

Faith in Action

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

December 2015

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





Blue Christmas Worship December 20



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. 20 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



12/2 —	Gail Alexander	12/15 — Christian Johnson
	Nathaniel DeNardo	Michael Needham
12/5 —	Nancy Reid	12/16 — Peter DeNardo
	Angela High-Pippert	12/18 — Jazlynn Gallegos
12/6 —	Nancy Rankin	12/19 — Meta Nachtsheim
	Melissa Schneider	12/22 — Jeaneen Hovey
12/8 —	Angel Doughty	12/23 — Ekemini Jonathon
12/10 —	Vera Young	12/24 — Greg Nelson
12/11 —	Dylan Cox	12/25 — Patrick Short
	Olivia Stehr	12/28 — Ryan Boelter
12/14 —	Laurel Venhuizen	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, Maryanne Maurer, Dan Miller
- Liturgists: George Brown, Mike Schwendinger, Angela High-Pippert, Marsha Spatafore, and Bill Short
- Serving refreshments: Judy Turk, Bonnie & Fred Dick, and Joe Kranz
- Communion Steward: Marsha Spatafore
- Thank you to Bonnie Dick, Ruth Campion and Carol Schuldt for helping assemble the Nov. newsletter
- Thank you to our financial campaign speakers: Gil Kinnunen & Liz Chun
- Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas: Steve & Rose Larsen, Mia & Antonio Sorenson, Mike & Jeanna Schwendinger, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Bill & Lynn Bonkowske, Sharon Yekaldo, Dan Miller, Carol Schuldt, Bill Short and Judy Turk. It looks great!
- Thank you! "Thank you to everyone who helped make our Basket & Book Sale so successful: Judy Pfenning, Liz Chun, Greg & Roxanne Napier, JoAnn Loutsch, Dawn Kinnunen, Laurel Venhuizen, Bonnie Dick, Ruth Campion, Carol Schuldt, Karen Cohoes, Gloria Gurtin, Vesta Lach, Dan Miller, Ron Brummund, Rose Larsen, Sharon Yekaldo, Paul & Pat Williams, Bill Short, John Kemp, Jody Sielski, Dianna Gallegos, & Bonnie Wood. We couldn't have done it without you! If we missed anyone, we are sorry, but please know your help was appreciated. As of November 22, we made \$2,472 and we have several awesome baskets and items yet to sell!" Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk
- Thank you to Dana Scopatz and team for a wonderful lunch on Celebration Sunday



Drayer Motes D

Congregational Care Concerns:

- Bev Nielsen is in hospice care.
- MariAnne Young continues to have problems with balance.
- **Ruth Martin** continues to have problems with balance.
- **Henry Hovey** had knee surgery. He is now home.
- **Ben Brummund** was hospitalized; he is now home.
- **Doris Johnson** was hospitalized; she is now in rehab.

Care Centers:

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

<u>Ongoing Concerns</u>: (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

We Extend our Sympathy:

◆ Our sympathy to **the family of Katie Alfveby** who died November 3. Her memorial service was here at Faith on November 7.

December Money Pot

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. Money pot donations during December help "Emma Norton Residence". For more information, see the article on 6.



partners along the journey of *change*

★ Church Conference: The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, January 31, 2016 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 January 1. Thank you.

The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, contact Carol Schuldt at 651-306-0542. Please make sure the pastor also knows of the prayer request, so that she can respond to pastoral care needs. Pastor needs to know about telephone prayer chain requests in order to share the concern on the e-mail prayer chain as well. If you wish to be involved in this ministry by being either on the telephone chain or the e-mail chain, please speak to 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 this Season:

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.



Steps on the Journey

It is difficult to believe that Christmas is less than a month away. First comes Thanksgiving and all that means in your household; whether it is traveling, cleaning or preparing food. Then comes all the preparations for Christmas; the planning, the baking, the shopping, the gift wrapping, the parties and more. The list seems to get longer every year.

What would happen if this year you took Advent to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ Child into your life once again? If you paused each day and reflected on the difference Christ makes in your life. If you paused and prayed for peace in your life and in the world. If you paused and remembered the differences in your life this year and last and gave thanks for the people who have entered your life. You paused and remembered the people who have left your life and give thanks for them whether they were part of your life for a long time or a short time. If you paused and thought of those people who are not as fortunate as you. If you paused and remembered that you are loved by God and by others.

While the parties and celebrations are important, the most important thing is to prepare our lives for the Child that is coming once again. Enjoy the season and celebrate the coming of the Child for we shall never be the same.

Peace in Christ,

Gail

Merry Christmas from the staff here at Faith!

Pastor Gail, Susan Filter, Joan Fitch and John Kemp



<u>Christmas Offering and December Money</u> <u>Pot Donations</u>



This year the Christmas Offering will go to Emma Norton Services (ENS) in St. Paul & Maplewood.

ENS fosters stability and personal growth for women and families who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, by providing affordable, secure housing along with a sense of community and innovative support services. In working with women and families, ENS is committed to:

- Providing safe, secure, affordable housing for women and families in transition.
- Providing support, advocacy and referrals to community services for individuals and families to stabilize their lives, build confidence and become self-sufficient.
- Keeping rents affordable despite rising costs of services by seeking funds to serve those with the greatest need.
- Involving corporate, civic, private, and faith based communities in our programs.

ENS is comprised of two facilities, The <u>Emma</u>
<u>Norton Residence</u> Transitional Housing Program in St. Paul and 13 townhomes at <u>Emma's Place</u> in Maplewood.

ENS provides a safe and mutually respectful environment where residents discover their innate power and problem solving abilities and learn to use them to become self-sufficient. Every aspect of Emma Norton's housing and supportive services is designed to promote self-sufficiency. All participants receive a mental health and chemical dependence review and based on its result, an individualized plan is created by the resident or family with assistance from their case manager. Disabilities are addressed by professional assessments from physicians, drug/alcohol counselors and/or mental health professionals.

Emma Norton Services is the only United Methodist sponsored national mission institution in Minnesota.

<u>Christmas with Faith Church</u> and Neighbors, Inc.

Faith Church is again sponsoring individuals through the Neighbors Christmas program – "Christmas for Kids".

There is also a change for the seniors: the age is for 65 and older. Look for the tree in the Fellowship Hall for the names and ages of the folks we are sponsoring. All gifts need to be back to the shurch by

gifts need to be back to the church by
Sunday, December 13, wrapped (with no bows) with gift receipts enclosed in the boxes (and wrapped gifts identified by the tags from the gift tree). If you have questions, call Karan Cohoes at 651-456-0388.



Give a meaningful gift this holiday season.

Donate blood.

Faith United Methodist Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 16th 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

1530 Oakdale Ave. – WSP To schedule an appointment call Bonnie @ 651-442-4166 Or <u>www.redcrossblood.org</u> Enter Sponsor Code: FaithUMC

Give Something that Means Something Schedule your appointment today.

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Facebook Page

Remember to like the Faith Facebook page at: http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn

Faith Motes

UMC Market

The redone UMC Market is now available for use. If you shop on line you can go through the UMC Market portal/website and a percentage of your purchase can be designated to Faith UMC. Signing up is free. Most churches are already listed on UMCmarket. When you go to UMCmarket.org, you will click on the get "Get Started" button. You will simply sign-up with your email or through Facebook, find your church, and start shopping and donating. Giving couldn't be easier.





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 and 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.

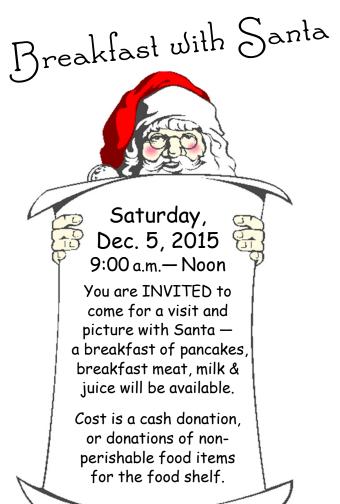
Faith Church Finance Campaign for 2016

Thank you to everyone who has turned an estimate of giving card for 2016. To date we have received 41 cards for a total of \$106,428. If you had intended to turn in a card but have not done so, please contact Bill Short or the church office to receive a new one.



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, 2015 or in the church office by December 31, 2015 to be counted in 2015.





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

Bosshardt Anniversary

Dan Bosshardt shared the good news that Rev. Paul Henry Bosshardt and Susan Gates Bosshardt celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 25, 2015! They spent the

big day in warm San Diego with their son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. Please keep them in your prayers and share with any friends who might wish to send them good (albeit belated) wishes. Their address is 972 118th Lane Blaine, MN 55434. (763) 767-5753.

Living in Faith

Taking Down of the Greens

Come help un-decorate the church on **Saturday**, **Jan. 16** (including lunch). We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and plan to finish around noon, and then enjoy a lunch together! We hope you can join us! contact Judy Turk at 651-343-8027 for more info or email judyturk123@gmail.com



This Is My Story, This Is My Song: How Our Favorite Advent (and Christmas) Hymns Came to Be November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27

Once again, Gil Kinnunen will lead an exploration of the fascinating stories behind many of your favorite Advent (and Christmas) hymns. Who wrote them? When, where, why, and how were they written? Listen to recordings of many of you favorite hymns and songs of the season, plus a few that you may hear for the first time; expect to experience some surprising arrangements (some you may like more than others). Share your own stories of Advent and Christmas hymns that are most memorable and meaningful for you.

Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve help

We are looking for help ushering, greeting, running the Powerpoint and leading worship for the Blue Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. and on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. worship. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gail, 651-457-5686.

Poinsettias

Small poinsettia will be available to be delivered on Sunday, December 6. If you can help with delivery contact Laurel Venhuizen.

Need a day brightener or thought provoker?

Dial up *Ideas for Positive Living!* Every Thursday Gil Kinnunen provides an uplifting phone message. So call 651-602-2176 each Thursday for a weekly picker-upper!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Military Chaplains

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry



Our apportionments help support the work of ministries beyond the local church that reach people who are in desperate need to hear the good news of love and redemption. You've supported the work of military chaplains serving in the U.S. and deployed around the world, who are approved, supported, and connected to the larger church though the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). They offer a crucial connection to faith for people who serve in our armed forces. This ministry happens thanks to the generous support of United Methodists like you. I invite you once again to give generously as we worship God through the sharing of our gifts, tithes, and offering.

Learn more about the work and impact of chaplains endorsed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at:

http://www.gbhem.org/clergy/chaplains-and-pastoralcounselors



December 2015 Calendar

Wed., 12/2 Thurs., 12/3	7:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Mobile Meals
Sat., 12/5	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa
Sun., 12/6	9:30 a.m.	Worship
,, .	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
	7 .	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/6	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 12/11	5:30 p.m.	United Methodist Women
,	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 12/13	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
Mon., 12/14	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 12/16	1:00 p.m.	Blood Drive
, ,	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 12/19	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 12/20	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 Worship
Mon., 12/21	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Thurs., 12/24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Fri., 12/25	***	Merry Christmas!
Sun., 12/27	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/28	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Thurs., 12/31	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat., 1/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 1/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 1/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 1/6	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Thurs., 1/7	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee		
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council		
Sun., 1/10	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		
Mon., 1/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		
Wed., 1/13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		

Coming Events

December 5 – Breakfast with Santa December 16 – Blood Donor Drive December 20 – Blue Christmas December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship

January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

January 31 - Church Conference

Merry Christmas!

The church office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of 12/5, 12/19, 1/2, 1/16 & 1/30 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 bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us or 651-552-0736.

2016 Calendars are Here

2016 Calendars with gorgeous pictures and Bible verses are available now! With Christmas right around the corner, these calendars make a great gift for relatives and friends, or a nice stocking stuffer. The large wall calendars are \$7.00 ea., pocket calendars are \$5.00 ea. See Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske to purchase your calendars for a gift or for yourself.

December 2015 Worship Schedule

December 6 — 2nd Sunday of Advent— Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon title: "Those Who Go Before Us"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Barbara Schroeder

Fellowship Time host: Laurel Venhuizen

Communion Steward:

December 13 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Contemporary message presented by Faith Sunday School

Greeter: Bernice Killian Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen Fellowship Time Host:

December 20 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sermon title: "Preparing for the Day"

Greeters: Gil & Dawn Kinnunen

Lay Reader: John Kemp Fellowship Time host:

• December 20 — Blue Christmas Worship Service — 6:00 p.m.

★ December 24 — Christmas Eve Family Worship — 4:00 p.m.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 27—1st Sunday of Christmas

Scripture Readings: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Sermon title: "Songs of Christmas"

Greeter: Karen Cohoes

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host:



This 'n' That

It's a Wonderful Life

Neighbors, Inc. Benefit • Wednesday, December 9, 2015 7:30 pm

It's A Wonderful Life, based on the classic movie of the same name, is considered one of the most inspirational and best loved holiday stories. George Bailey, a man whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Oddbody, who shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life in his community would be had he never been born. This performance, set as if it were a live radio broadcast of the film from the 1940's, is full of emotion, humor, sound effects, and lots of classic holiday music. It will have you counting your blessings during the holiday season.

This special performance will kick off the cast's seasonal engagement at The Saint Paul Hotel. Proceeds from ticket sales of this performance will benefit Neighbors, Inc.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. – Performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets at:

https://everyeventgives.com/event/wonderfullifeneighbors/

Special thanks to the amazing cast of It's A Wonderful Life – Live Radio Play & The Saint Paul Hotel.

*Special note: If you are planning to dine out before the performance, restaurant reservations are recommended.





"Thank you for your support of Neighbors. Your financial support enables us to provide emergency and supportive services to the people of northern Dakota County at a time when there are many families struggling to put food on the table and to clothe themselves adequately. Neighbors assisted over 500 families in September with food. Clients are able to use the food shelf once a month. Neighbors also provides a Bakery Shelf that is open to clients daily, [providing] day-old bread and bakery items as well as produce and dented canned goods. Over 1,000 families used the Bakery Shelf in August. Neighbors serves as a conduit for your generosity and serves to disperse food that is still good and nutritious but might otherwise go to waste. Thank you very much for your support; we appreciate all you have done for us. We will put it to good use. -Rick Birmingham, Development Director, Neighbors, Inc.

Coffee Concert with Gerrit

Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. St. Stephen's Church, W. St. Paul

"A Feike Asma Tribute" — Gerrit will present a program of hymn arrangements as well as video clips of the famous Dutch organist who became Gerrit's role model. Coffee and Dutch treats, baked by Gerrit, will follow the presentation.

If you are able to attend, please bring some "goodies" to pass. If you are available to help with hospitality (making coffee, set6 up & clean up), please see Gerrit.





Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

All United Methodist churches are connected through shared mission and ministry and united in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Check out these recent news tidbits from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which serves all 360 United Methodist churches in the state.

- **Bishop Ough: Overcome evil with good:** This is a troubled and fearful time for the world—a time when we long to pray, but also to put our faith into action. "Paul's letter to the Church in Rome has been helpful to me," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough. "He names the marks of the true Christian and gives us a framework for our faithful witness to Jesus' transforming love, grace, peace, and justice... When many want to close our doors to refugees, we are called to extend hospitality to strangers. When many want to condemn or label all Muslims as Jihadists, we are called to hate what is evil, but hold fast to what is good and outdo one another in honoring the personhood and worth of all of God's children. When many want to repay evil with evil, we are called to seek another way and to overcome evil with good."
- Hundreds attend launch of Embrace Church's Twin Cities campus: A Twin Cities campus of Sioux Falls, South Dakotabased Embrace Church opened its doors Nov. 8 with two worship services and 438 people in attendance—making it the largest launch of a single United Methodist Church site in Minnesota in recent decades. The new campus is located in Lakeland, about 35 miles east of Minneapolis. Embrace was recently named the 10th-fastest-growing church in America.

- New conference website offers new features: The Minnesota Conference just launched a redesigned website! In addition to having a fresh look, the new website is also more functional and has new features for clergy and churches. Searching an online library for a video to share with your congregation, exploring hands-on service opportunities, and registering for a Minnesota United Methodist camp are just a few of the many ways to use the new website. Check it out: http://www.minnesotaumc.org.
- ELI Project: Apply now to be intern or host church: Last summer, eight college students participated in a hands-on learning experience at a host church through the Minnesota Conference's Exploring Leadership Internship (ELI) Project, designed for those exploring a call to vocational ministry. Applications are now being sought for 2016 interns and host churches—and will be accepted through Feb 1. Learn more and apply at www.eliprojectmn.com.

IT WORKED FOR ANOTHER CHURCH

Rosemount UMC reaches new people through inclusion ministries: In recent years, Rosemount United Methodist Church has debuted several programs geared toward young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. One is Carnivalel, a respite care program. Every couple of months, the church invites children with disabilities to spend an evening enjoying dinner and activities at church while their parents get away for some time to themselves. The church also hosts an annual Shamrock Ball, a prom for youth and young adults with disabilities. The church's inclusiveness has helped attract many new members.

STAY CONNECTED!

"Like" the Minnesota Annual Conference on Facebook, follow the conference on Twitter (@MinnesotaUMC), and sign up (at www.minnesotaumc.org) for twice-weekly e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit

www.minnesotaumc.org.



Faith United Methodist Church 1530 Oakdale Ave. West St. Paul MN 55118

December 2015

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Sunday Worship Schedule

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

- Worship 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.
- Children's and Youth Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School 10:50 a.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Blessings



PEACELOVEH PEJESUS PEACELOVEH PEJESUS



The Sunday School

of Faith United Methodist will present the Contemporary Message during worship on Sunday, December 13, the 3rd Sunday in Advent. Invite a friend to church!



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

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. Visit us at www.faithumcmn.com