



Faith in Action

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

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

May 2018

Our 14th annual (NEW DATE!)
Live & Silent Auction
Sunday, May 6, 2018

4:00 p.m. — Preview auction items
4:30 p.m. — Dinner
(pulled pork sandwich)
5:00 p.m. — Live Auction

Tickets: 12-adult \$8.00 • Ages 4-11 \$4.00

*Make plans NOW to attend — and visit with
Judy Turk or Lynn Bonkowske if you are able to
yet donate items for the auction.*



*Shhhh!
Includes a
SILENT
Auction,
too!*

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY AND PENTECOST SUNDAY — MAY 20

This day is the celebration of the beginning of the church! **As part of the celebration, we invite you to wear red.** Fittingly, we have 5 young people who will be confirming their faith and joining the church on Pentecost Sunday!

Postal Food Drive – Saturday, May 12

Don't forget to leave a bag of food at your mailbox for the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive! Mail carriers will pick up food at your mailbox on Saturday morning, May 12. Food donations from zip codes 55075, 55076, 55077, 55118 & 55120 all go directly to Neighbors, Inc. This annual event is very important for stocking Neighbors' shelves for the summer months.

May Birthdays

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5/2 — John Kemp	5/15 — Jody Sielski
5/2 — Nicole Mohr	5/20 — Amber Palmer
5/3 — Norma Nitti	5/21 — Jenny Kranz
5/4 — Dawn Kinnunen	5/24 — Lisa Ann Boelter
5/4 — Sheri Lukas	5/26 — Chad Emery
5/6 — Christina Yekaldo	5/28 — Timothy Pippert
5/8 — Judy Pfenning	5/29 — Ruth Martin
5/11 — Louise Gross	5/30 — Matthew Palmer
5/11 — Gloria Gurtin	

- *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, Bernice Killian, and Karen Cohoes
- **Liturgists:** Pat Giorgini, Sharon Yekaldo, Bob Scopatz, and Randy Davis
- **Serving refreshments:** Judy Turk, Gil Kinnunen, Karen Cohoes, and Dan Miller
- **Communion Steward:** Sharon Yekaldo
- **Thank you** to our Lenten Supper providers: The Board of Trustees, the Sanctuary Choir, Sharon Yekaldo & friends, Fred & Bonnie Dick, and the Men's Breakfast.
- **A BIG thank you** to all the volunteers who helped with our Easter breakfast — those who coordinated the breakfast, did the cooking, and cleaned up afterward. You are very appreciated!
- **Thank you** to the message providers for the Lenten worship: Steve Larsen, Liz Chun, George Brown, Gil Kinnunen, and Bill Bonkowske.
- **Thank you** to Lenten worship leaders: Dana Scopatz, Dennis Alexander and Gil Kinnunen.
- **A special thank you to everyone** who sent me cards, prayers and thoughts during my illness. Things are now on track. I am getting stronger each day. Thank you. — Rev. Gail Alexander
- **Dear Friends at Faith Church.** *Thank you for your incredible support during our March FoodShare Campaign. Faith brought in a total of \$1,023.57 and 1041 pounds of food! With these donations we will continue to provide food to nearly 500 families and seniors a month. We would not be able to help as many people as we do without the support of your church, and we are forever grateful for your generosity... — Neighbors, Inc.*
- **Thank You!** *“Last fall several Hurricanes hit the United States and the Caribbean. As images streamed across our screens, many were moved to prayer, giving, and action. Thank you for your gift received on 2/12/18 for \$2,450.12 through the Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100% of your contributions will support UMCOR’s U.S. Disaster training and response. Giving through the Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God’s mission. You can learn more about UMCOR’s disaster response and development work by visiting our website at www.umcor.org. Here you can also track your gift or set up monthly donations. Grace and Peace.” — General Board of Global Ministries*

Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Kathy Johnson** has begun chemotherapy
- ♦ **Bonnie Dick** has been having trouble with her knee after a fall

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *White Pine, Mendota Heights*
- ♦ **Jerry Lach** – *White Pine, Inver Grove Heights*

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

Prayer changes things



The Money Pot welcomes your donations! 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 May support the Love Offering for Missions. This year the money will be used for the United Methodist University of Sierra Leone – School of Applies Health Sciences, Emma Norton Services, as well as Volunteer in Mission Scholarships. **You can put money in the money pot in the church lobby.**



Wednesday 6:16 Prayer

Holy God, in these days help us to love you, to see each other, and to hear where you are calling us.

In the name of Christ who shows us the way. Let it be so. Amen.



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 at 651-455-4770. 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 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.

Special Election on May 8

Reminder that on May 8 there is a special election for school district 197, with one ballot question: a request for the approval to issue \$117 million in building bonds for additions, renovations and repairs at all schools, K-12 in the 197 school district.

To learn more about the 18-month study, some of the proposed bond projects, bond breakdown by category, and tax impact to homeowners, please visit:

<https://isd197.org/about/bond>



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

difference /'diferəns / [dif-er-uhns]

Day of Service (kits we make)



Each time we have a day or time of service, we have made school kits, health kits, birthing kits and personal dignity kits. Sometimes our efforts seem like a drop in a bucket. Can the few kits we assemble make any difference?

Each summer Pastor Gail takes our kits to Annual Conference to be delivered to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Other churches across the conference also bring their kits. Midwest Mission Distribution Center is located in Chatham, Illinois.

In 2017 our kits were sent to Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Gambia & Uganda in Africa, Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica, Belize, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Costa Rica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

Last year 13,335 school kits, 36,456 personal dignity kits, 11,761 health kits, and 28,653 birthing kits were sent to the countries listed above. There were 29 international shipments and 201 domestic shipments. 890 churches from 13 states donated kits.

So yes, our efforts do make a difference! And our effort gets multiplied as we work together!

Lawn Mowing Time



It's finally starting to get green outside again! 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 Collette Peterson, 651-224-6819.



This year for the food drive to support Minnesota FoodShare, Faith Church raised the equivalent of 2,064 pounds toward our goal of 1,500 pounds. THANK YOU!



May 2018 Worship Schedule

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May 6 — 6th Sunday of Easter — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Sermon title: "Being Chosen"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Tim Pippert

Fellowship Time host:

Communion Steward: Sharon Yekaldo

May 13 — 7th Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)

Scripture Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; I John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Sermon title: "Jesus, Pray for Us"

Greeters:

Lay Reader: Isabelle Pippert

Fellowship Time Host: Gil Kinnunen

May 20 — Pentecost Sunday — Confirmation Sunday (Wear red today)

Scripture Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sermon title: "Having our Case Pleaded"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time host:

May 27 — Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost)

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Sermon title: "Seeing God"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Gil Kinnunen

Fellowship Time host:

Finding meaning in surrender

Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld, the second secretary-general of the United Nations, was known for his Christian faith and his efforts as a peacemaker. He received the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously after dying in a plane crash in Africa en route to negotiate a cease-fire.

In *Markings*, his published diary, Hammarskjöld wrote **not** of his illustrious career but of his conversations with God. He expressed concern about finding meaning in life and living a life filled with meaning. On Pentecost in 1961 (just months before he died), Hammarskjöld wrote: "But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone — or Something — and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal."

May 2018 Calendar

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Wed., 5/2	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 5/3	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sat., 5/5	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/7	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
	4:00 p.m.	Auction
Mon., 5/7	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 5/10	6:00 p.m.	Covington Task Force
	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 5/13	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., 5/14	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wed., 5/16	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 5/17	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat., 5/19	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/20	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Children's & Youth
		Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 5/21	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 5/23	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 5/27	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Mon., 5/28		Office Closed
Wed., 5/30	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Wed., 5/30-Fri., 6/1		MN Annual Conference
Sat., 6/2	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 6/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 6/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome Team
Wed., 6/8	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 6/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 6/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wednesday	6:16 p.m.	Faith Community Prayer
Thurs., 6/14	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals



Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **5/5, 5/19, and 6/2** 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 651-552-0736 or bill.short@whitebeartownship.org

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

Catch Up Offering

The 1st quarter of 2018 was financially a difficult time for Faith. Because of weather our expenses were up and our income was down. We were forced to use the reserves that usually help us during the summer. Each month we have \$9,000 of automatic payments that need to be made for salaries, health insurance and pension. We continue to look for ways to cut expenses and ways to create new revenue streams.

Summer Meals Program for 2018

In partnership with other neighborhood churches, Faith UMC is once again planning to participate in the Neighbors, Inc. Summer Meals Program. Previous years have brought us to Garlough Elementary School. We will share the dates as soon as we receive 2018 information from Neighbors, so please watch the bulletin and the June newsletter for details on the program and how you can help. In past years, we needed four volunteers for breakfast Monday-Thursday (7:30-10 a.m.) and lunch Tuesday-Thursday (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Volunteers could 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

How Does Our Garden Grow?

We're getting ready for the 2018 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 soon, when we are assured that frost is not in the forecast (or another snowstorm!)

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. This is always a fun and rewarding ministry here at Faith. Thank you.

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



A sign of honor

Even he who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought — the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight to heaven.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



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1530 Oakdale Ave.
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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.



Decisions matter

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

FAITH IN ACTION is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul MN 55118
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