



Faith in Action

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

May 2017

2017 LOVE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS



The Money Pot (located in the church lobby) welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. May's money will support the **Love Offering for Missions**; donations for this cause are gathered within Minnesota United Methodist churches and delivered to annual conference session, to be received at session on June 20. The offering benefits international, national, and Minnesota missions. The conference Missions Promotion Team determines the annual recipients.

Donations to the 2016 Love Offering totaled more than \$96,000. The Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services received 40 percent of that total, the United Methodist Committee on Relief received 10 percent to cover the cost of shipping more than 13,000 health kits that Minnesota churches assembled and prepared, International Child Care in the Dominican Republic received 40 percent, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships received 10 percent. The 2017 Annual Conference theme is "Encounter the Spirit: Live Expectantly" and funds from this year's Love Offering will go to three projects:

United Methodist University of Sierra Leone—School of Applied Health Sciences

Recipient of 60 percent of 2017 Love Offering



Sierra Leone has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world, and one in every five children die before their fifth birthday. The vast majority of the country's citizens don't have access to health services, and there is an acute shortage of trained health professionals. This portion of the Love Offering will be used to expand United Methodist University of Sierra Leone by creating a School of Applied Health Sciences in the city of Bo. Funds may be used for rehabilitating an existing classroom building, hiring staff, preparing a curriculum, and purchasing materials. The school will be adjacent to United Methodist-affiliated Mercy Hospital, where students will receive practical, hands-on training. Midwives, nurses, community health officers, and technicians who graduate from this new institution will significantly improve the accessibility and quality of health care throughout Sierra Leone.

Emma Norton Services

Recipient of 30 percent of 2017 Love Offering

Emma Norton Services helps women, children, and families achieve victory over homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency. The Twin Cities-based nonprofit provides safe, affordable housing through Emma Norton Residence, which supports 50 women in transition at any given time, and Emma's Place, which houses 13 families on a permanent basis. In addition to housing, Emma Norton Services provides case management, peer and individual support programs, youth programs, life skills and out-of-poverty training, mental health support, and advocacy for women with disabilities. Through Emma Norton Services, families receive resources and coaching to equip them on their path toward stability.

Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

Recipient of 10 percent of 2017 Love Offering

Mission trips transform the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in 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 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 helps offset the cost for first-time participants.

May Birthdays

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5/2 — John Kemp	5/11 — Louise Gross	5/21 — Jenny Kranz
5/2 — Nicole Mohr	5/11 — Gloria Gurtin	5/24 — Lisa Ann Boelter
5/3 — Norma Nitti	5/14 — Sonja Beguhl	5/26 — Chad Emery
5/4 — Sheri Lukas	5/15 — Jody Sielski	5/28 — Timothy Pippert
5/6 — Christina Yekaldo	5/18 — Frederick Mens	5/29 — Ruth Martin
5/8 — Judy Pfenning	5/20 — Amber Palmer	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, Dianne Mens, Bonnie Dick, Karen Cohoes, and Roseanne Larsen
- **Liturgists:** Pat Giorgini, Gil Kinnunen, Bill Bonkowske, Mike Schwendinger, and Marsha Spatafore
- **Serving refreshments:** Joel Kranz, Judy Turk, Bonnie & Fred Dick, and Randy Davis
- **Communion Steward:** Roseanne Larsen
- **The auction was another big success.** We raised \$4,235! Thank you to everyone who helped and donated. **A special thanks** to Bonnie & Fred Dick for the delicious pulled pork dinner, Gil Kinnunen for the awesome job of auctioneering, Bill Short and Bruce Opp for assisting Gil, Dan Bonkowske and Rose Larsen for helping with the Silent Auction, and Greg Sr., Greg Jr. and Roxanne Napier for helping set up the items for auction. —*Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk, Co-chairs*
- **A great BIG thank you** to the committee who prepared the delicious Easter breakfast: Tony Yekaldo, Mike Schwendinger, George Brown, Matt, Claudia & Ava Spatafore; and another **BIG thank you** to the clean-up committee: Julie Kelly, Andres Losinski, Carmen Lutgen, Randy Roberts, Randy Davis, Jannessa & Alexi DeNardo. Coordinators: Marsha Spatafore & Judy Turk
- **Thank you** to our Wednesday Lenten monologue readers: Pat Williams & George Brown
- **Thank you** to Sharon Yekaldo for organizing the monologues for the Wednesday Lenten worship
- **Thank you** to Dawn Kinnunen, Bonnie Dick, Gil Kinnunen, Judy Turk and Carol Schuldt for helping assemble the April newsletter.

Expanding our view of service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society — serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it” — or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, ... “Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).

Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Kathy Johnson** had surgery on April 27
- ♦ **Louis Eberly** had been hospitalized

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Elsie Brown** – *Norris Square, Cottage Grove*
- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *White Pine, Mendota Hgts.*
- ♦ **Jerry Lach** – *White Pine, Inver Grove 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 out Sympathy:

- ♦ We extend out sympathy to the family of **Beulah Hanvelt**. Her memorial service was on May 2.

Prayer changes things



Choir Director

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has responded to John Kemp's request to direct the sanctuary choir for another year. John will continue as our choir director through August, 2018.

During the spring and summer we will be evaluating how things have gone since John will be gone for part of the winter and Joan Fitch will be directing the choir as well as being the accompanist.



Growing through Loss

The Interdenominational South Suburban Grief Support Coalition is continuing its sponsorship of the Spring *Growing through Loss* Workshops on the Tuesdays of May 9 and May 16 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Joseph, 13900 Biscayne Avenue West, Rosemount. For further information about topics for each week, visit their website, www.growingthroughlosstcsouth.com or see brochure on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



The Prayer Chain is active. If you have a prayer concern, contact Sharon Yekaldo at 651-455-4770. If she is not available, contact Carol Schuldt, 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 a part of either 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: Remember to pick up the **NEWEST issue** of the devotional *The Upper Room* (daily readings in regular or large print). This booklet is found on the table by the parking lot door.

Steps on the Journey



A few weeks ago we celebrated Easter. Many times we think of this as a once a year occurrence. But the truth is every Sunday should be an Easter celebration. Actually every day should be an Easter celebration.

Easter is not about once a year remembering that God raised Jesus from the dead and brought new life but we need to be reminded every week, every day that God continues to bring new life to each of us. The Easter Sunday celebration helps re-focus our lives around the fact that we are Easter people, we are people who believe resurrection is possible.

In a world that at moments seems to think that death is the only thing possible we are reminded that God and God's Spirit are still at work. Easter people focus on what God is doing. Sometimes it seems way too slow. We want it to go faster. But God will work at God's own speed and we are invited to be part of that experience.

Teilhard de Chardin, a French philosopher and Jesuit priest, put it this way: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stage of instability—and that it might take a very long time. Above all, trust in the slow work of God."

As Easter people we need to be watching and participating with the work of God. As slow as it may seem at times, trusting in God and remembering that today is Easter with all its resurrections we can move forward on the journey taking one more step.

*Peace in Christ,
Gail*



Coming Events

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday

July 24-27 – Summer Meal Program



Camp Work Day!

Time to clean up the camp! May 6, 2017, 9:00a.m.—3:00p.m. 10992 Star Lake Camp Drive, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472. For more info, contact starlakewildernesscamp@gmail.com

Lawn Mowing Time



It's finally green outside again! With all the rain, it is time to again think about lawn mowing. Remember, the church has two riding lawn mowers so more than one person can sign up for a week. If you

can help mow the church yard, please contact Lynn Bonkowske, 651-455-6542.



This year for the food drive to support Minnesota FoodShare, Faith Church raised the equivalent of 1,685.10 pounds toward our goal of 2,000 pounds.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

difference /ˈdɪfərəns / [dɪf-er-uhns]

Generation Transformation



Each week the offering we make is used for ministry within our congregation and in response to the needs of our community. It also helped support the work of ministries beyond the local church that reach people who are in desperate need to feel the touch of God's love and reconciliation. Through our connectional giving (apportionments), we engage, train and resource the next generation of disciples who will lead the church and the world!

Generation Transformation is a ministry of the **General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)** that opens a door for young people to explore mission work in a variety of ministry settings. Open to people between the ages of 20 to 30 years old, it provides opportunities for mission work as Global Fellows in the U.S. (as US-2) or abroad (as International Fellows). Fellows commit to two years of service, not "to others" or "for others," but "with others." We are talking about life-changing opportunities! This ministry happens thanks to the generous support of United Methodists like you. We invite you to give generously.

Learn more about the work of the General Board of Global Ministries, Generation Transformation, and the Global Mission Fellows programs: <http://www.umcmision.org/Get-Involved/Generation-Transformation/Global-Mission-Fellows/Fellows>



May 7 — 4th Sunday of Easter — *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture Readings: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Sermon title: "All in it Together"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Bruce Opp

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Stewards: Judy Turk & Joanne Loutsch

May 14 — 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: Acts 7:5-50; Psalm 31; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Sermon Title: "Who Are We?"

Greeter: Bernice Killian

Lay Reader: Dana Scopatz

Fellowship Time host:

May 21 — 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Sermon title: "Speaking Against the Odds"

Greeter: Joanne Loutsch

Lay Reader: Isabelle Pippert

Fellowship Time host:

May 28 — 7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: 1:6-14; Psalm 68; I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Sermon Title: "What is Wisdom?"

Greeter: Gloria Gurtin

Lay Reader: Carol Schuldt

Fellowship Time host: Judy Turk

Expanded lives

In a fascinating, kid-friendly science experiment, a bar of Ivory soap heated in a microwave writhes and expands into a unique, billowy shape. The change is due to Charles' Law, which describes how a gas, such as that contained in pockets inside a bar of Ivory, expands as its temperature increases. The soap can still be used as normal, though it's now fragile and flaky.

When the Holy Spirit enters us, we expand as well. Our Spirit-enlarged lives may seem misshapen to some, no longer conforming to the world's expectations. But our uniqueness reflects the creativity of our Triune God, who reveals himself to people in many different ways.

Our hearts expand and soften too, opening to other people's needs and concerns, while our God-created purpose remains: to be a force of love and care — of cleansing and renewal — in the world.

May 2017 Calendar

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Mon., 5/1	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group	Wed., 5/31	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation at <i>Feed My Starving Children</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relations Cmte		7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wed., 5/3	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Sat., 6/3	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation	Sun., 6/4	9:30 a.m.	Worship
Thurs., 5/4	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Sat., 5/6	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Mon., 6/5	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Sun., 5/7	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed., 6/7	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Sun., 6/11	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School		10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 5/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group		10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Wed., 5/10	6:00 p.m.	Covington Task Force	Mon., 6/12	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Thurs., 6/15	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation			
Sun., 5/14	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., 5/15	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group			
Wed., 5/17	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation at Neighbors			
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal			
Thurs., 5/18	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals			
Sat., 5/20	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast			
Sun., 5/21	9:30 a.m.	Worship			
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth Sunday School			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
	10:50 a.m.	Celebration			
Mon., 5/22	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group			
Wed., 5/24	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee			
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal			
	6:00 & 7:00 p.m.	Confirmation with mentors			
Sun., 5/28	9:30 a.m.	Worship			
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time			
Mon., 5/29		Office Closed			



Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **5/6, 5/20, 6/3 and 6/17** at the Fireside Lounge, 1288 S. Robert Street starting at 8:00 am. All men are welcome to join us! For more info., please contact Bill Short at bill.short@whitebeartownship.org 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!

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.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

We're getting ready for the 2017 version of **Faith UMC's Neighbors' Food Shelf Garden**. Soon you'll see straw bales appear and the raised garden boxes fill with soil. Planting will begin in mid-May, when we are assured that frost is not in the forecast.

Last year, our garden plus donations from members' "satellite" gardens more than doubled the highest previous yield in six years (530 pounds of veggies — beans, cucumbers, egg plants, herbs, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, squash and tomatoes) with an estimated market value of \$1,330. This year's garden will include even more tomatoes and herbs, which are very expensive to purchase in grocery stores.

If you wish to help plant, tend, harvest or otherwise support this year's food shelf garden project, please contact Gil or Dawn Kinnunen in person or by phone at 651-428- 3959 or email gilogram@gmail.com.

Summer Meals Program at Garlough Elementary School

In partnership with other neighborhood churches, Faith UMC is once again participating in the Neighbors, Inc. Summer Meals Program. After a year at Somerset Elementary School, we are back to serving breakfast and lunch at Garlough Elementary School, 1740 Charlton Street, West St. Paul for one week.

The 2017 dates are July 24-27 (Monday-Thursday). We need four volunteers for breakfast Monday-Thursday (7:30-10 a.m.) and lunch Tuesday-Thursday (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Volunteers may choose to serve one or both meals on the days that work best for them.

If you wish to volunteer, please contact Gil Kinnunen, 651-428- 3959, gilogram@gmail.com.

Memory Tree

A new leaf has been added to the Memory Tree in the church lobby:

*In Memory of
Peggy Spatafore
Loving Mother and Wife
taken far too soon*

New people for mailing list

We are looking for additional people to place on our mailing list. Maybe you have a neighbor, friend or family member you would like to receive the Faith newsletter. Leave the name and address in the church office. This will help us continue to be able to send the newsletter out at a bulk rate (we need 200 addresses for this rate).

Welcome Bags & Cards

The Welcome Team has information cards and welcome bags available in the narthex (lobby). Please feel free to take either or both if you have a new neighbor or a friend as a welcome from the church. Or take an empty bag for your own use.

Happy Mother's Day



*We Honor the
Mothers
in our lives*



KIDS IN SEARCH

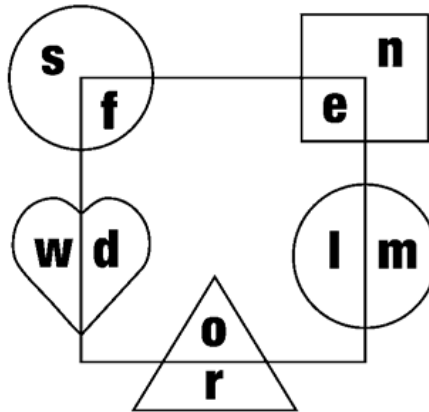


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs.
What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



"Consider how the wild

grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even

in all his splendor was

like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV



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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

Facebook Page

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



Camping Opportunities

Summer is almost here and it is time to think about summer camping. All kinds of camps are available through the camping program of the church. Pick up a brochure on the table outside the church office to see all that is available, from day camps to resident camps to specialty camps— there is something for everyone.

Graduates

If you know someone who is graduating from high school, community college, 4-year college, technical school or graduate school, please let the office know. They will be recognized in the June/July newsletter. High School graduates will be recognized during worship in early June.



Cotton Material

Laurel Venhuizen is looking for cotton fabric to use in making quilts. If you have cotton material you no longer need, or would like to donate, contact Laurel at 615-552-1167.

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