



Faith in Action

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

December 2020/
January 2021

Greetings,

Last week I declared to my husband Jeff that I am over COVID. It was probably not the first time, it definitely won't be the last. I am ready to be done with social distancing precautions, masks, and feeling limited on what activities and gatherings are safe to control the spread of this disease. I suspect I am not alone. No, I know that I am not alone.

At the same time, as the year comes toward an end, I have begun to reflect on 2020 as a whole. While it has been a wild ride, full of crisis, catastrophe and chaos, there have also been some beautiful moments. 2020 brought the opportunity for my family to experience a different kind of vacation for us: one where just the four of us took time away to relax and enjoy each others company. We relocated and have established life in a new place, with more sus-

tainable rhythms and expectations. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, even if only digitally, and to begin a new expression of ministry in this place. 2020 has been chaotic, but there certainly have been beautiful moments.

A practice that I have for the beginning of each year is to receive a Star Word: a gift from God to me to guide my year, much like the gifts the Magi bring to the baby Jesus on Epiphany. (Come to worship and the Supply Parade on January 3rd for an opportunity to get your own Star Word for 2021). In 2020, my Star Word has been “Praise”. In January, it seemed like a simple word, an easy gift from God, perhaps. Praise is a part of worship, but it is also a part of how I experience the world. In the midst of life, I seek to find the beauty in the world.

The struggles of 2020 made finding the times to

praise a little more complicated. There were times when I found it harder to praise, to find the joy in life. The 11 weeks of full distance learning for my kids this spring stands out as a particularly tough series of moments, but there have been others.

In the midst of it all, the praise has still been present. It has not always been my praise. Sometimes others have helped me to praise. Others times, it has been the praise of God that has lifted me and helped me to find joy in my surroundings. 2020 will be a year that few of us will soon forget, but I hope that as I remember the challenges, I will also continue to remember the praise as well. That is my prayer for myself, but it is also my prayer for you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

December Birthdays

12/2 – Nathaniel DeNardo	12/11 – Dylan Cox	12/16 – Peter DeNardo	12/25 – Patrick Short
12/5 – Nancy Reid	Olivia Stehr	12/18 – Jazlynn Gallegos	12/27 – Adaline DeNardo
12/6 – Nancy Rankin	12/14 – Laurel Venhuizen	12/19 – Meta Nachtsheim	12/28 – Ryan Boelter
12/8 – Angel Doughty	12/15 – Christian Johnson	12/24 – Greg Nelson	

• *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 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.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Faith UMC’s 10th annual Neighbors, Inc. food shelf garden is history and plans are underway for 2021. This year, as last year, we were blessed with ideal weather conditions—warm temperatures, plenty of sunshine, and well-spaced precipitation. We harvested 5,400 tomatoes (most ever), 2,800 green beans, 540 peppers, and 116 bags of herbs—plus cucumbers, green onions, squash, and decorative gourds that looked like kiwi birds or twisted bowling pins. Our totals were 9,150 total vegetables (new record) weighing 453 pounds, with an estimated market value of \$1,765 (best ever), based on average cost of vegetables from neighborhood grocery stores.

Thanks to the following 22 volunteers who helped with planting, tending, watering, harvesting, contributing plants, donating vegeta-

bles from their home gardens, and cleaning up at the end of the season: Colleen Deery, Susan Filter, Desarae Gallegos, Dianna Gallegos, Jazlynn Gallegos, Johnny Gallegos, Johnny Gallegos, Jr., Dawn Kinnunen, Gil Kinnunen, Anna Laman-Rossi, Art Lemke, Dan Miller, Pastor Marianne Ozanne, Pam Pearson, Hannah Pendleton, Jody Sielski, Marsha Spatafore, Taffy Storck, Pat Williams, Paul Williams, Judy Turk, and Sharon Yekaldo.

Christmas 2020 at Faith UMC

The celebration of Christmas is central to the Christian faith. It is hard to imagine a Christmas Eve with an empty sanctuary and no one to worship the birth of Christ with song and candles. This year, as with so many other things, Christmas will be different. We will have Christmas Eve worship, but it will not be in person in the sanctuary.

The Worship Committee has been working on plans for creating a meaningful, physically-distanced Christmas Eve worship service for several months already. Our plan is to gather on December 24th at 4:15pm on Zoom for the usual pre-worship fellowship time. At 4:30pm, the link to the YouTube premiere of the Christmas Eve service will be put into the chat so that

we can all participate in worship at the same time. The YouTube link will stay active, so you can share the service with friends and family who are looking for an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ, but may have missed the initial premiere. The service will be entirely pre-recorded so that we can guarantee a high quality service with the least amount of technical glitches, but you can still participate in worship. In addition to watching the worship video and participating in the comments section, we are looking for as many people as possible to record themselves passing the light of Christ. To find directions and a how-to video on making your video go to <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LIBTf1YmVRYj2pVA04boJgAHG5iP-LA-?usp=sharing>. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne or Dana Scopatz.

In order to give the worship team a much needed break, we will also be gathering on Zoom for fellowship on December 27th and then participating in worship through a pre-recorded service prepared by the Minnesota Annual Conference staff. Regular worship will resume on January 3 with our celebration of Epiphany. If you have any questions about Christmas worship, 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

Worship
with us from
HOME

Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. Our December Mission Well offering will support the ministries of Spirit Lake Ministries in North Dakota. You may contribute by mail, Supply Parade, or by placing donations directly in the Mission Well located in the church lobby. The Outreach Committee is working on a plan for 2021, so stay tuned for info on our January mission offering.



The Sunday School

of Faith Church will bring the message during worship on Sunday, December 13, the third Sunday in Advent.



Our program is called “Wow! What does that mean?”

by Gwynne Watkins, adapted by the Sielskis



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: **12/12, 12/26, 1/9 & 1/23**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.

Thank You

- Thank you to everyone who helped with our Fall Clean-up event on November 7. It was such a beautiful day and lots of clean-up was done outside, as well as inside. Our outstanding crew included: Johnny Gallegos; Mike Schwendinger; Bill Short; Bill Bonkowske; Bob Scopatz; Bruce Opp; John Kemp; Dan Miller; Gil & Dawn Kinnunen and their teen friend Hannah; Judy Pfenning; Carol & Chip Schult; Marsha Spatafore; Judy Turk; plus 6 members from Nueva Esperanza. If you were missed on this list, please know that you are appreciated, too.
- Dear friends, Thank you to everyone who donated to us in October! We are very grateful for the garden produce and the 130 pounds of groceries we received! Happy Thanksgiving!
— *the team at Neighbors, Inc.*
- Thanks to Judy Turk for helping assemble the November Faith in Action.
- Thanks to those who are helping to make our Zoom worship service happen.

“THANKS!”

COVID and Church

I don't have to tell you about the growth of COVID infections in our area in the last few weeks. While the caseload has been growing for a few months now, the rate of growth has increased dramatically in the past few weeks. Because of this, rather than moving closer to in-person worship, we are further limiting the number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. For at least the four weeks of the current state-wide dial back, the only people in the sanctuary on Sunday morning will be those directly responsible for music, which includes John, Joan, and the sound / Zoom techs. Pastor Marianne and all liturgists will participate in the worship service from their own homes. This move has been made because we believe it is the best way that we can help to keep our community health. Currently, it is estimated that in a group of 10 people gathered in Dakota county there is a 65% chance that one of them will have COVID. As the caseload decreases, we will look at returning to the whole worship team being together in the sanctuary, with the ultimate goal of welcoming everyone back in the sanctuary once the state K-12 data shows 10 or less for Dakota Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington and Anoka counties for 2 consecutive weeks. If you want to track that data, it is found on the Dept. of Health's website here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschoo.pdf>.

For small groups and committee meetings, we will follow state regulations / recommendations from the Annual Conference. Right now, that means that groups can meet online, but not in the church building. If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Marianne. This is a hard season, but we will get through it together.

Church Conference / Annual Meeting

One of the things that makes us distinct as United Methodists is our conferencing. We conference as a denomination at General Conference, in large regions as Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences. We also conference in local churches at Church Conference. Besides setting pastoral compensation, the annual Church Conference has specific work that it must complete according to the Book of Discipline. I (Pastor Marianne) also like to use that time to do the work of celebrating our accomplishments as a congregation and to set goals for the coming year.

You are invited to participate in the Annual Church Conference on January 31st following worship. We will go over the Annual Report, pass those records and forms that are required by discipline, celebrate 2020's end and dream for 2021. If you have any questions about Church Conference, see Pastor Marianne.

December-January Worship Update / Calendar

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 December and January:

December 6 we will be continuing our Do Not Be Afraid theme with *Do Not Be Afraid To Bring Peace* and looking at Luke 1:46-55. Remember to have bread and juice with you for communion!

December 13 our Sunday School program will be doing their Christmas Program.

December 20 we will look at what it means when we say *Do Not Be Afraid to Choose Love* with Luke 2:15-20.

December 27 we will gather for fellowship time and then view a prerecorded worship service prepared by the Minnesota Annual Conference staff.

January 3 we will celebrate the coming of the Magi on Epiphany, looking at the stars and gifts from God in our own lives. One of those gifts is communion, so have some bread and juice to celebrate with us.

January 10 is the day we remember the baptism of Jesus. We will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday by looking at the story and reaffirming our own baptismal covenant, so you might want to have some water handy.

January 17 we will begin our *Telling Our Story* series by looking at why God is important in our lives.

January 24 we will continue our *Telling Our Story* series by looking at why church is important in our lives.

January 31, continuing our *Telling Our Story* series, we will look at why Faith UMC is important in our lives and story of faith.

Dec.-Jan. Calendar

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

Sun., 12/6	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
Wed., 12/9	6:30 pm	Outreach Cmte. (Zoom)
Sat., 12/12	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun., 12/13	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
		Sunday School Program
Tue., 12/15	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 12/20	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
Thur., 12/24	★★★	CHRISTMAS EVE
	4:15 pm	Fellowship Gathering
	4:30 pm	Worship Premiere
Sat., 12/26	8 am	Mens Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 12/27	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
Sun., 1/3/21	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
	11-11:30 am	December Supply Parade
Wed., 1/6	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 1/7	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sat., 1/9	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun., 1/10	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
Tue., 1/12	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 1/17	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
Sat., 1/23	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun., 1/24	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
	11-11:30 am	January Supply Parade
Tue., 1/26	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 1/31	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (G-Meet)
	10:30 am	Annual Church Conference



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

Dec. 2020 / Jan. 2021



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.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 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.

January Supply Parades

Our December Supply Parade will happen on **January 3 from 11–11:30 a.m.** in the front circle drive. Come see Pastor Marianne, drop off your offering and donations for the Mission Well, and pick up an Upper Room, a Star Word, and Bible study materials.

We will also gather for the January Supply Parade on **January 24 from 11–11:30 a.m.** In addition to the regular supplies, we will also plan on having Annual Reports to pick up for anyone who would like one.



SUPPLY PARADES