

# Faith's Happenings...

May, 2021

## Happy Birthday

Phyllis Crider	2nd
Bobbie Hildebrand	5th
Jean Ihlenburg	6th
Artie Zipp	8th
Lori Armen	11th
Jim Ward	11th
Joanne Best	12th
Barbara Manke	13th
Ruth Magee	15th
Phyllis Fish	15th
Cyndi Carley	18th
Mark Speth	19th
Kathie Wiley	24th
Shirley Smith	26th
Jennifer Boehler	26th
Ed Wine	27th
William Linsberg	28th
Verna Newlon	29th
Jay Fisher	29th

## Happy Anniversary

Chris & Ann Banting	2nd
Bill & Ginny Linsberg	4th
Artie & Maryann Zipp	6th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.  
Please notify Barbra in the church office  
to have your special dates added.**

### May at a Glance

*Mark your calendars now!*  
*Men of Faith Breakfast: May 4*  
*Return to 1 service: May 16*  
*Memorial Day: May 31*



*Motherhood is a million  
little moments that God  
weaves together with grace,  
redemption, laughter, tears,  
and most of all, love.*

*-Lysa TerKeurst*



**May 9th  
Happy Mother's  
Day!**

### Proverbs 31:10

A good woman is hard to find, and  
worth far more than diamonds.

### Return to One Service

We will continue with 2 services  
through Mother's Day (May 9). On  
May 16 we will begin having just 1  
service, inside, at 9:30 am.

### **Work Crew Changes**

Beginning Tuesday, May 11, the work crew will revert to summer hours. Come join the crew at 7:30 each Tuesday morning to help keep the church and grounds in good working order. They will find a place for you (and the coffee and treats are free)!

### **Long Term Prayer Update**

With all the changes over the past few months, we have decided it is time to start over with our prayer list of those who need long-term prayer. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

For now, please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Bob Ash, Jack Myers

### **Men's Breakfast**

Men, we invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, May 4. Please join us!

### **Ways to Give**

(from your Stewardship Committee)  
Insurance policies naming the church as a beneficiary are another means of providing a gift that will continue to bless our congregation's ministry. If the policy is given outright to the church, you may claim the premiums paid as a charitable deduction.

### **Notable Neighbors**

Check out the "Family Bulletin Board" by the church office to see who from Faith the *Englewood Review* called "Notable Neighbors."

### **Electronic Giving**

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page <https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

### **You Helped**

Our Love and Serve Ministry has been reaching out to the homeless at Indian Mound Park for some time now. Recently they made a connection with the "Jesus Loves You" ministry, which provides free showers for homeless people throughout the area. The group will be ministering to our "campers" every Tuesday from now on. Thanks to your assistance, we were able to supply towels, soap and other necessary items to help them.

## **Celebrate May 31<sup>st</sup>**



### **Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation**

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.



A mother was writing about the earliest experience with her young children. The first child was crawling at 6 months, walking at 10 months and running by a year old. Her second child, not so much. He didn't move for almost a year. She wrote, "I remember looking at my husband with worry. Is there something wrong with our son? He isn't moving."

The husband's simple answer, "No. You just need to put him down, you will be surprised what he can do."

After a boot camp day of learning to crawl, and her learning to let go, the son was finally moving. He went from crawling to walking in only a few days, running soon after and hasn't stopped. Both kids, at different times, after different starts, crawled, walked and later ran.

Hebrews 12:1-2 reads, in part, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, .... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...*

When we entered the shutdown for COVID-19, who could have imagined that 14 months later we would still be dealing with safety precautions around the virus. There are some congregations who have not yet started to gather in person. I have yet to hear about any congregations who have resumed gathering without restriction.

The experience of the mother with her children crawling, walking and running, and the injunction from Hebrews to continue following Jesus by persevering as we run the race set before us, come together as we move forward into our summer months.

As vaccinations continue to make their way into the community, we will continue to observe precautions to keep people safe. Going forward into May, we will start expanding ministry opportunities and activities by crawling. In June we may be standing, July walking and (maybe) by late Summer or early Fall begin running.

- 1) **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE:** Sunday, May 16, we will resume 1 worship service, inside at 9:30 AM. We are grateful for the leadership of volunteers who have helped with worship over the "season" with two services. We wouldn't have been able to gather for worship outside had it not been for those who set up communion and the sound system each week. The 9:30 worship service will be a return to normal. We will, however, still be using masks and shortening the verses of hymns to help keep each other safe.
- 2) **FELLOWSHIP:** On Sunday, May 16, we will have a fellowship opportunity before worship. From 8:45-9:15 we will have refreshments on the front lawn. Dave (Council's liaison to Fellowship) and Cathy Deitrich will be hosting the event. Expect some baked treats, coffee and similar refreshments. This will be an opportunity to fellowship outside before coming inside to worship. A second fellowship event will be held the following week, on Pentecost, when Brandy Schneck is back from Seminary. These fellowship opportunities will continue occasionally based on your response.

- 3) **PENTECOST and SEMINARIAN VISIT:** On Sunday, May 23, Pentecost, our seminarian (Brandy Schneck) will be preaching at worship. While COVID has altered life and the educational process at Seminary, Brandy has been resident at the campus through this time. It will be wonderful to hear about her first two years in seminary, and what she has coming up this year with Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Internship.
- 4) **STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Also on Sunday, May 23, Lou Taylor will be recognized as our Stephen Ministry Leader. Lou received leader training earlier this year in preparation for our “restart” of caring ministries. With COVID we were not able to do home visits except by request. We are grateful for the work of the Lutheran Chicks in sending cards and preparing little gifts of encouragement that have helped carry us through this past year. As we move forward, we are able to resume these in person supportive ministries by observing reasonable precautions in our interactions.
- 5) **TEMPLE TALK:** On Sunday, May 30, we will hear a Temple talk about our Caring Ministries. This will be an opportunity for you to consider how you can participate and support our ministry in the community through Stephen Ministry, Eucharistic Ministry, and Love and Serve.
- 6) **WALKING WITH FAITH:** On Monday, June 7, we will have an in-depth informational meeting for those interested in finding out more about, and connecting with, our caring ministries.
- 7) **LOOKING FORWARD:** As we move through the summer, please respond to the opportunities for worship, to volunteer to work with a committee, and to help others in our community through our life together here at Faith.

Please don't forget about Our Life Together, meeting on Wednesdays for study, fellowship and support. Also, we will continue our live-streaming and recording of worship for those who are not able to be with us in person. God be with you and bless you in the days and weeks ahead as we crawl, walk and prepare to run with Jesus the life (race) that is set before us.

*Pastor Brian*

### **What Is a Stephen Minister?**

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, hospitalization, loss of a home, or relocation.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. (Care Receivers) Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members who have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and have been equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

Stay tuned for more information about becoming a Stephen Minister or becoming a Care Receiver! If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, or would like to find out more, please feel free to contact me, your Stephen Ministry Leader, or Pastor Brian. An informational meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Lou Taylor