



Faith in Action

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

August/Sept. 2022

Greetings,

A few weeks ago, when the sun was shining and the daily high temperatures reached into the 90's for several days in a row, I had an epiphany. I was on my way home from worship, reflecting on the beautiful weather and somewhat lamenting the fact that my hammock stand resides in a very sunny spot of the yard, making for a location entirely too warm and bright for a relaxing Sunday afternoon nap when it hit me: what if I got help to move the hammock stand to a new location. While we do not have good hammock trees in our yard, we do have a good shade tree in the front that the hammock stand sits near very nicely. So, once I got home, I got Jeff to help me move the stand by the tree and life has never been better.

You may ask why it took me so long to come to the conclusion that I could move my hammock to where I wanted it. Hammocks are, after all, incredibly portable. Aside from the fact that I'm only just now settling into the lazy days of summer, the only thing I can think of is tradition. Almost exclusively since the hammock stand arrived in the summer of 2020, it has resided on the side of the house on a wooden platform where it is easily accessible to the door and won't kill any of the grass in the yard. Since the hammock stand has always lived on the platform, my brain had decided that was the only place the hammock stand could live. While having the stand on the platform works really well for the most part, its location has made it less likely that I choose to use my precious hours of relaxing time in my hammock, which is clearly not the right answer. As silly as it seems, sometimes this

style of rigid thinking can get in the way of life and of faith in some pretty powerful ways.

Change is one of the constants in the world: eventually everything changes. Because the world us around us is constantly changing, the ways that we connect to God and each other change as well. Perhaps the most recent example of this situation is how worship changed during the pandemic. We went from in person only worship to Zoom only worship to hybrid in person and Zoom worship in less than 18 months. Wow, that is a phenomenal rate of change for any organization! The hard part in the midst of that change is understanding that things will not go back to the way that they were pre-pandemic. Hybrid worship, for example, is here to stay.

Just like my hammock stand, I find that solutions that once worked are not permanent. So, our expressions of worship and faith will change over time. As we continue to explore, experiment and adapt to the changing world around us, things may feel different, unsettled. However, I know that allowing for flexibility and creativity in life brings a fullness that we have not known before. Will you join me on that journey? Together, let's move the hammock stand, so that we can live a life better than we could ever imagine.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne



August / September Birthdays

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8/5 – Anthony Yekaldo	8/20 – Camryn Suchecki	9/6 – Wallace Sapp	9/22 – Charles Beardshear
8/9 – Deborah Pate	8/21 – Carol Ward	9/9 – Hayden DeNardo	9/22 – Bob Scopatz
8/11 – Daniel Bonkowske	8/24 – Samantha Kropp	9/11 – Harison Van Siclen	9/22 – John Scopatz
8/13 – Jacey Lambert	8/24 – Roseanne Larsen	9/15 – Emillia DeNardo	9/22 – Taffy Storck
8/13 – Kaden Emery	8/24 – Kaius Spatafore	9/16 – John Robert Doughty	9/26 – Debra Johnson
8/13 – Greg Nelson, Jr.	8/25 – Jim Losinski	9/17 – Olivia Van Siclen	9/28 – Victoria Hovey
8/14 – Marsha Spatafore	8/26 – Ronald Brummund	9/19 – Gerald Gross	9/28 – Josephine Kranz
8/15 – Joseph Spatafore	8/29 – Terri Bougie	9/19 – Amanda Peterson	9/28 – Claudia Spatafore
8/17 – Raymond Fjerstad	9/3 – Sharon Yekaldo	9/19 – MariAnne Young	9/28 – Patricia Williams
8/17 – Claudia Sanchez	9/4 – Ramon Nachtsheim	9/20 – Ethan Chun	9/30 – Louis Gackstetter
8/19 – Kasey Kropp	9/5 – Ronald Brummund, Jr.	9/21 – Doug Van Siclen	
8/19 – Linnea Rostad	9/5 – Lileigh Doughty	9/21 – Jack Watchorn	

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

COVID Update

In mid-June, the FDA and CDC completed their processes to approve and recommend a vaccine for our youngest population. We have finally reached the point in the pandemic where all who are interested in being vaccinated have access to a viable immunization option. Therefore, assuming that the weekly hospital admissions in the twin cities remains at or below 10/100,000, we are comfortable relaxing our final COVID protocol for worship at the beginning of September.

Starting September 5, the default protocol will be that all are welcome to worship as they are most comfortable, with no masking recommendations in the sanctuary, assuming that the COVID levels stay fairly steady in the next month. We will continue to monitor the weekly COVID data and announce any changes in protocols in the Weekly Update according to CDC recommendations. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

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.

Women of the Bible Continues with New Testament

The Women of the Bible study has finished two years of learning about the women of the Old Testament. Starting in September we will look at 17 women found in the New Testament. The study meets on Zoom at 6:30 on Tuesday evenings one or two weeks of each month throughout the school year. We are always open to new participants. If you are interested in participating in the Women of the Bible study, see Pastor Marianne.

Confirmation Class Forming This Fall

Pastor Marianne is starting up a confirmation class this fall for students interested in digging deeper into faith. If you know of a student entering 7—12th grades who would like to participate in confirmation, let the office know.

Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks

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 11 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.

Concerns beyond our doors:

- ◆ Our local, state, national & 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.

New Church Email Address Reminder

If you want to reach the church office, you can do so by emailing FaithUMCWSP@gmail.com. Both Pastor Marianne and Susan will check this account. This is also the account that will be sending church emails such as the Weekly Update and Newsletter.

To email Susan directly, use

FaithUMCMN@gmail.com.

To email Pastor Marianne directly, use

Pastor.Marianne.Ozanne@gmail.com.

Please update your contact lists. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne or Susan.

▶ **Note:** If you or someone are NOT getting the weekly updates from Faith's new Gmail address, please let the office know.

Mission Well Offering

The Mission Well welcomes your donations to help support the offering of the month.



For August, we will be collecting for school supplies for Neighbors, Inc. *Details to follow.*

September donations will support Emma Norton Services. ENS is a trauma-informed organization that promotes healing and recovery, operating at a scale that brings a full array of resources to women, individuals, and families who have experienced homelessness. Housing & services are offered in collaboration with key community partners.



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

Christ is like a river that is continually flowing. There are always fresh supplies of water coming from the fountainhead, so that [one] may live by it and be supplied with water all one's life. So Christ is an ever-flowing fountain; he is continually supplying his people, and the fountain is not spent. They who live upon Christ may have fresh supplies from him for all eternity; they may have an increase of blessedness that is new [and] never will come to an end.

—Jonathan Edwards



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 meals continue to grow in energy. In July, we served 88 total meals: 61 guests and 27 volunteers (with family). What is perhaps more exciting is that we had 13 volunteers from outside the congregation, 11 of whom were first-time volunteers. Over half of the volunteers for the meal came from outside the congregation!

We continue to learn from each meal experience, fine tuning our meal options, how we greet guests and how we recruit volunteers. If you would like to help with Loaves and Fishes, here are a few options:

- The easiest way to help is tell others about the meal. Spread the word by making sure your friends and family know that we serve a FREE homemade meal to everyone the third Wednesday of every month from 5:30—6:30. You can even stop by and get some food for your family and neighbors. If you follow the church's Facebook page, an easy way to help spread the word is to share our Loaves and Fishes posts so that others will see them.
- If you want to volunteer to help prepare and serve our meal, the sign up link is always active. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-faith2> to sign up to work a shift.
- We are also working to make our Loaves and Fishes meal financially self-sufficient so that the meal does not burden our general operating expenses. We are doing this through seeking out grants, offering Loaves and Fishes specific fundraisers and direct asks. Funds donated to Loaves and Fishes cover our costs for prep supplies and food through the Loaves and Fishes warehouse at a drastically reduced rate.

If you have any questions about our Loaves and Fishes meal, see Pastor Marianne or Dana Scopatz.

Staffing Change at Faith

Beginning September 1, the position of Choir Director is transitioning to Worship Cantor. This change is a reflection of the adaptations we have made in worship due to the COVID pandemic as Staff Parish continues to work to effectively provide staffing for the congregation.

John will continue on as the primary Worship Cantor by giving vocal support to the hymns sung for each service and special music as needed. He will be supported by others as needed.

We thank John and Joan for their dedication to providing quality music for worship despite the challenges presented by COVID. Together we will continue to explore new opportunities for music participation in the midst of changing COVID-related rules and norms.

Join us for Fellowship After Worship

After almost 2-1/2 years, we're bringing coffee fellowship back to the Sunday morning schedule starting August 7. While there will be the familiar cup of coffee and friends to chat with, some things will be different. Instead of the traditional donut tray, we're asking for volunteers to help provide a variety of treats each week. Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

Appreciation: A BIG thank you to Bruce and Leona Opp and Bill Short for working in the memorial garden. It looks great!

Coming in September

we are planning an outdoor auction fundraiser in September. Stay tuned!

Lawn Mowing

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

Worship Update

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 notable things about the worship services in August and September:

August 7 we will continue our Questions of Faith series with the question “How do we live through grief”. We will also celebrate communion, so remember your bread and juice if you are joining us through Zoom.

August 14 is our last week of Questions of Faith, looking at the question “How does God react to the hateful things I say to God?”

August 21 begins our Belief in Books series looking at our connections throughout history in the community of faith with the book *This is the Rope* by Jaqueline Woodson and Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

August 28 we will look at serving the community through the lens of Galatians 5:16-25 and *When God Gives You a Lemon Tree* by Jamie B. Dennihan.

September 4 our worship will focus on how we show the love of God in the world through *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman and 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. We will also celebrate communion, so remember your bread and juice if you are joining us through Zoom.

September 11 we will bless backpacks, celebrate the beginning of Children’s Sunday School and remember that everyone counts by looking at *One* by Kathryn Otoshi and Matthew 25:31-46.

September 18 brings the opportunity to see beauty all around us through *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Pena and Matthew 6:19-34.

September 25 concludes our Belief in Book series with a look at the greatest commandment found in Mark 12:28-34 and *Molly on the Moon* by Mary Robi-nette Kowal.

Calendar

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

Tue. 8/2	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible study
Thurs. 8/4	7 pm	Staff Parish Relations Meeting
Fri. 8/5	6 pm	UFO Crafting
Sat. 8/6	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun. 8/7	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sun. 8/14	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Wed. 8/17		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 8/20	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun. 8/21	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sun. 8/28	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Fri. 9/2	6 pm	UFO Crafting
Sat. 9/3	8 am	Men’s Breakfast
Sun. 9/4	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Wed. 9/7	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thurs. 9/8	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sun. 9/11	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Childrens Sunday School
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Sat. 9/17	8 am	Mens Breakfast
Sun. 9/18	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Childrens Sunday School
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School
Tue. 9/20	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible study
Wed. 9/21		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sun. 9/28	9:30 am	Worship (and Zoom)
	10 am	Childrens Sunday School
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Adult Sunday School



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

August / September 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.faihumcmn.com

Facebook Page

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

Online Giving Available!

Want to give financially to the church online? Our link is now active and ready to receive donations!

To give online, you can go to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=5354400> and fill out the form. There are options to give once or set up regular gifts, to cover the processing fees for your donations, and which fund you would like to donate to (options include general operating expenses, mission well, Loaves and Fishes and apportionments).

We are excited about this opportunity that will help make giving to the church easier for those who do not carry cash and/or checks often, or are regularly worshipping online. If you have any questions about online giving, see Pastor Marianne.

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: **8/6, 8/20, 9/3 & 9/17.**

All men are invited to join us!

For more information contact Bill Short at bill.short26@gmail.com or 651-552-0736.