

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

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

January/February 2014



"Souper Bowl" Sunday



Soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2

Sunday, February 2, the United Methodist Women will have **soup** available for sale! There will be different kinds of soups — all homemade and delicious. So plan to buy some soup then and warm up your day!

If you are willing to contribute soup, please contact Joyce Ecker, 651-235-2558.

The ABCs of love

It's February, the "love month", and stores are brimming with valentine cards, candy, and gifts. As we look for the perfect way to express our love to one another, we can also focus uniquely on God's love and how we respond to that love. Use this alphabetical list of love-in-action verbs as a reminder of the many ways we can reflect Christ's love:



Notices Accepts **B**ehaves **O**verlooks **C**omforts **P**rovides **D**efends **Q**uiets Rejoices **E**mpowers Forgives Supports Tries Grows **U**nderstands Helps Invests Volunteers Joins Welcomes Kneels eXpects Listens Yields Mentors adds Zest to life





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January Birthdays

		Haley Worden Beverly Ysaguirre	1/10 —	Jacob Kranz Rodney Rankin		George Brown Phil Phipps
		Lucy Schwendinger Troy Schweda		•		Bethany Kay Espeseth
7 1,	/6 —	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1/18—	Joyce Ecker Barbara Henk	1/31 —	Maryanne Maurer Marliss Knudson
	/9—	Austin Worden Andrew Lukas	1/25 —	Alexander Sielski Jalen Haom		Scott Spatafore Davie Peine

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

Thank you to and for during December...

- Greeters: Taffy Storck, Karen Cohoes, Lynn Mens, Dianne Mens, and JoAnn Loutsch
- Liturgists: Charles Beardshear, George Brown, Barb Schroeder, Gil Kinnunen, and Sharon Yekaldo.
- Serving refreshments: Pat & Paul Williams, and Linda Cox
- Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo
- Thank you to the Sunday School students and teachers for leading worship on December 22.
- THANK YOU to all who donated food or money, worked and came to eat to support the Breakfast with Santa. You are all appreciated. It's always so much fun to see the kids' faces when Santa comes through the door ringing his "jingle bells". It was total silence and then cheering for Santa. The following people came that cold Saturday to help with cooking, serving, photos and then cleaning up: JoAnn Loutsch, Bonnie Dick, Mike Schwendinger, Marti Kemp, Barbara Schroeder, Judy Turk, Carol Schuldt, Pat Williams, Lynn Bonkowske, Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, Taffy Storck, Dawnetta and Jason Isaacson, Mathew Palmer, Jeff Cox, Jeff Cox Jr., Dylan Cox, Kim Cox, and Karen Cohoes. We did miss our additional usual helpers Laurel Venhuizen and Ruth Campion. After the freewill offering on Sunday, the Breakfast made \$272.00 for the church budget. Thank you to everyone involved! Linda Cox
- **Thank you** to the Candle lighters: Carol Schuldt, Bill & Lynn Bonkowske, John, Charles & Dana Scopatz, and Sharon & Christina Yekaldo for lighting the Advent Candles; Isabelle Pippert and Linda Cox for lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Eve worship services: Jalen Haom, Rose Larsen, John Kemp, Paul Williams, Jeff and Linda Cox (for ushering) and Bernice Killian, Jalen Haom and Gil & Dawn Kinnunen for being our greeters.
- **Thank you** to Bill Bonkowske, Lynn Bonkowske, Barbara Schroeder, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, JoAnn Loutsch, Marti & John Kemp, Sharon Yekaldo, Christina Yekaldo, Mia Sorenson, Antonio Sorenson, Judy Turk, Carol Schuldt, and Rose Larsen for helping with decorating the church for Advent & Christmas. Thank you to Fred & Bonnie Dick for providing lunch and to Judy Turk for coordinating the day.
- Thank you to Judy Turk, Carol Schuldt, Bonnie Dick and Joanne Loutsch for helping assemble the December newsletter.

February Birthdays



2/2 — Colleen Spadaccini 2/11 — Jeffrey Boelter

— Marie Geist 2/14 — Sheryl Watchorn

Stophen Larson Fred Knutson Ir

Stephen Larsen
 Brian Sielski
 Fred Knutson, Jr.
 Ray Bell

Rebecca Hovey
 2/10 — Doris Johnson

2/7 — Roxanne Napier 2/23 — William Bonkowske 2/8 — Alana Sielski 2/24 — Mackenna Emery

2/9 — Paul DeNardo 2/28 — Carie Otto

2/10 — Jill Vanderhoff — Macenzie Worden

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

Thank you to and for during January...

- Greeters: Taffy Storck, Maryanne Maurer, and Fred & Bonnie Dick
- Liturgists: Sharon Yekaldo, Caroline Pippert, Charles Beardshear, and Carol Schuldt
- Serving refreshments: JoAnn Loutsch & Judy Turk, and Paul & Pat Williams
- Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo
- **Thank you** to the following people who help take down the Christmas decorations: Bruce Opp, Judy Pfenning, Bonnie Dick, Ron Brummund, Laurel Venhuizen, Gil Kinnunen, Bill Bonkowske, Carol Schuldt and Judy Turk
- Thank you! Marti and I would like to thank everybody who helped with food, clothing and money donations to Neighbors, Inc. this year. Also a thank you to all the people who helped in Adopt-a-Family and our senior lady and gentleman for Christmas. We did very well. This is a joyful time of the year for us to help bring joy and happiness to families in need. We look forward to continuing our 1st Sunday of the Month food drive, and can always use clothes, socks, underwear, toothpaste, or toothbrushes any time. Thank you Marti & Karen

During January we collected money for "Imagine No Malaria". On Sunday, **January 19** the Outreach Committee sold cinnamon rolls. Altogether we raised \$82.00 which went to "Imagine No Malaria" through the annual conference.



Imagine No Malaria successes — what your dollars can do:

- A few years ago there was a malaria death every 30 seconds, now it's every 60 seconds.
- 1.2 million insecticide-treated bed nets have been distributed.
- 5,400 community health workers have been trained to educate people on using bed nets.
- Radio messages are being broadcast throughout Africa about malaria prevention and awareness.
- 300 hospitals, clinics and health posts are being operated to serve the people of Africa.

Did you know... that Sharon Yekaldo coordinates the Sunday morning readers and communion stewards? Be sure to thank her.



Steps on the Journey

Christmas Day has past and we have moved to the season of Epiphany. The coming of the Wise Men or Magi— the season of surprise. A time of amazement and new possibilities and the spirit of Christmas lives on. The magi went in search of possibilities, they followed a star and came to an exciting discovery, a child who would change the world. They left with a sense of amazement and dreamed of new possibilities. They cared the spirit of joy and peace with them.

As we move into this winter time it is sometimes difficult to carry the sense of amazement and new possibilities with us. It is much easier to complain about the cold and the snow, whining for it to be over. We get tired of looking at white. Bundling up whenever we go out. We miss the amazing things that are happening around us and within us. We miss the new possibilities that are being set before us. We allow grouchiness and weariness to enter our lives and replace the joy and peace that were there.

What would happen if this year we tried to keep the awe and wonder of Christmas with us? What would happen if we tried to see the new possibilities with new eyes? What if peace and joy abided in our hearts? How might the world be different? How might we be different?

Would we see sharks in the snow?

Peace in Christ, Gail



Drayer Motes D

Congregational Care Concerns:

- Liz Chun had surgery on her hand in December
- Adeline DeNardo was hospitalized with renal failure; she is now home.
- Nathaniel DeNardo had pneumonia; he is now home.
- Henry Hovey had surgery on his back and is now in rehab in St. Croix Falls, WI.
- Clayton Van Siclen broke his collarbone.

<u>Ongoing Concerns</u>: (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:

- Our sympathy to Willmer Binder on the death of his brother
- Our sympathy to Jeff Cox on the death of his sister Ann
- Our sympathy to Mike Schwendinger on the sudden death of his brother

<u>The Money Pot</u> welcomes your change at any time to help support the offering of the month. During February, we will be collecting for the



North Dakota County Mobile Meals program. This program allows people to receive a hot meal Monday through Friday in their own homes. The program has its office here at Faith Church. Several of our members drive for Mobile Meals.

2014 Mobile Meals Schedule for Faith UMC (Thursdays)



- January 2
- January 30
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- ♦ May 22
- June 19

- July 17
- August 14
- September 11
- October 9
- November 6
- December 4
- 1/1/15 (holiday)





<u>The Prayer Chain is active</u>. 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.

<u>Hospital Calls</u>: 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 Winter:

Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issues** of devotional publications <u>The Upper Room</u> (daily readings in regular or large print), or <u>Alive Now</u>. These booklets are found on the table by the parking lot door.

Living in Faith

IN APPRECIATION!

Thank you to all of you for your generous Christmas monetary gift. I am overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness. It is my pleasure and delight to be called your pastor. Thank you.

— *Gail* —

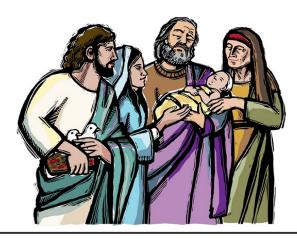


Our elders in the faith

In early February, some churches recall how Baby Jesus' parents brought him to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice. Two "church elders" met them: Simeon, who we assume was elderly because he was ready to die, but for his longing to see the Messiah; and Anna, who was 84 — a "senior citizen" by any account (Luke 2:22-40).

Their years didn't make them elders, though, as much as their wisdom and faith. Simeon was "righteous and devout." He came to the temple as the Holy Family did because when the Spirit guided him to go, he knew the divine voice. Then, despite the Messiah's improbably young age, Simeon recognized Jesus and spoke God-given words about him. Anna was a "prophet" who had spent countless hours in the temple, fasting and praying. Upon meeting the Christ-Child, she promptly began praising God and speaking about Jesus to all who would listen.

Who are your elders in the faith? Whatever their age, doubtless they live out their faith by waiting on and listening for the Spirit, praising God regularly and speaking of Jesus to others.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS 2013 A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRY CENTER — Over 6,000 Christmas gifts in shoe boxes were distributed to children on six reservations in the Dakotas and Minnesota — thanks in part to the United Methodist Interpreter magazine having featured an article about Shoebox Christmas last summer. The informative article resulted in 3,079 gifts, or 48% being received from churches outside the Dakotas Conference.

The Dakotas Conference, through the generosity of our local churches, donated 3,336 gifts to the Shoebox Christmas effort. The grand total of gifts distributed was 6,415.

The Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota received Shoebox Christmas gifts this year for the first time. "Because of the generosity of so many we were able to add the Standing Rock Reservation," stated Libby Flowers, Spirit Lake Ministry Center.

The list of people who donated gifts and time for the distribution of gifts is long and large. "There are far too many people who have donated gifts, funds and time to mention them all here, but please know that we appreciate your generous support and prayers. You have shared the love of Jesus Christ and made the

difference the lives of many children and adults. I wish everyone of you could be there to witness the tears of joy when we deliver these small gifts of love. God Bless you all,"

 Mike Flowers, Spirit Lake Ministry Center.

(Faith was able to send 10 shoeboxes to help support this ministry)





2014 Calendars yet available

It's not too late to get organized with a 2014 wall calendar with gorgeous pictures and Bible verses! For those on the go, we also have pocket calendars. Large wall calendars are \$7. each, pocket calendars are \$5. each. See Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske to buy your calendars.

➤ 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.

Thank You

Thank you, "Faith Friends", for your Christmas wishes and monetary gift. Your kindheartedness is very appreciated! — *Susan Filter*



DARTS Volunteers Sought

DARTS has received several requests from older adults living in the West St. Paul area who would enjoy a volunteer to spend some time visiting, help-

ing with errands, or enjoying an activity together. As a volunteer visitor, you're matched with an older adult who you see weekly or every other week...it's a flexible opportunity.

If you would like to make a difference in the life on an older neighbor through this volunteer opportunity or others at DARTS, contact Barb Tiggemann, 651-455-1560 or barb.tiggemann@darts1.org to learn more.

COMING VERY SOON!

Our 10th annual Live/Silent Auction

Saturday, April 5, 2014

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

Do you have items you would like to donate to the April 5 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!

Do You Have Extra 2014 Calendars?

If you have extra 2014 calendars that you do not need, please bring them to church and we will offer them to people who can use them.

Church Office Hours

Susan will be working 20 hours a week for the church and will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. **Pastor Gail** will be in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays most weeks.



<u>Growing in Faith</u>

~ Practice ~



Sitting in

Solitude

In a quiet place where you can be alone and quiet, focus on one thing:

a bird at the feeder
the ripples on a watery surface
the shape of a cloud
a favorite icon
a cross at the altar
even your own hand

Allow your breathing to become progressively slower and deeper until you relax to a pace that permits listening for God's guidance. Don't try to direct or manipulate your thoughts; simply allow yourself to be in God's presence, using the object you've selected to guide you into a sense of peace, a surprising insight, or wherever it might lead you.

From Praying in the Messiness of Life: 7 Ways to Renew Your Relationship with God by Linda Douty. Copyright © 2011 by the author. Used by permission of Upper Room Books.

February 2 — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: "Foolishness or Wisdom"

Greeter: Taffy Storck Lay Reader: John Kemp Fellowship Time host:

Communion Steward: Karen Cohoes

February 9 — 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon Title: "Are You Salty?"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Angela High-Pippert

Fellowship Time host:

February 16 — 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon Title: "What are we to Do?"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Pat Giorgini Fellowship Time host:

February 23 — 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23;

Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon Title: "Loving Your Enemies"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: George Brown

Fellowship Time host:

Looking ahead to Lent:

<u>Lenten Studies</u>

Lent at Faith UMC will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5 with supper and worship. During the Lenten season, educational opportunities will be available including a class on United Methodist history and theology. Be watching for more details.

February 2014 Calendar

Sat. 2/1	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Mon. 2/24	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sun. 2/2	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed. 2/26	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Sunday School	Sat. 3/1	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sun. 3/2	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	•	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's
Mon. 2/3	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group			Sunday School
Wed. 2/5	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
,	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Thurs. 2/6	6:30 p.m.	Balcony Team	Mon. 3/3	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sun. 2/9	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed. 3/5	5:15p.m.	Supper
•	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	•	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
		Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Thurs. 3/6	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Mon. 2/10	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	•	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wed. 2/12	4:30 a.m.	United Methodist Women	Sun. 3/9	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal			Sunday School
Sat. 2/15	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Sun. 2/16	9:30 a.m.	Worship		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	Mon. 3/10	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
		Sunday School	Wed. 3/12	5:15p.m.	Supper
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		6:30 p.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Mon. 2/17	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Wed. 2/19	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation	Sat. 3/15	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sun. 3/16	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Sun. 2/23	9:30 a.m.	Worship		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's			Sunday School
		Sunday School		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School			
				A A -	

Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of 2/1, 2/15, 3/1 and 3/15 at the Fire-

side Lounge,1288 S. Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are welcome to join us! For more information, please

contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us





KIDS IN SEARCH



We can't measure God's love for us. It starts

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

before we're born and continues for eternity.

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NEVER-ENDING

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.





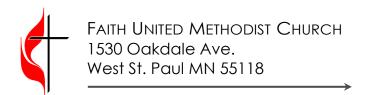


What you need:

- · Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)

What you do:

- Glue paper onto the container. Write "God's Love" in permanent marker. Decorate with heart stickers.
- Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
- 3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
- 4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.



Jan./Feb. 2014



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Worship Schedule

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.



Need a new tradition to begin the new year?

One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.



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. <u>Visit us at www.faithumcmn.com</u>