



# Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church  
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*“Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together”*

October 2020

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough disseminated the following message to Minnesota United Methodists on Sept. 18 as we head into fall.*

Friends in Christ,

As you know, this has been an intense season for our churches. But you have risen to the occasion by pivoting to move your ministry online. You have responded to the call for racial justice and played a key role in rebuilding our communities following the killing of George Floyd. You have been diligent in developing practices to keep your congregation safe amid COVID-19 by caring for one another and gathering in creative ways. I am so thankful for your perseverance and innovation in the face of these unrelenting challenges.

As we turn the page to fall, a time when we're used to kicking off a new year of programming and children's ministries, we find ourselves still in **“Stay Safe MN”** mode and needing to continue to significantly limit our in-person gatherings. Everything is different, and it looks like this will be our new normal for the foreseeable future. As we head into this new season, I want to offer some reminders and encouragement:

**1.** Pandemic fatigue is real, but we cannot relax in our efforts to keep people safe. With cold weather approaching, it will be tempting to think we can be the exception—that we can gather

like we used to and no one will get sick. Unfortunately, there are tragic stories of church-related coronavirus outbreaks from all over the country. Gathering indoors in groups is still a high-risk activity. It is critical that you, as leaders, have developed your **COVID-19 preparedness plan** in accordance with our **phased re-gathering plan** and that you hold to it for the sake of the most vulnerable in your midst. We are called to make our love for one another incarnational. We do this by protecting each other and our neighbors. If you and your church leadership team or council has made a thoughtful and prayerful decision to resume in-person worship, your preparedness plan needs to include:

- a. a requirement for masks to be worn by all persons
- b. people staying at least six feet apart
- c. strict adherence to the **state-mandated capacity limits** (we strongly recommend staying well below them)
- d. no congregational singing
- e. cleaning and sanitizing public spaces between each group gathering.

**2.** Christmas is coming. As painful as this is to think about, it is unlikely that we will be able to have a large number of people together, shoulder to shoulder, on Christmas Eve holding candles and singing “Silent Night.” Take a moment to la-

ment this loss. And then, remembering Mary and Joseph who left what was comfortable to go on a journey to Bethlehem, start planning for how you can help bring Christmas to your community in fresh and new ways. Things won't look and feel like they used to, but that was the case at Jesus' birth too—he was God's in-breaking in startling new ways. We have an important opportunity to try something completely different that reaches people in our mission fields in new ways.

**3.** Continue to be kind and generous to yourselves and one another. This is a hard time for all of us. Give yourself grace. We are all doing the best we can, and we are all making decisions based on our particular context. Be wise about how you steward your time, resources, and energy. Ask the tough questions that lead to clarity about where to invest and where to let go so that you stay true to your mission while continuing to adapt and refine your methods for growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world in this unique season of ministry.

I pray for you and our world daily. May we be people who offer light and hope to a weary world!

**Bishop Bruce R. Ough**  
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-  
Minnesota Area  
The United Methodist Church

# October Birthdays

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10/1 — Rebecca Seaquist	10/13 — Elliana DeNardo	10/18 — Lori DeNardo
10/6 — Joan Fitch	10/14 — Richard DeNardo	10/23 — Debra Schneider
10/8 — Jenifer Stehr	10/15 — Linda Cox	10/24 — Nicole Brummund
Matthew Spatafore	10/16 — Ward Mens	10/29 — Rick Henk
10/11 — Kim Van Siclen	10/17 — Lynn Mens	10/30 — Clayton Van Siclen
10/12 — Judy Turk	Carol Schuldt	

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

## When Can We Come Back to Church?



The COVID pandemic has lasted longer than any of us could have imagined when we first started staying at home in March. We have now been taking precautions for six months. It feels like those six months have taken at least 10 years. 2020 is not over yet, but I suspect I'm not alone in wanting time to start moving faster.

Perhaps the most common question I am asked revolves around when we will be able to come back to church. It is a hard question to answer. I want to get back to being church in more familiar ways as much as you do. However, I weigh that urge with Wesley's simple rules for Methodist Christians: do no harm, do good, and attend to the ordinances of God.

(That last one has been summarized as "stay in love with God" by Lovett Weems and others). I want to be able to meet in person at church for worship, small groups, and committee meetings when we can do so without doing harm. So, I enlisted the help of the Reopening Taskforce to make a plan.

Given unpredictability of COVID, we are going to use the same data prepared by the Department of Health for the school systems to determine when we will do the least harm by meeting in person for worship. 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/wschooll.pdf>. The chart is updated every Thursday morning. In the meantime, we will continue to improve the Zoom worship experience through widening our circle of participation, and providing a variety of special music opportunities. Worship has already begun to plan for what a virtual Advent and Christmas might look like.

For small groups and committee meetings, we will follow state regulations and recommendations from the Annual Conference. Right now, that means that groups of 10 or fewer can meet in the Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary, provided that all participants wear a mask covering both their mouth and nose, practice six-foot social distancing, and the group wipes down surfaces with a sanitizing wipe following their meeting. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to let me know. This is a hard season, but we will get through it together. Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Marianne

## 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.

## Care Centers:

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

## Ongoing Concerns:

- ♦ **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 adjusting to the school year that continues to 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:

- ♦ to **Bruce Opp and family** on the death of Bruce's mother in September.
- ♦ to **Bill Bonkowske and family** on the death of Bill's mom, Florence, in September.

## Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. October's Mission Well offering will support **Socktober**, a way to help individuals experiencing homelessness as fall turns to winter. You may contribute by mail, October Supply Parade, 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 those who are helping to make our Zoom worship service happen.



**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.



## Men's Breakfast Group

will meet via Zoom on Saturdays: **10/3, 10/17, & 10/31**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at [bill.short26@gmail.com](mailto:bill.short26@gmail.com) or 651-552-0736.

## How Does Our Garden Grow?

On September 30, we completed our 13th week of harvesting vegetables from our church's food shelf garden (and a few "satellite gardens" of members) for delivery Neighbors, Inc. This year, we've picked 4,000 tomatoes (most ever), 2,600 green beans, and 325 peppers, and 110 bags of herbs—plus cucumbers, green onions, and squash. We've even got some ornamental gourds that look like twisted bowling pins. Our totals so far are 330 pounds of vegetables with an estimated market value of \$1,200 (based on average cost of vegetables from neighborhood grocery stores).

If the autumn weather stays warm and sunny (and we don't get an early frost), our garden could continue producing until late October.

## Lawn Mowing

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](mailto:Vikesfan01@gmail.com)

## Time of Service Project for our Troops in Afghanistan

Time of Service Report:

Dawn Kinnunen and Dan Miller delivered 4 boxes (85 pounds total) of non-perishable food/treats, grooming supplies and paper products to the post office on September 30. The estimate for arrival to our troops in Afghanistan is 2 days to the coast, then military cargo plane to the military base. Thanks to all involved in this special project of love for our troops in harm's way and so far from home.

**A BIG Thank You** to all who donated, purchased, and worked the Yard Sale October 3: Judy Pfenning; Taffy Storck; JoAnn Loutsch; Sheri Lucas; Gil & Dawn Kinnunen; Marsha Spatafore; John Kemp; Dan Miller; Jody, Alexander & Nicholas Sielski; Joe, Jenny, Jacob & Josie Kranz; Greg Napier & family members - Jeanine, Juliet, Robin, Elizabeth & Hannah; Bill Short; Sharon Yekaldo; Bill Bonkowske; Paul & Pat Williams; Carol Schuldt; Pastor Marianne Ozanne; Mike Schwendinger; Ward & Dianne Mens; Johnny & Dianna Gallegos. If we missed anyone, please know that you, too, are appreciated. The sale was a great success for our church with great fellowship opportunities, almost \$2450 went to our church budget, and the community ended up with some treasures at a good price!  
—Roxanne Napier & Judy Turk

## Fall Cleaning at Faith

If you are comfortable to help, we are planning to clean at the church on **Saturday, October 24** from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Both outside and inside opportunities are available!

**Outside** -- especially the gardens and **inside** -- especially vacuuming, emptying trash, and wiping surfaces in the education wing now that the yard sale items are gone. Please wear a mask ... rubber gloves will be provided. Tools needed: a couple of rakes, a couple of vacuum cleaners. Only participate if you are comfortable doing so. If you have any questions, please call a trustee or Judy Turk at 651-343-8027.

**"Drive By and Say Hi"** to Carol Schuldt who is turning **90!** **Saturday, October 17** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 1840 Butler Ave. (between Concord St. and Hwy 52).

This will be an outdoor drive-by COVID-friendly event. Please wear a mask and maintain a safe distance if you decide to stay for a few minutes.



No gifts, but please jot down a compliment or fun memory if you're able. Notes or short videos can also be emailed to Kristen (Carol's daughter) at [HydraulicWoman@gmail.com](mailto:HydraulicWoman@gmail.com)

# October 2020 Worship Update & Calendar

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**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 October:

**October 4** we celebrated World Communion Sunday. We invited people to Christ's table and continued our Belief in Books series with *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown.

**October 11** we will conclude our Belief in Books series with *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf.

**October 18** we will begin our Faithfully Participate series, looking at the vows we make when we join the church and how to live them out in 2020, starting with supporting the church with our witness.

**October 25** we will look at how we Faithful participate in the life of the church by supporting the church with our prayers.



## Calendar

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

Sat., 10/3	8 am	Men's Breakfast (online)
	9 am-3 pm	Yard Sale
Sun., 10/4	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 10/5	9 am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 10/6	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible
		Quilting Study
Sun., 10/11	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 10/12	9 am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 10/13	6 pm	Lay Leadership
		Development Meeting
Sat., 10/17	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Mon., 10/19	9 am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 10/20	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible
		Quilting Study
Sat., 10/24	9 am-noon	Church Clean-Up Day
Sun., 10/25	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Zoom)
	11-11:30 am	October Supply Parade
Mon., 10/26	9 am	Women's Craft Group
Sat., 10/31	8 am	Men's Breakfast



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## *Sunday Worship Schedule*

During the weeks we will not be worshipping as a gathered community, please worship with us via Zoom link and/or the materials you receive by mail or email, or by visiting our website at [www.faithumcmn.com](http://www.faithumcmn.com)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## 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.

### October Mission Well is SOCKTOBER

Socktober is a movement begun by Kid President and Brad Montague of Soul Pancake in 2011 as a way to help support individuals experiencing homelessness as fall turns to winter. Socks are one of the most needed items in shelters, and so we are going to help. This year, Faith UMC will participate in Socktober by collecting money and new socks to give to local homeless shelters. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

