



Faith in Action

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

February /
March 2021

Greetings,

If you are not one of the few people who has stopped by the office while I'm working, you perhaps do not know that I always have music playing in the background. Many years ago, I discovered that if I did not have an external sound track running, my brain filled the void with its own, usually very repetitive, often annoying internal sound track. And so, it is very rare to find me without any music playing. Astute observers begin to notice patterns in my choices of music.

You see, the music that helps me to focus on any given day is directly related to the work that needs to get done, but also to the amount of stress I am feeling. On days when I need to accomplish tasks which require attention, but less focus (excavating my desk, or submitting denominational statistics,

for example), I may listen to an 80's Dance station, filled with fast-paced music. On days where my tasks require more focus (writing a sermon, or completing this section of the newsletter), something without words, such as Big Band Jazz music, is more helpful. However, regardless of the task, the days when I struggle to focus because of the events of life going on around me, I find myself drawn more to hymns or epic film scores.

I find that spiritual practices are a lot like my personal sound tracks. The practices that are most meaningful to me change over time, and are somewhat dependent on what I need at the time. There are days when immersing myself in prayer comes by way of colored pencils and a pattern to color, whereas other days connecting to God comes most meaningfully to me by taking a walk through the neighborhood.

How are you connecting best with God these days? With many of our usual patterns of relating to the world interrupted (and likely to continue to be so for at least a little while longer), it does not surprise me that the ways I connect with God have changed. With lent just around the corner, I invite you to take some time and try out some new ways of connecting to God during this time of pandemic. If you need help coming up with ideas, just let me know. In the meantime, I'll keep listening to my music, and finding God in the midst of life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

February / March Birthdays

2/2 – Randy Davis	2/10 – Marianne Ozanne	3/1 – Barbara Schroeder	3/17 – Patricia Fjerstad
2/2 – Colleen Spadaccini	2/10 – Jill Vanderhoff	3/3 – Kaitlyn Cox	3/20 – Mike Hovey
2/2 – Stephen Larsen	2/11 – Jeffrey Boelter	3/3 – Jeff Ozanne	3/21 – Corey Worden
2/4 – Brian Sielski	2/14 – Sheryl Watchorn	3/4 – Gil Kinnunen	3/24 – Jeffrey Cox
2/4 – Rebecca Hovey	2/23 – William Bonkowske	3/8 – Victoria Stehr	3/26 – Ruth Campion
2/7 – Roxanne Napier	2/24 – Mackenna Emery	3/9 – Brady Johnson	3/27 – Isabelle Pippert
2/8 – Alana Sielski	2/28 – Macenzie Worden	3/13 – Bernice Killian	3/31 – Michael Pate
2/9 – Paul DeNardo			

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

Handbell Choir Forming

Music is good for the soul. We are forming a small 2-octave handbell choir to perform for Easter Sunday (and maybe beyond). All rehearsals and performances will follow current COVID protocols (including masks and distancing). Handbells are easy to learn to play as long as you can keep a steady beat. No prior musical experience necessary. If you are interested in playing handbells, let us know!

Men's Breakfast Group

will meet via Zoom on Saturdays: **2/6, 2/20, 3/6 & 3/20**. 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 so much for the thoughts, prayers, and cards upon the death of my mother, and with Dick’s heart surgery. Thank you for your love and support.”
— *Lori DeNardo*
- Thank you to members of the Outreach Committee (Bonnie Dick, Dawn Kinnunen, and Judy Pfenning with delivery help from her sister Renee) for collecting, assembling and delivering 4 boxes

of toys, art supplies, masks, etc. for the children at the new homeless apartments on Cahill in Inver Grove Heights and the children at the Naomi Family Center in St. Paul. The Committee members said that it was a fun project. Also, thank you to everyone who donated to this project. — *Judy Turk*

- We adopted one family this past Christmas for the Adopt-A-Family program through Neighbors. The family included a boy, Jose (10) and a girl, America (7). Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to brighten this family’s Christmas. We made a difference.
— *Karen Cohoes, Coordinator*

• Dear friends, Thank you for your November donation of groceries and for the last of your garden bounty! We are grateful for your partnership! ... Thank you so much for your December gift! We are all aware how 2020 was different, and the need continues to grow. People who were on the edge of needing assistance have experienced more difficulties with feeding their families and have turned to Neighbors for help. We feel privileged and grateful to be here for them. ... thank you for being the ‘spirit of the season’ and for bringing health

and hope to your neighbors in need... — *the team at Neighbors, Inc.*

- Thanks to Sharon Yekaldo and Zoe Ozanne for decorating our altar and stage area for our past holiday season. It's appreciated.

Help Us Prepare for the Yard Sale!

We are planning on having a yard sale later in the year and you can help! This year, we are asking that all donations be brought in clearly labeled boxes (not bags) so that they can stack into the room and be more space efficient. Please place your **clean**, unbroken items into a box (or boxes) and label the contents, boxing similar items together. Labels include (but are not limited to) toys, linens, kitchen, knick-knacks, Christmas, shoes, clothes—boys, girls, men’s, women’s, baby, etc. Boxes may then be left in **Room 5**.

Our hope for the day of the sale is to carry the boxes outside and sort the donations onto tables of like items.

Thank you for your donations. We could not have this yard sale without you!
If you have any questions or need help, call Judy Turk (651-343-8027) or Roxanne Napier (612-293-8665).

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. The **February** offering will support **Small Sums**, an organization in St. Paul that helps homeless individuals who have found jobs, with specific things they need to start back to work. Our **March** Mission Offering will support the **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign** — the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, accomplished by participating groups and individuals engaged in the fight against hunger in support of its 300 partner food shelves. The money and food Faith collects will go to our local Neighbors, Inc. food shelf. You may contribute by mail, Supply Parade, or by placing donations directly in the Mission Well located in the church lobby.



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.



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 **612-450-3277**. 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.

Looking Forward to Lent

Lent, the season of preparation leading up to Easter begins each year on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 17th. While last year's lent was marked by the beginning of the COVID pandemic in Minnesota, this year we are planning for what lent could look like during the pandemic in ways that are connectional and interactive.

We invite you to join us as we dig into Paul Nixon's book *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* and look at the choices we make as a congregation to be a church of life. These themes will be discussed throughout lent on Sunday mornings, as well as during Wednesday evening mid-week discussion groups. The office will be ordering copies of the book for individuals who are interested in reading along as well. If you are interested in a copy, let us know by February 10th.

Join us for one, several, or all of these events throughout Lent!

Wednesday, February 17 @ 7pm, Ash Wednesday worship service: Join us on Zoom for the imposition of ashes in a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service. (Ashes will be distributed at the Lenten Supply Parade, see back page).

Wednesdays February 24–March 24 @ 7pm, Midweek Lenten discussion group: We will gather on Zoom for a brief recap of the Sunday morning discussion and theme and then divide into breakout groups to talk about the weekly theme before coming back to the larger group to share insights.

Thursday, April 1 @ 7pm, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service: Join us on Zoom for a service of diminishing light remembering and honoring the events of the first Holy Week.

Friday, April 2: 11am–3pm, Good Friday Prayer Vigil: Sign up for a half-hour time block to pray for our church, community and the world. This year, we are inviting participants to pray from home. Resources are available upon request.

SignUp Genius and Zoom links for all events in Lent will be sent out in the Weekly Updates. If you are

not receiving a Weekly Update every Friday, let the office know.

COVID Update

The beginning of the year, and distribution of COVID vaccines has brought a sense of a light at the end of the tunnel. We can foresee a time when the whole community will be able to gather in one building for worship again. However, we are not there yet. The COVID caseload has decreased in the past few months, but we are still at elevated levels that preclude us from gathering together for worship in the sanctuary. Pastor Marianne has returned to the sanctuary for Sunday mornings, which is a step closer to welcoming a larger group in the sanctuary for Sunday worship. Last summer, our COVID taskforce decided we felt that it would be safe to worship together once the state K-12 data shows 10 or less for Dakota Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington and Anoka counties for 2 consecutive weeks. The most recent data available currently has that number ranging between 35 and 45 for the metro counties we watch. (If you want to track that data, it is found on the Department of Health's website here <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschooll.pdf>. The data is updated weekly on Thursday around 11am.)

For small groups and committee meetings, we continue to follow state regulations and recommendations from the Annual Conference. Right now, that means that groups of 10 or less may meet in the church. If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Marianne. Thank you for helping us to continue to control the spread of COVID by staying home on Sunday mornings. If you need help connecting to the Zoom services, let us know!

★ Do you 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!

February–March Worship Update / Calendar

Worship at Faith

During this time when we are being asked to help control the spread of COVID, we gather together on Zoom for worship, using 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 February and March:

February 7 we will be concluding our Telling Our Stories theme with a look at how we share our own stories of faith. We will also be celebrating communion, so have bread and juice ready for worship.

February 14 is Transfiguration Sunday. We will look at the story of Jesus changed before the disciples' eyes as found in Mark chapter 9.

February 21 we will begin our Being a Church of Life series. Using Paul Nixon's book *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, we will look at the choices we can make to be a church of life, beginning with choosing life over death using John 3:1-21.

February 28 we will continue looking at Being a Church of Life by making the decision of being in community versus being in isolation in John 20:19-31.

March 7 we will celebrate communion and look at choosing fun over drudgery using 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 15-19. Don't forget your juice and bread for worship!

March 14 our Being a Church of Life series will continue as we look at choosing bold over mild using Matthew 5:13-16.

March 21 we will look at choosing frontier over fortress as found in Matthew 6:25-33.

March 28, Palm Sunday, we will look at choosing now rather than later as we look at the story of Palm Sunday, as found in Mark 11:1-11 and part of the Passion of Christ as found in Luke 23.

Feb.–March Calendar

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

Sat., 2/6	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 2/7	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 2/9	6:30pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 2/14	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
	11-11:30am	Lenten Supply Parade
Wed., 2/17	7pm (Zoom)	Ash Wednesday Worship (with imposition of ashes)
Sat., 2/20	8am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 2/21	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 2/23	6:30pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 2/24	7pm (Zoom)	Lenten Midweek Discussion
Sun., 2/28	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Wed., 3/3	6pm	Trustee meeting
	7pm (Zoom)	Lenten Midweek Discussion
Thur., 3/4	6pm	Finance meeting
	7pm	Church Council
Sat., 3/6	8am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 3/7	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 3/9	6:30pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 3/10	7pm (Zoom)	Lenten Midweek Discussion
Sun., 3/14	9:30am	Worship (Zoom) [daylight time]
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Wed., 3/17	7pm (Zoom)	Lenten Midweek Discussion
Sat., 3/20	8am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 3/21	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Zoom)
Tue., 3/23	6:30pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 3/24	7pm (Zoom)	Lenten Midweek Discussion
Sun., 3/28	9:30am	Worship (Zoom)
	10am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
	11-11:30am	Palm Sunday Supply Parade
Thur., 4/1	7pm (Zoom)	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship
Fri., 4/2	11am-3pm	Good Friday Prayer Vigil (see page 4)



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

February / March 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.

Lenten & Palm Sunday Supply Parades

Our Lenten Supply Parade will be on **February 14th from 11–11:30am** in the front circle drive. Come and pick up Sunday School and Bible Study supplies, drop off offerings and donations, and receive your family's Lenten Kit, complete with ashes for Ash Wednesday and alleluias to bury and tend.

The Palm Sunday Supply Parade will be on March 28th. Plans are still in the works, but plan on coming by the church following worship for the fun.



SUPPLY PARADES