



Faith in Action

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

Aug. / Sept. 2021

Greetings,

As has happened so often in the past year and a half, the course of the COVID pandemic has changed once again. With the Delta variant running amok across the country, the CDC has altered their recommendations, encouraging everyone, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask when indoors. For some, I suspect this change feels something akin to a sucker punch in the gut. Things were getting better! It felt safe to start seeing people again! We're worshipping in person! Do we REALLY have to wear our masks again!?!

I was asked recently if I get tired of wearing my mask. Honestly? Absolutely! I breathe fine, most of the time, in a mask, but it does get in the way of other things (hydration, for example). Ultimately, I see mask wearing (as well as other forms of fighting the pandemic) in the context of John Wesley's three general rules for Methodists, and so I wear a mask when I am in public situations.

Early in the Methodist movement in Great Britain,

John Wesley encouraged his followers to follow three rules (easy, right?!). They are as follows:

- 1: do no harm,
- 2: do good,
- 3: attend to the ordinances of God.

Wesley expands on each rule to explain what he means by each, but I feel like the first two are somewhat self-explanatory. The third, attend to the ordinances of God, has been re-framed by Bishop Rueben Job as “stay in love with God”. Or, in other words, participate in the life of faith.

How, you may ask, does mask-ing relate to Wesley's general rules? I see it as my responsibility as a person of faith to seek to first do no harm in my relationships. My choice in wearing a mask is not because I am afraid of getting sick. It is because I do not want to inadvertently get you (or anyone else) sick. I am aware that since I am fully vaccinated, the chances of me getting sick are small. I also know that there are people within my family and the wider community who cannot be vaccinated yet, or who have been vaccinated, but

due to their health and medications, do not benefit from the vaccine. Therefore, it is important to me to wear a mask to protect those around me from getting sick. This seemingly simple act helps me to show the love of God to the world around me.

This month, as the pandemic continues to evolve, as schools prepare to begin for another academic year, as we experience the life of faith, I encourage you to consider how you can seek to do no harm, do good, and participate in the life of faith in your own ways. Together, let us seek to show the love of God to the world in simple ways.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

August/September Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8/5 – Anthony Yekaldo | 8/24 – Roseanne Larsen | 9/19 – MariAnne Young |
| 8/9 – Deborah Pate | 8/24 – Kaius Spatafore | 9/20 – Ethan Chun |
| 8/11 – Daniel Bonkowske | 8/26 – Ronald Brummund | 9/21 – Doug Van Siclen |
| 8/13 – Jacey Lambert | 9/3 – Sharon Yekaldo | 9/21 – Jack Watchorn |
| 8/13 – Kaden Emery | 9/4 – Ramon Nachtsheim | 9/22 – Charles Beardshear |
| 8/13 – Greg Nelson, Jr. | 9/5 – Ronald Brummund, Jr. | 9/22 – Bob Scopatz |
| 8/14 – Marsha Spatafore | 9/5 – Lileigh Doughty | 9/22 – John Scopatz |
| 8/15 – Joseph Spatafore | 9/9 – Hayden DeNardo | 9/22 – Taffy Storck |
| 8/17 – Raymond Fjerstad | 9/11 – Harison Van Siclen | 9/26 – Debra Johnson |
| 8/17 – Claudia Sanchez | 9/15 – Emillia DeNardo | 9/28 – Victoria Hovey |
| 8/19 – Kasey Kropp | 9/16 – John Robert Doughty | 9/28 – Josephine Kranz |
| 8/19 – Linnea Rostad | 9/16 – Susanne Short | 9/28 – Claudia Spatafore |
| 8/20 – Camryn Suchecki | 9/17 – Olivia Van Siclen | 9/28 – Patricia Williams |
| 8/21 – Carol Ward | 9/19 – Gerald Gross | 9/30 – Louis Gackstetter |
| 8/24 – Samantha Kropp | 9/19 – Amanda Peterson | |

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

Thanks

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated, purchased, and worked the Yard Sale/Wood Fired Pizza To Go Stand on July 31: Dana & Bob Scopatz; Pat & Paul Williams; Pastor Marianne Ozanne; Fred & Lynn Mens; Bruce Opp; Bill Short; the Napier family – Janine, Juliet, Joe, Jenny, Jacob, Josie, Jody, Alexander, Nicholas, Alana, plus friend Murumba; Doug, Olivia & Harison Van Siclen; Taffy Storck; Judy Pfenning; Dawn Kinnunen & friend Hannah; Dan Miller; Gloria & Evan Gurtin; Marsha & Claudia Spatafore; Sharon Yekaldo; JoAnn Loutsch; Collette Peterson; Bill & Lynn Bonkowske; Carol Schuldt. If we missed anyone, please know you are appreciated. The sale was a **BIG SUCCESS** for our church with great fellowship opportunities, \$3,300 went to our church budget, and the community was able to take home many great treasures to enjoy!

— Roxanne & Greg Napier and Judy Turk

Dear friends, thank you very much for your June donation of 67 pounds of groceries and 3 pounds of fresh garden produce! Summer is a quiet time for donations and we are grateful for your support throughout the year! — *The team at Neighbors, Inc.*

Faith’s ‘counters’ have had a great impact on the financial business of the church over the past year. **Many thanks** are sent to those individuals who have so willingly helped with this process of counting the offering money:

- Bill & Lynn Bonkowske
- Steve & Rose Larsen
- Bruce Opp
- Mike Schwendinger
- Marsha Spatafore

They have all taken numerous turns over these months, and their time and efforts are so much appreciated.

If there are other persons who may be interested in training for this activity, and a place on the schedule, please contact Pastor Marianne.

Again, thank you to Faith’s “essential workers”!
— *Judy Pfenning, Finance Committee Counter Coordinator*

★ 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
- ◆ Racial inequality in our community and around the world
- ◆ Those struggling to find work, reliable shelter and/or healthy food

We Extend our Sympathy:

- ◆ to the family & friends of **Bernice Killian**—Bernice died June 25, and a funeral was held here at Faith on July 3.
- ◆ to **Nancy Rankin and family** on the death of Rodney on July 20. A memorial service was held at Faith on July 31.

Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. **For August**, we will be packing **school kits** following worship on August 22 and distributing them locally to students who need the supplies. You may donate money or supplies to be packed. Here's the list of supplies we are packing into each bag:



- 1 pair blunt scissors
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 3 one-subject solid-color notebooks
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 ruler
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 eraser
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 box of 8 markers
- 2 expo dry erase markers
- 1 tray of 8 color washable paints
- 1 pencil box

Our **offering for September** will support UMCOR Disaster Response and Recovery.



You may contribute by mail 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.

Want an e-Newsletter?

Did you know that our newsletters are available in print, email, and on the church website? Electronic newsletters arrive quickly, save us time, money, and use less paper! If you are interested in changing the way you get your newsletter, let the office know.

School Kit Packing Event

Come help us fill our school supply bags! We will be gathering following worship on August 22 to put together all of our school supply bags. Once the bags are assembled, we will be distributing them to local students in need.

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.

Men's Breakfast Group

will meet via Zoom on Saturdays: **8/7, 8/21, 9/4 & 9/18**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.

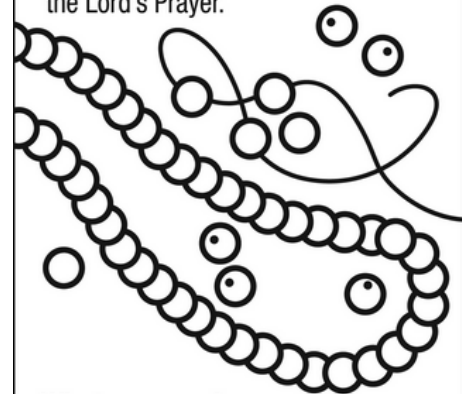
Lawn Mowing

If you can help mow the church yard, please contact Mike Schwendinger at 612-308-1399 or vikesfan01@gmail.com.



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

COVID Update

Last August, when the Reopening Taskforce began meeting, we set our goal for worshipping together in the sanctuary for when the COVID school data number for Dakota, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin and Anoka counties had all be at ten or below for two consecutive weeks. I am happy to report that when we gathered together in the sanctuary on June 27th, the Minnesota Department of Health had reported the previous Thursday that each of those metro counties had two consecutive weeks of ten or lower. However, if we have learned one thing about COVID in the past 18 months, it is that COVID is entirely unpredictable.

In the past few weeks, the CDC has updated their recommendations to state that in counties with a substantial or high transmission rate all individuals, regardless of vaccination status should wear masks when indoors. Our Reopening Taskforce has stated that we will follow the CDC recommendations, so I am monitoring the status of Dakota county and adapting our worship protocols as necessary. At the time that I am writing this, Dakota County (as well as Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington and Anoka counties) has a substantial rate of transmission. As a result, we are encouraging all individuals to wear a mask at all times in the building. There is currently no plan to limit the number of individuals worshipping in the sanctuary.

In addition to masking while in the building, we have a few other COVID protocols in place for worship, small group gatherings, and committee meetings. We are asking that individuals practice social distancing by having one family unit sit in available pews during worship, and spreading out for group and committee gatherings. Also, we will not be having food and drinks in the building for fellowship time following worship (including special worship services) at this time. If desired, those fellowship times can be held outside, weather permitting.

As the course of the pandemic continues to evolve and recommendations change, we will communicate

how those changes affect our community at Faith UMC through the Weekly Update. If you are not currently receiving a Weekly Update, please let the office know. If you have any questions, please let me know

— Pastor Marianne.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Our 11th annual Neighbors, Inc. Food Shelf Garden completed its sixth week of harvest at the end of July—about one-third of the way through the harvest season. In straw bales and raised soil beds, carts, and pots, we've picked and delivered bush beans (green, purple, and yellow), cucumbers, peppers, squash, green onions, tomatoes, and lots of herbs—more than 70 pounds and \$300 in market value (based on average cost of vegetables from neighborhood grocery stores).



Last year, the church garden plus “satellite” gardens from members and friends produced 497 pounds of vegetables with a market value of \$1,520.



Our garden is completely funded through memorial gifts and designated contributions.

Thanks to volunteers who have helped plan, plant, weed, water, and harvest this year's garden: Dianna Gallegos, Johnny Gallegos, Sr., Johnny Gallegos, Jr., Dawn Kinnunen, Gil Kinnunen, Anna Laman-Rossi, Dan Miller, Bruce Opp, Pam Pearson, Hannah Pendleton, Taffy Storck, Judy Turk, Pat Williams, and Paul Williams.

If you wish to be part of the gardening team this year, please contact Dawn Kinnunen (651-278-7394, dawnella1974@gmail.com) or Gil Kinnunen (651-428-3959, gilogram@gmail.com).

August-September Worship Update / Calendar - 6 -

Worship Update

We are over a month into our hybrid worship service. Each week we learn something new as we gather as a community of faith in person and online to celebrate the love of God in our midst. Join us every Sunday either in person or on Zoom at 9:30am.

Here are some notable things about the worship services in August and September:

Throughout August we will be celebrating communion every week. If you are joining us through Zoom, be prepared with bread and juice. If you are joining us in person, be prepared to experience new expressions of communion.

August 1 kicks off our late-summer sermon series “The Bread of Life” with Bread for Nutrition as found in John 6:1-21.

August 8 we continue looking at Jesus as the Bread of Life, providing Bread for Eternity, as found in John 6:24-35

August 15 we will talk about Jesus as Bread from Heaven using John 6:35, 41-51.

August 22 John 6:51-58 will have us discussing Bread for Communion and how Jesus as the Bread of Life brings us together in faith.

August 29th we will conclude our Bread of Life series with looking at John 6:56-69 and how Jesus is our Bread for Faith

September 5 starts our second year of the “Belief in Books” series where we look at picture books and discuss the lessons of faith right before our eyes. Our first book will be *The Forever Tree* by Tereasa Surratt and Donna Lukas.

September 12 is Rally Sunday. We will celebrate the start of Sunday School, bless backpacks and look at the faith found in *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires.

September 19 we will look at *The Beginner’s Guide to Running Away from Home* by Jennifer Larue Huget

September 26 our book will be *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett.

August-September Calendar

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

Sun., 8/1	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 8/3	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sat., 8/7	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 8/8	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Sun., 8/15	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Sat., 8/21	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 8/22	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	(following)	School kit assembly
Sun., 8/29	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Sat., 9/4	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 9/5	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 9/7	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 9/8	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 9/9	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sun., 9/12	9:30 am	Rally Day!
		Worship (and Zoom)
Sat., 9/18	8 am	Men’s Breakfast (Zoom)
Sun., 9/19	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 9/21	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 9/26	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)



11 area clergy complete Nonprofit Church Leadership Program, 7 begin

July 22, 2021



The incoming and outgoing cohorts of the Nonprofit Church Leadership Program (note: more participated from home via Zoom). Photo by David Stucke

By: Christa Meland

Rev. Cory Thrall used to be uncomfortable with discussions about giving and fundraising. He's done sermon series on giving and led annual stewardship drives, but didn't enjoy those experiences.

Enter the Nonprofit Church Leadership Program (NPCL), a graduate-level certificate program at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. The year-long experience changed his thinking about generosity and stewardship and has given him confidence in addressing these important topics within the life of his church, multi-site Legacy UMC in Bismarck, North Dakota.

"The class on fundraising helped me in knowing how to ask for funds, what to do when someone gives a large gift, and how to move a congregation from thinking that 'all the church wants is money' to a place of 'I am going to give because it is sign of spiritual growth and trust in God,'" said Thrall. "I moved from being uncomfortable to comfortable... I am a more effective leader because of NPCL."

Strengthening skills to lead today's church

Five Dakotas and six Minnesota United Methodist clergy just completed the NPCL, which taught them about stewardship of financial resources, human resources, vision, strategy, community, and communications—and seven more area clergy are about to begin the program, along with 10 United Methodist clergy from the Michigan Conference and several Lutheran pastors.

The program, which launched in 2018, is a partnership between the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of the United Methodist Church and Dakota Wesleyan

University, with funding assistance from the Lilly Endowment. Those entering the program this summer represent the fourth cohort of clergy participants. Over the past four years, more than 60 congregations have benefited from their clergy participating in the program and gaining new skills.

This year's Minnesota Conference graduates are Revs. Carrie Binnie, Amy Jo Bur, Andrew Church, Tony Fink, Shawn Moore, and Ruth Ann Ramstad.

The online program, which includes some live lectures, is designed to enhance the administrative and management skills of church leaders. It strengthens the competencies that pastors need to lead today's church but perhaps did not obtain during their undergraduate, graduate, or seminary education.

"I appreciated the fact that the program gave me really good skills and that I was able to apply that knowledge with a lot more love and context than what an external consultant could offer," said Ramstad, who serves Brunswick UMC in Crystal, Minnesota. Rather than providing answers in the form of a one-size-fits-all approach, the instructors provided a whole menu of options that might be helpful to various congregations based on their size, setting, and particular makeup. Ramstad also found the individual coaching to be hugely valuable.

Projects benefit local churches

Over the course of the year, each student completes two applied projects, each of which focuses on an area of need within the participant's local church.

One of Thrall's projects came from noticing that all three of Legacy's sites were missing people from the 18-30 age group. He created a digital "fourth church" that's open 24/7 and focuses on intentional interaction every day, not just on Sunday mornings. Called Missouri Valley Community, it has prayer times, teaching moments, simple interactive questions, praise music, and condensed sermons.

Ramstad, meanwhile, focused one of her applied projects on creating a plan to make better use of the church building in order to both enhance existing community partnerships and generate income to help the church pay for the cost to run the facility.

"It was a plan for restructuring the governance of the church so we're in the best possible position to have positive and paying partners that share our facility and do our work with us," she said.

Part of the project involved hearing from a large

number of the church's laity, who articulated and expanded upon Brunswick's mission—and, to Ramstad's delight, truly owned that mission. "The biggest thing the program did was confirm for me and for my church that we're not just on some dream boat; we have a specific, researched, credible plan for the future that is reliable, stable, and sustainable."

Incoming cohort ready to learn

The clergy beginning the program this month say they are eager to acquire new skills and sharpen others.

"In this ever-changing ministry environment, we can't settle for the ways we did ministry decades ago," said Rev. Woojae Im, who serves Church of Peace in Richfield, Minnesota. "All the training I have had in the past had to do with theology, biblical studies, and/or spirituality. I have never learned ways to do ministry through the lens of a business model, which attracts me to this program."

I'm is particularly excited to learn how to effectively lead change within a church setting, knowing that it's often difficult for people and met with resistance.

Meanwhile, Jeff Pospisil, the Dakotas Conference executive director of finance and administration, is looking forward to growing in his leadership—especially as it relates to the teams he works with: Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Pensions, and Human Resources. "Sometimes you get used to being the answers person," he said. "I'd like to be better at working with staff and volunteers and finding answers *with* them."

Pospisil also looks forward to gaining a more thorough understanding of what church leaders are struggling with when it comes to finance and stewardship so he's better able to equip them to address those issues in their congregational settings.

What Thrall would say to the incoming cohort and those considering this program in the future: "It will be work but worth every moment that you put into it," he said. "Leading well is so much more than charging up a hill with a great idea and hoping that people are following behind you. Leading actually means closing your mouth more than you open it. One of the most important lessons I learned about leadership is to seek to understand more than to be understood."

Christa Meland is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



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

August/September 2021



Sunday Worship Schedule

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In June we began holding worship services 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

Facebook Page

Remember to like the Faith Facebook page at:
<http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn>

Connecting to Zoom Meetings

IF YOU ARE NEW TO ZOOM and unfamiliar with the technology, 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.

Rally Day—September 12!

Soon school will be starting. Backpacks will be filled, busses will be back on the road, and students will be off to their first day of new adventures and learning. We invite you to celebrate the beginning of a new school year by joining us for worship on September 12 for Rally Sunday. Anyone returning to school (students, faculty and staff) is encouraged to bring their school bag with them to worship for a special blessing.



Then students will gather for the first Sunday School class of the year.