



# Faith in Action

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

April /  
May 2021

## *Greetings,*

Throughout Lent we have been meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays evenings for midweek discussions about our theme of Being a Church of Life. Each week was a chance to dive into the theory behind church leadership and growth and look more deeply at the previous Sunday's congregational choice. I had the opportunity to share my knowledge, and then we divided into smaller groups to talk about discussion questions before sharing thoughts and inspirations and closing in a song. Each week, the final discussion question was “what is your deepest hope for Faith UMC today?” Over time, the question became more nuanced with further reflection relating to that week's choice, but the essence of the question remained the same: how can we at Faith UMC choose life and continue to seek God in this day?

This process was a beautiful one. Some of the answers remained the same throughout the study. Every week, we talked about how our deepest hope for Faith is that we continue to live on as a growing congregation, that we reach further into the community and get beyond the walls of the church building to change hearts and lives. What a powerful and bold vision for the future!!

The next step, then, is to begin living into that bold vision. Our challenge going forward is to find ways to be the church in, for and with our community. We have some concrete ideas of what that might look like, but it will continue to evolve and change over time, just as we continue to evolve and change. If you would like more information, let me know.

Lent is coming to an end, but our decision to be a church of life is a new beginning. We believe in a resur-

rected Christ, a God who makes all things new and who chooses life. We are a resurrection people, choosing life today, tomorrow and into the future so that we can continue to live into the mission and vision of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you, church, for being willing to step out of your comfort zone, to grow and to dream about what might be possible. Together, with God's help we will make it happen.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Marianne*



# April / May Birthdays

4/7 — Patricia Giorgini	4/20 — Melinda Suchecki	5/2 — John Kemp	5/15 — Jody Sielski
4/10 — Donald Seaquist	4/25 — Joan Ryan	5/3 — Norma Nitti	5/17 — Dan Miller
4/10 — Nicholas Sielski	4/25 — Clayton Short	5/4 — Dawn Kinnunen	5/21 — Jenny Kranz
4/13 — Liz Chun	4/25 — Madison Worden	5/4 — Sheri Lukas	5/24 — Lisa Ann Boelter
4/14 — Evan Emery	4/26 — Kathryn Peterson	5/6 — Christina Yekaldo	5/26 — Chad Emery
4/15 — Ross Kropp	4/27 — Leona Opp	5/8 — Judy Pfenning	5/28 — Timothy Pippert
4/16 — Collette Peterson	4/29 — Noah DeNardo	5/11 — Louise Gross	5/29 — Benjamin
4/18 — Kayla Rebeschke	4/30 — Christina Eberly	5/11 — Gloria Gurtin	Brummund
4/19 — Brandon Adams	4/30 — Ava Spatafore	5/14 — Carmen Lutgen	5/29 — Ruth Martin

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

## Men's Breakfast Group

will meet via Zoom on Saturdays: **4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15 & 5/29**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.



## 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, knickknacks, Christmas, shoes, clothes—boys, girls, men's, women's, baby, etc. Boxes may then be left in **Room 4**.

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).

## 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.

## Camp Season is Coming!

Summer is coming, and with it comes time to go to summer camp. Camp Minnesota, the camping ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference, offers a variety of opportunities and experiences for individuals of all ages to experience Christ, community and creation. To check out the various camps being offered this summer, go to [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org). This summer, all camps will follow current COVID protocols. Information on the COVID procedures can be found on the Camp Minnesota website. Scholarships are available to help with registration costs. If you're interested in camp, but don't want to go alone, Pastor Marianne is a co-Dean of the Senior High Christian Youth camp at Northern Pines June 13–18 for students grades 10–12. There is also a Junior High Christian Youth camp the same week for students grades 6–9, and a mini-Treehouse camp for students age 6–9 June 13–15.

### ★ 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!

### 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 **April offering** will support **UMCOR**. As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. Currently, one of the channels UMCOR has in place is a dedicated US disaster response to severe weather and tornadoes in the Southeast United States (Advance #901670).



Our **offering for May** will support the **Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering**. The theme for this year's June session is "*Jesus. Waymaker.*" The Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus: feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God's compassion and grace. Our 2021 Love Offering is dedicated to feeding the hungry and ministering to migrants. The funds from this year's offering will go to four projects: The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (50 %), host churches of Ruby's Pantry (20 %), the Matthew 25 food distribution (20 %), and Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 %). For more info, visit <https://www.minnesotauc.org/loveoffering>.

You may contribute by mail, Supply Parade, or by placing donations directly in the Mission Well located in the church lobby.



**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.

## COVID Update

Over a year has passed since we last gathered in person for worship in the sanctuary. When we first went to distance worship, I know I never imagined that we would be celebrating a second Easter online. Yet here we are. We continue to learn, adapt, and improve our online worship opportunities. These opportunities will continue, even as we start to plan for the future of in person worship in the sanctuary.

The Reopening Taskforce met before Holy Week to begin to talk about the process of welcoming people back into the sanctuary for worship. When we met last Fall, the decision was made to keep worshipping online only until the state K-12 data numbers for Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties were all at or below 10 for two weeks. The most current data has that number ranging between 15 and 32 for these metro counties. (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.)

While we are still looking at the infection rates, we are also tracking the vaccination rate in the state because we know that singing is a riskier activity with COVID, and we know how important music is to our worship service. Recommendation from the CDC state that congregational singing will be safe once 70 to 85% of the population has been vaccinated. (The most current data for Minnesota has 24% having completed their vaccine series.) When we do begin worshipping together in the sanctuary, we want worship to feel worthwhile and meaningful, and so, our ability to sing together is a part of that decision as well.

In the weeks after Easter we will be asking for your input on in person worship, when, if ever, you will feel ready to be present in the sanctuary, what con-

ditions will make you willing to participate and how you can help make our worship successful. I know we are anxious to worship together, to be together as a community of faith.

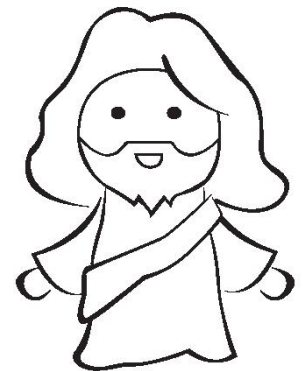
We are getting closer, but that time is not here just yet. Thank you for staying home, wearing masks and helping to control the spread of COVID. If you have any questions, or need help connecting to Sunday morning Zoom worship, let me know.

— Pastor Marianne



## Flat Jesus is Coming to Faith UMC

We know that Christ is with us always, but sometimes it is helpful to have a tangible reminder. Join us this summer as we bring Flat Jesus out into the world and tell West St Paul, and the surrounding areas that Jesus is with us, even when we're not in church. We will make our very own Flat Jesuses during the May Supply Parade. Then, throughout the summer take pictures with your Flat Jesus wherever you go. Post those pictures to your social media accounts with #NewLifeAtFaithWSP and #FlatJesusFaithWSP, and/or send them to the church office and we can help remind our neighbors, our community and our world that Christ is with them as well.





# April-May Worship Update / Calendar

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## Worship at Faith

We continue to follow the recommendations from both the state of Minnesota and the Minnesota Annual Conference, asking us to limit the number of people gathered in one place for weekly worship. Rather than meeting in the sanctuary, 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 April and May:

**April 4** is Easter Sunday! Join us as we celebrate the resurrection and look at the invitation of being a church of life. This service will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel for those who wish to watch it later. We will also celebrate Holy Communion, so come prepared with juice and bread. (Communion will not be available on YouTube service).

**April 11** we will begin our Growth of a Movement series looking at the stories of the early church found in Acts. We start with Acts 5:27-32, and a look at the witness and testimony of the disciples.

**April 18** continues our study of Acts with Acts 9:1-20 and Saul's miraculous conversion.

**April 25** we will look at the growth of a movement with Acts 9:36-43 and the story of Peter resurrecting Tabitha.

**May 2** we will celebrate communion and look at Acts 11:1-18 and Peter's food vision. Don't forget your juice and bread for worship!

**May 9** we will look at the story of Lydia as found in Acts 16:9-15.

**May 16** we will celebrate Ascension Sunday, as we remember when the Risen Christ ascended into heaven, leaving the disciples to do the work of ministry.

**May 23** is Pentecost. We will retell the story of the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit, found in Acts 2.

**May 30** our theme is TBD, but it will be good :)

## April-May Calendar

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

Thur., 4/1	3 pm	Handbell choir practice
	7 pm	Maundy Thursday
		Tenebrae Service (Zoom)
Fri. 4/2	11am	Good Friday Prayer Vigil
Sat., 4/3	8 am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 4/4	9:30 am	Easter Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 4/6	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 4/11	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Sat., 4/17	8 am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 4/18	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 4/20	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 4/25	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
	11-11:30 am	Supply Parade
Wed., 4/28	6 pm	Reopening Taskforce
Sat., 5/1	8 am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 5/2	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 5/4	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 5/5	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 5/6	6 pm	Administrative meetings
	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sun., 5/9	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Sat., 5/15	8 am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 5/16	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 5/18	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 5/23	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
	11-11:30 am	Supply Parade
Sat., 5/29	8 am	Men's Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 5/30	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	10 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 6/1	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study



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

April/May 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](http://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.

### Spring Sunday Supply Parades

Supply parades will continue this spring. They are a fun time to see one another face-to-face and share a moment or two together. Come out for the parade on **April 25** from 11–11:30 a.m. in the front circle drive. Come and pick up Sunday School and Bible Study supplies, drop off offerings and donations.

In May, alongside our usual Supply Parade activities, everyone will have the opportunity to make a Flat Jesus to carry out into the world and help remind us the Christ is with us always. **On May 23**, plan to stay and color your very own Flat Jesus.



# SUPPLY PARADES