



Faith in Action

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

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

December 2018

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24

4:00 p.m.

On Christmas Eve this year, come hear about the littlest angel and the gift he gives to the baby! 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 16



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. 16 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 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	12/23 — Ekemini Jonathon
12/11 — Dylan Cox Olivia Stehr	12/24 — Greg Nelson
12/14 — Laurel Venhuizen	12/25 — Patrick Short
	12/27 — Adaline DeNardo
	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, Marsha Spatafore, and Vesta Lach
- **Liturgists:** Tim Pippert, Jack Watchorn, Charles Beardshear, and Sharon Yekaldo
- **Serving refreshments:** Fred & Bonnie Dick, and Judy Pfenning
- **Communion Steward:** Marsha Spatafore
- **Thank you** to the volunteers who helped assemble the November newsletter
- **Annual hanging of the greens! Thank you** to everyone who helped make the church look so nice, including JoAnn Loutsch, Judy Pfenning, Greg & Roxanne Napier, Steve & Rose Larsen, Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Dan Miller, Bruce Opp, Collette Peterson, Bill Short, Pastor Gail Alexander, Carol Schuldt, Lynn Bonkowske, and Sharon Yekaldo. If I missed anyone, please know that you are appreciated, too. We are ready to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus! -- Judy Turk **(And thank you, too, Judy!)**
- **Congratulations** to Christina & Matt Solheid on the birth of Madelynn Rae on November 6.
- **Ben Brummund, Jazlynn Gallegos, and Nicholas Sielski** are our Faith third-graders who received their Bibles on November 18.
- **Brady Johnson** was baptized on November 4. Brady's parents are Christian and Laura Johnson.

You are invited to a party to celebrate Laurel Venhuizen's 90th birthday!

Friday, December 14 from 11:00—2:00. Everyone is invited!



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **All people** in our congregation and community

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

December Mission Well

The Mission Well welcomes your change! If you have loose change, take it off your hands on Sunday or any time during the week and help support the offering of the month. Mission Well donations during December help DARTS' Home Repairs. You can put money in the mission well in the lobby. See the "Make a Difference" article on page 6.



DARTS continues to work to transform the aging journey from a challenge into a celebration. Together, we create connections that enrich aging.

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.

Prayer changes things

★ **Church Conference:** The Faith UMC annual church conference is planned for Sunday, **January 27, 2019**, 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 at 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 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.

Faith T-Shirts

The welcome team is ordering t-shirts for people to use at various events. We are offering you the chance to order one for yourself. These are Gildan Ultra Cotton - 6 oz. 100% preshrunk cotton jersey shirts. The shirts will be Royal blue with white lettering. They come in sizes adult small to 5XL. The cost is \$8 for each t-shirt. If you would like to order 1, 2 or more please contact the church office or sign up on the sheet in the office. Orders must be submitted to the office by December 31.

"Paul's Missionary Journeys" Trip in 2019

Join Bishop Bruce and Char Ough on eight nights aboard the Azamara Journey **in October of 2019** for a Highlights of Paul's Missionary Journeys trip. The dates are Friday, October 18, 2019 to Sunday, October 27, 2019. **A copy of the trip brochure** is hanging on the bulletin board by the church office. For additional information or questions, please contact Rev. Michael Miller at: prairieflowers@q.com or 952-975-1704.

Time of Service – Spring Needs

This spring we will again be making kits at our time of service. The following items are what we will be needing for the kits:

receiving blankets • 8 oz. soap • shampoo
hand towels • wash cloths • deodorant
multi notebooks • scissors – 8"
eraser for white board

Next fall we will again be making Christmas boxes for Spirit Lake so keep your eyes open for items that might go in the boxes (handheld games, drawing items, books, jewelry, small toys). You can bring them to church and we will store them.

Garage Sale Heads Up: Are you decorating for the holidays? While doing so, you may find you have things in your home you don't want or need any longer. **Keep in mind that we are planning to have a garage sale next summer here at Faith.**

Will you please start to save items for the sale? You can bring items to the church on June 1 and after. If you need to bring them sooner, ask Roxanne Napier or Judy Turk where to store them in the church.

UMC Market

The redone UMCmarket is now available for use! If you shop online, you can go through the UMCmarket portal/website and 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, then simply sign up with your email or through Facebook, find your church, and start shopping and donating. Giving couldn't be easier. Last year we received a check in January because of the use of the 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 1st. 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. **The church office will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 24 & 25, and on Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

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. 9**. If you can help with delivery, contact the church office.

Blue Christmas & Christmas Eve help

We are looking for help ushering, greeting, and leading worship for the Blue Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m. and on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. worship. If you can help, please contact Pastor Gail at the church office, 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 12 starting at 1:00 p.m.** An afternoon refreshment and treat will be provided. For more info., contact Judy Turk at judyturk123@gmail.com or 651-343-8027.



Worship CDs

If you are interested in a CD of a particular worship service please let Steve Larsen or Susan, our administrative assistant know and they will create one for you. All Sunday worship services are recorded. If you have questions, talk to Steve Larsen or Pastor Gail.

Year End Giving for 2018

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, 2018 or in the church office by December 31, 2018 to be counted in 2018.

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 651-249-3553 or emailing him at bill.short26@gmail.com.

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.

COMING EVENTS

- December 1** – Breakfast with Santa
- December 8** – Christmas caroling at *The Sanctuary* in West St. Paul
- December 12** – Blood Drive
- December 16** – Blue Christmas
- December 24** – Christmas Eve
- January 21** – Martin Luther King Birthday Breakfast
- January 27** – Church Conference



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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

**Faith United Methodist
Blood Drive**

**Wednesday, December 12
Noon – 6:00 pm**



**American
Red Cross**

► Newsletter Count & Changes

Beginning with the January issue of the Faith in Action newsletter, we will be emailing it to all persons who have email. If you would like to have a paper copy of the monthly newsletter please contact the church office either by putting your name on the clipboard in the office or emailing the church at faithumc@usfamily.net. Thanks for your help.

Christmas Offering & December Wishing Well Donations



***The DARTS' Home Repairs
will be our offering
this year.***

DARTS is a local nonprofit organization providing personalized and professional services for older adults and their loved ones for over 40 years. **Since 1974**, DARTS has been a community-based nonprofit serving seniors (ages 55+) and their families in Dakota County and the surrounding area, helping them to lead more independent and fulfilling lives. Through services like light housework, outdoor chores, home repair, caregiving resources, volunteer opportunities and transportation, we have worked to be a community partner across generations. DARTS was originally an acronym (Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors) but the name was shortened to DARTS in 2008 as its services expanded to include homemaking, outdoor chores and volunteer opportunities while living out our mission *creating connections that enrich aging*.

From our beginning, we recognize the transition involved in aging and our history reflects our responsiveness to the challenges as we age. DARTS services are designed to foster independent aging in place and supporting caregivers throughout Dakota County. Our services are available to all seniors and caregivers regardless of income, race and background. Our mission: **DARTS creates connections that enrich aging**

DARTS recognizes the shifting needs that senior homeowners may experience when they choose to **'age in place'**. Home services for seniors, such as assistance with light household chores and outdoor yard work, can ease the burdens of home maintenance and allow families to focus on quality time. Right now DARTS is looking for some teams to shovel snow this winter.

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **12/1, 12/15, 12/29, and 1/12** 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.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.

🎵 **The River Heights Chorale** will have their winter concert on Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, 11 Bernard St. W. in West St. Paul and Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Presbyterian, 2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. John Kemp is a member of this group.

December 2018 Worship Schedule

December 2 — 1st Sunday of Advent— *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25; I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sermon title: "Standing Straight"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: Judy Pfenning

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Stewards: Collette Peterson & Brynn Ford

December 9 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon title: "Being Kept in Someone's Heart"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Dana Scopatz

Fellowship Time Host: Dan Miller

December 16 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sermon title: the Faith Sunday School children bring the message

Greeter:

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time hosts: Dawn Kinnunen

• December 16 — Blue Christmas Worship Service — 4:00 p.m.

December 23 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sermon title: "Mary's Story"

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: George Brown

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 30 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

Scripture Readings: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Sermon title: "What Happens Next?"

Greeter: Judy Pfenning

Lay Reader: Sharon Yekaldo

Fellowship Time hosts:

Breakfast with Santa



Volunteers & food donations are needed to help with Breakfast with Santa. To help, please contact Karen Cohoes at 651-456-0388

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

**Neighbors, Inc. Benefit • Wednesday,
December 5, 2018 7:30-9:45 pm
St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St., St. Paul**

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.

Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and the show will commence at 7:30 p.m. 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. Ticket prices are **\$35 General Admission; \$25 for Neighbors' volunteers and members of Neighbors' Community Builders Circle; \$300 for a table (seats 10).** Contact Neighbors, Inc. to purchase your tickets.

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!

Community Boards

Help us expand our advertising for church events! Keep your eyes open for community boards, and tell Judy Turk. She is looking for places we can hang posters for events here at church.



Happy Thanksgiving!



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

December 2018

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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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



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



Sunday, December 17

The Sunday School

of Faith United Methodist will present
“The Christmas Story” during worship
on Sunday, December 16,
the 3rd Sunday in Advent.

Invite a friend to church!

Facebook Page

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