



Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church
1530 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul MN 55118
(651) 457-5686
Faiethumc@usfamily.net

"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together"

March 2013

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

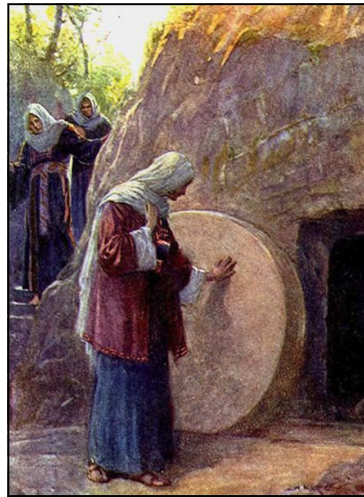
We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

Build your own breakfast burrito:
flour tortillas, scrambled eggs, sausage
and fixings; fresh fruit, caramel rolls,
milk, juice, and coffee will be served
in the Fellowship Hall until 9:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Worship

We will celebrate the resurrection in the
sanctuary with the choir singing, and
worship concluding with the singing of the
"Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah



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HOLY



WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28 • 7:00 p.m.

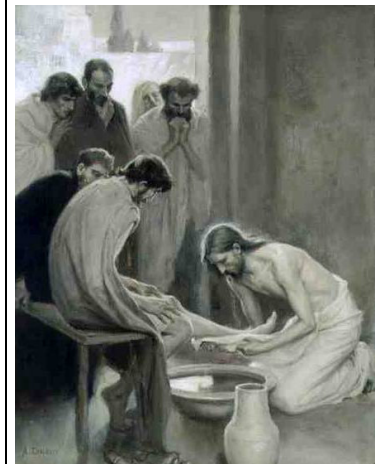
We remember the last supper
of Jesus and the disciples as
we celebrate holy communion



GOOD FRIDAY

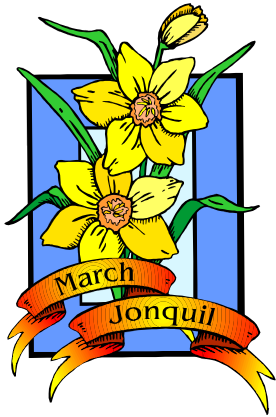
March 29 • 7:00 p.m.

We remember the crucifixion
with a Tenebrae style worship
service of light and darkness.



March Birthdays

- 2 -



Mar. 1 — Barbara Schroeder
Mar. 2 — D.J. Sukhu
Mar. 3 — Kaitlyn Cox
Mar. 4 — Gil Kinnunen
Mar. 8 — Victoria Stehr
Mar. 11 — Ryan Mohr
Mar. 13 — Bernice Killian
Mar. 17 — Patricia Fjerstad
Mar. 18 — Laura Kropp

Mar. 20 — Mike Hovey
Mar. 21 — Ruth Phipps
Mar. 21 — Corey Worden
Mar. 21 — Kenneth Hovey
Mar. 24 — Jeffrey Cox
Mar. 24 — Katie Lyn Sieberer
Mar. 26 — Ruth Campion
Mar. 27 — Isabelle Pippert
Mar. 31 — Michael Pate

- If your birthday is missing or listed incorrectly, contact the church office for additions/corrections. Happy Birthday, everyone! •

Thank you to and for during February...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Bonnie Dick, Judy Turk, and Maryanne Maurer
- **Liturgists:** Charles Beardshear, George Brown, Caroline Pippert, and Barbara Schroeder
- **Serving refreshments:** Bonnie Dick
- **Communion Steward:** Karen Cohoes
- **Thank you** to those who helped assemble the February newsletter: Paul Williams, Pat Williams, Liz Chun, Marti Kemp, Laurel Venhuizen, Karen Cohoes, Barbara Schroeder, Carol Schuldt, and Bonnie Dick



► **March is Mobile Meals Volunteer month!** A **big thank you** to our Faith Church drivers: Gil Kinnunen, Bill Kostner, Vesta Lach, Ward Mens, Greg Napier, and Fred & Lynn Mens. We really appreciate all that you do for Mobile Meals. If you would like to deliver meals, please contact our office at Faith Church, 651-457-5686.

—Dianne Mens

- **Thank You** for being with us. Without my church I would not have the strength I have.
—Bonnie & Fred Dick & family

Did you know... that Laurel Venhuizen made all of the tablecloths used on the communion table? Be sure to thank her.

- **On behalf of the Global Health Initiative** of The United Methodist Church, **thank you** for your generous contribution of \$497.38 to *Imagine No Malaria* during 2012. Your support of this ministry allows the UMC to continue our partnership to help end preventable deaths caused by malaria in Africa, especially the deaths of children and mothers. Your gift is a life-saving gift that touches entire families. When multiplied, it profoundly affects the health and livelihood of entire villages and communities. Your faith in action continues to "bring health to the sick." (Matthew 10:8) ...
—Gary Henderson, Exec. Dir., Global Health Initiative



Steps on the Journey

Looking outside it is hard to believe that before the month of March is over spring will begin. And right after spring comes we begin Holy Week and Easter. Being in the Northern Hemisphere it is interesting to have these two events happen so close together.

Spring, the end of snow and cold, the beginning of warmth and growth. In a few weeks snow will begin to be a memory. We will begin to see grass turning green, flowers beginning to appear and the sun warmth will cover us. We will begin to feel renewed and refreshed; like awakening from a long nap.

So it is with Lent and Holy Week, we reflect on who we are, what is happening in our world and what our relationship with God is. Sometimes it can cause us to be a little down. But then Easter bursts forth and things change. We are reminded that we are resurrection people. People, who know that we are forgiven, loved and live with new possibility. That God has something great in store for us. That God has not abandoned us but invited us to see with new eyes, with resurrection eyes.

Holy Week with the denial, betrayal and crucifixion will begin to fade; the hurt will begin to fade. The power and the possibility of resurrection become more and more real. We will be awakened, beginning to feel refreshed and renewed. Knowing that God is able to do more than we hoped or desired, because God is God.

Watch for Easter. Watch for Spring. Watch for what God is doing next.

Peace in Christ,
Gail



Some Tidbits

Computer Center

Do you need to set up and learn how to use an e-mail account? Do you want to learn how to use your computer for specific projects? Contact Susan in the church office to set up an appointment on Wednesday afternoons from noon to 5:00. If Wednesday afternoons do not work for you, contact Susan to set up another time.

Office Hours

Pastor Gail will be in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays most weeks.

Susan will be working 20 hours a week for the church; she will be in the office Monday, Thursday & Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Book of Reports

The 2012 Book of Reports is available on the table outside the church office. If you are unable to make it to church to pick up a copy please contact the office and we will send you a copy.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on Saturdays: **3/2, 3/16 & 3/30; 4/13, & 4/27** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are welcome! For more info, please contact Bill Short at bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us or 651-552-0736

2013 Camping Information is Available

Are you thinking about attending a camp this summer? There are camps offered for people of all ages through the camping program of the Minnesota United Methodist Church. Brochures for the 2013 camping season are available on the table in the church lobby. Please feel free to take one!



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Einar Skov** was hospitalized.
- ♦ **Louis Eberly** had surgery and has been hospitalized for an infection

Ongoing Concerns: *(these will be listed for 3 months and then removed. If you wish for them to remain on the list longer, please contact the church office.)*

- ♦ **Benjamin Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.
- ♦ **Vi Rabe**, Marianne Young's mother, in hospice.

Concerns beyond our doors:

- ♦ Those separated from family
- ♦ Those living with degenerative conditions
- ♦ Those who are hungry
- ♦ Those who have lost jobs or their homes
- ♦ Those who struggle due to natural disasters
- ♦ Those who grieve
- ♦ Those who are uncertain about the future

We Extend our Sympathy:

- ♦ We offer our sympathy to the family of **Dorothea Carlson** who died February 5. Her memorial service was held in St. Peter, Minn.

Those serving in the military:

- ♦ **Ron Brummund, Jr.**, at Fort Lee in Virginia
- ♦ **Paul DeNardo** is in South Korea

The Money Pot welcomes your change at any time to help benefit the offering of the month. Money Pot **donations for March** will support **Minnesota FoodShare**— its March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state, restocks almost 300 food shelves across Minnesota by recruiting thousands of congregations, companies, schools and community groups to run local fund and food drives to aid in the effort. **Neighbors, Inc. helps meet needs in our local area:** The Food Shelf was Neighbors' first program designed to help those in need in the south metro area. Neighbors' Food Shelf opened its doors in 1972, and continues today to care for the community by providing food and hygiene products for about 330 families and individuals needing assistance each month. **Faith United Methodist has set a goal of raising 800 pounds of food for Neighbor's Food shelf. Each dollar raised is equal to one pound. Help us reach our goal!**



The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, contact Esther Craine at 651-457-6959. Please also contact the pastor so she knows what is going out over the prayer chain. If you wish to be involved in this ministry please speak with Pastor Gail.

Hospital Calls: If you learn someone is hospitalized, please contact the church office or Pastor Gail. With new privacy laws, hospitals no longer call when a member is admitted. We would rather have several calls telling us of someone's hospitalization than not to know. Thank you.

For your times of devotion this March:

Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issues** of the devotional publications: The Upper Room (regular or large print), Alive Now, & Pockets. These booklets are found on the table by the parking lot door.

COMING VERY SOON! Our 9th annual Live/Silent Auction Saturday, April 6, 2013

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

Do you have items you would like to donate to the April 6 auction? If your answer is "yes!", you may bring your items to the church office, or to Lynn Bonkowske or Judy Turk. We hope to receive some bigger items to auction off (maybe some furniture, or 'man toys' for the garage or car). This event is always a lot of fun with our own "lively auctioneer" Gil Kinnunen. Preview is at 4:30pm, dinner at 5:00 and live auction at 6:00. If you have questions, contact Lynn or Judy. Watch for more details soon!



Riverbend Mission Trip

The Riverbend mission group is preparing for a mission trip to Louisiana this **April 13-21** to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Isaac last August. If you are interested in going on the trip, contact Barbara Schroeder at 651-554-9365 or Rod Scofield at rodscofield@gmail.com.

Community Event: "Empty Bowls"

Saturday, March 9, 2013, from 1-5:30pm

White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

A fundraiser for the St. Paul Area Council of Churches Dept. of Indian Work Food Shelf. Enjoy a tasty bowl of soup with fresh baked bread. See a bread oven demonstration; stay for live music by Redpath (2:30-3:15pm) and Billy McLaughlin (3:45-5pm). Prices: \$25/adult; \$5/children 12 & under; \$20/entertainment only. Purchase tickets in advance at www.spacc.org. 1851 Birch St., White Bear Lake.

"Avoiding Frauds and Scams"

Informational Meeting offered on Tuesday, March 26* 10:30 am—12 pm

(*registration required at www.dakotacounty.us/library)

DARTS — 1645 Marthaler Lane, West St. Paul

The program will provide helpful tips on how to avoid fraud and scams, and help prevent identity theft.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

dif-fer-ence /'difərəns / [dif-er-uhns]

How your gifts change the world: African leaders for Africa

When a person hears God's call to ordained ministry in Africa, he or she is called to a journey--both literal and figurative. The Rev. João Sambo, ordained in 2011 by the South Mozambique Annual Conference, was first appointed to the Cambine Mission Centre as chaplain and lecturer at the theological seminary and taught introductory courses in homiletics and philosophy as well as missiology and church administration. He's grateful for the experience--though it took him 350 miles from Maputo, where his wife, Delia, and their two children, Keith and Driane, lived. His next appointment brought him closer to home, to Liberdade United Methodist Church in the Maputo suburbs. With about 1,500 members, the Liberdade parish covers about 31 sq. miles and 7 preaching points. Sambo is the only paid employee in the parish. The church's annual budget is about \$19,500, of which \$2,700 is the pastor's annual salary.

Liberdade is a lively congregation with vibrant ministries for all ages. The children's ministry is especially powerful, with more than 1,500 participants. Sambo has been creating new ministries, such as volunteers in mission and collaborating with other local churches within the Mozambique South Annual Conference. He plans to start an English worship service open to all worshipers, no matter their language. "We know that our mission in Mozambique," he said, "is to transform the society because there are many ways that indicate it is not healthy. Coming out of two wars, the church and the society in Mozambique need our partnership more than ever." Sambo earned a bachelor of divinity degree at Africa University, a UMC school, and a master's degree at Emory University in Atlanta. Your gifts to the Africa University Fund help prepare leaders who will bring hope to a people facing many challenges and help them meet God.



Prayer Workshop

Navigating LIFE

Do you ever wish that God had built a spiritual Global Positioning System (GPS) system into each of us? I do. The GPS navigation system I use when driving tells me exactly how far to my next turn, whether to bear left or right at points where the road is confusing, and what time I will reach my destination, with continual updates as my location changes. This detailed guidance is reassuring — and why I wish God had built into us a similar system spiritually. But our guidance from God is rarely direct and specific.

This is an inconvenience, to state the case mildly. As serious disciples of Christ, we want to do what God wants us to do. But what does God want? To quote Hamlet (out of context), "That is the question;" How do we discover or decide what to do in specific situations in order to be faithful?

Many would say, "Just read the Bible;" The Bible offers us great wisdom, but it doesn't specifically answer many important questions such as whom to marry, what profession to pursue, whether to quit a job and return to school, how to make end-of-life decisions, and many other dilemmas we confront. Through the centuries, however, believers have developed patterns for discerning what God wants *for* them and *from* them in specific situations.

One of these is waiting to experience either consolation or desolation. "Consolation" is a sense of inner peace and trust as we consider an action. We pray for direction, and then we consider options one by one until one emerges as feeling "right" within our relationship with God. "Desolation" is the opposite — feeling unsettled, ill-at-ease, unable to act without inner turmoil. This sense of being unsupported, perplexed, even unsafe, pulls us away from an option. As we prayerfully consider possible choices over time, an inward sense of unease and unsettledness helps us to understand that God is pulling us away from some actions.

Another way to receive guidance is what the Quakers call a "clearness committee" — a group of four or five spiritually wise, trusted people who know us well. The person wanting guidance invites individuals to be part of this discernment group. The group meets for 90 minutes up to a few hours. To begin the process, the person seeking guidance talks about the decision to be made, helping committee members understand the issues. After a time of silence, the group members ask questions. They do not give advice; they may only ask questions. The seeker may respond if the questions are requests for clarification, but the seeker may remain silent as well. Each question and response is followed by more silence, until all questions have been asked.

The group then waits in silence until they reach consensus that all important considerations have surfaced. The person seeking guidance emerges with a clearer sense of what to consider as a basis for deciding and acting — or refraining from doing either.

A third way of discerning guidance rests with an accountability group. This is a group of four to eight persons who meet together regularly, usually once a week, to hold one another accountable for living their common faith and their individual call from God. Group members covenant to pray for one another and to be honest with one another. Over time, members come to know one another deeply — their strengths and weaknesses, their spiritual struggles, their relationship challenges, their dreams. When a member faces a decision, others in the group talk with and pray for the person seeking guidance. Group members may ask questions as in a clearness committee, or they may talk about their similar dilemmas — not giving advice but providing context. They help the seeker to see the decision within the context of what they know about that person's spiritual journey and call.

All of these methods take time, and they do not dictate actions to the seeker. Support from the Christian community is especially needed when the decisions are important ones — but finally we must decide and act within the context of our private relationship with God. Over the last months, I have been considering my next steps in life. With prayer support from and wisdom shared by fellow believers, I have come to clarity about my next big decision. After decades of working on *The Upper Room* magazine, I am retiring. . . I will continue to teach and to write, but I will do so within a different rhythm that I look forward to with joy. I have a sense of deep consolation that I pray God will give you as you face *your* life decisions.

Questions for Reflection:

1. **If you** were convening a clearness committee to help you consider a decision, **who** would be on it, and **why**?
2. **With what** decision or situation would you ask for help?
3. **What** small groups have been important in your spiritual journey? **What** made them important?
4. **What is** the most momentous decision you have made? **How** did you consider God's desires for you as you decided?
5. **How has** scripture offered you specific guidance in a decision? **About what** do you wish the Bible offered more exact guidance, and **why**? Jesus' small group was the disciples. **What** lessons do you draw from their relationships as described in the Bible? **Which** of the disciples would you most like to have in your accountability group, and **why**?

— Mary Lou Redding

From *Upper Room (Living Prayer Center)* by Mary Lou Redding, Oct. 2012. Used with permission of Upper Room publications.

March 2013 Worship Schedule

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March 3 — 3rd Sunday in Lent — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Sermon Title: "Seeking the Lord"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Jeff Cox, Jr.

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

Communion Steward: Gloria Gurtin

March 10 — 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sermon Title: "Human Sight"

Greeter: Laurel Venhuizen

Lay Reader: Lucy Schwendinger

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

March 17 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 42:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8

Sermon Title: "How We Make It"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Ann Beardshear

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

March 24 — Palm Sunday

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 118; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40, 23:1-49

Sermon Title: "The Beginning of the Week"

Greeters: Gil & Dawn Kinnunen

Lay Reader: Pat Giorgini

Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

† March 28 – Maundy Thursday — Sacrament of Holy Communion / Rite of Foot Washing

Scripture Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31-35

† March 29 – Good Friday — Service of Tenebrae

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42

† March 31 — EASTER Sunday

Scripture Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

Resurrection Worship: "Power of Resurrection"

Greeter: Maryanne Maurer

Lay Reader: John Kemp

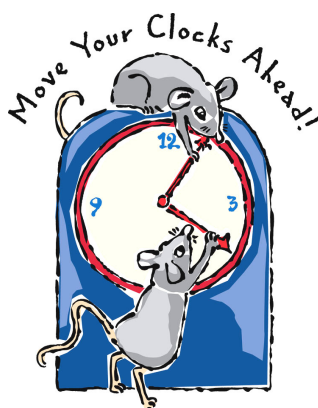
Fellowship Time host: Linda Cox

March 2013 Calendar

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Sat. 3/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Wed. 3/20	5:15 p.m.	Supper
Sun. 3/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship		6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sun. 3/24	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon. 3/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Mon. 3/25	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed. 3/6	5:15 p.m.	Supper	Wed. 3/27	5:15 p.m.	Supper
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship		6:00 p.m.	Lenten Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Thurs. 3/28	11:20 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Thurs. 3/7	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee		<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council			<u>Worship</u>
Sun. 3/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Daylight Saving Time begins)	Fri. 3/29	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Good Friday Worship</u>
	9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School	Sat. 3/30	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sun. 3/31	8:30 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		9:30 a.m.	Worship
Mon. 3/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tues. 3/12	7:00 p.m.	Fund Raising Task Force	Mon. 4/1	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed. 3/13	5:15 p.m.	Supper	Sat. 4/6	5:00 p.m.	Dinner
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship		6:00 p.m.	Auction
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sun. 4/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Sat. 3/16	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School
Sun. 3/17	9:30 a.m.	Worship		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Mon. 4/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Sat. 4/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Mon. 3/18	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Sat. 4/13 - Sun. 4/21		Riverbend Mission Trip
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee & Board of Trustees	Sun. 4/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship
				9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School
				10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
				10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
			Mon. 4/15	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group

Daylight Saving
Time begins
Sunday,
March 10



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus Goes to Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus had been ministering to the people for 3 1/2 years now. During that time he preached to the people that they should seek God and His Kingdom, performed many miracles and healed many people. Now he realized the time had come to lay down his life for the world as their Savior. He wished to go to Jerusalem for the Passover, and he knew that if he did, he put himself in danger. You can read in Matthew 18:17-19 what he prophesied would happen to him.

The people loved Jesus, and as he approached Jerusalem on the back of a donkey colt, they rejoiced to see him.

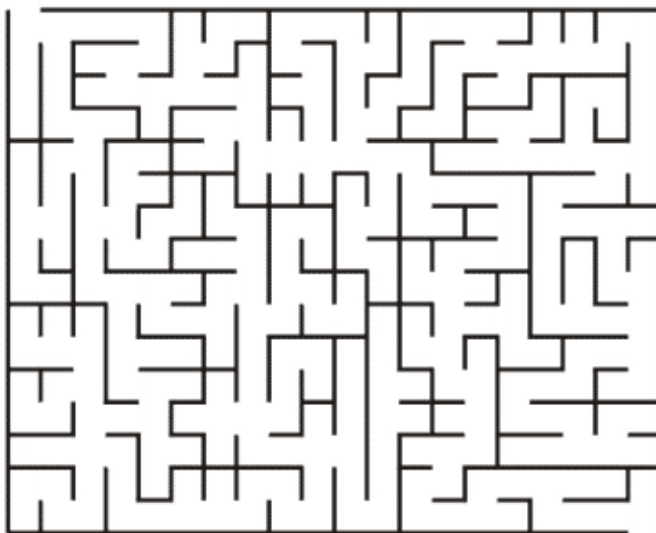
Read Matthew 21:6-9 (NRSV) to see what they did and said and fill in the blanks below.

"Hosanna to the ____ of ____!"
 _____ is the one who comes
 in the ____ of the ____!
 " _____ in the highest heaven!"



When Jesus arrived at Jerusalem he went to the Temple. Lead him there through the maze:

START ►



END ►



Jesus Goes to Jerusalem © 1997 Sharon Whittaker.
 Used with permission.

su·per·he·ro *n. pl. su·per·he·roes*

A compassionate fictional hero who has special powers that can be used for saving people and fighting against evil.



You can be a 'su·per·he·ro, too!

Yes, *you* can be a **REAL HERO** when you help "feed" the Money Pot this month. Your coins or dollars placed in the Money Pot help feed hungry families! You can also bring your favorite food for the food shelf here at church (the shelf over by the coat racks) — you can bring a box of Mac'n'cheese, a can of chili or spaghetti-o's, or maybe some pancake mix or syrup — anything that's your favorite food to fix to eat. All your gifts of food or money will help someone who is having a hard time because they are feeling hungry. **You can help** — and you won't even need to wear a cape!



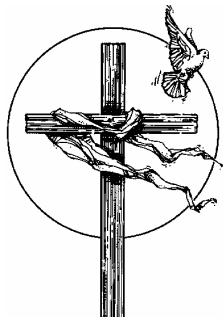
1 John 3:18 *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*



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1530 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul MN 55118

March 2013

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*He lives!
I spoke with
Him today!*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We invite you to join us this Sunday for
worship, study and fellowship:

- Worship — 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.
- Fellowship time — 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School — 10:50 a.m.

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP CONTINUES

Each of the remaining Wednesdays of Lent (through March 20) we will gather at 6:15 p.m. for worship together. There will be Scripture readings, songs, prayer, and a skit geared for all age groups. The skit, "Great Expectations", is part of a series where weekly the story will fuse both Biblical & contemporary settings against a hotel backdrop for our main characters: vacationers Hope and Chase.

•
Supper will be served each Wednesday evening in Lent from 5:15 p.m. until 6:10 p.m.
The cost is a free-will offering.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY March 28 • 7:00 p.m.

We remember the last supper of Jesus and the disciples as we celebrate holy communion

GOOD FRIDAY March 29 • 7:00 p.m.

We remember the crucifixion with a Tenebrae style worship service of light and darkness.



FAITH IN ACTION is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul MN 55118 (651) 457-5686 office; Email: faithumc@usfamily.net DEADLINE: the 15th of each month, unless otherwise noted. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Visit us at www.faihumcmn.com