first 14 days being self-quarantined with social distancing.

After a month in Georgia, we needed to get back to Illinois. With plastic bags on my hands at gas stops and practicing safety precautions, we made it back to our home campground in Illinois. Being at high risk, we are careful. We are working alone at the public storage unit getting packing done for the container shipment to Tanzania.

We are in constant communication with our staff in Tanzania. Parts of our ministry are locked down by government order – no group gatherings. *Radio JOY* is broadcasting 24/7. As the only local radio station, hundreds of thousands of people are receiving information about the virus and how to avoid it. Even special devotionals in light of the virus are being aired. The Gospel of Jesus Christ – needed by so many – is being proclaimed over the air. With many lives at stake, we are proud of our staff. God has given Joy in the Harvest critically important ways to serve. Thank you for helping make this possible!

Love,  
Lowell & Claudia



The Wertz clan celebrating granddaughter Eva's tenth birthday.





Through July our General Giving is hanging in there despite COVID. General Giving for the April through July period was up \$1000 over last year and year to date is up \$6300. Unfortunately, COVID has affected our giving and income in other areas. With no one using the church our rentals are down \$10,000 year to date. Building/Maintenance giving is down \$2900 and currency giving in the offering plate is down \$1000. Our Easter giving was also down \$2500 from last year. As a result, our year to date overall income is down about \$10,100. As a side note, while not included in our income statement, Missions giving is down about \$2500.

We have tried to counteract some of this with expense reductions. Custodian expense is down \$4000 year to date and utilities expense is down \$2100. Some of this has been offset by increases in Health and Medical Insurance for the pastor (\$1300) and higher general insurance expense (\$800). We had decrease apportionments at the beginning of COVID and as a result we are about even with last year with a loss around \$8000 through July.

We were fortunate to get PPP from the government and to the extent that our custodian gets back to full time by the end of the year we should get most of that forgiven which will help cut into the loss for the year. This is a one-time benefit and we should not be quick to find ways to spend it since we are showing a deficit from normal giving sources.

We are progressing with automated giving. We have about 10 members utilizing the automatic giving feature that we have been announcing where your bank will cut a check to the church automatically each week/month (or whatever period you desire). This has helped considerably during the last five months. We are also looking at a new website program with Epic Pay. I have visited several websites that have it and it appears to be a robust system with optionality to give to the various causes our church supports. I need to complete a couple more reference checks and then we should be ready to beta test it so that it can be launched later this year. We will keep all informed as to the progress. It will be important to let the congregation know that if they decide to use this to get credit card points, they will need to give about 3% more which is the likely fully loaded cost of having this system.

We will be getting budget information out to the commission chair people in September per our normal annual process.

Bruce Denby  
Stewardship & Finance Chairman

## *From our friends...*

Wally & Carol Carlquist  
5329 Main St., #204  
Downers Grove, IL 60515



### Trustees' August Report

It's been good weather to work on air conditioners. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we have purchased and installed all the room A/C units just in time to enjoy them.

No sooner had we finished the installation, when the parsonage A/C went bad. We now have a new A/C/furnace combination in the parsonage and we are \$10,000 poorer.

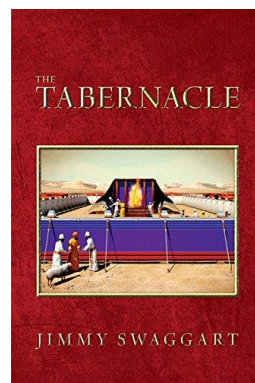
Next up was the A/C unit that cools the lower Sunday school area. We added refrigerant (R-22) and a new transformer to the air make-up unit and we are back in business.

Having the lower A/C unit and air make-up back into operation was important as we are running it 24 hours a day along with dehumidifiers to complete the drying of the lower level carpet that was flooded during our 4 inches of rain.

Turning our attention to the outside, it was necessary to put new front tires on the lawn tractor and new anti-scalp wheels on the mower deck. Then with a new carburetor, the tractor runs and mows like new. During the same time period, it became obvious we had to do something with the yard and bushes. We hired a gentleman to mow, trim and blow once per week. To date he is doing a great job. Just look around as you come to church, or nowadays, as you drive by.

Bad news is that without the renters' donations we are losing income due to the Corona virus pandemic.

Don Hickok  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



### **The Biggest Sin**

(Excerpt from *The Tabernacle*)

By Jimmy Swaggart

Submitted by Don Hayward

The greatest sin of all is man tampering with the pattern (Rom. 1:18; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-29).

When it came to the Tabernacle, the Lord gave to Moses the pattern of all that was to be done, and Moses was not to deviate from that pattern one iota (Ex. 25:40). As stated, this is man's great problem. He tampers with the pattern.

The pattern now is the Cross (I Cor. 1:17-18, 23; 2:2; Rom. 6:1-14; 8:1-11; Gal. 6:14; Col. 2:10-15).

Let me say it again because it is so very, very important. God has given us a pattern for life and living, and that pattern is the Cross of Christ. The believer must understand that every single thing we receive from God comes by the way of Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit, all made possible by the Cross. Without the Cross, there is no salvation, no baptism with the Holy Spirit, no divine healing, no fruit of the Spirit, no gifts of the Spirit, no communion with God, and no blessings. In other words, without the Cross, there is nothing! The Cross of Christ is the means and the only means by which everything is made available to us. That is the pattern, and God doesn't have another because no other is needed.





## October is Pastor Appreciation Month Charles Yoon—Pastor

*Try these guaranteed pastor pick-me-ups.*

1. Write a note telling the pastor how good a particular sermon was.
2. Invite others to church. Nothing says “The pastor is doing a great job” louder than asking your friends and business acquaintances to visit. Be sure to introduce them to the pastor after the service.
3. Pray for your pastor and his family daily. Take a few minutes to pray with your pastor whenever he is available during the week.
4. Remember birthdays and anniversaries of each member of the pastor’s family. Find reasons to celebrate, like the anniversary of your pastor’s arrival at your church as well as other memorable milestones.
5. Drop a note or humorous card in the mail to your pastor for no other reason than as a day brightener.
6. Find opportunities to tell people about your church and what you like about it. It’s one of the greatest compliments a pastor can receive.
7. Let your pastor know when you have received a spiritual insight or breakthrough as a result of his or her teaching and preaching.

*This article first appeared in the September 2001 issue of Today’s Christian. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188*



### September

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Sarah Alcantara    |
|    | Roger Pangilinan   |
| 5  | Ruth Chavez        |
|    | Savanna Musni      |
| 15 | Walter Szalajka    |
| 17 | Kate Chavez        |
| 18 | Lucas Wold         |
| 21 | George Welson      |
|    | Diana Paulhus      |
| 23 | Vernette Sima      |
|    | Matthew Tapia      |
| 25 | Ceferina Francisco |
| 27 | Noah Alcantara     |
|    | Jean Alcantara     |
| 29 | Emilia Ledda       |
| 30 | Obet Chavez        |

### October

- |    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Isabella Madrid     |
| 3  | Bette Camit         |
| 4  | Marianne Musni      |
| 5  | Ruth Chavez         |
| 6  | Nancy Gehrs         |
| 7  | Sharon Kelly        |
|    | Gareth Chavez       |
| 8  | Garnett Chavez      |
|    | Rachel Pangilinan   |
| 9  | Kristen Yoon        |
|    | Nick Alcantara      |
| 10 | Emma Deguia         |
| 12 | Jeilyn Hinds-Degua  |
| 14 | Priscilla Alcantara |
|    | Angelica Alcantara  |
| 20 | Theresa Octava      |
|    | Matthew Bair        |
| 21 | Pam Whitt           |
| 22 | Girlie Magday       |
| 24 | Brandy Francisco    |
|    | Carson Fischer      |
| 26 | Todd Fischer        |
|    | Sylvia Tan          |
|    | Kristina Corre      |
| 28 | Michael Ji          |