



# Faith in Action

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

June / July 2021

## *Greetings,*

I'm back in the office today after a week of vacation. Well, I say vacation, but what I mean was a week of working with Jeff's grandmother, mother and aunt, all of whom are accomplished gardeners (his aunt being a literal master gardener) to tame the landscaping in my yard. It was a glorious week, but I'm not sure that I remember the last time that I did so much work when I wasn't in the office.

You see, last year, in the runup to COVID isolation, once we knew we would be moving, Jeff and I did our best to find the perfect house for our family. This is when I let you know that house hunting in early March in Minnesota leaves some gaps in knowledge about a property—mainly what does the yard look like. The house we ultimately purchased is great for our family, but what neither Jeff nor I appreciated when we put the offer on the house was just how much landscaping existed in the yard; landscaping that needs to be maintained, or it begins to look like a chaotic mess of plants...

I mean weeds. (Ask me how I know.)

So, last week, during our spring vacation, with the kids happily at school, Jeff, his parents, grandmother, aunt and I tackled the back yard's landscaping to make things more manageable so that we don't lose the battle of the crab grass and dandelions this year, like we did last year. It was delightful. We divided up a large bed into smaller spaces, rearranged pre-existing plants, carved out a space for herbs, and got the majority of this year's produce planted all in three days, at which point in time we were all pretty tired, and it started raining.

Unlike Jeff, I did not grow up in a family of gardeners. My parents tinkered with landscaping, and my mom grew tomatoes, peppers and a few herbs, but I did not get too involved with any of it, and so know only a wee bit about plants and keeping them alive. (It is somewhat miraculous that I managed to keep my Lenten marigolds growing.) However, taking the time to see past the chaos of green and brown to

find the beauty in my yard has been a wonderful experience. It has helped me to appreciate my yard more and be less overwhelmed by it.

I could be wrong, but I suspect there's a nugget of truth about life and faith in there as well. When we take the time to focus on a life of faith, to reach out towards God and see the acts of grace and love all around us, then life itself seems less overwhelming. It becomes easier to identify those aspects of life that are fulfilling, and those that are a suck on our energy. Ultimately, we begin to see the beauty of God all around us, which has always been there, but perhaps was lost in the midst of everything else going on. Today, I encourage you to take some time to look for the beauty of God around you, whether at home, or work, or at play. Seek to find God's grace in living out a life of faith and share that learning and joy with others.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Marianne*

# June/July Birthdays

6/1 – Chuck Martin	Charlotte DeNardo	William Short	Mason Worden
6/2 – Jeffrey Cox Jr.	6/15 – Caroline Pippert	7/3 – Ann Beardshear	7/19 – Fred Dick
6/4 – Heidi Chun	6/17 – Johnny Gallegos, Jr.	7/6 – Gabriella Solheid	Austin Emery
Esther Craine	6/18 – Katherine Worden	7/8 – Travis Buse	7/21 – Zoe Ozanne
6/6 – Katy Grotjohn	6/22 – Cornell Chun	7/10 – Dianne Mens	7/22 – Jack Gurtin
Dawn Isaacson	6/22 – Evan Johnson	7/11 – Mark Mohr	7/25 – Bonnie Wood
6/9 – Bryce Ozanne	Mike Schwendinger	Leonard Young	7/28 – Henry C. Hovey
6/11 – Karen Cohoes	6/25 – Dianna Gallegos	7/12 – Brody DeNardo	Gregory Napier
Bonnie Dick	Stanley Lukas	Brynn Ford	Kristine Rebischke
6/12 – James Hovey	6/26 – Brittany Buse	7/16 – Desarae Gallegos	7/29 – Jeanna Schwendinger
6/14 – V. Paul Williams	Charles Scopatz	Holly Vanderhoff	Christina Solheid

• 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: **6/12, 6/26, 7/10 & 7/24**. 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.

## Help Us Prepare for the Yard Sale!

We are planning on having a yard sale the end of July or the first part of August—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. We are unable to accommodate large pieces of furniture; however, if you have smaller pieces, please call Roxanne or Judy before bringing it to church.

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). Drop off donations mid-afternoon on M, W or F. Call the church prior, so that Susan can let you in.

**★ 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!



*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Colossians 1:16-17 ESV

**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
- ◆ 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. The **June offering** will support **Neighbors, Inc.** Your monetary donations will alleviate hunger by helping to stock the Neighbors’ food shelf during the busy summer months.



Our **offering for July** will support **Mobile Meals** which operates out of our building.

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

**Lawn Mowing**

Summer is coming and it’s time to plan for lawn mowing. Faith has **two riding mowers**, so you can mow with a friend! If you can help mow the church yard, please contact Mike Schwendinger at 612-308-1399 or vikesfan01@gmail.com.



**Church Office Hours**

**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.  
Susan will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.



**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

Rev. Cindy Gregorson, the conference Director of Connectional Ministries, in a recent email to the conference clergy retold a framing for our current phase of the pandemic that she heard from someone, “we have learned how to die with COVID,” she recounts. “Now it is time to learn to live with COVID.” I find this framing helpful as we move into the next steps and stages of the pandemic. We have spent the past 15 months doing our best to minimize the spread of COVID. Many of us are vaccinated and ready to move past mask and distancing and get back to normal life. However, we know that the speed with which we move back into society will vary from individual to individual. As a community of faith, let us be gracious and gentle with one another as we begin to move back into in person programming.

Following feedback from our post-Easter conversations, the Reopening Taskforce is working toward inviting an in-person congregation into the sanctuary beginning on June 27. We chose this date for a variety of reasons. First, we need to do some technology upgrades in the sanctuary in order to do hybrid worship with people in the sanctuary and at home participating in worship together. This includes changing the video set up so that everyone can have a meaningful worship experience without visual barriers. Second, June 27th is the Move Sunday: the first day of the new appointment year. The transition to in person worship timed with the beginning of the appointment year acts as a symbol of the move that we all are making as we make the commitment to worship, serve and be in community with one another in a new way in the coming year.

Because we know that life with COVID changes often quickly and without warning, the

final protocols for worship have not yet been established. The taskforce will meet again toward the middle of June to finalize plans, which will then be communicated through the Weekly Update. I look forward to this latest phase of the pandemic as we learn together what it means to live with COVID as a community of faith. If you have questions, let me know.

— Pastor Marianne

## Flat Jesus is on the move!

Did you get a chance to color your own Flat Jesus in May? If not, we have more in the office! Throughout the summer, we are bringing Flat Jesus into the world to remind us all that Christ is with us always. Once you have your completed Flat Jesus, take pictures with him 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. Keep an eye on the church Facebook page for updates on where Flat Jesus has been this week.



## Worship at Faith

Worship at Faith UMC is going to be changing in the next few months. While our modes of worship will be adjusting, we still gather weekly on Sundays at 9:30am as a community of faith to be encouraged, pray, and grow in our love of God.

Here are some notable things about the worship services in June and July:

**June 6** begins our Summer Sermon series: Odd Ball Bible, where we will look at the unexpected stories we find throughout the scriptures. Our first Odd Ball story is Paul’s sermon of death found in Acts 20:7-12. We will have communion during this service, so plan ahead and have juice and bread with you at home.

**June 13** Dana Scopatz is leading worship as we look at Revelation 12’s biblical dragon.

**June 20** our Odd Ball story is a disembodied hand writing on the wall found in Daniel 5.

**June 27** our Odd Ball story is fishing for taxes as found in Matthew 17:24-27. We will also welcome congregation members to worship in the sanctuary. We will continue to offer Zoom worship as well. For more information on the worship transition, see the COVID Update.

**July 4** we will celebrate communion and look at the miracle by annoyance as found in Acts 16:16-24. Don’t forget your juice and bread for worship!

**July 11** we will look at the cursed fig tree as found in both Matthew 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-14, 20-25.

**July 18** Dana Scopatz will be leading worship while Pastor Marianne is on vacation. Stay tuned for Dana’s exciting Odd Ball story.

**July 25** we will conclude our Odd Ball Bible series with Pastor Marianne’s favorite Odd Ball Story: Balaam and the talking donkey as found in Numbers 22:10-38.

## June–July Calendar

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

Tue., 6/1	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 6/6	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
Mon., 6/7	6 pm	Reopening Taskforce
Sat., 6/12	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 6/13	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
Sun., 6/20	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
Sat., 6/26	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 6/27	9:30 am	Worship in Sanctuary resumes (including Zoom)
	11-11:30 am	Supply Parade
Sun., 7/4	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 7/6	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 7/7	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 7/8	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sat., 7/10	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 7/11	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Sun., 7/18	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Sat., 7/24	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 7/25	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	11-11:30 am	Supply Parade
Sun., 8/1	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 8/3	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study





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

June/July 2021

## *Sunday Worship Schedule*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Beginning June 27, we will begin worship in the sanctuary. For those not yet comfortable 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.

### Sunday Supply Parades

Even as we begin to worship in person, we know that some will not yet be ready to gather with a large group of people. For those, and others who choose, we will continue the monthly Supply Parades on the last Sunday of the month from 11—11:30 am in the front circle drive (**June 27 and July 25**). If you plan on participating in the Supply Parade, let Pastor Marianne know.



# SUPPLY PARADES