



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”

September 2020

Greetings,

It is said that “because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are” (Bertold Brecht, German poet). Our lives are filled with change, even at their most stable. If there’s anything we can say about COVID, it is certainly not the epitome of stability. Life has changed so much in the past six months, and I suspect it will continue to change as we live through this global pandemic.

One of the changes we have seen in the past few months is the pausing of in-person worship in our sanctuary. We now worship Sunday mornings from the comfort of our own homes (or in some cases porches). Starting this month, we will also begin to offer children and youth Sunday School, and a quilting bible study on the women of the Bible over Zoom. I am so glad that we live in an age of technology that allows us to

continue to connect and communicate even when we are not in the same physical space.

At the same time, I know that the virtual connection does not completely fulfill the need we have of being in relationship with one another. We have not had a monthly food drive for Neighbors in many months, and being out of the building makes it easy to forget about the Mission Well, not to mention the conversations, hugs and handshakes we have not had. It is hard to be spread apart in this time. As a result, we are going to start doing a monthly supply parade.

The supply parade will have a few different functions. First, for the church office to distribute information like Sunday School or Bible Study materials, or a new church directory. Secondly, it will be a time for you to bring things that you need to deliver to the church, such as Mission Well offerings, regular tithes, food

donations for Neighbors, Inc., etc. Finally, it will be a time for you to see Pastor Marianne and maybe others just to say hi. Even if you don’t have anything to drop off or pick up in the September parade, I invite you to participate anyway. Stop by and celebrate the joy of being a community of faith in this place.

I know that church is different than it once was. Change is difficult, and yet I trust that God is with us in the midst of the change, helping us to find our way. “Because of the way things are, we know that they will not stay the way they are.” Yet, we know that God is with us even in the midst of the changing seasons. In that we put our trust, and so we can adapt the way we live out our lives of faith even when everything feels so very different.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

September Birthdays

- 2 -

9/3 — Sharon Yekaldo
9/4 — Ramon Nachtsheim
9/5 — Ronald Brummund, Jr.
Lileigh Doughty
9/11 — Harison Van Siclen
9/16 — John Robert Doughty
Susanne Short
9/17 — Olivia Van Siclen

9/19 — Gerald Gross
Amanda Peterson
MariAnne Young
9/20 — Ethan Chun
9/21 — Doug Van Siclen
Jack Watchorn
9/22 — Charles Beardshear
Bob Scopatz

John Scopatz
Taffy Storck
9/26 — Debra Johnson
9/28 — Victoria Hovey
Josephine Kranz
Claudia Spatafore
Patricia Williams

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

Reopening Taskforce Update

On August 28th, the Reopening Taskforce met to define when we believe it will be safe to gather together for in-person worship in the sanctuary. Given unpredictability of COVID, we are going to use the same data prepared by the Department of Health for the school systems. When the 14 Day COVID Case Rate for Dakota, Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington and Anoka counties is below 10 for two weeks, we will make preparations to worship in person in the sanctuary. You can find that data on the Department of Health's website here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschoool.pdf>. The chart is updated every Thursday morning. We decided to use this metric because it is the defining line across the state for all students to be in full in-person instruction. If the Department of Health believes it is safe for all of our students to be in school, we believe we can safely gather for worship. In the meantime, we will continue to improve the Zoom worship experience through widening our circle of participation. Sunday School will begin through

Zoom and there will be a renewed emphasis on small group gatherings in order to continue to be in community and ministry with one another. The taskforce will gather again when the 14 Day COVID rate is between 12 and 15 to finalize adaptations and safety protocols for returning to in person worship in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

Lawn Mowing Time

We are looking for people who are willing to mow the church lawn yet this season. 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.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

At the end of August, we completed our eighth week of harvesting vegetables from our food shelf garden to Neighbors, Inc.—herbs, beans, cucumbers, onions, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. So far, we've picked more than 600 tomatoes of all sizes and colors and nearly 1,200 green beans. Our 2020 totals so far are 140 pounds of vegetables with a market value of \$570.

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).

Our garden is completely funded through memorial gifts and designated contributions. We're especially grateful for the help of Anna and Hannah, our teen-age neighbors, who have become enthusiastic gardeners this summer.

If you wish to help with tending and harvesting this year, please contact Dawn Kinnunen (651-278-7394, 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

Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. September's Mission Well offering will go to Emma Norton Services. You may contribute by mail, or place donations directly in the Mission Well located in the church lobby.



★ 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!

THANK YOU!

- **Thanks to EVERYONE** who has worked on the church yard, the memorial garden, and Faith's food shelf vegetable garden this summer. We also want to acknowledge Chip Schuldt for spending time at Faith mowing and weed-whacking.



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.

FAITH MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Come join us Saturday morning!

A group of guys from our church meets every other Saturday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 AM for a tasty breakfast (except during current COVID-19 restrictions...), casual conversation and a study of topics of the day. We are currently participating from our homes using the church's Zoom meeting capacity, but look forward to meeting at a local restaurant as soon as conditions permit. There are approximately 14 members of our church who participate with attendance ranging from 4 to 10.

The Men's Breakfast Group has been meeting continuously since 1996 and has used a broad range of study materials. For the last several months, the group has been using Cokesbury's FaithLink study program which has included topics of current interest such as:

- Working from Home During the Pandemic
- Creativity During a Pandemic
- Isolation
- Sports and COVID-19
- Boomtowns
- Police Reform
- Eldercare
- Global Water

It's a great way to start the weekend and its awesome to see new faces! Our next meeting is Saturday morning Sept. 19 at 8:00 a.m. (via Zoom).

You can join us by emailing Pastor Marianne at: pastor.marianne.ozanne@gmail.com or Bill Short at: bill.short26@gmail.com.

2020 Meeting Schedule (8:00 -9:30 a.m.)

- Sept 19th
- Oct. 3rd
- Oct. 17th
- Oct. 31st
- Nov. 14th
- Nov. 28th
- Dec. 12th
- Dec. 26th

It would be great to see you!

Women of the Bible Crafting Bible Study

Stories of women abound in the Bible. Sometimes they are well known, like that of Eve, Mary Magdalene, and Martha. Others are more obscure like Jael, Anna and Lydia. Still others have no name at all, but are known by their home town, ethnicity, or through their husband.

Nevertheless, all of the women in the Bible have lessons to teach us today.

This September, Pastor Marianne is starting a new Bible study on these incredible women.

Based on Carol Honderich's quilt pattern, each session will focus on a different woman of the Bible and the lessons that we can learn.

Participants are then encouraged to express their learning through the creation of a quilt block designed for the session.

The study begins September 22 and meets every other Tuesday from 6:30—7:30 p.m. The quilt pattern costs \$10, but is not required to participate in the study. Everyone is invited regardless of Bible knowledge or quilting experience. Due to COVID, this study will begin by meeting over Zoom. If you would like to participate, but struggle with the Zoom technology, we can help.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, see Pastor Marianne



“Dear Friends at Faith UMC...”
(a few acknowledgments received)

Sept. 3. Dear friends, thank you to everyone who participated in the Youth Summer Servants food drive! We received \$400 and 119 pounds from this event! We are also grateful for the additional 98 pounds of groceries and all of the garden produce received in August. Thank you for your partnership!

— *The team at Neighbors, Inc.*

June 16. Dear pastor and the congregation of Faith UMC, Thank you for your generous donation of \$416.99 to the ISD199 Angel Fund. The impact of your generosity is immediate and far reaching, as your donation will provide a great relief to many families with a deficit in their student's school meal account. We strive for high quality, nutritious school meals that will help each student reach their potential in the classroom and beyond.

Nutrition is a key factor in student achievement, but when a family struggles financially and cannot add money to their child's school lunch account, student learning can suffer. Research has shown that good nutrition increases brain function, affects behavior, and me boosts task performance. Your donation ensures that students in need receive well-balanced meals to help them sustain energy for success in the classroom. Thank you for supporting our students and lending a hand to local families in need!

— *Glen Ritter, Food Service Director*

August 4. Dear Faith UMC, This is a challenging time for all of us, and especially so for neighbors and friends who are already struggling.

We are so grateful for your gift in response to the need during this difficult and unsettling time. We're seeing our food shelf increasingly busy as many of our visitors are accessing food support for the 1st time. Each day we hear words of appreciation and joy from those receiving food assistance to help their situations. Your gift makes a difference for hungry families in our community; it ensures that we can continue providing access to healthy food throughout the busy summer months.

As a provider on the front lines during the pandemic, we are beyond grateful for the donations from the communities we support: neighbors helping neighbors! Thanks for being a part of the Neighbors family!

— *With Gratitude, Beth Skwira,
Director of Mission Advancement,
Neighbors, Inc.*

July 3. Dear pastor and members of Faith United Methodist Church, On behalf of the South Saint Paul Public Schools Nutrition Services Department, thank you for your generous gift of \$416.99 for the South Saint Paul Student Meal Support Funds. Your gift is a meaningful way to serve and enhance the programs and opportunities available to the students in the South Saint Paul Public Schools. It will help us maintain feeding families for 6 days a week over the summer, and will help feed students of families in need when they returned to school. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Your generosity will prepare a child for success through a balanced, high-quality meal.

— *Sincerely, Glen Ritter,
Dir. of Student Nutrition Services*

May 1. Dear Pastor, thank you so much for Faith UMC's generous gift to the Dignity Center in March; we so appreciate it, especially given current conditions. With your support, we are continuing to serve those struggling greatly right now here in our Twin Cities community. Your donation helps us extend our meals and financial assistance during this critical time. Thanks again!

— *God bless, Sarah Doeblér,
Development Director*

July 29. Dear Faith United Methodist Congregation, thank you so much for your \$158.02 donation to SMALL SUMS. I can assure you that it is already being put to good use, helping the homeless clients who call on us every day *for the things they need so they can start back to work* - like required work clothes and shoes, trade tools, and bus passes so they have a reliable way to get to work every day - obstacles that can keep them from taking the job. So glad that you recognize that this is an important practical and powerful solution for ending homelessness. We know it doesn't take much to help people go from living in a shelter or sleeping on their sister's couch to being able to move into a place of their own because they are working again! It's a surprisingly simple solution and thanks to your generosity, we can continue to help them at such an important time in their journey back to a more stable life. Thank you again, your support is greatly appreciated.

— *with warmest regards, Naomi Sadighi,
exec. Director*

Have you logged in to participate in one of our Zoom worship services 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. It is different than being together in the sanctuary, but God is certainly present on Zoom just as much as in the sanctuary. Here are some other notable things about the worship services in September:

September 6th we celebrated holy communion during worship. We also concluded our Life of Jacob sermon series with the story of Jacob wrestling with God found in Genesis 32:22-31.

September 13th will be Rally Sunday. This is a time to rally the people of God together after a summer away and celebrate the beginning of the school year. We will bless those who are returning to school, and begin our new sermon series: Belief in Books by looking at the faith we learn through Margaret Wise Brown's *The Runaway Bunny*.

September 20th we will continue our Belief in Books series by looking at *Harry and the Terrible Whatzit* by Dick Gackenbach to look at our faith in the midst of fear.

September 27th we will journey with Crockett Johnson's *Harold and the Purple Crayon* to talk about our own experience of adventure and searching for the familiar with God.

For all of our Belief in Books weeks, we are looking for individuals and/or families to record themselves reading the book to play for the worship service. If you are interested, let Pastor Marianne know. In addition to the three books in September, we will also be looking at *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown and *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf in October. Pastor Marianne has copies of all the books, if you would like to borrow one to read.

Calendar

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

Sun., 9/13	Rally Day	beginning of Sunday School!
	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Zoom)
	11:00 a.m.	Supply Parade
Sat., 9/19	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (online)
Tue., 9/22	6:30 p.m.	Women of the Bible Quilting Study (Zoom)
Wed., 9/23	6:00 p.m.	Worship Meeting



Just as school is looking different this fall, so is our Sunday School program. Starting on Sunday, September 13, Sunday School will be meeting through Zoom during worship. While we are still working out the technical details, we do know that adults wishing to participate in worship will need a separate device than children participating in Sunday School. All materials for the month will be handed out at the Rally Day Supply Parade from 11—11:30 on the 13th (No supplies will be needed for the first day of Sunday School). Final digital details were emailed out the week following Labor Day. If you have any questions, let Pastor Marianne, Jody Sielski or Sheri Lukas know.

KIDS IN SEARCH



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



school	— ○ — — —
paper	— ○ —
wisdom	— — ○ —
read	— — — ○
play	— — — — —
learn	○ — — — —
grow	— ○ — — — —
pencils	— — — — —
pray	— ○ — —
art	— — — — —
student	— — — ○ — —
kids	— — ○ — — —
apple	— — ○ — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!



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

September 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.faithumcmn.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 unfamiliar with the technology? Fear not! We can help. To connect to Zoom through a computer, tablet or smart phone app, click the link 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 any mobile 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.

To connect by voice only over any phone line, call (312) 626-6799 (long distance) and enter the Meeting ID #: 967 4561 9949.

Rally Day—September 13!

The beginning of September brings the beginning of school, and the start of a new year of Sunday School. This year we will celebrate the beginning of Sunday School with Rally Day activities during and after worship. During worship we will bless our students, faculty and staff who are starting (or returning to) school. Then, you are all invited to participate in our Rally Day Supply Parade following worship from 11—11:30 a.m. in the front circle drive. Those who are blessed during worship can pick up a special gift to have as a reminder of God's love throughout the school year, and Sunday School families will receive supplies for the Zoom Sunday School classes. In addition to receiving supplies, we will also use this time to collect any food items for Neighbors, Inc and donations for the September Mission Well that will go to Emma Norton Services.