



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"

February 2019

Game Night – Saturday, February 23

Is winter getting long? Are you tired of being at home?

Then join us Saturday, February 23 for a game night at church! We will have table games, board games and cards, or bring your own game. We will start at 4:00 p.m. and have supper around 5:30. The welcome team will furnish hot dogs, chips and drinks. You can bring snacks or desserts. We will finish around 8:00 p.m. Come and see who is the best at air hockey or Take 5. Be sure to bring a friend for a fun-filled evening.



Great Neighbors' Food Fight

2019 Battle of the Burgers

Who has the best burger around?

The 2019 Great Neighbors' Food Fight competition and fundraiser features delicious burgers from 5 local restaurants. Purchase a \$30 card, try the burgers and then cast your vote to help decide who wins. All Proceeds from card sales go towards Neighbors, Inc. emergency and supportive service programs.

- Contest runs from February 1 to March 31, 2019
- Cards are \$30 each and include one designated burger at each of the five participating restaurants, including:

B-52 Burgers & Brew: *The Hangover Burger.*

BLVD Bar + Grille: *BLVD Bourbon Bacon Burger.*

Jersey's Bar & Grill: *Cheesiest Burger in MN.*

Kaposia Club: *Stockyards Burger.*

Mississippi Pub: *All American Burger.*

Reserve your Card from John Kemp.

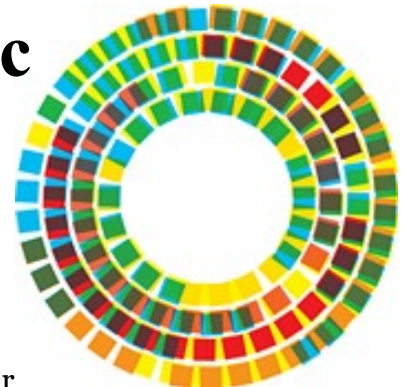
Checks payable to Neighbors Inc.

A mosaic

consists of
thousands of
little stones.

Some are blue,
some are green,
some are yellow,
some are gold.

When we bring our
faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the
beauty of each stone. But as we step back from
it, we can see that all these little stones reveal
to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of
these stones can tell by itself.



That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." The [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

February Birthdays

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2/2 — Colleen Spadaccini
2/2 — Stephen Larsen
2/4 — Brian Sielski
2/4 — Rebecca Hovey
2/7 — Roxanne Napier
2/8 — Alana Sielski
2/9 — Paul DeNardo
2/10 — Jill Vanderhoff

2/11 — Jeffrey Boelter
2/14 — Sheryl Watchorn
2/14 — Fred Knutson, Jr.
2/23 — William Bonkowske
2/24 — Mackenna Emery
2/28 — Carie Otto
2/28 — Macenzie Worden

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

Thank you to and for during January...

- **Greeters:** Taffy Storck, Dianne Mens, and other volunteers
- **Liturgists:** Sharon Yekaldo, Bruce Opp, Randy Davis, and Angela High-Pippert
- **Serving refreshments:** Dan Miller, and Gil & Dawn Kinnunen,
- **Communion Steward:** Sharon Yekaldo
- **Thank you!** We took down and put away the Christmas decorations ... and helped the choir move music and file cabinets on January 12. Thank you to Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Steve & Rose Larsen, Dan Miller, Bill Bonkowske, Bill Short, Bruce Opp, Pat Williams, Sharon Yekaldo, Judy Turk, and Pastor Gail Alexander.
- **Thank you** to the volunteers who helped assemble the January newsletter.
- **Thank you** to the following people who finished their terms on teams and committees:
Karen Cohoes (Greeter coordinator), George Brown (Lay Leadership Committee), Lynn Mens (Memorial Secretary), Lori DeNardo & Julie Kelly (outreach committee)
- **GRAPE SALAD:** We have received many inquiries for the recipe for a delicious purple grape salad that was donated at our Soup & Salad event last October. If you made a purple grape salad for this event, will you please share the recipe with Judy Turk to pass along? We have heard that it was "yummy"!



Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Liz Chun** had eye surgery
- ♦ **Carol Schuldt** had carpal tunnel surgery
- ♦ **Alana Sielski** sprained her ankle
- ♦ **Elliana DeNardo** broke her foot
- ♦ **Carol Ward** had a stroke and is having surgery on her carotid artery

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

Congratulations:

- ♦ Congratulations to **Mike & Jeanna Schwendinger** on their 25th wedding anniversary

Mission Well Offering

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 February will go to Imara International Center in Kenya, a center that offers life skills for teenage mothers there — *“Empowering Kenyan women through education to build a self-sufficient future for themselves, their children, and their community.”*

Looking ahead to March, the Mission Well donations will support Minnesota FoodShare through Neighbors. The Mission Well is located 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.

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.



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.

Newsletter

With this issue of the newsletter, we are sending it out by US postal mail and e-mail. If you wanted a paper copy but receive an electronic copy, please contact the church office so we get you on the list. If you receive an emailed newsletter AND a paper copy, please be patient as we perfect the email list. The newsletters are also accessible through the church website at www.faithumcmn.com

Heinemann Fund

The Heinemann Fund was established many years ago from money received the estate of the Heinemann family. The money was set aside to help provide income for paying the apportionments (connectional giving). In 2016 money was added to the Maurer estate. Today the base in the fund is \$50,000. In 2018 we were able to take market gains and interest income from the fund for a total of 1,874.50. This fund is available to receive gifts at any time whether through an estate or a donation. The goal is to keep the principle intact and use only money from the market gains and the interest. For more information talk to someone on the finance committee or Pastor Gail.

Garage Sale Heads Up

We are planning to have a garage sale next summer. 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.

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

COMING EVENTS

February 23 – Game Night

March 6 – Ash Wednesday

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

April 19 – Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 21 – Easter

April 28 – Time of Service & Potluck

★ 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 “Month of Love” — Ten Biblical Ways to Love



Listen without interrupting. “To answer before listening — that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).

Speak without accusing. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).

Give without selfishness. “The righteous give without sparing” (Proverbs 21:26).

Pray without ceasing. “We have not stopped praying for you” (Colossians 1:9).

Answer without arguing. “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife” (Proverbs 17:1).

Share without pretending. “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).

Enjoy without complaining. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).

Trust without wavering. “[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

Forgive without punishing. “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).

Promise without forgetting. “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

—From various websites; all Scriptures NIV

Gifts of IRA Assets

Good news for taxpayers over the age of 70½. Congress has voted to make permanent the exclusion from income of up to \$100,000 per person, per year, for Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distributions which are given directly to charities. This money can be given to the church and you will receive a donation credit on your giving. For more information, contact your financial planner or Pastor Gail.

Capital Improvements Fund

This January we had to have the trees on our property trimmed because of some low hanging and dead branches. The total cost of the trimming was \$1,800. This amount will nearly drain our capital improvement fund. The capital improvement fund is what we have used for repairs on our building and the parsonage. If you would like to contribute to the capital improvement fund to help cover the cost of the tree trimming, please use the enclosed envelope if you receive the newsletter by mail. Otherwise pick up an envelope at church. Gifts of any size are welcome. —Board of Trustees

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 where we can hang posters for church events.

Book of Reports

Sunday, January 28 after worship we held our annual church conference. The Book of Reports for 2018 is available on the table between the offices. Please feel free to take a copy.

Can you help— or do you want or know someone who would like Computer Desks?

We want to remove the computer desks that are in the end rooms of the education wing. We want to use the room for other things. Please let Judy Turk know if you can help: phone 651-343-8027 or email judy-turk123@gmail.com.



Are you wondering...

- What are my strengths, values and passions?
- What brings meaning & purpose to my life?
- How can I continue to grow spiritually?
- How can I make a difference?

What are the ways I can connect to ministry across the Minnesota Annual Conference?

If you are a lay person asking yourself these questions, consider joining us for **Connexion: Finding Purpose and Connection in Ministry**. This retreat is about listening deeply to God, to yourself, to each other, and to the needs of the world. It's about connecting your passions and call to others in the Minnesota Conference. It's about finding your spot to contribute.

This retreat, once completed, will qualify you as a certified lay servant.

About the word ConneXion: John Wesley developed what he called "connexion," an interlocking system of classes, societies, and annual conferences. We use the word in honor of our Wesleyan heritage.

Join us at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids for this ConneXion retreat — Friday dinner until noon Sunday. (Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, 2019)

Cost: \$150 for multiple occupancy rooms, \$195 for single room, \$75 for commuters. Includes program, meals, and overnight lodging. Do not let the cost keep you away. Contact Gail Johnson for more information (gail.johnson@minnesotaumc.org)

Deadline: March 2, 2019 12:00AM

ConneXion Retreat

MAKE A DIFFERENCE • Imara International •

Empowering Kenyan women through education to build a self-sufficient future for themselves, their children, and their community.



Our Story

The story of Imara International begins with our executive director, Carol Erickson. Carol is a member of Messiah UMC in Plymouth. From an early age, Carol was drawn to care for orphans. When I was about 10, news broke in the United States about the gross mistreatment of orphans in what was then the USSR. In church, we watched a video of the Romanian orphanages and how babies were dying from lack of human touch. This broke my 10-year-old heart and that day God whispered a dream in my heart that still echoes there today. Promptly after the service, I asked my mom to put me on a plane to Romania. No orphaned baby should die due to lack of touch if I was available to hold her. (Of course, my mother did not send me to Romania!)

In 2006, Carol heard Bono speak about Africa at a prayer conference. He spoke about disease (specifically AIDS), hunger and genocide. "To be honest," said Carol, "these things scared me to death. After the event, my friend and I were discussing all that Bono had said. In my head I was thinking, 'Thank God I'm called to Eastern Europe.' Out loud I said, 'I am never going to Africa unless I am on a five-star tour of the Serengeti.' All I have to say is be very careful about what you tell God you are never going to do!"

Soon after hearing Bono speak, Carol went on her first trip to Kenya, the first of several mission trips to a girls' boarding school there. Then Carol realized God was calling her in another direction.

"Often in Kenya," said Carol, "young women do not have the opportunity to finish school. When this happens a cycle of poverty begins. They can't get a job, they get pregnant, and they are forced to do what no one should have to do to stay alive. Due to lack of education and employable skills these girls are destined to a life filled with abuse, violence and poverty. During my trips to Kenya I noticed a gap. What happens to these teenaged girls and how can we help them?"

Thus the idea for Imara International was born. (Imara is a Swahili name for girls meaning "strong" or "resolute.")

With God's help, Imara International is creating a training center that gives teenage moms a chance to learn vocational skills and finish their high school educations. While they are working and learning, their children will be cared for in an early childhood center. The goal is to eventually have this program completely run by Kenyans.

For more information visit imarainternational.org

February 2019 Calendar

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Sun. 2/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 2/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wed. 2/6	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., 2/9	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 2/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 2/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed., 2/13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 2/17	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 2/18	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome Team
Wed. 2/20	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 2/21	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
Sat., 2/23	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	4:00 p.m.	Game Night
Sun., 2/24	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 2/25	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed. 2/27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 3/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School

Mon., 3/4	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
	12 noon	Bible Study
Wed. 3/6	5:15 p.m.	Supper
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship
	6:45 p.m.	Board of Trustees
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 3/7	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sat., 3/9	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 3/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Youth & Children's Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	10:50 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Mon., 3/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group
Wed. 3/13	5:15 p.m.	Supper
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal



Daylight Savings Time

Reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10.



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on the Saturdays of **2/9, 2/23, 3/9, and 3/23** 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.

Facebook Page

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

February 3 — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Matthew 13:45-46

Sermon by Dr. Dana Scopatz

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Steward: Karen Cohoes

February 10 — 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 13:18-19

Baptism of Natalie Gackstetter

Sermon title: "Does it Matter if it is Small?"

Greeter: Bonnie Dick

Lay Reader: Judy Pfenning

Fellowship Time Host:

February 17 — 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 13:18-19

Sermon title: "Who Gets Paid?"

Greeters: Paul & Pat Williams

Lay Reader: Tim Pippert

Fellowship Time host:

February 24 — 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 13:18-19

Sermon title: "What Good Does Yelling Do?"

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Charles Beardshear

Fellowship Time host:



Christian Symbol

CHI RHO — "Chi" and "rho" are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (XPICTOC, pronounced "Christos"). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a "sacred monogram." Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors. Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd's crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.



The God who created us now calls us to participate in healing relationships between people and the earth, and between the peoples of the earth. How are you being called to lead in this healing? Join the United Methodist Hopeful EarthKeepers movement, as we work together to welcome a more just and sustainable world!

EarthKeepers work within their communities by:

- Lifting up the importance of caring for creation at the heart of our Christian faith;
- Responding creatively to ecological devastation and climate change;
- Working for justice so that all communities have access to clean water, clean air, clean energy, healthy food, and green space.

Who are EarthKeepers?

EarthKeepers are United Methodists who are keenly aware of the ecological challenges in our world today and feel called to be part of a movement to transform the world. They work with their congregations and communities in many different ways: for example, growing community gardens, advocating for renewable energy policies, working for environmental justice, creating liturgy, or leading discussion groups on creation theology.

EarthKeepers are laity and clergy, students, part-time and full-time workers, and retirees. They may have a vocation that allows them to focus on caring for creation during their regular work hours, or they may choose to volunteer their time.

Expectations

- EarthKeepers participate in three days of intensive training in theology and community organizing.
- EarthKeepers help others understand how caring for God's creation is a core part of our identity as Christians.
- EarthKeepers provide leadership for a community project or advocacy campaign that aims to transform our relationship to God, the earth, and one another. Come with a project of your own, or join with others in new or ongoing projects.

- EarthKeepers meet quarterly with a regional cohort for worship and ongoing support and training.

Details

This is a local EarthKeepers training hosted by the Minnesota Annual Conference EarthKeepers. Limited spaces are available for people from other Annual Conferences or other denominations.

Cost: \$250 early bird / \$275 after March 1 (staying at camp). \$125 / \$150 (commuter). \$40 / \$50 (Saturday only, for current EarthKeepers, includes lunch and supper).

Deadline for registration: April 17, 2019 12:00 AM

Koinonia Retreat Center

7768 Pilger Dr NW

South Haven, MN 5538

For more information contact Rev. Susan Mullin

Spirit Lake Mission Trip

WHEN

Sunday, July 7, 2019 to Saturday, July 13, 2019

Contact: Becky Boland

The Spirit Lake Reservation is located in east-central North Dakota on the south shores of Devil Lake and is home to more than 6,000 people in the Dakota tribes of Pabakse, Sisseton, Wahpeton bands. Established in 1867 via treaty, those who call the reservation home live in extreme poverty and struggle with incessant flooding and an unemployment rate of over 43%.

This summer, make it your family's mission to live life through service with them and join us on a conference-wide mission trip that offers comfortable accommodations and a variety of meaningful service work for volunteers of all ages as well as opportunities to engage with the Spirit Lake community and culture.

Registrations and deposits are due April 30.

Total cost is \$200 per person (includes lodging, food, and transportation). For questions or information, contact Becky Boland, bolandbecky@gmail.com. To learn more about the Spirit Lake Ministry Center, visit www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org



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

February 2019



Sunday 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.

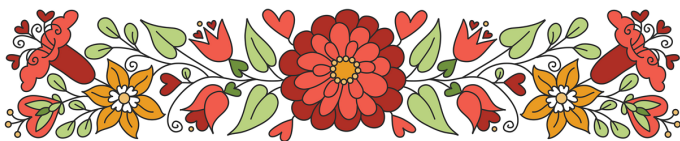


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Affectionately yours

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.



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.