



Faith in Action

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

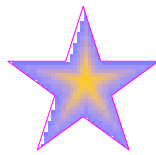
"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference - together"

December 2013

Christmas Eve Worship Services December 24

4:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

10:30 p.m.
Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship



Blue Christmas Worship December 15

Is Christmas a difficult time for you? Do you look for a place that will allow you time away from the hype of Christmas, an opportunity to experience a sacred space in the midst of our lives that sometimes feel awkward, uncomfortable and messy? You are invited to join us for a special worship on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4:00 p.m. where we will provide a space to be quiet and still, to remember and to hear again the story of God coming to us. All are welcome.



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Birthdays this Month

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12/2 —	Gail Alexander	12/16 —	Peter DeNardo
12/5 —	Nancy Reid	12/18 —	Jazlynn Gallegos
12/6 —	Nancy Rankin	12/19 —	Meta Nachtsheim
	Melissa Schneider	12/20 —	Jewel Root
	Angela High-Pippert	12/22 —	Jeaneen Hovey
12/10 —	Vera Young	12/23 —	Ekemini Jonathon
12/11 —	Dylan Cox		Cole Steele
	Olivia Stehr	12/24 —	Greg Nelson
12/13 —	Sarah Adam	12/25 —	Patrick Short
12/14 —	Laurel Venhuizen	12/28 —	Ryan Boelter
12/15 —	Christian Johnson	12/31 —	Elsie Brown
	Michael Needham		

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

Thank you to and for during November...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Annie McGuire, Bill Short, and Maryanne Maurer
- **Liturgists:** Dana Scopatz, John Kemp, Angela High-Pippert, and Bruce Opp
- **Serving refreshments:** Linda Cox, Judy Turk & JoAnn Loutsch, and Denise Krois
- **Communion Steward:** Marsha Spatafore
- **Thank you** to Jeff & Linda Cox and Judy Turk for helping assemble the November newsletter
- **Thank you** to Judy Pfenning, Bruce Opp, Mike Schwendinger and Bonnie Dick for being our stewardship speakers this year.
- **Thank you** to Bill & Lynn Bonkowske, George Brown, Mike & Jeanna Schwendinger, Lucy Schwendinger, Carol Schuldt, Steve & Rose Larsen, Judy Turk, and Bruce Opp for helping with church clean up days
- **Thanks** to Paul Williams • Mike Schwendinger • Greg Napier • Gary Fitch • Bill Short • Patrick Short • Bob Scopatz • Bruce Opp • Ward Mens • Jeff & Linda Cox • Marsha Spatafore • Matt, Peggy, Ava & Claudia Spatafore • Chip and Carol Schuldt • Tim, Angela, Caroline & Isabelle Pippert • Dianna & Johnny Gallegos — all of whom worked hard to help maintain the church lawn this summer.
- **Dear Donors** from Faith UMC, your generous donation of 30 lbs. of garden produce and 80 lbs. of food items in October 2013 is greatly appreciated... —Neighbors, Inc. Staff and Volunteers

Did you know... that Mike Schwendinger, Steve & Rose Larsen, Marsha Spatafore, Mike Hovey, Linda Cox, Henry & Jeaneen Hovey, Bruce Opp, and Bill Bonkowske count our offering each week. Be sure to thank them.



Steps on the Journey

I have been reading and hearing about a number of "issues" in the past few days where people have tried to paint things in terms of right and wrong, black and white, legal and illegal. Where everything is one way or the other. In most of those instances there have been people involved. I find it difficult to believe that something is that cut and dried when people are involved. Usually when people are involved it depends on whether you know someone or love someone. Gray becomes the color of predominance, nothing is completely clear.

As I have been getting ready for Advent and Christmas this year I have been thinking about the reason for Christmas. God had been dealing the Israelites for hundred of years. Speaking through signs and prophets, giving warnings and loving the people. But they seemed to have difficulty hearing. They wanted things black and white, right and wrong, legal and illegal. They wanted their

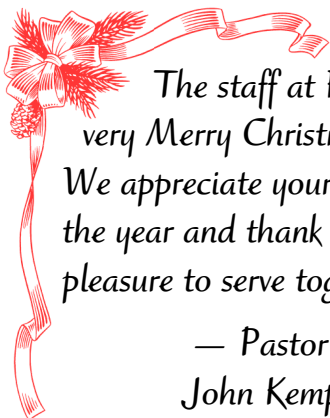
issue to be understood their way, not letting people get in the way. They had trouble seeing in shades of gray.

God decided that a change was needed. We refer to Jesus as "Immanuel", God with us. God came to be with us in flesh and blood to show us what it means to live a life of faith and connection to God. It began with a baby, a person with needs, a person that needed to grow. Every year we are reminded again that God is not about issues. God is about people. People caring for one another. People seeing beyond the issue to the person standing before them, the person in need of love and care. People willing to follow the way of Jesus.

This Christmas I hope you see the baby, that changed the perspective of the world to shades of gray because God felt people were more important.

May this season be filled with all the joy and sight that God wants for us.

*Peace in Christ,
Gail*



The staff at Faith Church wishes you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! We appreciate your encouragement throughout the year and thank you for all you do! It is a pleasure to serve together in God's name.

*— Pastor Gail, Susan Filter,
John Kemp, & Joan Fitch —*

2014 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

2014 Calendars with gorgeous pictures and Bible verses are here! With Christmas soon here, these calendars make a great gift for relatives & friends, or a nice stocking stuffer. Large wall calendars are \$7. each, pocket calendars are \$5. each. See Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske to buy your calendars, and of course don't forget to get a set for yourself!



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Steve Larsen** had surgery on his feet
- ♦ **Taffy Storck** had surgery on her hand

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

The Money Pot welcomes your change to help support the offering of the month. During December Faith Church will be gathering money and **WINTER WEAR** items for all ages to be given out through Neighbors, Inc. With cold weather soon upon us, it will be a chance to help warm people. You can bring **hats, scarves and mittens** or donate money in the money pot located in the church lobby.



*Hear our prayers
during this
time of
Advent*



► Read the Bible in One Year

Have you ever thought about reading through the Bible? How about doing it in one year? Not sure how to do it? A booklet is now available on the table in the Narthex that will help you read through the Bible in one year. It has the date and a passage to read and a way to mark off those passages to keep track. Feel free to take a booklet, and be watching for opportunities to gather to talk about what you have read.



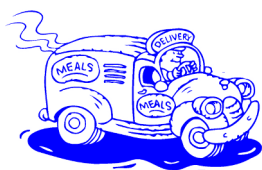
The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, contact Esther Craine at 651-457-6959. Please also contact the pastor so she knows what is going out over the prayer chain. If you wish to be involved in this ministry please speak with Pastor Gail.

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 Advent Season:

Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issues** of devotional publications The Upper Room (daily readings in regular or large print), or Alive Now. These booklets are found on the table by the parking lot door.
— Devotionals specifically for Advent are also available on the table —

2014 Mobile Meals Schedule for Faith UMC (Thursdays)



- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| ♦ January 2 | ♦ July 17 |
| ♦ January 30 | ♦ August 14 |
| ♦ February 27 | ♦ September 11 |
| ♦ March 27 | ♦ October 9 |
| ♦ April 24 | ♦ November 6 |
| ♦ May 22 | ♦ December 4 |
| ♦ June 19 | ♦ 1/1/15 (holiday) |



Dessert First
Celebrate God's Blessings

Finance Campaign for 2014:

Thank you to everyone who turned in their commitment for 2014. As of November 17, we have received 37 commitments for a total of \$84,844. If you have not

turned in your 2014 commitment, we encourage you to do so at this time by sending it to the church office. If you have lost your card, please contact the church office.

2013 Financial Donations:

To receive credit for financial donations and gifts to the church for the year 2013, all donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2013 and must be received in the church office by January 2, 2014

The Christmas offering for 2013 will go to help balance our church budget for the year.

'Un-decorating' the Church

On **Saturday, January 11** we will take down the decorations from the holiday season. We will begin our work at 9:00 a.m. and continue through lunch. If you can help or if you have questions, contact Judy Turk, 651-343-8027.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

difference /'diferəns / [dif-er-uhns]



A truck carrying relief supplies for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to clear low-hanging power lines en route to a food distribution in Tacloban, Philippines.. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

Super Typhoon Haiyan, a category 5 storm—and perhaps the strongest storm ever recorded—

swept through the Philippines on Friday, November 8, causing extensive damage, displacing at least 670,000 people, and affecting a total of 11.3 million people. Initial estimated numbers of those killed and injured by the super storm are expected to climb. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is providing emergency food, water, and water purification tablets to 7,500 individuals (or 1,500 families) in Tacloban City in Leyte Province. The city was devastated by the typhoon and many there have no access to food, water, or medicine. Give generously to **International Disaster Response, Advance #982450**, to support UMCOR Philippines staff and volunteers as they work tirelessly to provide assistance to those in need. You may give through Faith Church and your gift will be forwarded to UMCOR.





How Did our Garden Grow?



Faith United Methodist Church's third annual Garden for Neighbors, Inc. proved to be the most productive ever. On the sunny south side of the church, we grew amaranth, cabbages, cucumbers, onions, peas, peppers, pole beans, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. And we received additional contributions of apples, cucumbers, and plums grown by FUMC members.

We measured our output in four ways—pounds, meal units, total vegetables, and estimated retail value. Our garden produced 233 pounds of vegetables (163 pounds in 2012), 536 meal units (451 units in 2012), and 5,020 individual vegetables (3,109 in 2012)—with an estimated retail value of \$507 (new category this year).

The entire cost of the garden project was covered by designated memorial contributions.

Thanks to FUMC members who volunteered to make our 2013 garden a success—Bill and Lynn Bonkowske, Ruth Campion, Marti Kemp, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Chuck Martin, Carol Schuldt, Barb Schroeder, Jody Sielski, and Marsha Spatafore—plus international assistance from Debby Axness and Larry Struck, house guests of Gil and Dawn who have returned to their sailboat on the island of Curacao, off the coast of Venezuela.

If you would like to help with the 2014 Neighbors, Inc. Garden project, please contact Dawn or Gil (651-451-2556, gilogram@gmail.com). It will prove to be a growing experience.

★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 26, 2014** following worship. We will hear reports from various groups within the entire congregation. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation. **If you contribute a report for the book of reports, please submit it to the church office by December 18.** Thank you.

Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **12/7 and 12/21** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 S. Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are welcome to join us! For more info., please contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us



THANK YOU

Thank you for your time, donations and support with our Basket Sale on Nov. 16; it was a great success and couldn't have been accomplished without the wonderful help of the following people:

Helped assemble baskets:

Marti Kemp • Barb Schroeder • Dawn Kinnunen • Annie McGuire • Rose Larsen • JoAnn Loutsch • Sharon Yekaldo

Helped on the day of the sale:

Annie McGuire • Bonnie Dick • Karen Cohoes • JoAnn Loutsch • Denise Krois • Sharon Yekaldo • Christina Yekaldo

Sorry if we've missed someone ...
all are appreciated!

— Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk

December 2013 Worship Schedule

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December 1 — 1st Sunday of Advent — *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Sermon: "Walking in the Light of the Lord "

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Charles Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:

Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo

December 8 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Preparing the Way"

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Greeter: Karen Cohoes

Lay Reader: George Brown

Fellowship Time hosts:

December 15 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Go and Tell"

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Greeter: Lynn Mens

Lay Reader: Barbara Schroeder

Fellowship Time host:

December 22 — 4th Sunday of Advent

★ *Sunday School will lead worship*

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Greeter: Dianne Mens

Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen

Fellowship Time host:

★ **December 24 — Christmas Eve**

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

★ **4:00 p.m. – Family Candlelight Worship**

★ **10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Worship**

December 29 — 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Sermon: "Knowing When to Leave"

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

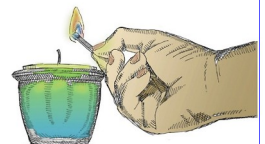
Greeter: JoAnn Loutsch

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host:

Sunday, December 15, 2013 • 4:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Worship Service



December (+) 2013 Calendar

- 8 -

Sun. 12/1 9:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Mon. 12/2 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Wed. 12/4 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Thurs. 12/5 11:00 a.m. Mobile Meals
6:30 p.m. Balcony Team
Sat. 12/7 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Breakfast with Santa
Sun. 12/8 9:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Outreach Committee
Mon. 12/9 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Wed. 12/11 4:30 p.m. United Methodist Women
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Sun. 12/15 9:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship
Mon. 12/16 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Wed. 12/18 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Confirmation
Sat. 12/21 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
Sun. 12/22 9:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Mon. 12/23 10:00a.m. Craft Group
Tues.12/24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Sun. 12/29 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Mon. 12/30 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Sat. 1/4 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
Sun. 1/5 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Mon. 1/6 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Wed. 1/8 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees
7:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 1/9 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Church Council
Sat. 1/11 9:00 a.m. Christmas Takedown
Sun. 1/12 9:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Mon. 1/13 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
Wed. 1/15 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



December Highlights at a Glance

- Saturday, December 7 — Breakfast with Santa
- Sunday, December 15 — Blue Christmas worship time at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 22 — Sunday School will help lead worship
- Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 and 10:30

Merry Christmas!

- The church office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

Christmas Family

This year Faith Church is again sponsoring a family and individuals through the Neighbors' Christmas program. Be watching for the tree to appear in the Narthex with the names, ages and suggestions. For more information contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388



"We would like to *THANK* everybody who has helped by bringing food and clothing for Neighbors, Inc. The first Monday in November we took in 82 lbs. of food and donations! Right now we are collecting jackets, caps, and mittens; and we really need underwear in kids' sizes. With winter coming, there is a big need for winter clothing for all ages. Thank you for all your help." — Karen Cohoes & Marti Kemp

Scrip Program:

Through FUMC you can purchase gift cards & certificates for merchants you regularly use, and help our church in the process! Card values range in price from \$5 to \$100; most around \$25. (Great for holiday gift-giving!) Our church benefits from your purchase by making a profit on every card you buy. Consider using Scrip through the church for your gift card purchases.

While supplies last we have for following Scrip Cards from which to choose:

\$10.00 Cards:

Starbucks; Burger King; Chipotle; Barnes & Noble; Panera Bread

\$25.00 Cards:

Rainbow Foods; Lowes; Olive Garden/Red Lobster; Applebees; Holiday Stations Stores; Target; Walmart; Office Max; Best Buy; Walgreens; Shutterfly (online for cards and calendars)

\$50.00 Cards:

Subway; BP Gas; Rainbow Foods

\$100.00 Cards:

Walmart

Decorating the Church for Christmas

It's soon time to decorate for Christmas! Come join in the fun and we'll get it done **Saturday, November 30 starting at 9:30 am.**

We will decorate the Fellowship Hall first (to get ready for *Breakfast with Santa* the following Saturday), then we'll enjoy a delicious lunch together. After lunch we will start decorating in the Sanctuary! Together we can do it! For more info contact Judy Turk at 651-343-8027. Thanks!



Breakfast with Santa



Volunteers & food donations are needed to help with Breakfast with Santa. To help, please contact Linda Cox at 651-778-8090



Help Needed for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve Worship Services

We are seeking volunteers to help with ushering, greeting, running the PowerPoint, and leading worship for the Blue Christmas Worship on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4:00 p.m. and on Christmas Eve at both the 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. worship services. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gail, 651-457-5686.

Baby Shower

Sunday, December 22 we will have a baby shower for Ekemini Jonathan and her daughter Ava Marie Blessing. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. for games and fun. Then we will have a potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a present for Ekemini and Ava and a dish to share. For more information contact Liz Chun, 651- 543-1999.

Ushers

We are looking for some folks who would be willing to help usher on Sunday morning. If you are interested please contact the church office. There will be training after worship on Sunday, December 15 for just a few minutes. If you have questions please talk to Bruce Opp, Linda Cox or Pastor Gail.

Adult Sunday School

This year during Sunday School the adults will have available an opportunity to look at the Christmas story and its implications for today. We will use video, discussion and Bible study. All adults are welcome.

A Tale of the Candy Cane

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.



The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds – the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for “Jesus.”

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.



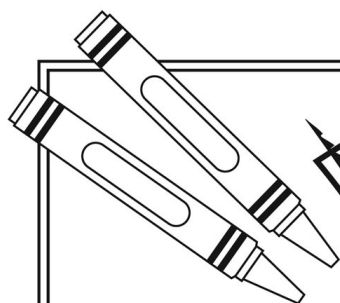
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

YOUR GIFT TO MISSION THAT IS MADE ONLINE THROUGH THE ADVANCE ON
UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY WILL BE MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR!



As part of the *UMC #Giving Tuesday*, The Board of Global Ministries will match Advance Special donations received on Tuesday, December 3. Minnesotans are asked to support Emma Norton Services (Advance #171200). Located in St. Paul and Maplewood, ENS fosters stability and personal growth for women and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing affordable, secure housing along with a sense of community and innovative support services. To double the impact of your donation, go to www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Advance-Project-Search on **Tuesday, December 3 from 12:01 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.** Enter *Advance* number #171200 to donate via credit card. To donate by check, please bring your check to the church office by Monday, Dec. 2, and we will make the donation online on Tuesday. Thank you for your support.

KIDS IN SEARCH



PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY
NAME IS

gyhMti

dGo

MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS
vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY
NAME IS

niPcre

aPcee

of



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

PEACE Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- 3 white feathers
- Floral wire (two pieces)



What you do:

1. Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
2. Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
3. Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
4. From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
6. Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
7. Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1530 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul MN 55118

December 2013

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 774

Worship Schedule

*Please join us this Sunday
for worship, study and fellowship:*

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Worship the 4th Sunday of Advent will center on

“Just a Little Christmas”

— the children's Christmas presentation —
Invite a friend to church!

All Advent & Christmas worship opportunities
at Faith Church are highlighted in this newsletter.



FAITH IN ACTION is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul MN 55118
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