



# Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church  
1530 Oakdale Avenue  
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*"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together"*

**May 2015**

## Minnesota Annual Conference

The 161st session of the Minnesota Annual Conference is scheduled for **May 27-29, 2015 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.** During this time we will:

- Connect and worship with other Minnesota United Methodists
- Learn from Rev. Jorge Acevedo from Grace Church in Southwest Florida and Rev. Anita Phillips, executive director of the United Methodist Church's Native American Comprehensive Plan
- Attend a "50 Ways to Love Your Neighbor" mission fair full of ideas and inspiration
- Celebrate how we as a conference are healing a broken world and discern where God is leading us next
- Make your voice heard as we consider legislation and make key decisions about next steps in our journey



**Celebrate, learn, act:** The three days of this year's annual conference will be structured around these three key actions. On Wednesday, we will hear stories of what God has been doing in our midst and *celebrate* Holy Spirit breakthroughs throughout Minnesota. On Thursday, we will *learn* from our conference speakers and explore the new ways God is calling us forth and inviting us to engage within our changing culture. And on Friday, we will *act* by making key decisions on critical next steps in our journey. We will then be sent out into the mission field inspired and equipped to reach new people, grow in love of God and neighbor, and heal a broken world. Pastor Gail will be attending all three days.

Sunday, May 10  
is when we will  
be collecting the  
offering for  
Reach, Renew,  
Rejoice



Reaching new people

Renewing the church

Rejoicing in what  
God can & will do  
through us

# May Birthdays

- 2 -

5/2 — John Kemp  
5/2 — Nicole Mohr  
5/3 — Norma Nitti  
5/4 — Sheri Lukas  
5/5 — Donna Willocks  
5/6 — Katie Alfveby  
5/6 — Christina Yekaldo  
5/8 — Judy Pfenning  
5/11 — Louise Gross  
5/11 — Gloria Gurtin

5/14 — Sonja Beguhl  
5/15 — Jody Sielski  
5/18 — Frederick Mens  
5/20 — Amber Palmer  
5/21 — Jenny Kranz  
5/24 — Lisa Ann Boelter  
5/26 — Chad Emery  
5/28 — Timothy Pippert  
5/29 — Ruth Martin  
5/20 — Matthew Palmer

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

## Thank you to and for during April...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Roseanne Larsen, Maryanne Maurer, and Bill Bonkowske
- **Liturgists:** Barbara Schroeder, Angela High-Pippert, Marsha Spatafore, and Gil Kinnunen
- **Serving refreshments:** Bonnie Dick, Sharon Yekaldo, and Judy Turk
- **Communion Steward:** Judy Pfenning
- **Thank you!** "I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. The power of prayer is wonderful! I am cancer free as of my last PET Scan on Monday, April 13!" — *Dianne Mens*
- **FAITH AUCTION a Big Success! Thank you** to everyone who helped and donated to the auction on Saturday, April 25. It was so fun, and we raised just under \$4,000 — a record for this event! A special thanks to Bonnie & Fred Dick for the delicious beef stew dinner, and Laurel Venhuizen for assisting Bonnie; thanks also to Gil Kinnunen for his usual awesome job of auctioneering, and Bill Short and Bruce Opp for assisting Gil.  
— *Lynn and Judy*

- **Minnesota FoodShare:**

In March this year we participated in Minnesota FoodShare. Faith set a goal of raising 2,500 pounds of food & money for the Neighbors Inc. food shelf. We raised 2,614 pounds in food and money. **Thank you** to all of you for your generosity in helping neighbors in need.



### Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** is in hospice care
- ♦ **Ruth Campion** is receiving treatment for cancer
- ♦ **Randy Roberts** was hospitalized
- ♦ **Marliss Knudson** is in hospice care
- ♦ **Benjamin Brummund** continues to recover

### Care Centers:

- ♦ **Bev Nielsen** – *Augustana Emerald Crest of Victoria*
- ♦ **Eloise Barnes** – *Arbor Lakes Sr. Living, Maple Grove*
- ♦ **Marliss Knudson** – *Norris Square in Cottage Grove*

**Ongoing Concerns:** *(these will be listed for 3 months. Please contact the church office for concerns to remain on the list longer.)*

- ♦ **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

*Prayer changes things*



### The Money Pot

*The Money Pot* welcomes your change to help support the offering of the month. The money collected during May will support the **Love Offering for Missions**. This year the love offering will go for the following projects: Grace's Children's Center in Vietnam, Church-School Partnerships Grants, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships. (Details on pg. 5)

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl ministry creates prayer shawls for those who are sick, in need of comfort or those who minister to others through prayer. Members of the prayer shawl ministry knit, crochet or sew the shawls as they pray for those who receive the shawls. The craftsperson bathes the shawl in prayer as they make each stitch or step in the pattern. We here at Faith are beginning such a ministry. Sharon Yekaldo has begun for us by making several shawls. If you would like to participate or if you have questions please talk to Sharon Yekaldo at 651-455-4770 or see Pastor Gail.

### We extend our Sympathy to:

- ♦ **George Brown** on the death of Ana Maria, his wife, on April 19
- ♦ **The Deuth family** on the death of Anna on April 27



**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 personal devotion time:*

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.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE • LOVE OFFERING for MISSIONS •

**The Love Offering for Missions** is collected within Minnesota United Methodist churches and delivered to annual conference session. It benefits international, national, and Minnesota missions. The conference Missions Promotion Team determines the annual recipients.

Donations to the 2014 Love Offering totaled \$121,000. Feed My Starving Children received 80% of that total, Project Ag-Grad received 10%, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships received 10%.

The 2015 Annual Conference theme is "God's Vision, Our Mission—Unleashed" and funds from this year's Love Offering will go to three projects that will help us answer God's call to heal a broken world. Here's a look at the 2015 Love Offering recipients:

### Grace Children's Center in Vietnam

*\*Recipient of 60% of 2015 Love Offering*



The United Methodist Church has strong and growing presence in Vietnam—and the Minnesota Conference recently formed a partnership with United Methodist leaders there. Many Vietnamese children come from broken homes and are in need of permanent or temporary care. The Love Offering will help expand Grace Children's Center in Ho Chi Minh City, which is currently providing education and daycare for about 20 of these children. The center now has a teacher who volunteers her time to educate first- and second-graders; the center's children also learn to grow fruit, raise chickens and ducks, and make hats—all of which are sold to help support the center. The Love Offering would pay off a \$10,000 loan for the building, provide a salary for the first- and second-grade teacher, and hire several more staff members: a third- and fourth-grade teacher, a health care worker, a cook, and a Korean language tutor (Vietnam is home to many Korean immigrants). Funds also will be used for sewing machines that children can use to learn to sew hats and other clothing. Our support will enable the center to make a difference in the lives of more children.

### Church-School Partnership Grants

*\*Recipient of 30% of 2015 Love Offering*

God calls us to be in ministry with children, and every United Methodist church in Minnesota is urged to develop a long-term partnership with a school in its community. The conference's Mission Promotion Team is launching a grant program that will provide funding to individual congregations to help them develop such partnerships. There are children in all Minnesota communities who lack food, school supplies, winter clothes, books, and/or positive role models. After assessing needs that exist in their communities, churches can apply for funding to help them form an ongoing relationship with a school. There are many possibilities for partnerships. A few of them include supplying backpacks, clothing, or weekend meals; tutoring or mentoring students; opening up the church to school gatherings; offering parenting, ESL, or literacy classes; and praying for teachers and students.



### Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

*\*Recipient of 10% of 2015 Love Offering*



Mission trips change the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in their faith and gain a new perspective of the world. Through the United Methodist Church's Volunteers in Mission program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects either domestically or abroad. Most teams from Minnesota are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Team members pay their own way, and the Love Offering will help underwrite the cost for first-time participants.

## Facebook Page

Faith now has a facebook page. Be sure to like it. The page is <http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn>

## Volunteer to Share Handy Person Skills

Help older homeowners, living in the Dakota County area, with simple fixes to make their home safer. Examples are installing grab bars, hand rails or lever door handles. Utilize your skills you already have, or learn new ones!

Training and tools provided in partnership with Rebuilding Together. If you're interested in helping with these projects, or even to help with spring yard cleanup, contact Barb Tiggemann at 651-234-2254 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).

## Time of Service

On Sunday, April 26 after worship we gathered for a time of service. During the time we made 15 health kits, 10 birthing kits, 6 layettes, 12 school kits to go to the service center in Springfield, Illinois and 35 cards for Mobile Meals. We will be dedicating all the kits and blankets we have made at worship on Sunday, May 17.

► (We are still in need of 4 individually packaged toothbrushes, 12 infant sweaters or jackets, and 12 gowns or sleepers). All items we could not use were given to Neighbors, Inc to give out.

## Taps & Apps: An Event to Fight Hunger Wednesday, June 17, at 6:00pm at Summit Brewing Company in St. Paul

Join us for a fun-filled evening of beer tasting, appetizer pairings, lawn games and a silent auction. VIP tickets are \$30 each & include the event plus a tour of brewery. Regular admission is \$20. Limit 150. Detailed information about all of our events, including links for tickets, can be found on line at: [www.neighborsmn.org/events/](http://www.neighborsmn.org/events/)  
Photos from previous events available.



## Summer Reading Group

This summer we will have a reading group every other Monday beginning on June 8. We will be reading "Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life" by Joan Chittister.

Below is a description of the book:

*There is a part of the soul that stirs at night, in the dark and soundless times of day, when our defenses are down and our daylight distractions no longer serve to protect us from ourselves," writes beloved author, Joan Chittister. "It's then, in the still of life, when we least expect it, that questions emerge from the damp murkiness of our inner underworld...These questions do not call for the discovery of data; they call for the contemplation of possibility."*

*In words as wise as they are inspiring, Between the Dark and the Daylight explores the concerns of modern life, of the overworked mind and hurting heart. These are the paradoxical—and often frustrating—moments when our lives feel at odds with everything around us.*

*Only by embracing the contradictions, Chittister contends, may we live well amid stress, withstand emotional storms, and satisfy our yearnings for something transcendent and real. By delving into the chaos, this book guides us through the questions that seemed easier to avoid and enlightens what has been out of focus. With her signature elegance, wit, and spirit, the best-selling author of The Gift of Years and Following the Path opens our eyes and hearts in these times of confusion. With simple and poignant meditations, Between the Dark and the Daylight reveals how we can better understand ourselves, one another, and God.*

If you would like to purchase or borrow a copy of the book please contact Pastor Gail. The cost to purchase will be approximately \$15. The book is also available in both Kindle and Nook formats.

## Blog for the Faith Website

Do you like to write? Are you a poet or a writer of prose? We are hoping to start a blog on the church website this spring. We had had a couple of people who have indicated an interest; we are looking for 2 or 3 more people who would be willing to write 2-3 times a year for the website. There would be a schedule and questions for you to respond to. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Gail.

## **Adult Children of Alcoholics Support Group Now Meets at Saint James**

Adult Children of Alcoholics is a support group for adults who grew up in a family setting that was less than optimum. The group is anonymous and confidential in the sense that stories shared within the group are not repeated elsewhere. However, they want to make it known that they are meeting downstairs in the chapel at Saint James Lutheran Church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30.

Saint James is located on the corner of Annapolis and Cherokee in West Saint Paul. The meetings include readings and sharing time, based on a guidebook that is an adapted version of the traditional 12-step approach. This is for people who seek support and healing in order to live in Christian joy. A positive atmosphere is provided for people who are recovering from dysfunctional homes, and various forms of abuse and neglect.

If you know someone who might benefit from this group, please invite him or her to come and check it out. Further information is available by calling Saint James at 651 457 9232 or online at <http://www.adultchildren.org/>

## **Lawn Mowing Time**



It's finally green outside again! With all the rain, it is time to again think about lawn mowing. If you can help mow the church yard, please contact Lynn Bonkowske, 651-455-6542.

## **And the Church Mouse says...**

MINDS  
ARE LIKE  
PARACHUTES.  
THEY ONLY WORK  
WHEN THEY ARE  
OPENED!



## **Camping**

It's time to begin thinking about summer camp. Brochures for the many camps sponsored by the Minnesota United Methodist Church are available on the table in the Narthex. **New for 2015:** For each camper new to the UMC camp system who comes to camp with you, your event fee will be reduced by \$25. So - 1 new camper = \$25. off, 3 new campers = \$75. off, etc. New campers get to have a great time at camp and spending time with you, you save some money, and everyone's a winner!



## **Keys Needed!**

If you have old KEYS of any type that you no longer need, please consider giving them to the Craft Group here at Faith. The keys are needed for a Christmas project they would like to make. Contact person is Liz Chun. Thanks!



## **Graduation Recognition**

If you are aware of anyone graduating from high school, college, graduate school or technical school, please contact the church office with their name and from where they are graduating. Sunday, June 7 we will recognize high school graduate during worship. The whole list will be in the bulletin as well as the June/July newsletter.

## **Books**

Do you have books you no longer need? Looking for a place to recycle them? This fall with the basket sale we will be having a book sale. We will accept books of all kinds: text books, paperback books, children's books, you name it. If you want to start bringing books to the church, please place them on the bench in the Fellowship Hall by the book racks. If you have questions, contact Judy Pfenning at 651-224-0886 or e-mail [judympfenning@gmail.com](mailto:judympfenning@gmail.com)



# May 2015 Worship Schedule

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## **May 3 — 5th Sunday of Easter** — *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*Scripture Readings: Psalm 92; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Matthew 5:14-16*

Sermon title: "Rejoicing in the Excellent Way"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Bruce Opp

Fellowship Time hosts: Pat and Paul Williams

Communion Steward: Maryanne Maurer

## **May 10 — 6th Sunday of Easter** — *Gathering of the Reach, Renew, Rejoice offering*

*Scripture Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17*

Sermon title: "Remaining in God's Love"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time host:

## **May 17 — 7th Sunday of Easter** — *Dedication of UMCOR Kits*

*Scripture Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53*

Sermon Title: "The Eyes of Your Heart "

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Angela High-Pippert

Fellowship Time host:

## **May 24 — Day of Pentecost** — *WEAR RED*

*Scripture Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dana Scopatz

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Ann Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:

## **May 31 — 1st Sunday after Pentecost**

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17*

Sermon Title: "Here I Am"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time host:

# May 2015 Calendar

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Sun., 5/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:50 a.m.	Outreach Committee
Mon., 5/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 5/5	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 5/7	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sat. 5/9	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 5/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 5/13	5:30 p.m.	United Methodist Women
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 5/17	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 5/18	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 5/20	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 5/21	11:15 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat., 5/23	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/24	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Wed., 5/27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wed., 5/27—Fri., 5/29		Minnesota Annual Conference
Sun., 5/31	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School

Mon., 6/1	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 6/3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat. 6/6	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 6/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 6/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 6/9	5:30 p.m.	United Methodist Women
Sun., 6/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School



## 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** is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays most weeks. Tuesdays & Fridays are Pastor Gail's regular days off. Please call her at home (612-722-3001) if it is an emergency and you need to reach her. *Pastor Gail will be gone from Tuesday, May 19 until Monday, May 25 for her son's wedding. Steve & Ruth are getting married at "The Woods" in Orono, the rehearsal dinner will be at "The Marsh", and the reception is at Lake Waconia. I think we have the environment covered.*

**Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on the Saturdays of **5/9, 5/23 & 6/6** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street starting at 8:00 am. 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)





# KIDS IN SEARCH



## PUZZLE

*Spring has sprung!*

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

*Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.*

earth on appear the Flowers

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ;

✿ singing come the of has season ②

the \_\_\_\_\_

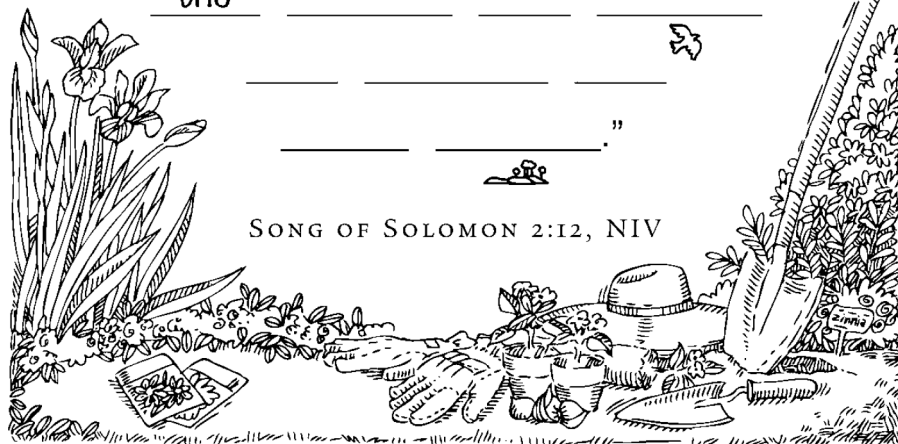
\_\_\_\_\_ ,

heard the land our in is of cooing doves

the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ”

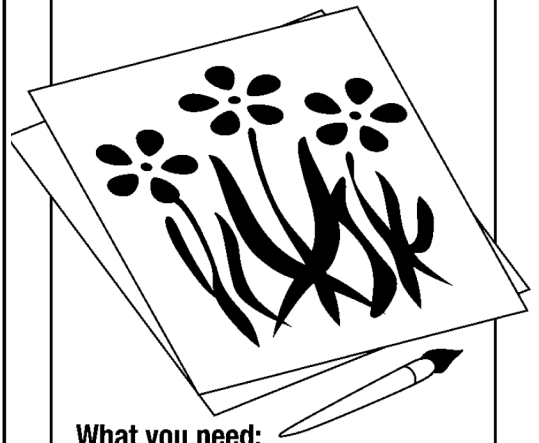
SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

## SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



### What you need:

- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

### What you do:

1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.



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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



*We honor the*  
*Mothers*  
*in our lives*



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