



Faith in Action

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

February /
March 2022

Greetings,

I think it was probably early September when Zoe first asked me when winter would come. School had only just begun and I was still relishing the important things of life: ignoring the ever-growing weeds in my garden and reading in my hammock, so I wasn't quite ready to think about coats and boots and (shudder) snow. As I dug down into the question, I discovered that what Zoe really wanted to know was when the snow would come so that Grandpa would build her snow track. Now that the cold and snow of winter has come, my yard is home to an excellent sled track (think a very simplified version of a bobsled race), complete with an iced-down surface and a fork in the path to pick-your-own-sledding-adventure. It's a winter wonderland in my yard.

To fully understand how amazing this sled track is, you need to first understand one important thing about me: I despise snow. Sure, it is pretty to watch the snow fall...for about 5 minutes, when there no chance of me ever needing to leave the building, let alone drive through the whiteness, but, to be honest, that's about the level of snow-fall I can handle. It then needs to melt. Fast. So, when I tell you that my yard is a winter wonderland, know that this is one pretty cool sled track, especially for the 9-year-old and 7-year-old who live in my house, and their 3-year-old cousin who comes to visit and sled many weekends. I have found in life that words are so much more meaningful when you understand the person speaking (or writing) them in the first place. The connotation of “winter wonderland” has

so many varied meanings depending on the speaker. Is that wonderland a good thing? Is it amazing? Is it sarcastic? Simply reading the words doesn't show meaning until you understand the speaker (or in this case writer). This is one reason why relationship is so important: it helps us to understand the words that we use.

One way to describe the life of faith is to talk about the relationship we have with God. It's not just about asking for things and waiting for answers; its also about having conversations, learning to listen and discern answers and meaning from a confidant who is present but not directly visible. To be in relationship with God is to learn to understand the language God uses; to begin to see the meaning behind the words instead of just the words themselves written in scripture, or on our hearts.

This month I encourage you to take the time to foster that relationship: find time to connect with God on a regular basis. Worship is a good place to start, but it is only a start. Maybe find some time to read the scripture or reflect on the words that God is using with you these days. Ponder on your star word (which are still available in the office if you need one) and see how it might speak to you in ways you would not expect. Together let us be a church that is seeking to understand the Word of God through the relationship we have with God.

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	3/26 – Ruth Campion
2/4 – Rebecca Hovey	2/23 – William Bonkowske	3/8 – Victoria Stehr	3/27 – Isabelle Pippert
2/7 – Roxanne Napier	2/24 – Mackenna Emery	3/9 – Brady Johnson	3/31 – Michael Pate
2/8 – Alana Sielski	2/28 – Macenzie Worden	3/17 – Carrie Akemann	
2/9 – Paul DeNardo			

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

Men’s Breakfast Group will meet on Saturdays: **2/5, 2/19, 3/5 & 3/19**. All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short26@gmail.com.

Thank You

- Thank you and thank you again to 2 teams of volunteers who on January 12 took down and put away the Christmas decorations, along with helping store the unsold basket sale items: JoAnn Loutsch, Lynn & Fred Mens, Gloria Gurtin, Dan Miller, Dawn Kinnunen, Bruce Opp, Sharon Yekaldo and Judy Turk.
- Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to brighten a family’s Christmas this year through the Neighbors Holiday Gift Program. We made a difference.
— Karen Coboes, Coordinator

• Dear friends, As we close out the year and count our blessings, we count you! With your generous donations, you are making the holiday season brighter for people in your community who are struggling. *(Faith Church November 2021 donations: 91 pounds of garden produce and 87 pounds of groceries; December 2021 donations: \$882.89 and 59*

pounds of food)
In the past year, Neighbors has expanded the reach of our hunger relief programs in our community through food delivery and Neighbors Express at five community sites; we have started a new Financial Empowerment Program to help our visitors improve their financial wellness and access appropriate supports; and we have increased our distribution of clothing vouchers and small sums grants. There is so much to be proud of and we could not do it without your help! Thank you for sharing your gifts with others. This is a particularly difficult time of year for people in need, and we are grateful for your unwavering compassion toward the people we serve. ...

— Beth Skwira, Director of Mission Advancement at Neighbors, Inc.

• Dear Friends in Mission, thank you! The dear people you just helped with your \$544.00 gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be THANK YOU! And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than

60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.
—Roland Fernandes, UMCOR

★ 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!

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.

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 **PREPARE + PROSPER**, a St. Paul organization that works with individuals and families to build brighter financial futures by providing free tax and financial services, financial coaching, and access to financial products— while also advocating and working to advance policies and practices that directly affect people with low- to moderate-incomes in the areas of tax credits, asset-building, and consumer protection. “We tap into the skill, expertise, and generosity of 550+ people to help these individuals and families to move from “getting by” to “getting ahead.” Our volunteers are trained—those in the tax clinics are IRS-certified—and are passionate about taxes and finances. Collectively, they provide more than 26,000 hrs. of tax prep, financial services & coaching that change lives.”



Our **March** Mission Offering will support the **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign** — see page 4 for details.

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. ► **We are updating our Prayer Chain. If you would like to be on the prayer**

chain, or if your phone number has changed, please let Sharon Yekaldo 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

It is hard to believe that the last of these updates talked about loosening protocols and working toward what new-normal will look like as we move out of pandemic-mode and into endemic-mode. However, COVID has always been unpredictable and we find ourselves back to online-only worship. The first week of online-only worship felt like so many leaps backwards, but we know that it is only a temporary change. As the surge of cases connected to omicron continues, we will continue to worship online through Zoom on Sunday mornings and encourage meetings to happen over Zoom. There is not yet a concrete metric that we are looking for in order to move back to hybrid worship with individuals in the sanctuary and on Zoom, but when that metric is determined, we will communicate that information through the Weekly Update and during worship. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please see Pastor Marianne.

Loaves and Fishes Update

In November, the Church Council voted to continue the work we began during the Church Planning meeting in October and work to partner with Loaves and Fishes to provide a once a month meal to anyone in the community who wants to come. Our goal is to have a financially self-sufficient outreach program that provides food to people who want it, while also connecting with individuals who have a passion for service to join us in the meal, beginning in April. The Loaves and Fishes team has begun preparations: learning about food safety and regulations, connecting with another church that already serves as a Loaves and Fishes partner site, and making plans for what our meal will look like. If you are interested in being a part of this process, let Pastor Marianne know.



Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

GMCC's Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 as a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need so evident, March Campaign became a statewide initiative just one year later and is now in its 41st year.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves.



To date, GMCC's Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18.3 million dollars via the FoodFund. 100% of donations designated to Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to participating food shelves.



“We envision a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. This initiative directly addresses these issues. We invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity in our communities.”

The money & food Faith collects in March will go to our local Neighbors, Inc. food shelf. You may contribute by mail or by placing donations directly in the Mission Well in the lobby.

February–March Worship Update / Calendar

Worship at Faith

Worship is one of the most recognizable ways that we demonstrate our life of faith. Each week we learn something new as we gather as a community of faith to celebrate the love of God in our midst.

Here are some other notable things about the worship services in February:

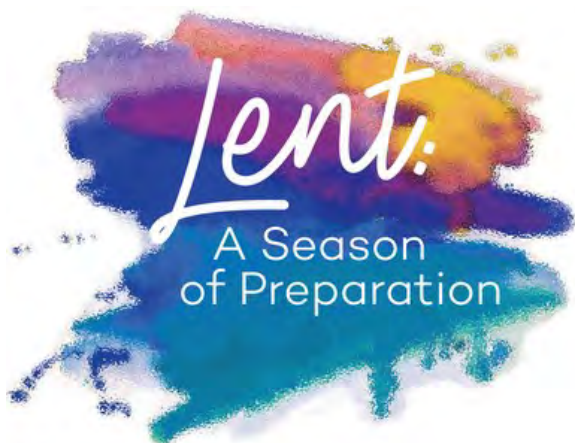
February 6 continues our look at Paul's first letter to the Corinthians with 15:1-11. Rev. Sarah Horsfield will lead worship and communion, so have some bread and juice handy.

February 13 Pastor Marianne returns with a look at resurrection through the lens of 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.

February 20 concludes our look at 1 Corinthians 15 with verses 35-38 and 42-50.

February 27 is Transfiguration Sunday: the day we remember when Jesus was visibly changed before the disciples' eyes. Join in the celebration as we look at how we are changed as well.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. Plans for worship in Lent are still forming, but we know that there will be an Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes and an invitation to this year's Lenten journey at 7 p.m. Sunday mornings we will be looking at faith and food.



Feb.–March Calendar

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

Sat., 2/5	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 2/6	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 2/8	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 2/9	7 pm	Staff Parish Relations Mtg.
Sun., 2/13	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Sat., 2/19	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 2/20	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 2/22	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 2/27	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Wed., 3/2	6 pm	Trustee meeting
	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship (with imposition of ashes)
Thur., 3/3	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sat., 3/5	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 3/6	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 3/8	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 3/13	Daylight Saving Time begins	
	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Sat., 3/19	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 3/20	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)
Tue., 3/22	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 3/27	9:30 am	Worship (Zoom)
	9:45 am	Sunday School (Google Meet)





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

February / March 2022



Sunday Worship Schedule

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.faithumcmn.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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.

