



# Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church  
1530 Oakdale Avenue  
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*"Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together"*

November 2020

## Greetings,

As I sit here at my desk, looking out the window, snow is falling. I must admit that snow is one of my least favorite varieties of weather. In fact, there was a 10 year period of time when I was younger when I can only remember seeing snow once (when a friend invited me to spend the weekend with her family at a cabin in the mountains). While I recognize that snow is beautiful, what I see when the flakes start falling are the numerous activities and tasks that will be made more difficult by the frozen water falling from the sky. Going to school now involves kids in full snow suits and me wearing boots, a big coat and a hat (at the minimum). Suddenly, our departure time needs to be moved five minutes earlier to accommodate gearing up for the walk. Everything seems to take longer in the snow.

I am the only one in my household that feels this way. The kids have spent every moment possible out building all sorts of snow creations this week. Jeff has been known to say that there is never enough snow. He would say (and has said multiple times) that we need more snow whether the forecast has only a dusting or a foot plus of accumulation. The rest of my family sees the joy of life in the midst of snow. Perhaps Jeff, Bryce and Zoe have a better approach than I do when it comes to snow.

In life there will be times when snow happens, for better or for worse. I think one of the biggest challenges we have in the life of faith is remembering to approach the metaphorical snow like my family approaches the literal snow: by looking for the beauty in the midst of the circumstances. God is with

us whether we love snow or hate snow, and shows us love and grace through it all. It is up to us to take notice of the beauty that God bestows upon us.

This November may be warm, or it may be snowy. The candidates you vote for may or may not be elected. COVID rates could increase, stabilize or decline. Regardless of the circumstances, God is reaching out to us and showing us the way to light and love. I invite you take time each day this month to look for that light and love and express joy for those moments. Seek the beauty in the midst of all circumstances and you will certainly find God in the midst of everything.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Marianne*

# November Birthdays

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11/3 — Louis Eberly  
Vesta Lach  
11/6 — Bruce Opp  
Madelynn Solheid  
Austin Suchecki

11/14 — Lynnette Bonkowske  
Dana Scopatz  
11/16 — Alexi DeNardo  
Mfon Jonathan  
Roland Hunter

11/23 — Susan Filter  
11/26 — Janessa DeNardo  
11/29 — Heidi Vanderhoff

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

## 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, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning.

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.

## Fall Breakthrough Prayer

As part of our 2020 stewardship campaign, we are looking at our membership vows as United Methodists so that we may faithfully participate in the life of the church.

At the time we join the church, and whenever there is a baptism, we vow to support the ministries of the church through our prayers our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. To live into the promise to pray for our church, we are inviting the whole congregation to gather in prayer daily. Our Fall Breakthrough Prayer initiative invites God to act in ways we cannot imagine within our congregation to help us share the love of God to our neighbors, our community and the world. Please join us by praying the following prayer daily at 3:30. For a postcard with the prayer, stop by the church office.

Gracious and Loving God,  
Send your Holy Spirit to me this autumn. In your wisdom and power, I ask that you:

- τ Break through in my life and in the lives of all those that I meet, showing us ways to connect more closely to you.
- τ Boldly use me, without limits, delays, or excuses, to live out the life you would have me lead.
- τ Show me and all those connected to Faith UMC in West St Paul the direction you would have us go to show your love to our community.

I pray all this in the holy name of Christ.

AMEN

## Looking Ahead to Advent

Advent and Christmas are going to be very different this year. We want your help to help make the season as festive as possible, and so we're asking for your help.

First, let us know your favorite Christmas and Advent hymns! As Pastor Marianne starts working on the hymns for December, she wants to know what your favorite Christmas hymns are. So call the office, send an email, post it on the church's Facebook page, or drop by and let us know. Use whatever

platform you are most comfortable with to tell us your top few Christmas and Advent hymns. While we may not be able to use everyone's favorite, we will do our best to use as many of them as we can.

Second, we need five families to help us light our Advent candles during worship. Just like the Belief in Books readings, we are asking for families to record themselves lighting the candle for the week and reading the Advent candle liturgy. Don't have an advent wreath at home? No problem. We can get you one!

Finally, we are putting together a video to help us pass the light of Christ to one another during *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve, and so we are looking for as many people as possible to record themselves passing the light of Christ.

To find a how-to video on making the video go to:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LIBTf1YmVRYj2pVA04boJgAHG5iP-LA-?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne or Dana Scopatz. Together, we can make this Advent and Christmas a true celebration of the coming of Emmanuel. If you are interested in helping out in any way during Advent and Christmas, let Pastor Marianne know.

## Care Centers:

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

## Ongoing Concerns:

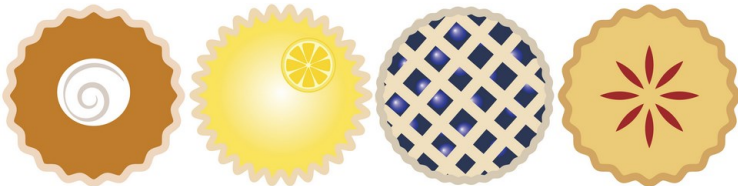
- ♦ **Ben Brummund**, son of Ron Brummund, Jr., continues to struggle with health problems.

## 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

## Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. As in years past, Faith's November's Mission Well offering will support the Walk to End Hunger — (this year as a Virtual Online Event) on Thanksgiving morning, where you can participate virtually from home and donate. This year it's more important than ever to raise money to fight hunger in Minnesota. Participating is fun, easy and it feels great! The morning will be filled with entertainment, fun activities for the entire family, prizes and much more! You may also contribute by mail, November Supply Parade, or by placing donations directly in the Mission Well located in the church lobby.



(More information on page 4)



**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: **11/14, 11/28, & 12/12**. 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.

## Thank You

- Thanks to Greg and Roxanne Napier for taking 4 pick-up loads of leftovers from our Yard Sale to Goodwill in such a timely fashion ... everything was cleared out of the church building by October 23. Very much appreciated!
- Thank you very much, Faith Church, for your September donation of 161 pounds of groceries and 159 pounds of wonderful garden produce! You are helping hundreds of families and seniors in our community!  
'neighbors helping neighbors'  
— *the team at Neighbors, Inc.*
- Thanks to those who are helping to make our Zoom worship service happen.

## Rescheduled Church Fall Cleaning

We are planning fall cleaning at the church on **Saturday, Nov. 7** from 9am to noon. Both outside and inside opportunities are available! 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.

## The Walk to End Hunger

is a family friendly event focused on raising money for 9 Twin Cities-based hunger relief organizations. Held on Thanksgiving morning, the Walk to End Hunger is back virtually this year, for the same tradition with a new perspective. Tune in online this Thanksgiving morning, November 26th at 10am to help others, then help yourself to seconds.



In the aftermath of the civil unrest in the Twin Cities, and the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 8 Minnesotans are experiencing hunger, high rates of job losses and unprecedented economic uncertainty. An additional 275,000 Minnesotans don't know where their next meal is coming from, and that is why it's imperative the Walk to End Hunger continue this year, virtually.

## Be a Hero and Walk to End

**Hunger!** Your participation in the Walk to End Hunger goes directly to supporting people in your community! Registration fees and all dollars raised go directly to the partner organization of your choice. Register to "walk" for Neighbors, Inc., (one of the our [partner organizations](#)), or visit <https://event.walktoendhunger.org/event/wteh2020/register/>.

## Reopening Plans

Given unpredictability of COVID, we are using 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/wschoool.pdf>. The chart is updated every Thursday morning. Until we can gather in the sanctuary for worship, we will continue to improve the Zoom worship experience through widening our circle of participation, and providing a variety of special music opportunities.

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 less can meet in the Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary, provided that all participants wear a mask covering both their mouth and nose, practice 6 foot social distancing, and the group wipes down surfaces with a sanitizing wipe following their meeting. If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Marianne. This is a hard season, but we will get through it together.



**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 November:

**November 1st** we remembered the saints that have gone before us in faith. During the service, we read the names of our members and constituents who have died in the past year, as well as anyone else whose name is given as having touched the lives of our community. We also celebrated communion. The *Faithfully Participate* sermon series continued with a look at Luke 14:15-24 and how we participate in the ministries of the church through our presence.

**November 8th** we will look at how we participate in the ministries of the church through our gifts, guided by the Parable of the Talents found in Luke 19:11-27.

**November 15th** we will study Luke 10:25-37 as we *Faithfully Participate* in the ministries of the church through our service.

**November 22nd** we will conclude our *Faithfully Participate* series by dedicating our 2021 giving pledges and celebrating how we faithfully participate in the ministries of the church because Christ reigns in our hearts and lives.

**November 29th** will be the first Sunday of Advent, so we will be starting to prepare for the birth of Christ with our *Do Not Be Afraid* series and looking at Luke 1:26-45 and holding hope.

## Calendar

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

Sun., 11/1	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 11/2	9am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 11/3	6:30pm	Women of the Bible
		Quilting Study
Wed., 11/4	6pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 11/5	6pm	Finance meeting
	7pm	Church Council
Sat., 11/7	9am–noon	Church Clean-Up Day
Sun., 11/8	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 11/9	9am	Women's Craft Group
Sat., 11/14	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 11/15	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 11/16	9am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 11/17	6:30pm	Women of the Bible
		Quilting Study
Sun., 11/22	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
	11-11:30am	November Supply/ Pledge Parade
Mon., 11/23	9am	Women's Craft Group
Thur., 11/26		Happy Thanksgiving!
Sat., 11/28	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 11/29	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Mon., 11/30	9am	Women's Craft Group
Tue., 12/1	6:30pm	Women of the Bible
		Quilting Study



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## *Sunday Worship Schedule*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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)

## 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.

### November's Pledge Parade

**Our November Supply Parade will also be a Pledge Parade!** Drive by the church on **November 22** from 11–11:30am to pick up Sunday School, Bible Study and Advent materials and drop off your November Mission Well offering for the Walk to End Hunger and Neighbors, Inc. and your 2021 pledge card. Just for November, we will also be taking a picture of everyone. The pictures will then be used to create close to life-sized pictures to place in the sanctuary and create a “flat congregation” to remember that even when we are distanced, we are still one body of Christ. We want to make sure that everyone is in the picture, so don't miss out on the Pledge Parade!



**FAITH IN ACTION** is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul MN 55118 (651) 457-5686 office; Email: [faithumc@usfamily.net](mailto:faithumc@usfamily.net) DEADLINE: the 15th of each month, unless otherwise noted. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Visit us at [www.faithumcmn.com](http://www.faithumcmn.com)