



Faith in Action

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

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

December 2017

Christmas Eve Worship Service

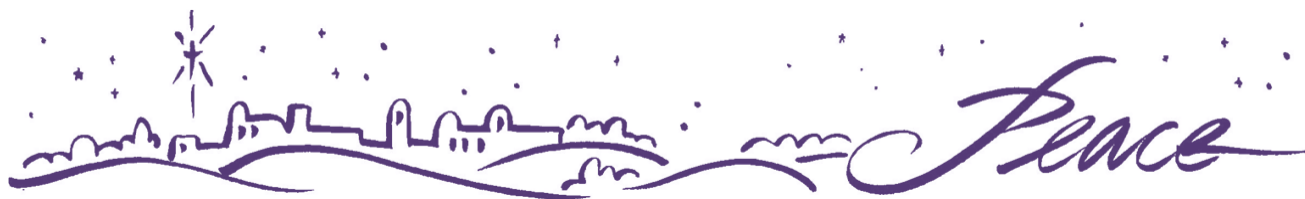
December 24

4:00 p.m.

On Christmas Eve this year, come hear about the **grouchy shepherd** and how his life was changed! We will worship together at 4:00 p.m. This will be a family-orientated worship with candlelight. Please join us.

*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



Blue Christmas Worship December 17



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. 17 at 4:00 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.

December 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	12/27 — Adaline DeNardo
12/14 — Laurel Venhuizen	12/28 — Ryan Boelter

• 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, the Pippert family, Dianne Mens, and Bernice Killian
- **Liturgists:** Marsha Spatafore, Angela High-Pippert, Ann Beardshear, and Carol Schuldt
- **Serving refreshments:** Fred & Bonnie Dick, Dan Miller, and Bill Bonkowske
- **Communion Steward:** Marsha Spatafore
- **Thank you** to Carol Schuldt, Bonnie Dick, Judy Turk, Pat Williams and Roxanne Napier for helping assemble the November newsletter
- **Thank you** to the November cleanup day workers: Pat Williams, Bill Bonkowske, Mike Schwendinger, Rose Larsen, Paul Williams, Steve Larsen, Carol Schuldt, Collette Person, Gil Kinnunen, Bruce Opp, Bill Short, Lee Opp, and Dawn Kinnunen.
- **A Big Thank you** to the following people who helped with the furniture moving for the install of the "gently used" carpet in pastor's office and one of the Sunday School rooms: Paul Williams led the project; his friend Terry Roche helped with dismantling and re-mantling pastor's desk; Pat Williams; Bill Short; Brian, Alexander & Nicholas Sielski; Joel & Jacob Kranz; Steve & Rose Larsen; Johnny Gallegos; Dan Miller; Dawn Kinnunen; Bruce Opp; Bill Bonkowske; Judy Turk. If we missed someone, please know that you are appreciated, too.
- **WE ARE GETTING READY! Thank you** to everyone who helped decorate our church for Christmas ... It looks awesome! Thank you to Lynn Bonkowske for taking the lead and to helpers: Bill Bonkowske, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Steve & Rose Larsen, Mike Hovey, Dan Miller, Judy Pfenning, Carol Schuldt, Pat Williams, Sharon Yekaldo and Pastor Gail.



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Lois Davis** was hospitalized. She is now in rehab at Sholom Community
- ♦ **Peter DeNardo** has a fractured shoulder

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *White Pine, Mendota Heights*
- ♦ **Jerry Lach** – *White Pine, Inver Grove Heights*
- ♦ **Sonja Beguhl** – *Inver Glen Senior Living, I.G.H.*

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 to **Vesta Lach** on the death of her brother and her cousin
- ♦ Our sympathy **Rose Larsen** on the death of her aunt Lorraine

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 Disaster Relief through UMCOR. You can put money in the money pot in the lobby. See the "Make a Difference" article on page 7.



★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 28, 2018** 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.

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!

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.

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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

Sometimes it feels like Advent and Christmas come sooner every year. You turn, and it was autumn and then Halloween, then Thanksgiving and now we are getting ready for the next season – Advent, and then Christmas. Sometimes we want to skip over Advent and get to Christmas because that is when the fun is.

But this year take some time, pause and soak in Advent, that in-between time when we know what is going to happen but still it is not yet here. Sometimes that is how our life is— we know something is going to happen but we have to wait for it.

When I was younger I couldn't wait to turn 16 so I could get my driver's license. I couldn't wait to turn 18, so I could go to college and vote. I couldn't wait to be 21, to be considered an adult.

Today I am more content to wait and see what is going to happen. I have come to understand I may think I know the big picture but when I focus on that too much I miss the smaller things that God wants me to see. The moments of waiting allow me to see what God is up to. When I pause I am able to hear God's voice more clearly.

That is what Advent is for; waiting and watching because God is up to something here at Faith and in the larger world. We need to keep our eyes and ears open so we don't miss what God is doing in our lives, our congregation, our community and world.

We know God is coming – Emmanuel (God with us) but are we willing to be watching and waiting for what God has in store for us today.

Peace in Christ,

Gail



Merry Christmas from the staff here at Faith!

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

Choir Cantata on December 24

Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9:30 a.m. during worship
the Sanctuary Choir will lead us in worship with the Christmas cantata "Peace Has Come" by Mary McDonald. Join us for this special way to help prepare for Christmas Eve later that day.



River Heights Chorale Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, 11 West Bernard St., West St. Paul and Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. Our own John Kemp sings in the chorale.

Note Cards

Do you get notecards from organizations that you contribute to that you can't use? Bring them to church and place them on the table outside Pastor Gail's office. They will be used for a project after the 1st of the year. Please bring both the card and envelope.

Meeting with District Superintendent

Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. we will have our annual meeting with our district superintendent, Rev. Dan Johnson. This year it will be a joint meeting with two other churches.

Pastor's Information

After January 1 Pastor Gail will have a new email and telephone number. Her new email is citymaple1953@gmail.com. Her new phone is 612-703-1296. (If you call the old number you will get Dennis, Pastor Gail's spouse).

After New Year — Email Blast

Beginning after the 1st of the year we will be sending a weekly/bi-weekly email blast to the congregation. Please be sure the church office has a current email address for you. Send your address to faithumc@usfamily.net

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, 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! (Last year we received a check in January because of the use of UMC Market!)



Christmas with Faith Church and Neighbors, Inc.

Faith Church is participating in sponsoring individuals through the Neighbors Christmas program. We now have the names for the children, so please stop by and pick up a name on one of the Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions, contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388. I will also be looking for help with Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd. One thing Santa asks is for food donations to our food shelf. Thank you, Karen Cohoes, 651-456-0388



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 (612-703-1296) if it is an emergency and you need to reach her.

Poinsettias

Each year we purchase small "pixie" 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. 10**. If you can help with delivery, contact the church office.

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 17 at 4:00 p.m. and on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. worship. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gail, 651-457-5686.

Lay 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 gets done.

Taking Down of the Greens

Come help un-decorate the church on **Saturday, January 13 from 1:00 to 3:00**. An afternoon treat, coffee, hot chocolate and tea will be available. For more info, contact Judy Turk at 651-343-8027 or judyturk123@gmail.com



Worship CDs

Each week we record the worship service. With the new system we are no longer making a CD each week. If you would like a copy of the worship service, please talk to Steve Larsen and we will make a recording either CD or other style available to you.

Year End Giving for 2017

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, 2017 or in the church office by December 31, 2017 to be counted in 2017.

Online (ACH) giving

Do you want to be able to give to the church on a regular basis? Do you pay most of your bills on line? Do you wish you could give to the church online? You can, using an ACH giving. ACH giving allows you to give to the church once a month. You can set it up by talking to Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or emailing him at bill.short@whitebeartownship.org.

Would you like to do it directly through your bank? Then set up an EFT (electronic funds transfer) through your bank account, where the church will receive payment as often as you would like. For more information talk to Bill Short or Pastor Gail.

Be The Tool Houston Trips

Rod Scofield along with Be the Tool is working on TWO trips to Houston in the first few months of 2018: January 27-Feb. 4 and April 7-14 (both leaving from and arriving in St. Paul). If you are interested, please contact Rod Scofield at rod@bethetool.org

Coming Events

December 2 –	Breakfast with Santa
December 13 –	Blood Drive
December 17 –	Blue Christmas
December 24 –	Christmas Eve
January 13 –	Women's Gathering
January 15 –	Martin Luther King Birthday Breakfast
January 28 –	Church Conference
January 28 –	Afternoon at the Movies



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Disaster Relief through UMCOR



This year the Christmas Offering will go to Disaster Relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR responds to disasters of great magnitude that overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to suffering people throughout the world. UMCOR works in partnership with United Methodist Churches and other local partners to address immediate relief and achieve sustainable recovery. This is done in a manner that is consistent with global initiatives, standards, and best practices, with respect for the individuals, families, and communities who "own their recovery."

In its holistic response to disasters, UMCOR:

- Offers disaster preparedness training
- Provides essential relief supplies
- Supports long-term rebuilding efforts
- Assists communities as they adapt

UMCOR provides funding, training, expertise, and facilitates partnerships to achieve programmatic goals.

While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, we stand ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. UMCOR stays for years to help create stability.

Some of the places UMCOR is working now are: Hurricane Relief from Harvey, Irma and Maria, (Houston, Texas, Florida & Puerto Rico), earthquakes in Mexico, Northwest United States forest fires, mud slides in Sierra Leone, Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Myanmar (Burma) and Pakistan and ongoing disaster recovery in the Philippines from the typhoons in last few years. *For more information –*

www.UMCOR.org/UMCOR/Programs/Disaster-Response

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

Faith United Methodist Blood Drive

**Wednesday, December 13
Noon – 6:00 pm**



Adult Education Advent Study

The adult Advent study has begun – "The Redemption of Scrooge" What do second chances look like? Does Ebenezer Scrooge need a second chance? What happens when we look *The Christmas Carol* through the eyes of faith. Please join us!

December 2017 Calendar

Sat., 12/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa
Sun., 12/3	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
	1:00 p.m.	Confirmation Trip to
		History Theater
Mon., 12/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 12/6	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Sun., 12/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
		Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 12/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Lay Leadership Committee
Wed., 12/13	12 noon	Blood Drive
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thur., 12/14	7:00 p.m.	Meeting with District
		Superintendent
Sat., 12/16	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 12/17	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
	4:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas
Mon., 12/18	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 12/20	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		Confirmation with mentors
Sun., 12/24	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Mon., 12/25		Office Closed
Thurs., 12/28	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat. 12/30	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 12/31	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 1/1		Office Closed

Thurs., 1/4	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sun., 1/7	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., 1/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wed., 1/10	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Sat., 1/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	9:00 a.m.	Women's Gathering
	1:00 p.m.	Un-decorating the Church
Sun., 1/14	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., 1/15	7:00 a.m.	Martin Luther King Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **12/2, 12/16, 12/30. and 1/13** 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 or 651-552-0736.

2018 Calendars are Here

2018 Calendars with gorgeous pictures and Bible verses are available now! With Christmas coming, 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 2017 Worship Schedule

December 3 — 1st Sunday of Advent— *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sermon title: "What is Coming Near?"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Charles Beardshear

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo



December 10 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sermon title: "the Messenger Comes"

Greeter: Julie Kelly

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time Host: Dan Miller

December 17 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon title: the Faith Sunday School children bring the message

Greeter: Karen Cohoes

Lay Reader: Dana Scopatz

Fellowship Time hosts: Paul & Pat Williams

• December 17 — Blue Christmas Worship Service — 4:00 p.m.

December 24 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon title: the Sanctuary Choir will share the cantata "Peace Has Come" by Mary McDonald

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen

Fellowship Time hosts:

★ 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 31 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Sermon title: "The Week After"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time hosts:



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1530 Oakdale Ave.
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December 2017

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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.

Christmas Blessings



PEACE *LOVE* HOPE *JESUS* PEACE *LOVE* HOPE *JESUS*



The Sunday School

of Faith United Methodist will present
“The Story at the Manger” during
worship on Sunday, December 17,
the 3rd Sunday in Advent.

Invite a friend to church!

Facebook Page

Remember to like our Facebook page at:

<http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn>