



# Faith in Action

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

August 2014

## Evenings at Covington

**Community outreach** is one of the goals identified by the visioning team for our church. We have had a wonderful time at Covington Court Apartments in June and July: we have eaten with our neighbors, played games and had the Science Guy with us— **and** we have another opportunity to enjoy being with our Covington friends this summer: our final 'Evening at Covington' on **Friday evening, August 15**. We will have a guest hula hooper with us teach us all some moves. If you are able to help, please contact Barbara Schroeder at 651-554-9365 to let her know you can attend. Thank you for your consideration. (Located at 364 Marie Ave. E. in West St. Paul)



### Inside this Issue:

Recognitions **2**

Prayer Notes **3**

Steps on the Journey **4**

Living in Faith **5**

Growing in Faith **6**

Worship Schedule **7**

Calendar **8**

Activity Page **9**



## GARAGE SALE AUGUST 15-16



Our great garage sale is **Friday, Aug. 15** from 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and **Saturday, Aug. 16** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please bring your garage sale donations to the church **at this time**. We accept donations up to and including early morning of the day of the sale. If you have questions, please call Linda Cox at 651-778-8090.

## Coming this Fall

**Rally Day – Sunday, Sept. 7:** We will resume our regular church schedule of programs. Sunday School for youth and children will start, and the Sanctuary Choir will begin the fall season.

**Children's Sunday School** this year will be divided into 3 groups: pre-school & children; Grades 1-4; and 5th grade and up. Classes will begin at 9:45 a.m. — after children's time in worship.

**Adult Sunday School:** Starting Sunday, September 15 at 10:50 a.m. We will begin a class on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, leader in a movement against Hitler during World War II, and a leading theologian of all time. The class will explore Bonhoeffer's life and why his faith still speaks to us today. Be watching the September newsletter for more details.

# August Birthdays

- 2 -

8/5 — Peggy Spatafore  
Anthony Yekaldo  
8/6 — Kathy Johnson  
8/9 — Deborah Pate  
8/11 — Daniel Bonkowske  
8/13 — Kaden Emery  
Greg Nelson, Jr.  
Rose Marie Nelson  
8/14 — Elizabeth Lukas  
Marsha Spatafore  
8/15 — Joseph Spatafore

8/17 — Raymond Fjerstad  
Claudia Sanchez  
8/19 — Kasey Kropp  
Linnea Rostad  
8/20 — Richard G. Espeseth  
8/21 — Carol Ward  
8/23 — Rebekah Bell  
8/24 — Samantha Kropp  
Roseanne Larsen  
John Willocks  
8/26 — Ronald Brummund  
8/29 — Terri Bougue

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

## Thank you to and for during June & July...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Laurel Venhuizen, Maryanne Maurer, Carol Schuldt, Barbara Schroeder, and Sharon Yekaldo
- **Liturgists:** Tim Pippert, Angela High-Pippert, Gil Kinnunen, Bill Bonkowske, Carol Schuldt, John Kemp, Ann Beardshear, and Lucy Schwendinger
- **Serving refreshments:** Bonnie Dick, JoAnn Loutsch, John Kemp, Judy Turk, Linda Cox, and Laurel Venhuizen
- **Communion Stewards:** Judy Pfenning, and Sharon Yekaldo
- **Thank you for the volunteers** who helped assemble the June/July newsletter
- **Thank you** to Chip Schuldt, Barbara Schroeder, Gil Kinnunen, Carol Schuldt and Bruce Opp for painting the Narthex.
- **Thank you** to Bruce & Lee Opp, Judy Turk, Bill Short, and Paul Williams for their work maintaining the landscape around the church — and especially in the church's Memorial Garden. It looks awesome!
- **Thank you** to the following people for helping with the June Covington meal: Joe & Ruth Campion, Paul & Pat Williams, Bonnie & Fred Dick, Barbara Schroeder, Sharon Yekaldo, Lynn & Bill Bonkowske, Rose & Steve Larsen.
- **"I want to THANK** all of Faith church for making me feel at home for the last 28 years. I have a lot of memories here. **I also want to thank** the United Methodist Women for letting me be president for the last 18 years. It was fun. **Our new address is:** 3665 Needles Hwy., Unit 19A, Laughlin, NV 89029." — Joyce Ecker

### Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** is in hospice care.
- ♦ **Becky Seaquist** had heart and lung surgery earlier this summer.
- ♦ **Marti Kemp** is at Southview Acres in rehab.
- ♦ **Bernice Killian** had knee replacement surgery. She is at home recovering.
- ♦ **Liz Chun** has had some health difficulties.
- ♦ **Joe Campion** was hospitalized and is now home recovering.
- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** continues care in rehab.

**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.

### Concerns beyond our doors:

- ♦ Those being persecuted for their faith
- ♦ 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

*"Just Pray"*



**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 during August:*

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.

### August Money Pot Donations

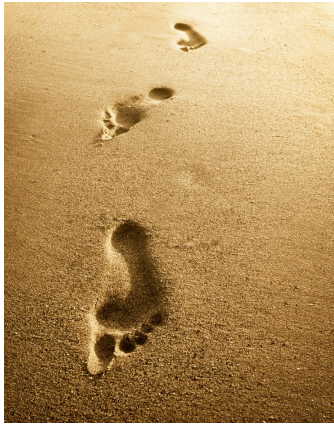
♦ **The Money Pot** welcomes your change! If you have loose change, take it off your hands on Sunday or any time during the week and support the offering of the month. In August, Money Pot donations go to support Neighbors, Inc. for school supplies and underwear. You may place money in the pot or bring school items or new underwear (in original packaging only, please) to Faith. We will then give the money and supplies to Neighbors for their distribution.



### Church Office Hours

**Pastor Gail** will be in the church office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of most weeks. She is away at a jurisdictional meeting August 4-8.

**Susan** will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon until 5:00 p.m.



# Steps on the Journey

When we were working through our values and vision last year, one of the things we said was important to us was the opportunity for people to grow in their faith. We want people to move and enlarge their understanding of their lives, the Bible and their relationships with God and one another. We recognized that faith is a process we engage in all our lives that God moves us towards perfection in love.

To help support this value we remind ourselves of the opportunities already part of our life together. We have the adult Sunday School class, sanctuary choir, men's breakfast, United Methodist Women, Sunday School for the children & youth, confirmation and short term opportunities. This next year we are looking at three new opportunities to offer to the congregation.

The first is a Bible reading group. This group would meet together for 1½ to 2 hours and read out loud a book of the Bible. This would be a way for use to hear the flow of the story rather than the pieces we hear on Sunday morning. We would all use the same translation. There would not be preparation in advance or homework from the group. This will allow us to follow the faith journey each book invites us to take.

The second group will be "Graceful Journey". This will be a chance to look at end-of-life issues. Whether they are issues we ourselves or someone we love are facing, these modules will give us some of the tools we need. This will be a 4 week series taking place after Christmas.

The third group is a movie & discussion group. The group will meet 4-6 times during the year. We will gather and watch a movie together and then have a discussion about it. Sometimes it might be a theatrical production, other times it may be a documentary or a television production.

All of these are open to anyone in the congregation. No times or dates have been set, so if you are interested in any of these please contact me with your preferences. If you have questions please feel free to talk to me.

As we continue on the journey we grow in our faith.

*Peace in Christ,*

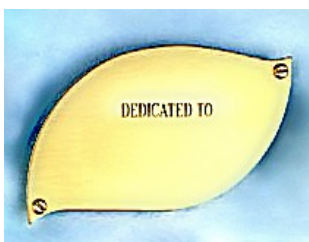
*Gail*



## Memorial Tree

On the wall in the church narthex is a TREE with gold leaves. This is a memory/honor tree, where each of the engraved leaves have been given in memory or honor of someone. The *memory* leaves remind us of the past and the people who have helped and supported us in our journey of faith. The *leaves in honor* of someone remind us of the people who walk with us now and into the future. Each leaf represents a gift of \$500. We have recently included a new engraved leaf to the tree:

- In Loving Memory of Larsen/Unruh Families  
In Our Hearts Forever  
Steve & Roseanne Larsen



If you have questions or would like to donate a leaf, please visit with Lynn Mens, 651-455-8878 or see Pastor Gail .

## Will you help maintain the church lawn yet this summer?



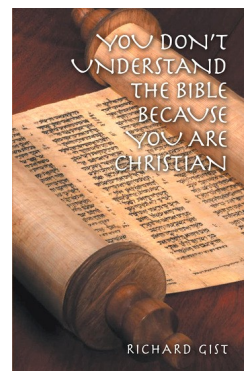
With all the recent rain, we ask for volunteers to help mow the church lawn. We have **two riding lawn mowers** so you and a friend or spouse can mow together if you wish. To volunteer, reach Lynn Bonkowske at 651-455-6542 or [bonkowske1@msn.com](mailto:bonkowske1@msn.com).

## Scrip Program

For several years Faith has participated in the scrip program. Scrip is gift cards for various stores in our community. Faith purchases the gift cards at a discount and then sells them for face value. The profit is used to support the ministries of our church. Since the beginning Marsha Spatafore has been the person responsible for scrip here at Faith. She is ready to pass this on to someone else. The program involves ordering scrip, keeping track of the inventory, advertizing it and selling it. If you are interested in becoming the scrip person please contact Marsha Spatafore, 651-451-8713 or Pastor Gail.

## A "Good Read"

Retired MN UMC pastor Richard Gist announced the release of his latest book on Aug. 1 entitled *You Don't Understand the Bible Because You are Christian*. The book comes with a warning: "If you don't want to ask questions about the Bible, be challenged to think, or laugh occasionally, leave this book on the shelf." – (Rev. David A. Bard, Ph.D. Pastor, First UMC, Duluth ) Previewers also describe the book as "creative, insightful, humorous, passionate, sensitive, thought provoking, and challenging." In other words, a good read. It is available at [friesenpress.com](http://friesenpress.com) (usually best price), or soon from Amazon, B&N, or through most any bookstore. Additional info available at Dick's website: [www.richardgist.com](http://www.richardgist.com).



## Neighbors, Inc.

During the month of July, our food shelf at church has been low. With the children out of school, they go through more food at home. Neighbors, Inc. can **always** use pancake mix, syrup, soup, tuna, beef stew, assorted cereals, baked beans, Hamburger Helper, and other canned meat.

Neighbors is also looking for school supplies, underwear, and socks of all sizes. If you would like to make a money donation , you can make out a check to Faith United Methodist Church and indicate in the memo line that the donation is for Neighbors, Inc.

Neighbors also welcomes donations of brown paper grocery bags at any time, and they run low quickly. You can drop off bags at the food shelf or simply bring them to church. They really like the bags with the handles.

Thank you! — Karen & Marti

## How Does our Garden Grow?

Faith UMC's garden has produced its "first fruits" (vegetables, actually) for the Neighbors Food Shelf. On the last day of July, we delivered cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, and bags of basil and oregano. We're a little behind last year in production, but the future looks promising for the aforementioned veggies plus squash, pole beans, and bush beans. This is our fourth summer of growing vegetables for the Neighbors Food Shelf. If you would like to help with the garden project (e.g., watering, weeding, harvesting, sharing your expertise), please contact Dawn or Gil Kinnunen in person at 651-451-2556, or email [gilogram@gmail.com](mailto:gilogram@gmail.com).

## Summer Meal Program Update

In partnership with other neighborhood churches, Faith UMC once again participated in the Neighbors, Inc. Summer Meals Program at Garlough Elementary School in West St. Paul. Seven volunteers from Faith served breakfast to about 200 students for three days (July 21-23). Volunteers included Ann Beardshear, Lori DeNardo, Gil Kinnunen; Barb Schroeder; Isabelle, Caroline, & Tim Pippert. It has become a tradition to select our favorite message t-shirts worn by the kids. This year's "best in show" included:

- *I make dirt look good.*
- *I rule the school.*
- *Keep the beat!*
- *Play like a girl.*
- *Tough guys wear pink.*
- *Warning! Contents extremely AMAZING!*

## Minnesota Miracle:

Gary Fitch (Joan's husband) is participating in a 300-mile, 30-day walk to help stamp out hunger in Minnesota. Sponsored by Minnesota Miracle, with support through Second Harvest Heartland, Gary's walk began on Aug. 2 in International Falls, and will end at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on Sept. 1. Learn more at <http://minnesotamiracle.com/the-walk.html>. Elsewhere on the website is a 'Where is Gary Now?' link to an interactive map pinpointing Gary's exact location via GPS, as well as ways you can donate to this worthy cause.

## Lovingly Fitted

Christine Valters Paintner

*King Solomon made himself and enclosed litter of wood from Lebanon. He made its columns of silver, its roof of gold, its seat of purple cloth, its interior lovingly fitted. —Song of Songs 3:9-10, New American Bible*

Several years ago my husband and I were praying *lectio divina*, using the passage above, and the words "lovingly filled" shimmered forth for me from the text.

The theme for me this summer, as I have had a sabbatical from teaching, has been sustainability. How do I continue to nourish the work I am doing and flourish in the process? What are the things to say "no" to, so that I might have more space for the fullness of blossoming? What are the essential practices that cultivate joyfulness in this work?

When I read the words "lovingly fitted," I had to take pause. In the passage it is referring to King Solomon's litter, which is a kind of seat or throne. But as I prayed with the words and let them stir my imagination, I found myself invited to ponder the ways God wants my life "lovingly filled" for me. What I think this means, in part, is not living someone else's life or another person's expectations of what I thing I "should" be doing.

"Lovingly fitted" speaks to me of taking great time and care to craft something that fits a person just so. How might I craft my days with such joy, attentiveness, reverence, and love for my own abundant gifts? What if each day were a throne, a royal seat, and holy tabernacle?

And it is not just me doing the fitting. I do it by listening to the Source of all wisdom within. I listen for the thrumming beat of love and what makes my heart pound more loudly.

How do I "lovingly fit" my days? How do I craft my book of days so that generosity can be poured forth?... Hand in hand with these questions, begs the question of all the ways we sabotage our own best efforts, when we take on things to please others, or not disappoint them, or we continue doing what has brought us joy in the past without realizing that things have gently shifted, and our souls are ready and hungry for new nourishment and challenges...

For Hildegard of Bingen, and fundamental principle of discernment was *viriditas*—or the greening power of God. We are to seek out what most deeply nourishes us in both body and soul. What contributes to our flourishing is holy. What depletes us is not, so we can stop worshipping at the altar of busyness for the sake of appearing important or productive.

We can pause and ask ourselves, what would it mean to live as if my life were "lovingly fitted" for me? To believe that God does not demand us to contort our spirits into other people's versions of us, but to recognize our life task as living what is uniquely given to us?

May we encounter the greening of our souls in profound new ways, so as to bring that kind of vitality back to the world. May you find an abundance of greening moments revealed each day.

Adapted from the *Abbey of the Arts Blog* by Christine Valters Paintner.

Abbeyofthearts, cin Used with permission.

ALIVE NOW March/April 2014

# August 2014 Worship Schedule

- 7 -

## **August 3 — 8th Sunday after Pentecost** — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon Title: "Broken Pieces"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time host:

Communion Steward:

## **August 10 — 9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture Readings: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon by Rev. Dana Scopatz

Greeter: Barbara Schroeder

Lay Reader: Charles Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:

## **August 17 — 10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Sermon Title: "Crumbs and Healing"

Greeter: Dianne Mens

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time host:

## **August 24 — 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture Readings: Exodus 1:1-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Title: "Who Jesus Is and Who we Are"

Greeter: Judy Pfenning

Lay Reader: Mike Schwendinger

Fellowship Time host:

## **August 31 — 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture Readings: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Title: "Following Jesus"

Greeter: Maryanne Maurer

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host:



*As we enjoy this long, warm month, and as it draws to a close,  
we're both grateful for the rejuvenating summer  
and eager for fall's new energy.  
Thank you for seasons, Lord.*



# August 2014 Calendar

- 8 -

Sat., 8/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Sat., 8/30	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 8/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sun., 8/31	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	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
Mon., 8/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Mon., 9/1		Office Closed
Sun., 8/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed., 9/3	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Mon., 8/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Thur., 9/4	6:00 a.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group		7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thur., 8/14	11:20 a.m.	Mobile Meals	Sun., 9/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Fri., 8/15	9:00 a.m.	Garage Sale		9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
	6:30 p.m.	Covington Place			Sunday School
Sat., 8/16	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	9:00 a.m.	Garage Sale		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Sun., 8/17	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Mon., 9/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Wed., 9/10	6:00 p.m.	Stewardship Committee
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Mon., 8/18	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Wed., 8/20	7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relations	Thur., 9/11	11:20 a.m.	Mobile Meals
		Committee	Sat., 9/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 8/24	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sun., 9/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		9:45 a.m.	Children & Youth
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School			Sunday School
Mon., 8/25	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Wed., 8/27	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Meeting	Mon., 9/15	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Thur., 8/28	6:30 p.m.	Balcony Team			



## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **8/2, 8/16, 8/30, & 9/13** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are invited to join us! For more info, please contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or [bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us](mailto:bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us)

## Choir resumes Wednesday rehearsals:

Come! Be a part of the music ministry here at Faith! Newcomers are always invited to join us in singing God's praises! If you would like to be a part of serving the Lord and ministering to our congregation in this way, we heartily invite you to join us at choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting Wednesday, September 3.

## Financial Giving

With summer upon us, many of us are not in worship on a regular basis. The bills and expenses for the church continue throughout the summer.

Please keep your financial giving current.





# KIDS IN SEARCH



In Matthew 5:3-10, Jesus begins his teaching with the Beatitudes. They give us many reasons to be happy. The Greek word for blessed, *makarios*, also means happy!

**Directions:** Complete the Beatitudes by matching the blanks in each "Happy" phrase on the left with the bold word(s) on the right.

1. "Happy are the **POOR**  
**IN SPIRIT**

**hunger and thirst** for righteousness,  
for they will be filled."

2. "Happy are those who  
\_\_\_\_\_



**pure in heart**, for they will see God."

3. "Happy are the \_\_\_\_\_

**peacemakers**, for they will be called  
the children of God."

4. "Happy are those who  
\_\_\_\_\_

**persecuted** because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

5. "Happy are the  
\_\_\_\_\_

**poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom  
of heaven."

6. "Happy are the \_\_\_\_\_



**merciful**, for they will be shown mercy."

7. "Happy are the  
\_\_\_\_\_

**meek**, for they will inherit the earth."

8. "Happy are those who are  
\_\_\_\_\_

**mourn**, for they will be comforted."

## Happy sunshine cupcakes

Psalm 144:15 says,  
"Blessed [or happy] are the people  
whose God is the LORD." Make these  
bright cupcakes to remember all the  
ways God makes you happy.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Cake mix
- Cupcake liners
- White frosting
- Yellow food coloring
- Black frosting or tube gel
- Candy corn



### What you do:

1. Make cupcakes by following directions on the box. Let them cool completely.
2. Stir yellow food coloring into white frosting, making it as yellow as the sun. Frost the cupcakes.
3. Using black frosting, make a happy face on each cupcake.
4. Around each cupcake, place candy corn with points out to resemble sun rays. Enjoy!



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

August 2014

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

## *Summer Worship Schedule*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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



## **RED ROCK CAMP MEETING**

**Newport United Methodist Church • August 10, 2014 • 3:00 p.m.**

The first Methodist Mission in Minnesota began in 1837. Two years after the founding of the mission, the pastor in charge moved part of the mission to the east side of the Mississippi River near the famous Red Rock of the Sioux, a sacred granite boulder painted with red stripes and worshipped for generations by the Indians. Pastor Benjamin Kavanaugh built a two-story log cabin where the first floor served as a school for children and the upper level as the pastor's home.

In 1869 Red Rock became the site of Methodist camp meetings. John Holton donated 10 acres to the "Red Rock Camp Ground Association," which held meetings each July that drew single-day crowds of 20,000 people. Special steamboats and trains brought people from St. Paul twice a day. The camp meetings continued for decades in Newport.

Both the Red Rock and the restored cabin, the oldest Methodist building in Minnesota, can be seen on the ground of the Newport United Methodist Church. Red Rock Camp Meetings were held near this site for many years.

**This August, the Red Rock Camp Meeting will be remembered and celebrated.** Bishop Bruce Ough will speak at the **Camp Meeting Service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 10 — held at Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 11th Ave., Newport** (the corner of Glen Road and 11th). Pastor John McEachran and the congregation of Newport UMC invite Minnesota United Methodists and the community to join this year's Red Rock Camp Meeting.

