



Faith in Action

“Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together”

August 2020

Greetings,

When I was first starting the ordination process as a college student, one of the questions commonly asked of me was whether I could willingly sign up to be itinerant: to move at the will of the Bishop and the Cabinet. I often, somewhat glibly, replied that I could very well be less itinerant as a clergy than I ever was as a child, which is still theoretically true. The longest I have lived in any one community is 5 1/2 years (I consider it a tie between my time in California, where I lived from the middle of second grade until the beginning of eighth grade and my time in Missouri, where I lived from the fourth quarter of my junior year in high school through college). As a child and teen, whenever I would tell people how often we relocated, invariably they would ask me where my favorite place to live was. The problem was, and continues to be, that it is so hard to compare locations across time.

When I was very little, we lived only a few hours drive from my grandparents. As an older elementary and middle school student, we lived in the Bay Area, which had lots of family oriented activities, and historical tourist activities (I love history!). As an older, somewhat independent teen and college student, I lived in St. Louis, which has the Forest Park area (only miles from my university), which includes a free element of every part of the park, including the Zoo, Science Center, Art Museum, and outdoor theater. One of the values my parents instilled in both my sister and I was the ability to appreciate the good in a variety of circumstances. If I had lived in these places at different times, I'm sure I would have found things to love about them for a different phase of life.

With every move, there is a period of “nesting”, unpacking the boxes, figuring out the filing system, just generally

getting settled. While my house still has much unpacking to be done, my church office is starting to look more and more like a settled place to work. I even have some of my office art on the walls! As I begin life and ministry in this new community, I'm looking forward to discovering the good here. In fact, I'd go so far as to say, I'm excited about the process of discovering how God is already here, and how I can participate in the mission and ministry of the church in this place. Will you join me? Let's take time to discover the good and the God in this place and share that good news with the neighborhood, the community and the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

August Birthdays

8/5 — Anthony Yekaldo
8/6 — Kathy Johnson
8/9 — Deborah Pate
8/11 — Daniel Bonkowski
8/12 — Ava Marie Blessing
Jonathan
8/13 — Kaden Emery

8/13 — Greg Nelson, Jr.
Rose Marie Nelson
8/14 — Elizabeth Lukas
Marsha Spatafore
8/15 — Joseph Spatafore
8/17 — Raymond Fjerstad
Claudia Sanchez

8/19 — Kasey Kropp
Linnea Rostad
8/21 — Carol Ward
8/24 — Samantha Kropp
Roseanne Larsen
8/26 — Ronald Brummund

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

THANK YOU!

- Thanks to Gil and Dawn for your green thumbs for maintaining the garden, and coordinating the Summer Servants program.
- Thanks to Mike Schwendinger and Chuck Martin for painting the lines in the parking lot.
- Thank you to Bob & Dana Scopatz and Steve Larsen for their tech assistance during Zoom worship services.

Men's Breakfast Group

will connect on Saturdays: **8/8, 8/22, 9/5, & 9/19**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.

Lawn Mowing Time

We are looking for people who are willing to mow the church lawn this summer. We have **two riding lawn mowers** so you and a friend or spouse can mow together. To volunteer, contact Mike Schwendinger at 612-308-1399 or Vikesfan01@gmail.com.

Church Office Hours

Susan will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Marianne is in the office Mondays–Thursdays in the morning through early afternoon, unless there is an evening meeting, in which case she is in the office in the afternoon and evening. Fridays are Pastor Marianne's regular days off. Please call her on her cell (320-219-3341) if it is an emergency and you need to reach her.

Reopening Taskforce Update

On July 29, the Reopening Taskforce met to begin looking at the logistics of reopening the building for worship and small group gatherings. We agreed that we would like to get back to worshipping in person, so long as it is safe, but to continue to worship online until that point in time. In the coming months, we will continue to improve the Zoom worship experience, and begin to offer more small group opportunities in order to continue to be in community and ministry with one another. The taskforce will meet again at the beginning of September to start looking at what measurable data we can use to determine when it will be safe to return to in-person worship. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

The harvest has begun. We delivered an increasing number of vegetables from our food shelf garden to Neighbors, Inc. every week in July—herbs, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, green onions, and a few tomatoes. In August, we will add more tomatoes, herbs, peppers, and squash, plus green beans.

Last year, the church garden plus “satellite” gardens from members and friends produced nearly 500 pounds of vegetables with a market value exceeding \$1,500 (based on average cost of vegetables from neighborhood grocery stores). Given the ideal balance of sunshine, warm temperatures, and rain, we hope for another record-breaking year. We're shooting for a market value of \$2,020 in 2020.

Our garden is completely funded through memorial gifts and designated contributions.

If you wish to help with tending and harvesting this year, please contact Dawn Kinnunen (651-278-7392, dawnella1974@gmail.com) or Gil Kinnunen (651-428-3959, gilogram@gmail.com).



Congregational Care Concerns:

- ◆ **Laura Walsh**, niece to Greg Napier, as she continues cancer treatment.

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.)*

- ◆ **Ben Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.

Concerns Beyond our Doors:

- ◆ Our local, state, national and international leaders
- ◆ Those struggling with or caring for someone with COVID
- ◆ Healthcare professionals treating and caring for those struggling with COVID
- ◆ Teachers, staff, parents and students preparing for the beginning of the school year that will look different than normal
- ◆ Racial inequality in our community and around the world
- ◆ Those struggling to find work, reliable shelter and/or healthy food

We Extend our Sympathy:

- ◆ Our sympathy to **Bruce Opp and family** on the death of Bruce's dad, Edmund, on July 14 in S. Dakota.

Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. **In August**, Mission Well donations go to provide school supplies for children & youth through Neighbors, Inc. You may place money in the well or bring school supplies directly to Faith. We will then give the money and supplies to Neighbors for their distribution process.



★ 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, please contact the church office. If unable to reach Susan or Pastor Marianne 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 let Pastor Marianne know.

Hospital Calls: If you learn someone is hospitalized, please contact the church office or Pastor Marianne. Because of HIPPA 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.



Churches care for neighbors by making masks

July 16, 2020 — By: Christa Meland

United Methodist churches across Minnesota have cared for their neighbors near and far in recent months by making and distributing face masks to slow the spread of COVID-19.

By the end of May, 22 churches that reported in had already made more than 9,000 masks and counting—and many other congregations have also joined the effort. As we prepare for the 2020 virtual Annual Conference next month, congregations of all sizes have already embraced this year’s theme “Be the Light: Live Hope!” in a tangible way.

“2020 has been a tough year,” said Rev. Lyndy Zabel, director of missional impact and community engagement, who has spearheaded the conference’s “Masks for Minnesota” initiative. “People have experienced hardship in numerous ways. We need kindness more than ever. Kindness is anything we do to benefit others—and making, donating and wearing masks is one small way to show it. The life of faith is one spent following Jesus, and that means loving our neighbor.”

Masks made by churches have been distributed to a wide variety of groups—local businesses, schools, hospitals, veterans, soldiers, nursing homes, senior living facilities, chil-

dren receiving social services, the homeless, and others.

Gilbert Community Church partnered with its local post office to distribute masks to community members asking postal workers where to find them.

A large portion of the masks made by St. Paul’s UMC in Mendota Heights went to a housing complex where one of its members lives, and others went to the cleaning service for the church that employs developmentally challenged individuals.

Before the pandemic, members of Dodge Center UMC had been making and distributing fidget blankets—which provide sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless hands of those with dementia or autism. But when COVID-19 hit Minnesota, they switched to making masks. They put a box on the railing near the front door of the church building and spread the word that masks were there for anyone who needed them. The church donated masks to local hospitals as well.

Meanwhile, masks made by members of The Grove UMC in Woodbury made their way across the country.

“Because of a connection through our Core Team leader we became aware of the Pinon Health Center, located in the middle of the Navajo Nation in Arizona,” said Carolyn Winslow, director of caring ministries for The Grove UMC in Woodbury. “We learned that medical personnel at this clinic, and throughout the Navajo Nation, have been desperately in need of [personal protective equipment]. We have donated masks to this clinic and have made new acquaintances in the process!”

At some churches, sewing masks has been an inter-generational endeavor with all ages participating.

“We had several women working to make masks, from senior citizens down to a 12-year-old,” said LaFonda Shreve, administrative assistant at Osseo UMC. “They were very diligent, and every time we’d run out of masks, they would be quick to respond. We reached out to four senior living facilities in our neighborhood and they were always grateful for our supply. One time I mentioned to the nursing home administrator that we were having trouble finding elastic. So her mother offered us her elastic if we would keep making masks for them. I love the community partnerships!”

Some churches, through their efforts, donated more than just masks.

A member of Faith UMC in Eyota made hundreds of masks for community members and health care facilities that needed them. Rather than taking any compensation, she asked for donations to the local food pantry and collected nearly \$1,000.

Meanwhile, some churches have met very specific needs while making masks. For example, Karen Greenwald, a member of Bethel UMC in Mound, has made masks with clear windows for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Thank you to each and every church that’s being the light and living hope in this challenging season!

Christa Meland is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

August 2020 Worship Update & Calendar

June and July brought a new development to worship here at Faith UMC. While we are practicing physical distancing to keep COVID at bay, we are gathering for worship online. We have now done over a month of Zoom worship services. Have you logged in to participate yet? If not, then you are missing out! We gather together (on screens in our own places) to worship God in a community of faith with singing, scripture, a sermon sharing prayer requests, and more.

As we continue to worship in this way, we continue to learn new things and make the service better week after week. We regularly record the sermon so that those who cannot make it to the zoom meeting can access the video through the church's Facebook page or the website. Starting July 26th, the connection code will stay the same from week to week so that we can begin to think beyond our email list and invite others to join us in worship. **Here are some other notable things about the worship services in August:**

August 2nd we will be celebrating holy communion during worship. Make sure that you have some bread and juice available to participate. We will also be continuing with our *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* sermon series looking at the life and faith of Mr. Rogers, focusing on Ephesians 4:17-32 and Matthew 5:21-26 to talk about forgiveness.

August 8th will be the last week of the *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Sermon series. We will look at Revelation 21:1-6 and Acts 11:1-18 to talk about difficult times.

August 16th we will begin a study of Jacob with the story of the birth of Jacob and Esau as found in Genesis 25:19-34.

August 23rd continues our look at the life of Jacob as Jacob has a vision of the connection between heaven and earth in Genesis 28:10-19a.

August 30th we find Jacob getting married, not once, but twice in Genesis 29:15-28.

Calendar

(Note: sign-in begins at 9:15 for Sunday Worship Zoom meetings)

Sun., 8/2	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom meeting)
Tues., 8/4	6:00 p.m.	Pastor Meet & Greet (Zoom meeting)
Thurs. 8/6	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Meals
	1:00 p.m.	Pastor Meet & Greet
Sat, 8/8	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (online)
Sun., 8/9	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom)
Tues., 8/11	11:00 a.m.	Pastor Meet & Greet (Zoom meeting)
Wed., 8/12	7:00 p.m.	Pastor Meet & Greet
Sun., 8/16	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom)
Sat, 8/22	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (online)
Sun., 8/23	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom)
Sun., 8/30	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom)
Sat., 9/5	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (online)





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

August 2020



Sunday Worship Schedule

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

During the weeks we will not be worshipping as a gathered community, please join with us via Zoom link and/or the materials you receive by mail or email, or by visiting our website at www.faihumcmn.com

Facebook Page

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

Connecting to Zoom Meetings

Are you new to Zoom and not sure that you can figure out the technology? Fear not! We can help. To connect to Zoom through a computer, tablet or smart phone app, click the link that is provided to you. For Sunday morning worship services, that link is <https://zoom.us/j/96745619949>.

This will allow you to connect through video and voice or voice only. The first time you join a Zoom meeting, you will need to download the Zoom app to your device, but you will not need to create an account if you do not want to. Every meeting after that, the link will open your app automatically.

Pastoral Meet and Greets

Have you had a chance to meet Pastor Marianne yet? If not, join Pastor Marianne and a group of friends in a low-key, physically-distanced, small group gathering. We chat for about an hour about life, with no agenda, just time to begin creating and deepening relationships. The Meet and Greet sessions will continue into August, and beyond, until we have a week with no one signed up for any of the sessions. Each week there is one session in

the middle of the day and one in the evening. Starting in August, one of those sessions will also be on Zoom to allow those who prefer to stay home or cannot make it to church to participate. To see the most current schedule and sign up for a session, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA8A922A0FE3-pastoral>, or see Pastor Marianne. Weather permitting, in person sessions will be meeting outside on the church grounds. Participants are encouraged to bring a chair and wear a mask.