



Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church
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West St. Paul MN 55118
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"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together"

February 2020

Game Night – Saturday, February 29

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

Then join us Saturday, February 29 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 a supper available around 5:30. 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

The Great Neighbors' Food Fight is Underway!

The 2020 food competition & Neighbors, Inc. fundraiser will feature burgers from eight local restaurants. The competition will run from February through March. Local restaurants have chosen one designated burger to compete in this year's event! Buy a Great Neighbors' Food Fight Card for \$30 and redeem it for the selected burger at each location during the months of February and March. Decide your favorite and then vote online. Proceeds from the sales of the Great Neighbors' Food Fight cards benefit Neighbors, Inc. *Contact John Kemp or Dawn Kinnunen about food fight cards.* **The burgers include:**

B-52 Burgers & Brew: Wisconsin Cheese Curd Burger - Burger topped with real Wisconsin cheese curds, bacon and our signature bacon aioli.

BLVD Bar + Grille: Oaxacan Burger - Housemade beef chorizo patty stuffed with Oaxaca cheese and topped with lettuce, tomato, red onion, Raja's and fresh avocado served on a toasted brioche bun.

Cherokee Tavern: American Bad A\$\$ Burger - Peanut butter, sriracha, smoked Gouda, bacon and lingonberry jam on a milk bun.

Hamburguesas El Gordo: Del Gordo Burger - Half pound housemade beef burger with grilled ham, mozzarella cheese, American cheese on a toasted bun and topped with mayo, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickled peppers, avocado, bacon, mustard and ketchup.

Inver Grove Brewing: Bacon Spinach Dip Burger - Half pound burger topped with our house made creamy bacon spinach dip and served with mixed greens, tomato, red onion and house made pickles.

Jersey's Bar & Grill: Jalapeno Popper Juicy Lucy - Stuffed with jalapenos and pepper jack cheese, then breaded and deep fried, topped with jalapeno cream cheese and served on a toasted sourdough bun with sriracha on the side.

Kapasia Club: Chorizo Burger - Chorizo burger topped with jalapenos, pepper jack cheese and deep fried onions with a side of ranchero sauce.

Mississippi Pub: The Pork & Pineapple Burger - Char-grilled burger layered with Swiss cheese, grilled pineapple, pulled pork and soy garlic port sauce.

February Birthdays

- 2 -



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, Sharon Yekaldo, Judy Pfenning, and Gloria Gurtin
- **Liturgists:** Bruce Opp, Sharon Yekaldo, Charles Beardshear, and Carol Schuldt
- **Serving refreshments:** Bonnie & Fred Dick, and Dan Miller
- **Communion Steward:** Judy Turk
- Sad ... It's over this year already ... we put away the Christmas decorations. **THANKS to a great team effort**, we were done in less than an hour ... first time ever! Thank you to the team: Gil & Dawn Kinnunen, Steve & Rose Larsen, Dan Miller, Bill Bonkowske, Bill Short, Bruce Opp, Pat Williams, John Kemp, Judy Turk, Carol Schuldt, Collette Peterson, Judy Pfenning, Nancy Rankin, Gloria Gurtin, and Pastor Gail Alexander.
- **Thank you** to the following people for assembling the January newsletter: Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, Pat Williams, Judy Turk and Carol Schuldt.
- **Thank you** to the following people who finished their terms on teams and committees: Tim Pippert (Board of Trustees & Faith Foundation), Angela High-Pippert (Staff Parish Relations Committee), George Brown (Treasurer & stewardship committee), Karen Cohoes (Neighbors, Inc. rep), Julie Kelly (lay member of Annual Conference), Dan Miller (lay leadership), Bill Bonkowske (welcome team), and Lynn Bonkowske (stewardship committee).
- **"2019 was another amazing year here at Neighbors**, with the biggest change being the number of households served in the food shelf grew by 25 percent! We could not do it without you, and together with your financial support and our many volunteers, thousands of people in need in northern Dakota County are being fed healthy food, receiving warm clothing, getting rides to medical appointments and much more! **Thank you so much** for your December food donation (125 pounds of food) to help your neighbors! Your active support of the community helps us to continue our mission of providing opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by connecting volunteers to people in need. **Annual food donation: 2,037 pounds of food including 470 pounds of garden produce.**" — *With Gratitude, Beth Skwira, Neighbors, Inc. Dir. of Mission Advancement*
- **"Dear Faith United Methodist Church**, Your kind hearts have given us the opportunity that we could not have given ourselves this year. May you be blessed always, as your giving spirit will never be forgotten." *This is a note recently sent to us from a family that received gifts through our Holiday Gift Program, and is a perfect reminder of the impact of your support and the gratitude of the people who receive it.*

Congregational Care Concerns:

- ♦ **Marianne Young** continues rehab at Southview Care Center after breaking her femur

Care Centers:

- ♦ **Colleen Spadaccini** – *White Pine, Mendota 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

We Extend our Sympathy:

- ♦ Our sympathy to the family of **Phil Phipps** who died on Tuesday evening, January 28. Memorial service is pending. Remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Prayer changes things

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 Small Sums (see page 7). The Mission Well is located in the church lobby.



Book of Reports

Sunday, January 19 after worship we held our annual church conference. The Book of Reports for 2019 is available on the table between the offices. Please feel free to take a copy.



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.

Adult Sunday School February 9, 16 & 23

“Nevertheless, the Women Persisted and Provided a Powerful Witness!”

- We'll talk about the UMW foreign & home missionary efforts of all UMC denominations; including Red Bird & Henderson Mission.
- We'll identify UMW MN missionaries & mission projects
- Review the UMW work toward racial reconciliation & anti-immigration work.
- We'll talk about the sexist barriers men have placed before the women over the years and yet how they have persisted. For example:
 1. In the 1800's, men have defined “a True Methodist Woman” as one who holds these qualities: piety, purity, submissiveness and domesticity.
 2. Even at those progress colleges that were the first to admit women there were instances where the women were allowed to complete the classes but did not receive a degree. Theological schools followed this policy including Oberlin College.
 3. Boldly demonstrating the Church's disregard for women, the 1906 General Conference enacted legislation dictating that women's missionary societies were not to expend more than \$5,000 from their treasury in the purchase of property without the consent of the men's board of missions. Indeed, the woman's societies had to submit **all their expenditures** for the men's approval – notwithstanding the fact that all funds were raised by the women. In addition,
 4. all missionaries hired by the women's societies had to be approved by the men's board.

Based on the book **“Women United for Change: 150 Years In Mission”** by Ellen Blue.
Rev. Dennis Alexander will lead the class.

If you are interested in ordering the book, please contact Pastor Gail.

COMING EVENTS

February 26 – Ash Wednesday

February 29 – Game Night

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

April 10 – Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 12 – Easter

April 26 – 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!

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 2019 we were able to take market gains and interest income from the fund for a total of close to \$6,000. 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.

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.

Lent

This will be an opportunity for the Women of faith to come together in a time of Prayer, reflection and action. Join us this Lenten Season for a Women's Lenten Retreat – Saturday, March 28 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. here at Faith UMC in the Lounge. All women are invited.

We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities:

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for women to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through the observance support worthy initiatives that relate to each year's mission focus.

The mission focus for 2020 is "We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities," supporting the work of United Methodist Women-supported **national mission institutions, international partners** and **regional missionaries**. Women, children and youth across the world have felt the love of God through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial funds that have been given to countless women gathered in circles of care. As United Methodist Women members, we bow to meet God in prayer and then rise to give of ourselves that God's vision of an abundant and beloved community for all can be realized. The kingdom comes as we live into the light of

God's vision for humanity, of mutuality and of seeing oneself in the eyes of another.



Spirit Lake Mission Trip Sun., Aug. 9 to Fri., Aug.15, 2020



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 info., contact Becky Boland, bolandbecky@gmail.com.

To learn more about the Spirit Lake Ministry Center, visit www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org



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.

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.

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.



The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."



2020 CAMP MINNESOTA

Camp registration:

Register now for camp at Koronis Ministries, Northern Pines, or KoWaKan Adventures! Register by April 30 to receive the Early Bird Camp Store Credit of \$25 to be used during the time at camp. Scholarship funds are available to campers who need them. Camp brochures are available.



Closest to the Metro, Koronis Ministries offers a beautiful lakeside retreat center for groups of 3 to 300, plus an accredited summer youth camp for kids aged 6-18 located in our 185-acre woods. At our historic (begun in 1922) Retreat Center on the shores of stunning Lake Koronis, church or family groups can come together in a place of natural beauty and refreshment. <https://www.koronisministries.org/>



ELI Project Applications for

Summer 2020: Due March 2.

Are you or do you know a college student interested in vocational ministry? Apply for this summer internship program, which places students into host congregations for a hands-on learning experience. <https://www.eliprojectmn.com/studentapply>

*United Methodist Day
Minnesota Twins Game (vs. Yankees):
June 18, Target Field, Minneapolis*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

• Small Sums (St Paul) •



Our Story

We believe that given the right tools, opportunities, and guidance, homeless individuals can find living wage employment, and through living wage employment, they will find a place to call home. Our

programs represent a unique approach to social outreach. Because we remove specific employment obstacles, the assistance provided by Small Sums helps to empower our clients and move them toward financial independence.

Small Sums' sole purpose is to help homeless individuals, who have found jobs, with the specific things that they need to start back to work. With practical and timely assistance, that few other agencies provide, we remove obstacles that prevent homeless workers from being able to take a job. We often provide our clients assistance with things like required work clothes and shoes, trade tools, professional licenses or union dues, and bus passes so they have a reliable way to get to work everyday until they receive a paycheck.

Our Partners

We partner with referring organizations that serve the poor and homeless to provide these simple things, (with an average item-cost of less than \$200 per worker), often within 24-72 hours from their application, so that our clients are able to accept the job and start working within days of the job offer. This is one of the most important steps to getting out of their homeless situation.

We believe that by collaborating with other organizations, we enhance the support provided to our clients during the important time of starting a new job and putting together a more stable life. By working with other organizations, each provides a different, and valuable, type of support for clients as they begin their journey out of homelessness.

Our Success

Our efforts produce good results. We start with success because 93% of our homeless clients have found verifiable jobs when they come to us, which is a testament to their resilience and determination in their daunting circumstances. Once a year, we reach out to clients that we have assisted in the prior to track their housing and employment progress. We are able to reach approximately one-third of our direct clients.

In 2015, we completed the Client Follow-up Project for 2014 clients. 57% are now in stable housing (no longer homeless!) AND still employed. Of those with wage information (50%), average starting wage was \$10.99 at the time of assistance and at follow-up, it rose to \$12.42. It's a surprisingly simple solution that is practical and economical and it fosters the important role of self-sufficiency in helping our clients get into places of their own. Our clients want to work, and our program is committed to supporting their resiliency and efforts. Small Sums gives homeless workers the ability to say "yes" to a job and put them back on the path to a more stable life and being productive community members and taxpayers again.

For more information visit smallsums.org

Small Sums, 1222 University Ave. W. Ste. 202, St. Paul MN 55104

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

February 2 — 4th Sunday after the Epiphany — Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon by Dr. Dana Scopatz

Greeter: Taffy Storck

Lay Reader: John Kemp

Fellowship Time host: Dan Miller

Communion Steward: Karen Cohoes

February 9 — 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112; I Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon title: "Salt and Power"

Greeter: Rose Larsen

Lay Reader: Ann Beardshear

Fellowship Time Hosts: Fred & Bonnie Dick

February 16 — 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119; I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon title: "Being God's Coworkers"

Greeter: Bill Short

Lay Reader: Judy Pfenning

Fellowship Time host:

February 23 — Mardi Gras Sunday (Transfiguration Sunday)

Scripture Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; I Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon title: "Coming Into the Light"

Greeter: Marsha Spatafore

Lay Reader: Bill Bonkowske

Fellowship Time host:



Christian Symbol

ROOSTER — The rooster is reminiscent of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of Jesus' trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV); thus, it may represent faithlessness in general, especially in the face of danger. Because of the rooster's early-morning call, it's also symbolic of watchfulness: "Therefore keep watch," said Jesus, illustrating the return of the Son of Man, "because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back — whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn" (Mark 13:35, NIV).



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February 2020



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

UMCmarket

The UMCmarket is available! 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 UMCmarket.



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

This 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.