



Pastor's Letter



August 2025

Dearest Family of God,

My heart ached last month when I heard the news of our Lay Leader **Heidi Stark's cancer diagnosis**. It broke again just last week with the news of **David Funk's cancer returning**. I am truly heartbroken and deeply saddened for both of them.

Heidi and David have both worked incredibly hard, individually and together, for the ministry of our church over the years. Their dedication has been a tremendous blessing.

I remember about five years ago, **Heidi** joined the Friends in Faith team, meticulously checking attendance records for Sunday worship. She brought monthly Excel reports to the committee, and her thoroughness not only impressed me but also helped us understand who needed more support from the church and gave us insights into our Sunday attendance trends. She then served as the chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for three years, bringing significant improvements and stability to that ministry area. When our needs grew, she graciously accepted both the chairperson role for the Ad Council and the Lay Leader position. Her leadership has brought stability and creativity to our church. Heidi's consistent vision and dedicated passion have provided steady guidance, and her innovative approaches have led to more effective ministries. Her excellent communication skills have kept all of us informed and inspired through articles in our church newsletter and her insightful sermons delivered twice a year. Her thoughtful, caring presence and leadership have been deeply and widely appreciated by our entire congregation.

David Funk stepped into the Lay Leader role to work alongside Julius Lukacs, our wonderful Lay Leader of a decade, who could no longer attend church every Sunday. David has provided a vital ministry of presence to many committees, sharing his wisdom gained from years of experience as a United Methodist leader. His passion for missions, the Men's Group, and the Scholarship ministry has never wavered. He volunteered to become the interim Director of HOPE HOUSE in March 2022, and soon after, became its full Director. His leadership not only attracted many volunteers but also brought in new givers, both large and small, from our community and beyond. When we faced challenging times, he became a trustworthy bridge for our ministries. This was also after he bravely battled cancer for the first time; as soon as he recovered, he jumped back into ministry wherever he was needed. For the past year, he has been on a break from HOPE HOUSE to care for his wife, JoAnn, since her Parkinson's diagnosis.

I am incredibly proud of our two Lay Leaders. They have served us faithfully and lovingly. Now, it's our turn to support them with **prayers, cards**, and most importantly, by **doing our own part faithfully and lovingly**, just as they have done for us.

We pray that God's incredible grace brings them complete healing and renewed health. And as we uphold them in prayer, let's continue to serve the Lord and His ministries in our respective places with joyful hearts and faithful hands and feet. We are all deeply connected in this sacred journey, moving forward together!

Many Prayers & Many Blessings,

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Your Pastor, Hyesung Lee