



# Faith in Action

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

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

December 2014

## 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 21



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. 21 at 6:00 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.

# Birthdays this Month



12/2 — Gail Alexander	12/15 — Christian Johnson
12/5 — Nancy Reid	Michael Needham
Angela High-Pippert	12/16 — Peter DeNardo
12/6 — Nancy Rankin	12/18 — Jazlynn Gallegos
Melissa Schneider	12/19 — Meta Nachtsheim
12/8 — Angel Doughty	12/22 — Jeaneen Hovey
12/10 — Vera Young	12/23 — Ekemini Jonathon
12/11 — Dylan Cox	12/24 — Greg Nelson
Olivia Stehr	12/25 — Patrick Short
12/14 — Laurel Venhuizen	12/28 — Ryan Boelter
	12/31 — Elsie Brown

• 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, Bernice Killian, Roseanne Larsen, and Fred & Bonnie Dick
- **Liturgists:** Mike Schwendinger, John Kemp, Barbara Schroeder, Charles Beardshear, and Gil Kinnunen
- **Serving refreshments:** Judy Turk, Bonnie Dick,
- **Communion Steward:** Marsha Spatafore
- **Thank you** to Judy Turk, Bonnie Dick & Ruth Campion for helping assemble the Oct. newsletter.
- **Thank you** to Pat Giorgini, Bill Short, Sharon Yekaldo, and Roseanne Larsen for being our stewardship speakers this year.
- **Thank you** to all who helped with church clean-up day: Steve Larsen, Bill Short, Mike & Jeanna Schwendinger, Bill Bonkowske, Carol Schuldt, Barbara Schroeder, Marsha Spatafore, Angela High Pippert, Tim Pippert Pat & Paul Williams who helped on Saturday; Chip Schuldt & Greg Napier who took down the dead maple tree, and Bruce Opp who trimmed the trees on the south side of the building.
- **Thanks** to the Matt Spatafore family • Greg Napier • Steve Larsen • Bob Scopatz • Bill Short • Marsha Spatafore • Bruce Opp • Paul & Pat Williams • Chip Schuldt • Dianna & Johnny Gallegos — all of whom worked hard to help maintain the church lawn this year by either mowing, trimming weeds, or maintaining the machines and weed trimmers.
- **Thank you** to all who helped with the Day of Service. We made 13 birthing kits, 16 health kits, 10 school bags, 24 Christmas boxes for Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota and 55 cards for Mobile Ministries.

*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 —*



# Steps on the Journey

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go." The old song rings true. It is beginning to look like Christmas especially if Christmas is about presents and getting stuff. This year it is estimated that we will spend more on Christmas presents than in any resonant year. I always find that interesting as a person of faith.

While the presents are nice, I find that celebrating God come down from heaven, in the form of Jesus, a tiny baby is a much more compelling reason to celebrate.

Think about it for a minute. There is a God who loves us so much that that God was willing to give up everything to come to earth so we might better understand how much someone would give up because they love us. God was willing to come to earth as a tiny, vulnerable baby to demonstrate for us how much we are loved.

I have in my office a picture of a young Palestinian woman holding a small child that someone gave to me years ago. Every time I look at the picture I am overwhelmed by the sacrifice my God was willing to make for me. Life was not easy. It was not a time of pleasure and comfort. But it was important to God that we have someone with skin on for us to understand what it means to be a person of faith and how one lives that kind of life, knowing it will cost their life.

So this Christmas think about the best present you will receive – God with us, Emmanuel, every step of the journey.

*Peace in Christ,  
Gail*

*This year the finance committee has made the decision that even though we could use the money to pay bills here at Faith, Christmas is not about us, it is about giving to others. So this year our Christmas offering will be given to Emma Norton Services in St. Paul. Emma Norton provides housing and support to women & children who are in transition.*

### Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** is in hospice care.
- ♦ **Scott Spatafore** had cataract surgery.

### Care Centers:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** – *Augustana Emerald Crest of Victoria*
- ♦ **Marti Kemp** – *White Pine of Mendota Heights*
- ♦ **Beulah Hanvelt** – *Westwood Ridge Memory Unit in West St. Paul*
- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *Ridges Care Ctr., Burnsville*
- ♦ **Eloise Barnes** – *Arbor Lakes Senior Living in Maple Grove*
- ♦ **Marliss Knudson** – *Norris Square in Cottage Grove*

**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

### We Extend our Sympathy:

- ♦ Our sympathy to Jeanna, Mike & Lucy Schwendinger on the death of Jeanna's grandmother.

### The Money Pot

The Money Pot welcomes your change to help support the offering of the month. During December the money pot

offering goes for Emma

Norton

Services.

We will also

be collect-

ing items needed for Emma Norton such as paper towels, table napkins, cleaning supplies, hand towels, washcloths, small/medium plastic leftover containers, plastic gloves, twin sheet sets, pillows and personal care products.



partners along the journey  
of change

*Hear our prayers  
during this  
Advent  
Season*



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.

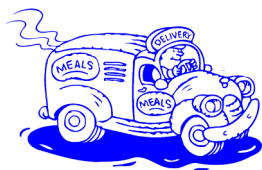
*For your times of devotion this Advent Season:*

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 —



## 2015 Mobile Meals

Schedule for Faith UMC  
(Thursdays)



- ♦ January 29
- ♦ February 26
- ♦ March 26
- ♦ April 23
- ♦ May 21
- ♦ June 18
- ♦ July 16
- ♦ August 13
- ♦ September 10
- ♦ October 8
- ♦ November 5
- ♦ December 3
- ♦ December 31

## Let God Lead

As You Gather and Give



## Faith Church Finance Campaign for 2015

Thank you to all who have turned in their commitment for 2015. According to Bill Short, Financial Secretary, as of Nov. 25, 2014, we have received 45 estimate

of giving cards for a total of \$115,557. If you have not yet turned in your 2015 estimate of giving card, please contact Bill Short.

## Year End Giving:

If you plan to give before the end of the year please send your contribution to the church. The contribution must be postmarked by December 31, 2014 or in the church office by December 31, 2014 to be counted in 2014.

## 'Un-decorating' the Church

Mark your calendar to help take down the Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 17** from noon to about 2:00. We will enjoy a free lunch together and then do the 'undecorating'. If you have any questions, call Judy Turk 651-343-8027. "Many hands make light work."



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

difference /'diferəns / [dif-er-uhns]



emma norton services

Helping Women, Children, and Families Get Healthy and Get Ahead

Emma Norton Services works with women, children, and families who are homeless and have the added challenges of mental illness, chemical dependency, or both. Safe and sober housing combined with programs and support services provide an environment where victory over homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency becomes a possibility.

Emma Norton Services began with one simple act of kindness almost a century ago by a group of women through the Methodist Church. It is through that same spirit of giving that Emma Norton Services is able to continue to provide the means and stability necessary for women, children and families to get healthy and get ahead.

We depend on your support to meet the basic needs of our residents and provide crucial services. Your help ensures the continuing operation of an organization that aids hundreds of women and children each year—women and children in dire need.

### Some examples of your dollars at work:

- \$25 funds a welcome basket with necessary items like toiletries and feminine products for one woman
- \$40 provides healthy meals for one woman for one week
- \$50 supplies bus passes to work, school, and support services for two weeks
- \$100 provides electricity and internet to Emma Norton Residence for one day
- \$250 covers 1.5 case managers to provide education, individual guidance, and life skills training
- \$500 funds a full year of afterschool sports, camps, and activities for 3 children at Emma's Place
- \$1000 provides nursing staff to care for women and families for one month

*This year our Christmas offering here at Faith is going to Emma Norton Services. We are sharing the blessing of gift we have received with others. Please be generous.*



★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 25, 2015** 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 29.** Thank you.

## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will hold their annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m. at White Pine Assistant Living in Mendota Heights. Bring a dish to share and come and enjoy the fellowship. (White Pine is located at 745 South Plaza Drive, Mendota Heights, 55120)

## **"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!"** **at SteppingStone Theatre**

**Saturday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter as the Herdman family learns about the meaning of Christmas and a small church discover what happens when you open your doors. We will attend SteppingStone Theatre's production of the popular Christmas story by author Barbara Robinson. Tickets are \$10 each. Contact Pastor Gail with your reservations by **Wednesday, December 10.**

**Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on the Saturdays of **12/6 and 12/20** 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](mailto:bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us)



## Adult Sunday School

Beginning Nov. 30 (the 1st Sunday in Advent) Gil Kinnunen began a 4 week series on the hymns of Advent & Christmas. He will talk about the carols & hymns history and the difference between Advent music and Christmas music.

## Bible Reading

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Monday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be reading the Gospel of John. We will try to finish it before we end at 8:30 p.m.



**Thanks to everyone** who helped with the basket sale ... the people who donated, prayed for us, and also purchased baskets. A special thanks to JoAnn Loutsch, Roxanne Napier, Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, Judy Pfenning, Laurel Venhuizen, and Bonnie Dick for designing/assembling the baskets; Sharon and Christina Yekaldo for helping with the check-out table; Laurel Venhuizen for cooking and serving the perfect turkey supreme lunch with help from Ruth Campion & Bonnie Dick; and anyone else we may have missed. We couldn't have done it without you!

— Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk

## • **PACKING PEANUTS WANTED!** •

The Sale Committee needs packing peanuts. See Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske.



# December 2014 Worship Schedule

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## **December 7 — 2nd Sunday of Advent** — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8

Laitly Sunday

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Caroline Pippert

Fellowship Time hosts: Ruth Champion

Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo

## **December 14 — 3rd Sunday of Advent** — Sunday School will help lead worship

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Sunday School will be presenting the Contemporary Witness

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Bruce Opp

Fellowship Time host: Sharon Yekaldo

## **December 21 — 4th Sunday of Advent**

Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "Watching for New Possibilities"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time hosts: Peter and Lori DeNardo

## **• December 21 — Blue Christmas Worship Service at 6:00 p.m.**



## **★ December 24 — Christmas Eve**

Scripture Readings: 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 28 — 1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: "Singing our Faith — Songs of the Season"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time hosts: Pat and Paul Williams

— Are you available to help with worship on Christmas Eve? —  
We are looking for greeters, ushers, readers or providing special music.  
If you can help at either 4:00 p.m. or 10:30 p.m. please let Pastor Gail know.

# December (+) 2014 Calendar

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Wed. 12/3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Thurs. 1/1/15	11:20 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Thurs. 12/4	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals	Sun. 1/4	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Sat. 12/6	9:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa		9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
Sun. 12/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship			Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
		Sunday School		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		12 noon	Balcony Team
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Mon. 1/5	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Mon. 12/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Wed. 1/7	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
Wed. 12/10	5:30 p.m.	United Methodist Women		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Thurs. 1/8	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Sat. 12/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sun. 12/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Sunday School will help lead worship)	Sat. 1/10	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
			Sun. 1/11	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School			Sunday School
Mon. 12/15	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	6:30 a.m.	Bible Reading		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Wed. 12/17	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Mon. 1/12	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sat. 12/20	2:00 p.m.	Steppingstone Theatre	Wed. 1/14	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Pizza & Movie			
Sun. 12/21	9:30 a.m.	Worship			
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth			
		Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School			
	6:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas			
Mon. 12/22	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group			
Wed. 12/24	4:00 p.m.	<b>Family Candlelight</b>			
		<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>			
	10:30 p.m.	<b>Candlelight Worship</b>			
Sat. 12/27	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast			
Sun. 12/28	9:30 a.m.	Worship			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
Mon. 12/29	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group			
Tues. 12/30	5:30 p.m.	Wedding Rehearsal			
Wed. 12/31	6:00 p.m.	Gackstetter/Knapp Wedding			



## December Highlights at a Glance

- Saturday, December 6 — Breakfast with Santa
- Sunday, December 14 — Sunday School will help lead worship
- Sunday, December 21 — Blue Christmas worship time at 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 and 10:30

## Merry Christmas!

- The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25 and Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, January 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



## Breakfast with Santa



## Youth Pizza & Movie

All youth are invited to meet at church to see "Is God for Real" on **Saturday, December 20** at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy pizza together, watch the movie and have a discussion.

## Poinsettias

Small poinsettia will be available to be delivered on Sunday, December 7. If you can help with delivery contact Laurel Venhuizen.



*Volunteers & food donations are needed to help with Breakfast with Santa. To help, please contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388*

## Old Salem Shrine

Old Salem Shrine will be holding its Annual Epiphany Service on January 4th at 4:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the feeling of Christmas as it was in the 1800's with lanterns, wood stove, and pump organ. The service will be led by Rev. David Brown from Mount Bethel United Methodist Church and the speaker will be Rev. Margaret Fell, a retired Episcopalian priest. Come and experience carols and candlelight as a way to top off your Christmas season. Old Salem is located at Upper 55th St. and Annette Ave. in Inver Grove Heights. For more information, contact Jill Lewis at 651-552-8586.



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1530 Oakdale Ave.  
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## Worship Schedule

We invite you to 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

## “An Early Christmas”

— the children's Christmas presentation —

Invite a friend to church!

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



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