



# Faith in Action

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

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

**December 2016**

## *Christmas Eve Worship Services*

★ *December 24*

**4:00 p.m.**

On Christmas Eve we will  
worship together at 4:00 p.m.  
This will be a family-orientated  
worship with candlelight.  
Please join us.



## *Blue Christmas Worship* **December 18**



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. 18 at 5:00 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 Nathaniel DeNardo	12/15 — Christian Johnson Michael Needham
12/5 — Nancy Reid Angela High-Pippert	12/16 — Peter DeNardo
12/6 — Nancy Rankin Melissa Schneider	12/18 — Jazlynn Gallegos
12/8 — Angel Doughty	12/19 — Meta Nachtsheim
12/10 — Vera Young	12/22 — Jeaneen Hovey
12/11 — Dylan Cox Olivia Stehr	12/23 — Ekemini Jonathon
12/14 — Laurel Venhuizen	12/24 — Greg Nelson
	12/25 — Patrick Short
	12/28 — Ryan Boelter
	12/31 — Elsie Brown

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

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

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, JoAnn Loutsch, Dianne Mens, and Karen Cohoes
- **Liturgists:** Isabelle Pippert, Angela High-Pippert, Charles Beardshear, and Mike Schwendinger
- **Serving refreshments:** Bonnie & Fred Dick, and Joel Kranz
- **Communion Steward:** Rose Larsen
- **Thank you** to Bonnie Dick and Carol Schuldt for helping assemble the November newsletter
- **"Thank you** for all the cards, notes, and prayers for Mother. Thank you for all the care you have given us. Mother is now at peace." — *the family of Doris Johnson*
- **A BIG Thank You** to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas: Paul & Pat Williams, Mike and Victoria Hovey, Karen Cohoes, John Kemp, Dan Miller, Steve Larsen, Mia Sorenson, Carol Schuldt, Sharon Yekaldo, JoAnn Loutsch. If I missed anyone, I am sorry ... please know that you are appreciated. Our church building is now ready for us to come and celebrate the birth of Jesus together. — *Judy Turk*
- **Thank you** to everyone who helped/donated to make our Basket & Book Sale so successful ... to the set-up team: Judy Pfenning, Fred & Lynn Mens, Bruce Opp, Steve Larsen, Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, Pat Williams, Gloria Gurtin, Roxanne Napier, George Brown; to the assembly team: JoAnn Loutsch, Lynn Bonkowske, Dan Miller, Dawn Kinnunen, Judy Turk. Judy Pfenning; to the lunch team: Sharon Yekaldo and Taffy Storck. If we missed anyone, please know your help was appreciated. As of November 28, we made \$1,867.75 and we have lovely baskets and items left to sell. — *Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk*



## Congregational Care Concerns:

- ◆ Former Faith member **Dick Root** is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

## Care Centers:

- ◆ **Elsie Brown** – Norris Square, Cottage Grove
- ◆ **Beulah Hanvelt** – Inver Glen Senior Living
- ◆ **Colleen Spadaccini** – White Pine, Mendota Hgts.

**Ongoing Concerns:** (these will be listed for 3 months and then removed. If you wish for them to remain on the list longer, please contact the church office.)

- ◆ **Benjamin Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.

## Concerns Beyond our Doors:

- ◆ Those being persecuted for their faith
- ◆ Those separated from family
- ◆ Those living with degenerative conditions
- ◆ Those who are hungry
- ◆ Those who have lost jobs or their homes
- ◆ Those who struggle due to natural disasters
- ◆ Those who grieve
- ◆ Those who are uncertain about the future

## We Extend our Sympathy:

- ◆ Our sympathy goes to **Dave Peine** on the death of his father on Friday, November 18.
- ◆ We extend our sympathy to **the family of Joyce Ecker** who died on Monday, November 14.
- ◆ We extend our sympathy to **the family of Doris Johnson** who died Wednesday, November 23.

## 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 ["Make a Difference" article on page 7.](#)



★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 29, 2017** 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, please contact the church office. If unable to reach Susan or Pastor Gail in the church office, please contact Sharon Yekaldo, 651-455-4770. If she is not available, contact Carol Schuldt, 651-306-0542. Please make sure the pastor knows so she can respond to pastoral care needs, and knows what is going out over the telephone prayer chain so it can be sent to 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 *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.



# Steps on the Journey

The Christmas music is playing. The lights are shining. The fire is in the fireplace. The tree is getting decorated. Things are beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

But these 4 weeks before Christmas are a time to not only to get our houses ready for Christmas. It is also time to get our hearts ready for the coming of God into human form as a little baby who will be known as Jesus. Emmanuel, God-with-us changes everything.

We are reminded that God loves us so much that God was willing to put flesh on and live among us to teach us how we are to live as children of God. It is worthy celebrating and sharing with those around us.

As we move towards Christmas prepare yourself for something amazing that will change your life.

*Peace in Christ,  
Gail*



*Merry Christmas from the staff here at Faith!*

*Pastor Gail, Susan Filter,  
Joan Fitch and John Kemp*





## Capital Campaign

This year along with our 2017 Finance Campaign, we have been raising money for a new floor in the Fellowship Hall and for a new sound system in the sanctuary. We need approximately \$30,000 for the two projects. A generous donor has come forward and will donate a dollar for dollar match for the floor and the sound system. We have raised \$22,000 with the matching so far. We need to raise the last \$8,000 (\$4,000 plus the \$4,000 match). The floor is in and we are busy using it. The sound system will hopefully be in by Christmas. If we do not raise the money the remainder we need to raise will go in the 2017 budget.

## Facebook Page

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

## Worship CD

CDs of each worship service are available in the bookcase outside Pastor Gail's office. Please find the date you are interested in and borrow it. If you have questions talk to Steve Larsen or Pastor Gail.

## UMC Market

The UMC Market website is waiting for you! **If you shop online**, you can go through the UMC Market portal/website, where 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](http://UMCmarket.org), you will click on the get "Get Started" button. You will then simply sign-up with your email, or through Facebook, find your church, and start shopping and donating. Giving couldn't be easier. Try it today!



## 2017 Finance Campaign "Rebuilding the House of God"

**"We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago."**

2017 is going to be a significant year for us as we continue to be the people of God here in West St. Paul, but also beyond our borders. So far in 2016 our giving has kept pace with our expenses. As of November 28, 2016 we had received 37 estimates of giving totaling \$95,080. If you had intended to turn in an estimate of giving card but have not done so, or have misplaced your card, please contact Bill Short or the church office to receive a new one. You can reach Bill at [bill.short@whitebeartownship.org](mailto:bill.short@whitebeartownship.org) or 651-552-0736. What is the gift you will be giving to help Faith Church continue its ministry?

## 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, 2016 or in the church office by December 31, 2016 to be counted in 2016.**

## 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. The office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23



## **Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve help**

We are looking for help ushering, greeting, running the power point and leading worship for the Blue Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 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**

Each year we have gotten small poinsettia for our homebound and shut-in members. Various people have volunteered to deliver them. The small poinsettia will be available to be delivered on Sunday, Dec. 11. If you can help with delivery contact Laurel Venhuizen.

**Give a meaningful gift this holiday season. Donate blood.**



## **Faith United Methodist** **Blood Drive**

**Wednesday, December 14**  
**Noon – 6:00 pm**

## **Taking Down of the Greens**

Come help un-decorate the church on **Saturday, January 14 at 1:00** (including lunch). We will enjoy a light lunch together at noon and then begin un-decorating at 1:00. We hope you can join us! Contact Judy Turk at 651-343-8027 for more info or email [judyturk123@gmail.com](mailto:judyturk123@gmail.com)



## **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**



**emma norton services**

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

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 [Emma Norton Residence](#) Transitional Housing Program in St. Paul and 13 townhomes at [Emma's Place](#) 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.

# December 2016 Calendar

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Thurs., 12/1	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat., 12/3	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa
Sun., 12/4	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., 12/5	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sun., 12/11	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/12	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	6:30 p.m.	Lay Leadership Committee
Wed., 12/14	12 noon	Blood Drive
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 12/17	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 12/18	9:30 a.m.	Worship (S.S. Program)
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	5:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas
Mon., 12/19	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Fri., 12/23	Church office closed	
Sat., 12/24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Sun., 12/25	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 12/26	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Thurs., 12/29	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat. 12/31	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 1/1	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 1/2	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 1/4	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 1/5	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sat., 1/7	1:00 p.m.	Un-decorating the Church

Sun., 1/8	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., 1/9	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 1/11	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 1/14	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 1/15	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



## Coming Events

**December 3** – Breakfast with Santa

**December 14** – Blood Donor Drive

**December 18** – Blue Christmas

**December 24** – Christmas Eve Worship

**January 29** – Church Conference

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **12/3, 12/17, 1/2, 12/31, 1/14 & 1/28** 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@whitebeartownship.org](mailto:bill.short@whitebeartownship.org) or 651-552-0736.

## 2017 Calendars are Here

2017 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 planning calendars are \$5.00 ea. See Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske to purchase your calendars, and of course, don't forget to get a set for yourself!

# December 2016 Worship Schedule

## **December 4 — 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**— *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12*

Sermon title: "Where are the Snakes?"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Marsha Spatafore

Fellowship Time hosts: Paul & Pat Williams

Communion Steward: Marsha Spatafore

## **December 11 — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

Sermon title: "What Do You See?"

Greeter: Laurel Venhuizen

Lay Reader: Bruce Opp

Fellowship Time Host: Judy Turk

## **December 18 — 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25*

Contemporary message presented by Faith Sunday School

Greeter: Gloria Gurtin

Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen

Fellowship Time hosts: Bonnie & Fred Dick

## **• December 18 — Blue Christmas Worship Service — 5:00 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 25 — Christmas Day Worship**

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14*

Sermon title: "Songs and Stories of Christmas"

Greeter: Judy Pfenning

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time host: Bill Bonkowske



## **January 1, 2017 — 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

*Scripture Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23*

Sermon title: "What Will the New Year Bring?"



## 'It's a Wonderful Life' - Live Radio Play!

**Neighbors, Inc. Benefit • Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:30-10:00 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/wonderful-life-live-radio-play-neighbors-inc/>

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.*



### Leadership

The Lay Leadership (formerly nominating) committee will be meeting beginning in December. If there is a ministry you have wanted to be a part of but don't know how to volunteer please contact Marsha Spatafore, Bob Scopatz or Pastor Gail to get connected or if you have questions about a committee or how something get done.

### Totes

Do you have extra tote bags in your home? United Methodist Women and friends have been working with hundreds of refugee and immigrants in south Texas and noticed they are in need of tote bags to carry personal items on their journey. So they are asking UMW and Friends to mail gently used totes to them, so they can take the bags to helping centers here in South Texas. Let's recycle or reuse! Bring your totes to Faith and we will get them to Texas.





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

December 2016

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TWIN CITIES MN  
Permit No. 774



## 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.

## Christmas Blessings



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



The Sunday School  
of Faith United Methodist will present  
the Contemporary Message during  
worship on Sunday, December 18,  
the 4th Sunday in Advent.

Invite a friend to church!



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