



Faith in Action

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

April /May 2022

Greetings,

It does not happen to me often, but very occasionally I hear a comment about the state of the world and a ponderance about when we will get back to “normal.” While I very much understand the pull to the way things once were, when life felt less complicated by illness and uncertainty, I also want to challenge the temptation to want to go back to the ways we once experienced. Just over two years have passed since the first case of COVID was reported in the state of Minnesota. In some ways, that time feels like a lifetime, and in others, time has barely passed. We are a different people now than we were in March of 2020. We are a different people now than we would have been in April of 2020 had the pandemic not happened. There is much to mourn, but I also thing that there much for which we can give thanks.

In the two years of the pandemic so much has changed here at Faith. You celebrated the retirement of one pastor and welcomed another. Together, we have learned how to worship in a variety of ways whether the gathered people are online, in the sanctuary, or a combination of the two. We have sung hymns together across space, listened to hymns sung and learned how to make beautiful music as a gathered people with baby bells. We have learned about God and faith from children’s books, answered questions about whether we

would choose to be a church of life, and undergone an intentional visioning process. There are groups in the church looking at how we use our building to the best of our ability to show God’s love to the community and how we can invite the community to join us through service: feeding those who are physically and spiritually hungry. Some of these changes have been pandemic driven, but not all of them. We have grown so much in the last two years.

Recently, we received a voicemail in the office thanking us for the message on the temporary sign out front. At the time, the sign read “Normal is not coming back, Jesus is.” I know the power of the call to get back to normal, to the way things were in February 2020, when life felt so much more predictable and comfortable. At the same time, as people of faith, we know that resurrection is coming. We are made new each day to praise God and celebrate God’s love in the world today. This spring, let us rejoice in the ways that God has been with us for the past two years, in the growth that we have experienced, and perhaps most importantly, in the ways that we are made new through Christ’s resurrection today, tomorrow and in the days that come.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

April / May Birthdays

4/7 – Patricia Giorgini	4/20 – Melinda Suchecki	4/30 – Ava Spatafore	5/15 – Jody Sielski
4/10 – Donald Seaquist	4/23 – Jeffrey Akemann	5/2 – John Kemp	5/17 – Dan Miller
4/10 – Nicholas Sielski	4/25 – Joan Ryan	5/3 – Norma Nitti	5/18 – Fred Mens
4/13 – Liz Chun	4/25 – Clayton Short	5/4 – Dawn Kinnunen	5/21 – Jenny Kranz
4/14 – Evan Emery	4/25 – Madison Worden	5/4 – Sheri Lukas	5/24 – Lisa Ann Boelter
4/15 – Ross Kropp	4/26 – Kathryn Peterson	5/6 – Christina Yekaldo	5/26 – Jonathan DeNardo
4/16 – Collette Peterson	4/27 – Leona Opp	5/8 – Judy Pfenning	5/26 – Chad Emery
4/18 – Kayla Rebischke	4/29 – Noah DeNardo	5/11 – Louise Gross	5/29 – Ben Brummund
4/19 – Brandon Adams	4/30 – Christina Eberly	5/11 – Gloria Gurtin	5/29 – Ruth Martin

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

COVID Update

It was two years ago when COVID came to Minnesota and life changed forever. Fortunately, we have learned a lot about this illness, and cases in our area are in decline. We continue to watch the trends in cases and are preparing for how those trends affect our worship and fellowship.

As of March 30, Dakota County has a positive test rate of 3.4% and a 7-day daily new case average of 6.5. This data means that we are removing all COVID protocol recommendations. Should the caseloads increase again, we will encourage masks while singing if the 7 day average exceeds 7.1, distancing if the 7 day average exceeds 10, and masking at all times if the positive test rate goes above 5%. Protocols for each week’s service are determined by the data reported on Thursday on covidactnow.org and are included in the Weekly Update each Friday. Plans are being made for what post-worship fellowship might look like, with the hopes of

starting to eat together in the building again on Sundays following Easter. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Marianne.

Lenten Midweek Experiences

Throughout lent we are taking time to talk about and practice prayer in a variety of ways. The Lenten Midweek Experiences happen every Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom. March 30, we will be looking at Praying with Color. April 6 will be Movement Prayer. If you need materials, let Pastor Marianne know.

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.

★ 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!

Men’s Breakfast Group

will meet on Saturdays: **4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14 & 5/28.** All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at 651-552-073 or bill.short26@gmail.com.



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



Mission Well Offering



The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month. **April donations** 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. One of the channels UMCOR has in place is a dedicated US disaster response to severe weather and tornadoes in the United States (Advance #901670).

You may also directly support UMCOR's efforts to offer help and hope to refugees from Ukraine by marking donations as "Advance #982450".

Our offering for May will support the **Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering**. The theme for this year's May session is "*Jesus: Healer.*" The Love Offering this year will address food insecurity by supporting three Minnesota United Methodist food ministries (50%). Funds will also assist those in need in our nation and world by supporting Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia (40%) and Volunteers in Mission trips (10%). For more info, visit <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering>.

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.

Loaves and Fishes Update

Our Loaves and Fishes team has been working hard this winter to prepare for the launch of our community meal. In late February, Dana Scopatz, Marsha Spatafore, Bob Scopatz and Pastor Marianne volunteered at the Loaves and Fishes meal at Faith UMC in Farmington to learn about their process and begin to make plans for our meal. It was a long day, but we learned a lot and are excited about the possibilities. As Dana told the Church Council during the March meeting, “we can do this!”

Now we are working to put the plans for our meal into action. We have three individuals signed up to be certified site coordinators. A group of individuals is starting to look at the rooms and storage throughout the building to make sure we are using our space effectively. We have a fundraiser planned for start-up costs relating to Loaves and Fishes and are researching other ways to fund the meal, including grants and other organizations that might be interested in partnering with us to make the meal sustainable into the future.

Our plan is to have the first meal on April 20, and then monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. In the coming weeks, we are working on recruiting volunteers, advertising the meal to the community and setting up the kitchen and food storage for more regular use. We are also looking at traffic flow and what signs we might need to help direct traffic for food pick up in the parking lot. If you are interested in being a part of this process, let Pastor Marianne know.



Eat Food, Feed People

As a fundraiser for our new Loaves and Fishes Community Meal program we will be offering take and bake meal kits on selected Sundays this spring. For a suggested minimum donation of \$15 you get Sunday dinner for two.

The menu will be announced one week before, and there will be a convenient way to sign up online, by phone, or in person. Meals will be ready to pick up at Sunday worship and include complete instructions for heating at home.

The first Sunday will be April 24 and the menu will be Chicken Parmigiana.

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.



Easter
OFFERING

Our Easter offering this year will support our Loaves and Fishes meal program.

April-May 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 April and May:

April 3 continues our look at the Lord's Prayer with the story of the fiery furnace in Daniel and the phrase "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

April 10 concludes our This is Our Prayer series as we look at "For thine is the power and glory forever" in the context of Palm Sunday.

April 17 is Easter Sunday! Join us for worship as we celebrate the risen Christ!

April 24 continues the season of Easter. We will look at the story of Thomas found in John 20:19-31.

May 1 we will look at Jesus' final teaching to the disciples in John 21:1-19.

May 8 our look at the Gospel of John takes us earlier to the discourse on the Good Shepherd found at 10:22-30.

May 15 continues our study of John with 13:31-35.

May 22 will conclude our look at the Gospel of John with part of Jesus' farewell discourse as found in John 14:23-29.

May 29 we will take time during worship to reflect on this year's Annual Conference and look at what is going on in The United Methodist Church across the state.

April-May Calendar

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

Sat., 4/2	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 4/3	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Tue., 4/5	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 4/6	7 pm	Lenten Midweek (Zoom)
Sun., 4/10	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
	11 am	Handbell Choir rehearsal
Thur., 4/14	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service (and Zoom)
Sat., 4/16	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 4/17	9:30 am	EASTER Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 4/19	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 4/24	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sat., 4/30	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/1	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Tue., 5/3	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Wed., 5/4	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thur., 5/5	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sun., 5/8	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sat., 5/14	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/15	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Tue., 5/17	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study
Sun., 5/22	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Children's Sunday School
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sat., 5/28	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun., 5/29	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
Tue., 5/31	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible Study



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

April / May 2022



Sunday Worship Schedule

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We are holding worship services in the sanctuary. If you are 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.faithumcmn.com

Facebook Page

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

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 10.

Join us for Sunday worship either in person or online at 9:30 a.m. We will have palms to wave, bells to play and joy abounding as we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, we will gather for a Tenebrae service of darkness at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 in person or on Zoom. This service is composed of readings interspersed with song.

If you are interested in doing one of the 15 readings in the service, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA8A922A0FE3-tenebrae1> or let Pastor Marianne know.



Holy Week