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

January 2016

Take Down the Decorations

Saturday, January 16 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 31 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 2016.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — 2016

West Side Community Breakfast — "Civil & Right: Are You Living the Dream?" — Monday, January 18, from 7:00 - 9:30a.m. here at Faith United Methodist Church. See pg. 4 for details.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of 1/2, 1/16, 1/30, 2/13 & 2/27 at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street starting at 8:00am. All men are invited to join us! For more info, contact Bill Short at bill.short@ci.white-bear-township.mn.us or 651-552-0736.

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!

"Thank You!"

"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 507 families in October 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] dayold bread and bakery items as well as produce and dented canned goods. The Bakery Shelf served 1,398 families in October. 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." —John Kemp, Executive Director, Neighbors, Inc.

"Thank You!"

"...Thank you for coordinating the Wednesday, December 16, 2015 blood drive. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift. The efforts of Faith United Methodist have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. In addition, we very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 14 donors registered, 1 donor was deferred and 11 units were collected. We also registered one first time donor! Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive. —Lindsey Finnegan Schumann, North Central Blood Services" —American Red Cross

January Birthdays

1/ 1/ 1/ 1/ 1/	/3 — /4 — /6 — /8 —	Lucy Schwendinger Troy Schweda Jackie Emery JoAnn Loutsch Austin Worden	1/14 — 1/18 —	Alexander Boelter Joyce Ecker Barbara Henk Alexander Sielski	1/29 — 1/30 —	George Brown Phil Phipps Bethany Kay Espeseth Maryanne Maurer Marliss Knudson Scott Spatafore
1/	9—	Andrew Lukas	1/25 —	Jalen Haom		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, Bernice Killian, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, and Karen Cohoes
- Liturgists: Barbara Schroeder, Gil Kinnunen, John Kemp, and Sharon Yekaldo
- Serving refreshments: Laurel Venhuizen, Claudia & Ava Spatafore, Lori DeNardo, and Judy Turk
- Communion Steward: Gloria Gurtin
- **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with **Breakfast with Santa** on December 5... to the many people who donated food and money to buy food. We served 150 delicious pancake breakfasts, 70 happy children sat on Santa's lap and talked to him about what they wanted for Christmas ... and they had their picture taken with Santa. We collected 305 pounds of food and \$385 cash for Neighbors. Sooooo awesome!

A special thanks to the breakfast team: Karen Cohoes (Leader), Greg & Roxanne Napier, Pat Williams, Dana Scopatz, Laurel Venhuizen, Bonnie Dick, Barb Schroeder, JoAnn Loutsch, Judy Turk, Taffy Storck, Carol Schuldt, Julie Kelly, Mike Schwendinger, Dan Miller, Matt & Claudia Spatafore, Steve & Rose Larsen, Lynn Bonkowske, Dawn Kinnunen, Sharon Yekaldo, Lori & Elli DeNardo, and Bill Short. If we missed anyone, please know your help was appreciated. — Judy Turk

- **Thank you** to those who helped with the Blue Christmas worship: Judy Pfenning, Marsha Spatafore, George Brown, Sharon Yekaldo and John Kemp
- **Thank you** to those who helped with Christmas Eve worship: Bernice Killian, Pat & Paul Williams, George Brown, John Kemp, John Scopatz, Charles Scopatz, Dana Scopatz and Bob Scopatz.
- **Thank you** to those who lit the Advent wreath and Christ candle: Dawn Kinnunen, Dan Miller, Jenny Kranz, Josie Kranz, Jacob Kranz, Isabelle Pippert, Tim Pippert and Angela High-Pippert, Ben Brummund, Tammy Brummund, Ron Brummund, Fred Dick and Bonnie Dick.
- Thank you to Bonnie Dick and Laurel Venhuizen for helping assemble the December newsletter.
- **Thank you** for all the gifts this year at Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Everything that was edible was delicious; the other gifts have already been put to good use. I am blessed to serve such a generous congregation. Pastor Gail



Congregational Care Concerns:

- Bev Nielsen is in hospice care.
- MariAnne Young continues to have problems with balance.
- **Steve Peterson** underwent radiation treatment for most of December.
- **Doris Johnson** is now in hospice at Brookdale.

Care Centers:

◆ Bev Nielsen – Augustana Emerald Crest of Victoria

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 arieve
- Those who are uncertain about the future

The Money Pot

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



the money pot offerings support **Reach**, **Renew**, **and Rejoice**. This project is a capital campaign of the Annual Conference to revitalize existing congregations and to develop new congregations in Minnesota. You can put money in the money pot in the lobby. More information on this campaign is on page 5.

2016 Mobile Meals Schedule for Faith UMC (Thursdays)



- January 28
- February 25
- March 24
- April 21
- May 19
- lune 16
- July 14

- August 11
- September 8
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- December 29

<u>The Prayer Chain is active</u>. 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 times of devotion this Winter:

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.



2016 Calendars yet available

It's not too late to get organized with a 2016 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.

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.

Afternoon at the Movies

Sunday, January 24 we are going to begin Afternoon at the Movies with the movie: "Amazing Grace: the story of William Wilberforce". We begin watching at 4:00 p.m. and then spend some time discussing the movie afterwards. "Amazing Grace" is the story of how one man's determination and answering a calling changed the course of a nation. Come and join us.

New Members

New members will be joining Faith on Sunday, February 7 during worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of Faith Church, please contact Pastor Gail.

Thank You

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

Facebook Page

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day West Side Community Breakfast "Civil & Right: Are You Living the Dream?"

Monday, Jan. 18, 2016 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.

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

The General Mills Foundation, in collaboration with UNCF and Twin Cities Public Television, presents the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King and create an imperative to live out his legacy today in our homes, our communities, and our world.

Keynote speaker Deval Patrick recently completed two terms as the 71st Governor of Massachusetts (2007-2015). Guided by his grandmother's advice to "hope for the best and work for it," Governor Patrick guided Massachusetts in funding public education, achieving nation-leading student performance, and reforming ethics laws, education rules, transportation bureaucracy, and energy policy. He is author of two books, A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life and Faith in the Dream: A Call to the Nation to Reclaim American Values.

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, with the help of volunteers of all ages and faiths, hosts community breakfasts in nine neighborhood locations, featuring a live broadcast of the General Mills event plus a hot breakfast and local programming.



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

Please contact **Dawn Kinnunen** (651-451-2556, dawnella1974@gmail.com) or register online at **interfaithaction.org/mlk**



<u>Good News at Year End! – Special Tax-free</u> IRA Gifts for 2015!

For those over age 70½, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.

On December 18th Congress passed legislation retroactively extending the charitable IRA rollover for 2015 and makes this provision permanent for future years. A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRA to your church or charity free from federal income tax each year. There may also be state income tax savings. Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift.

To make such gifts, it is important to not withdraw funds prior to a gift, but have the gift amount distributed directly from an IRA to one or more qualified charities. For those with check writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make gifts directly from an IRA.

Check with the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation for additional details: call 612-230-3337 or visit http://mnumf.giftlegacy.com/ — or visit with Pastor Gail.

Coming Events

January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

January 24 – Afternoon at the Movies

January 31 - Church Conference

February 10 - Ash Wednesday



Reach • Renew • Rejoice will reach thousands of new people.

One hundred fifty-four churches will be started, revitalized, or expanded over the next seven years through this initiative. Based on past history and future projections, an estimated 12,000 new people will call these 154 churches home and experience the life-changing love of Christ!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

dif-fer-ence /'dɪfərəns / [dif-er-ulns]

Reach, Renew, Rejoice

General Board of Global Ministry



Your offering empowers ministry within our congregation and in response to the needs of this community. It also helped support the work of ministries beyond the local church, such as the work of the General Board of Global Ministries in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. The work done in our name goes far beyond giving food to hungry people. It provides tools and education, and it removes barriers so people have what they need to feed themselves. You give additional support to this work when you purchase free trade products. These kinds of cooperative efforts happen all across our connection, thanks to the way the people of The United Methodist Church live and give connectionally. I invite you to give generously as we worship God through sharing our gifts, tithes and offerings.

Learn more about the work and impact of the General Board of Global Ministries at: http://www.umcmission.org

January 2016 Worship Schedule

January 3 — Epiphany Sunday — Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

Sermon Title: "Star Gazing"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host: Paul & Pat Williams

Communion Stewards: Judy Turk & JoAnn Loutsch

January 10 — Baptism of Our Lord Sunday — Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon Title: "Promises of Baptism"

Greeter: Laurel Venhuizen Lay Reader: Carol Schuldt

Fellowship Time host: Judy Turk & JoAnn Loutsch

January 17 — 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sermon Title: "The Beginning of Prayer"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time host: Dawn & Gil Kinnunen

January 24 — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

Sermon Title: "The Power of Prayer"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Isabelle Pippert

Fellowship Time host: Laurel Venhuizen

January 31 — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Sermon Title: "Prayer that Reaches Out"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Ann Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:



Mental Health Programs

Topics of mental health arise in the media and general conversations frequently. You are invited to five presentations on mental health issues. These sessions are designed to give us a common language for discussion, opportunities for conversation, and suggestions for how to respond as a faith community.

Programs will be held on the following Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Wesley Room at **Fairmount Ave. UMC**, 1523 Fairmount Ave. St. Paul.

Childcare is available upon request.

January 21

The Faith Community and People with Mental Illness and Their Families

Presenter: John Stadler, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), Volunteer Presenter

January 28

Children and Mental Illness

Presenter: Amy DeMers, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist), Prairie Care

February 11

Depression and Grief

Presenter: Christine Lewis, MSN, CNS, Hennepin County Mental Health Center, Retired

February 18

Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health

Presenter: Brian Theine, Supervisor, Ramsey County Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health

February 25

QPR – **Question, Persuade, Respond** – **Suicide Prevention** Presenter: Marilyn Dornfield, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), Volunteer Presenter

For more information and/or request child care, Contact the church office at 651/699-1335.

This programming is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota United Methodist Parish Nurse Association.

"Mystery Guest Worshipper"

"Dear Friend,

United Methodist Churches in our Twin Cities District are engaged in an intentional consultation process to enable them to discern important leverage points and directions for their ministry. As input to this process, we are soliciting feedback from 'Mystery Guest Worshipers' who are willing to attend a Sunday service and complete a brief survey. A \$25 thank you will be remitted upon receipt of your questionnaire. More than one adult in the household can complete a form and families are welcome to attend with children. No particular religious affiliation is requisite, in fact a diversity of spiritual and institutional background offers a helpful range of perspective. You're asked to "blend in" by interacting as a typical first time visitor and refrain from completing the form until immediately after your visit.

Specifically, I invite you to visit Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville now through January 24th and return the survey by January 27th. The attachment includes all necessary information for response. Centennial has multiple services on Sundays both morning and evening. Please also share this invitation with others you know who may be interested in participating. Your ratings and comments will be confidential and valuable for Centennial UMC's ministry now and in the future.

Thanks for considering this important opportunity."

— Rev. Daniel Johnson, Twin Cities District Superintendent ~ Reach-Renew-Rejoice Director ~ Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Please see Pastor Gail if you are interested in participating in this outing and survey. She will visit with you about the process, and provide the survey paperwork.

Always doing a new thing

In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species — some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cartwheeling spider; fossils of a "feathered dinosaur"; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a pufferfish whose males make intricate seafloor "crop circles" as spawning nests.

Such discoveries — regardless of how old or new the species are — demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover *more* new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in *our* lives, too too!

January 2016 Calendar

	Sat., 1/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Mon., 1/25	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	
	Sun., 1/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed., 1/27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Thurs., 1/28	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals	
		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	Sat. 1/30	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	
		10:50 a.m.	Lay Leadership Committee	Sun., 1/31	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
	Mon., 1/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	
	Wed., 1/6	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees			Sunday School	
		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	
	Thurs., 1/7	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee		10:50 a.m.	Annual Church Conference	
		7:00 p.m.	Church Council	Mon., 2/1	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	
	Sun., 1/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed., 2/3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	Sun., 2/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
			Sunday School	, ,	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	
		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			Sunday School	
		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	
	Mon., 1/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
	Wed., 1/13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Mon., 2/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	
	Sat., 1/16	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Wed., 2/10	5:15 p.m.	Supper	
		12:00 p.m.	Un-decorating the Church	, ,	6:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship	
	Sun., 1/17	9:30 a.m.	Worship		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	Sat. 2/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	
			Sunday School	Sun., 2/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	, ,	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	
		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School			Sunday School	
		10:50 a.m.	Outreach Committee		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	
	Mon., 1/18	7:00 a.m.	Martin Luther King Jr.		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	
			Breakfast	Mon., 2/15	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	
		10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	, ,		•	
			Choir Rehearsal	♦ ♦ ♦ • • · · · · ·			
Sun., 1/24 9:30 a.m.		9:30 a.m.	Worship				
		9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's	Offering	Offering Envelopes are available		
			Sunday School	Envelopes	in the church lobby. If you do		
		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	San The san Th	not find en	velopes for yourself,	
				A TONING			

★ <u>Church Conference</u>: 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.

please contact Bill Short.

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

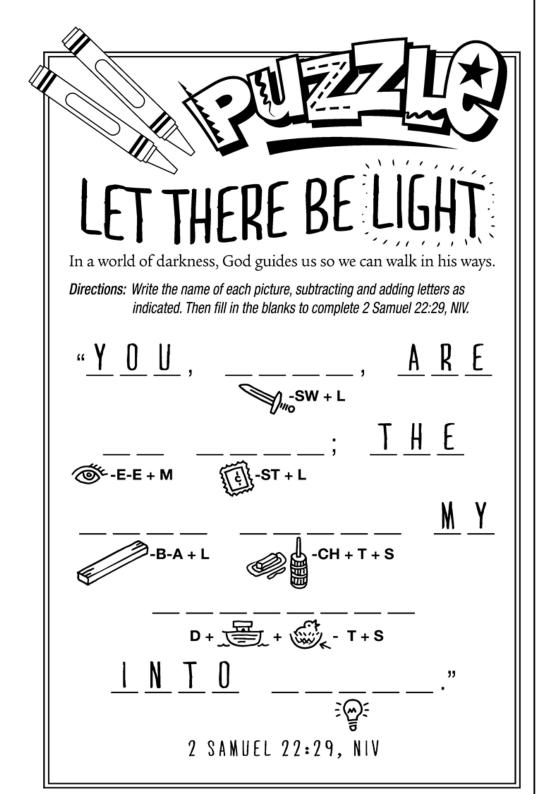
Adult Sunday School

Afternoon at the Movies

10:50 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

KIDS IN SEARCH



Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

- 1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
- 2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
- 3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
- 4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



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

January 2016

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



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

New Year - New Thoughts!

Kindness counts

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who's in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can't attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt maybe even a family member or yourself!



I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred. —Fred Rogers

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. <u>Visit us at www.faithumcmn.com</u>

