



Faith in Action

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

January 2015

Take Down the Decorations

Saturday, January 17 beginning at 12 noon, we will put away the decorations from Advent and Christmas. We will begin with a light lunch and then begin putting things away. If you can help or if you have questions, call Judy Turk, 651-343-8027.

Annual Church Conference Meeting

Sunday, January 25 after worship we will hold our annual church conference. We will review the year, elect new officers and committees and talk about where we are going in 2015.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — 2015

West Side Community Breakfast – "Infinite Hope, Meaningful Action" – Monday, January 19, from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. here at Faith United Methodist Church. See page 4 for details.



How do you recognize a Christian?

A Christian can never be raging with hatred, intent on revenge, grim-faced without mercy or forgiveness. No, a Christian will reveal sincerity through and through, throbbing with compassion and love, quick to smile and laugh, and always checking to make sure the spirit of Christ is in him or her. Christ in us is the hope of glory (see Colossians 1:27, NRSV).



✠ Christian Symbol ✠

The Sand Dollar

These pretty shells in shades of white, brown or purple are from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. The shell's unique characteristics call to mind Christ's birth and death: the poinsettia- and lily-like images, holes representing the four nails and spear that pierced Jesus, small bones inside the shell resembling doves and thus symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

January Birthdays

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1/1 — Hailey Worden
1/3 — Beverly Ysaguirre
Lucy Schwendinger
1/4 — Troy Schweda
1/6 — Jackie Emery
1/8 — JoAnn Loutsch
Austin Worden
1/9 — Andrew Lukas

Jacob Kranz
1/10 — Rodney Rankin
1/14 — Gregory Schweda
Alexander Boelter
1/18 — Joyce Ecker
Barbara Henk
Alexander Sielski
1/25 — Jalen Haom

1/27 — George Brown
1/29 — Phil Phipps
1/30 — Bethany Kay
Espeseth
1/31 — Maryanne Maurer
Marliss Knudson
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, Mike Hovey, and Laurel Venhuizen
- **Liturgists:** Caroline Pippert, Bruce Opp, and Sharon Yekaldo
- **Serving refreshments:** Ruth Campion, Sharon Yekaldo, Peter & Lori DeNardo, and Paul & Pat Williams
- **Communion Steward:** Sharon Yekaldo
- **Thank you** to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas: Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Laurel Venhuizen, Ruth Campion, Sharon & Christina Yekaldo, Judy Pfenning, Bill & Lynn Bonkowske, Bill Short, Paul & Pat Williams. A special thank you to Judy Turk for organizing the event.
- **Thank you** to the Sunday School students and teachers for leading worship on December 14.
- **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with **Breakfast with Santa** on December 6 ... to the people who donated food and other items and the people who helped make this fun event such a great success. We served 83 delicious pancake breakfasts. Forty happy children sat on Santa's lap, talked with him about what they wanted for Christmas, and had their picture taken. **We collected 83 pounds of food for Neighbors and \$20 in cash.** How awesome is that?

A special thanks to the breakfast team (and anyone else we may have missed): Karen Cohoes (Leader), Pat Williams, Dana Scopatz, Ruth Campion, Bonnie Dick, Fred Dick, Laurel Venhuizen, Barb Schroeder, Doug Van Siclen, JoAnn Loutsch, Judy Turk, Taffy Storck, Carol Schuldt, Mike Schwendinger, Dawn Kinnunen, Ray & Pat Fjerstad, Lori DeNardo, & Lynn Bonkowske. — Judy Turk

- **Thank you** to Marsha Spatafore & Barbara Schroeder for leading Laity Sunday.
- **Thank you** to Judy Pfenning, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Sharon Yekaldo & John, Charles & Dana Scopatz for lighting the Advent Wreath.
- **Thank you** to everyone who helped with the Christmas Eve worship services at 4:00pm 10:30pm.
- **Thank you** to Bonnie Dick and Carol Schuldt for helping assemble the December newsletter.
- **THANK YOU** for your thoughtful and generous Christmas gift. I appreciate each and every one of you and am honored to be your pastor. — Pastor Gail

Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** is in hospice care.
- ♦ **Ruth Campion** is having breathing problems.

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** – *Augustana Emerald Crest of Victoria*
- ♦ **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:

- ♦ We extend our sympathy to **John Kemp** on the death of his wife, Marti.

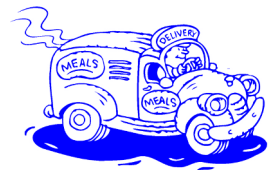
The Money Pot

The Money Pot welcomes your change to help support the offering of the month.

During January the money pot offering goes for dealing with Ebola in West Africa through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

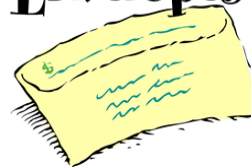


2015 Mobile Meals Schedule for Faith UMC (Thursdays)



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

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes are available in the church lobby. If you do not find envelopes for yourself, please contact Bill Short.



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 Winter:

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.

2015 Calendars yet available

It's not too late to get organized with a 2015 wall calendar with gorgeous pictures and Bible verses! If you would like to purchase one (\$7. each), you can leave payment in the office or in the basket by the parking lot door where the calendars are located.

Bible Reading

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will continue reading the Gospel of John. We will try to finish it before we end at 6:30 p.m.

Noah Movie

Sunday, January 11 at 4 p.m. we will watch the movie "Noah" here at church. There will be time for food and conversation afterwards.

"God Girl"

In February the History Theatre is presenting a new play called "God Girl". It is written by Kristine Holmgren, a Presbyterian pastor and former columnist for the Star Tribune. Holmgren reflects on the joys and heartbreak of being a female pastor. Tickets range from \$10 to \$28 depending on the size of the group. If you are interested in going please let Pastor Gail know by January 18 of your interest and when you would be available.

Church Office Hours

Susan will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Gail will be on vacation from Thursday, January 29 until Wednesday, February 4. After that she will be in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays most weeks.

Thank You

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day West Side Community Breakfast "Infinite Hope, Meaningful Action"

**Monday, Jan. 19, 2015
7:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Faith United Methodist Church
1530 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul**

Each year, the General Mills Foundation and UNCF present an annual MLK Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With the help of countless volunteers, the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches hosts breakfasts at nine neighborhood locations, featuring a live broadcast of the General Mills event as well as a hot breakfast and local programming. Join us for these inspiring community celebrations.

Keynote speaker **Vernon Jordan** is an Attorney, Civil Rights Leader, and Business Consultant. Mr. Jordan has held many prominent official and advisory roles in the UNCF, the NAACP and politics. He will provide powerful messages on this year's theme



Yolanda Adams, a multi-platinum selling and Grammy Award winning Gospel artist, is a very special guest this year. Mrs. Adams will be performing during the breakfast and sharing some of her thoughts on MLK day.

**Suggested donation of
\$5 per adult, (children under 12 free)**

Please contact **Dawn or Gil Kinnunen**
(651-451-2556) for more information
or register online at www.spacc.org/mlk

**SAINT PAUL AREA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**
Connecting Congregations for Service and Justice for 100 Years

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

• EBOLA Response •

Since June 2014, the Global Health unit and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), both of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, have been working together to coordinate an integrated response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. To date, they have ensured that grants totaling more than \$500,000 for educational programs, protective equipment, and other Ebola-related supplies have been provided to the health boards in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire and to other partners.

As the disease dynamic shifts from the crisis phase, it has become apparent that the epidemic already is having long-term negative impacts on the health systems, economies and social practices of these countries. Global Ministries' is shifting its Ebola focus from UMCOR's International Disaster Response unit to the Global Health unit. In doing so, we seek to enable a long-term approach that not only continues to address the Ebola epidemic but also works with the local church and other partners to strengthen healthcare capacity in West Africa.

Churches Play Important Role in Fighting Stigma

In West Africa, The United Methodist Church is helping communities prevent the spread of Ebola while offering compassion to those who are feeling stigmatized by the virus. Bishop Yambasu of Sierra Leone shared with the General Board of Global Ministries that during the passing of the peace, church members now place their hands on their hearts and bow to one another rather than embracing. Hand washing stations are also at the entrance of houses of worship.

In the U.S., many United Methodists have been in prayer with those in West Africa who are affected by the outbreak. When Ebola was identified in the U.S., concern grew that people from West Africa might be subject to stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Olusimbo Ige from Global Ministries' United Methodist Global Health unit said that the Center for Disease Control has stated that Ebola causes no significant threat to the United States. "Ebola is not an airborne disease," she said. "You can only get Ebola from: touching the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or who has died from Ebola; touching contaminated objects, like needles; or touching infected animals."

The Rev. Dr. J. Denise Honeycutt, who leads the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), encourages congregations to respond with love rather than fear. "There is no legitimate reason to limit interactions with people from West Africa," she said. "As people of faith, we are called to walk with our brothers and sisters, particularly those who might be grieving or concerned for their loved ones who are at risk in their home country." She added, "We want to welcome and care for others as Christ has done for us."

A Summary of UMCOR's Response to Ebola Outbreak as of December 15, 2014

To date, Global Ministries has issued, through UMCOR, more \$500,000 in grants in response to the Ebola epidemic. Primary partners have been The United Methodist Church (UMC) health boards in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and grants also have been extended to other trusted partners, as detailed in the following:

WORKING WITH THE UNITED METHODIST HEALTH BOARD IN LIBERIA, UMCOR HAS:

- *Distributed 400 personal protection kits (PPE) to UMC facilities*
- *Provided funds to distribute supplies (including gloves and gowns) for UMC health facilities*
- *Provided 1,250 individuals with a month's supply of emergency food rations*
- *Trained 150 teachers as Ebola educators, provided 15 Ebola prevention kits, and educated 900 individuals in Ebola prevention in three communities*
- *Educated 25,000 individuals through the trained trainers and public announcement materials on Ebola*
- *Provided emergency food assistance to 350 vulnerable people*
- *Provided 10,000 vulnerable individuals with emergency 1-month rations to cover food needs during the disruption of normal activities caused by Ebola*
- *Trained 150 teachers as Ebola educators in 3 communities.*

WORKING WITH GLOBALMEDIC, LIBERIA, UMCOR HAS:

- *Provided 38,000 face masks, 3,800 protective suits and 60,000 pairs of gloves*
- *Provided essential medicines*
- *Provided (5) pop-up tents for use as overflow or holding units.*

WORKING WITH ACT ALLIANCE IN LIBERIA, UMCOR HAS SUPPORTED:

- *Training for 70 beneficiaries to make them trainers on Ebola virus outbreak awareness / sensitization of preventive measures*
- *Workshops for 960 beneficiaries on Ebola virus outbreak awareness and preventive measures.*

WORKING WITH YWCA, LIBERIA, UMCOR HAS SUPPORTED:

- *Identification and support of 200 girl survivors of Ebola*
- *Provided 50 girl survivors with food support and hygiene kits*

WORKING WITH THE UNITED METHODIST HEALTH BOARD IN SIERRA LEONE, UMCOR HAS:

- *Provided health facilities materials to prevent contagion*
- *Constructed a holding unit at Mercy Hospital*
- *Distributed 400 PPE to UMC health facilities*
- *Trained 200 health workers on Ebola*
- *Provided public awareness messages to impacted communities*
- *Purchased supplies for UMC health facilities in Sierra Leone.*

WORKING WITH GLOBALMEDIC, SIERRA LEONE, UMCOR:

- *Provided 38,000 face masks, 3,800 protective suits and 60,000 pairs of gloves*
- *Provided essential medicines*
- *Provided (5) pop-up tents for use as overflow or holding units.*

WORKING WITH YWCA IN SIERRA LEONE, UMCOR HAS:

- *Identification and support of 200 girl survivors of Ebola*
- *Provided 50 girl survivors with food support and hygiene kits.*

WORKING WITH THE UNITED METHODIST HEALTH BOARD IN COTE D'IVOIRE, UMCOR HAS:

- *Implemented a public awareness campaign within UMC institutions*
- *Purchased supplies for UMC health facilities in Cote d'Ivoire.*

January 2015 Worship Schedule

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January 4 — Epiphany Sunday — *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Title: "And So It Begins"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host: Paul & Pat Williams

Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo

January 11 — Baptism of Our Lord Sunday — *Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sermon Title: "Power of Baptism"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Mike Schwendinger

Fellowship Time host: Judy Turk

January 18 — 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: I Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sermon Title: "Listening for God's Voice"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Ann Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:

January 25 — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sermon Title: "Going Where God Sends Us"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Pat Giorgini

Fellowship Time host:

Looking ahead to Lent:

Lenten Studies

Lent at Faith UMC will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with supper and worship. This year on Wednesday evenings during Lent our worship will focus on the "I Am" statements of Jesus in John. Sunday mornings during worship and through the adult education class we will continue to explore the essential question of "Who Do You Say That I Am?" and continue to look at the "I Am" statements. Be watching for more details.

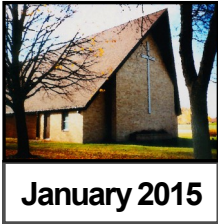
January 2015 Calendar

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Sat., 1/3	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Sun., 1/25	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Sun., 1/4	9:30 a.m.	Worship		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		10:50 a.m.	Annual Meeting
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Mon., 1/26	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Balcony Team		7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relations Cmte.
Mon., 1/5	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Wed., 1/28	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Lay Leadership Committee	Thurs., 1/29	11:20 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Wed., 1/7	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Sat., 1/31	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:00 a.m.	Bread Making
Thurs., 1/8	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	Sun., 2/1	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
Sun., 1/11	9:30 a.m.	Worship		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time		4:00 p.m.	Movie Night
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Mon., 2/2	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	4:00 p.m.	Movie Night	Wed., 2/4	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Mon., 1/12	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Sun., 2/8	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Wed., 1/14	4:30 p.m.	Bible Reading		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Sat., 1/17	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	12 noon	Undecorating Party		10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sun., 1/18	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Mon., 2/9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School	Wed., 2/11	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sat., 2/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Sun., 2/15	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
Mon., 1/19	7:00 a.m.	Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Wed., 1/21	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal			



★ **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.
All outstanding reports for the book of reports are due at this time. Thank you.



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

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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



A vow for the new year

Making plans for your life in the new year? Could it be that God already has a plan for you and is patiently waiting for you to make that plan a reality?

When one considers how everything seems to have a purpose in nature (atoms, genes, plants, animals, etc.), it makes sense to believe that each of us has a purpose as well. On the other hand, if all of creation seems to have just happened without any reason, then this means our minds and spirits must have no reason or purpose as well. How can we trust them?

But believers trust that there is a great Intelligence that brought everything into existence.

There is a Mind and a Heart at the center of all creation. If that's the case, then life can only make sense when we seek what the Creator has in mind for us.

Jesus, who knew the Mind and Heart of God better than anyone who ever lived on Earth, once said to the erring Peter: "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33, NRSV).

Setting our minds on human things can get us into trouble. That's why it often seems we live in a crazy mixed-up world. How can life ever be fulfilling, without the purpose God has for that life?

To set one's mind on divine things leads us to consider the one vow we should take seriously for the new year. Your will, Lord. Your will and nothing else.

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