



# Faith in Action

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

Dec. '22 / Jan. '23

## *Greetings,*

What are your favorite holiday traditions? My family has been talking about important holiday traditions this year as we've been discerning which traditions are most important to people in preparation for this year's celebrations. Every family has their own set of traditions that make each holiday feel celebratory, and in a family system that continues to expand and change, we've been talking about what each family unit values in the celebration.

In my own discernment, what I've found is that many of my favorite family traditions center around the food that we eat. For thanksgiving, it is the turkey, homemade buns and pumpkin pie. (It has to be pumpkin, made with fresh pumpkin, not from a can.) Christmas Eve centers around a bowl of homemade spaghetti and meatballs using the recipe my grandmother used to feed large numbers of people. Christmas morning has its compliment of breakfast foods, including my mother-in-law's freshly made caramel rolls. Epiphany Sunday is incomplete without a buffet of appetizers

that I've made for most of my married life for our Ozanne Family Epiphany Open House (come celebrate with us on January 8!!). No matter the holiday, I'm likely to have some kind of food tradition that makes the celebration complete, even if it's a food I don't particularly enjoy.

These traditions are not all static, however. Some of the food traditions my family had as a child I have let go. For example, my children will never associate Halloween with hot dogs out of the microwave, despite the fact that I will always associate the two. Likewise, there are some traditions that I have adapted over time; the spaghetti and meatballs that my grandmother served us for dinner on Christmas Day became this clergy couple's Christmas Eve tradition because everything can be made ahead of time and eaten quickly between multiple services. Traditions connect us to those who came before us, but they shouldn't bind us to the way that things have always been.

In the church, the process of discerning meaningful traditions and rituals is important as

well. I tend to think that rituals make up some of the building blocks of the life of faith. These seemingly ordinary acts, like using the same words at the same point in worship week after week, when repeated over time create meaning, open us up to new experiences, and connect us to God. Therefore, it is important to discern which rituals we use have meaning and bring us closer to God, and which ones have become rote activities separated from their original purpose and meaning.

As we move into the season of Advent, with its own set of rituals and traditions, I encourage you to take the time to think about which traditions you find most meaningful, and which rituals bring you closer to God. Are there ways that you can find new meaning in these practices or are there traditions and rituals that you need to let go of to make space for new experiences? Let's seek God in the next few months as we embrace our traditions and find new ways to grow together.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Marianne*

# December / January Birthdays

12/2 – Nathaniel DeNardo	12/16 – Peter DeNardo	1/1 – Hailey Worden	1/9 – Jacob Kranz
12/6 – Nancy Rankin	12/18 – Jazlynn Gallegos	1/3 – Beverly Ysaguirre	1/14 – Alexander Boelter
12/11 – Dylan Cox	12/19 – Meta Nachtsheim	1/3 – Lucy Schwendinger	1/18 – Alexander Sielski
12/11 – Olivia Stehr	12/25 – Patrick Short	1/6 – Jackie Emery	1/25 – Jalen Haom
12/14 – Laurel Venhuizen	12/27 – Adaline DeNardo	1/8 – JoAnn Loutsch	1/25 – Carter Johnson
12/15 – Christian Johnson	12/28 – Ryan Boelter	1/8 – Austin Worden	1/31 – Scott Spatafore

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

## Leadership Change is Coming

The second Saturday in October, a group of the elected leaders of the church gathered to look critically at our leadership and governance structure at Faith UMC. Our current structure has 100 elected positions, four of which are open. The remaining 96 positions are held by 39 individuals, which is overwhelming and unrealistic for our current congregation. During the meeting, we talked about the difference between governance (setting vision, policy and direction for the congregation) and ministry (determining the action and programming that fulfills the vision within the parameters of the policy) and how we can best govern and live out ministry as a congregation.

As a result, in 2023 we are going to begin an experiment with our church leadership. Rather than our current structure, we are going to move to two leadership bodies: a single board for governance to fulfill the functions of our current Council, Staff Parish, Finance and the legal aspects of Trustees, and a single Council on Ministry to oversee the ministry of the church as currently done by the Lay Leadership committee, Nurture and Worship task areas, Outreach and Witness committee, Stewardship committee and the building and ground maintenance aspects of Trustees. This change will take the number of elected leaders down to twenty.

The goal is not to decrease the number of individuals engaging in the life of the church, but to decrease the number of meetings our leaders must attend and free up individuals and time for more ministry so that we may find more ways to explore, teach, and support one another as we serve our neighbors.

A complete description of the new leadership structure will be printed in the Annual Report in January. In the meantime, if you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.



100 hats to represent the 100 elected leadership positions in the church

## Online Giving Available!

Want to give financially to the church online? It's easy through Tithely!

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). If you have any questions about online giving, see Pastor Marianne.

### 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 health complications
- ◆ Racial inequality in our community and around the world
- ◆ Those struggling to find work, reliable shelter and/or healthy food
- ◆ All those experiencing loss and grief or a sense of sadness during the holiday season.

### 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 am to 5 pm. The church office will be closed Dec. 26 - Dec. 30.



### Mission Well Offering

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



**For December** we will be helping to pay off school lunch debt for local schools. Each school district has a line item for unpaid lunches; in some districts the children get a different lunch than the children who have paid. Other districts give the same lunch to everyone but then must raise money to pay for those unpaid lunches or take from other programs.



We don’t want districts to need to do either.

**During January** we will be supporting Neighbors, Inc. With overall rising prices, energy costs and supply chain issues, many families are struggling—especially during this time of year.



Minnesota’s nearly 400 food shelves are on pace to record 5.1 million visits in 2022 — the highest number in the state’s history and far surpassing the record 3.8 million visits in 2020 when the pandemic first hit, spurring furloughs and layoffs.

You may contribute to the Mission Well by mail, online, 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 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 October and November, we served a total of 342 meals! Every month we learn more and do a better job of serving meals to those who come. 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. Before you sign up, make sure you're looking at the right month. Since the link is always active, the meal at the top may have already passed.
- 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.

## Thank You

- ♦ I want to thank the people who bought **Duck Race** tickets from me. It was a fun day! I'm sorry to say we had only one winner from here. That was Bruce Opp (congratulations, Bruce) who was second of the three in the 12th race. —*Karen Coboes*
- ♦ **AUCTION/YARD SALE COMBO SUCCESS**  
What an exciting day! We raised almost \$2,500 at our Auction & Yard Sale fundraiser on October 1. Thank you to all who helped and donated— we couldn't have done it without you! A special thanks to Gil Kinnunen for his always "entertaining" job of auctioneering. Also, thanks to Susan Filter, Gloria Gurtin, Nancy Rankin, Paul & Pat Williams, Fred & Lynn Mens, Bill Short, JoAnn Loutsch, Greg & Roxanne Napier, Sheri Lucas, Bonnie Wood, Rose Larsen, Sharon Yekaldo, Taffy Storck, Johnny Gallegos, Bill Bonkowske and Pastor Marianne Ozanne. If we missed anyone, please know that you are appreciated. —*Lynn & Judy*
- ♦ **Thanks** to the creative team that put up the Advent/Christmas decorations: Dawn & Gil Kinnunen, Bruce Opp, Sharon Yekaldo, Collette Peterson & Brynn Ford, Pat Williams, Taffy Storck, Bill Short, Gloria Gurtin, Andres Losinski, and Judy Turk. If we missed anyone, we appreciate you! We are ready for this most wonderful season!



October's Loaves and Fishes Meal:  
Apple Braised Brisket, Corn Cake, Baked Beans  
and Maple Bruleed Squash.



November's Loaves and Fishes Meal:  
Chicken and Sausage Gumbo, Tossed Salad and  
Cinnamon Apple Bread Pudding

## Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 3, 2022

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.



**You are INVITED** to come for a visit and photo with Santa — a breakfast of pancakes, breakfast meat, fruit cup, milk & juice will be available.

*Cost is a cash donation and/or donation of non-perishable food items for the food shelf.*

## 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.

This year for Advent, we will be looking at preparing for the coming of Christ with our hearts, minds, souls and strength.

**December 4** worship will be led by our confirmation and Sunday School students as we look at how we prepare for the coming of Christ with our minds.

**December 11** we will look at how we prepare our souls for the coming of Christ through Mary's words in Luke 1:46b-55.

**December 18** continues the Faith UMC is... series. We will look at Luke 10:1-12, 17-24 through the lens of *Faith UMC is exploring* to see what it means to explore faith.

**January 1** we will celebrate the coming of the new year through a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal service to renew our commitment to God.

**January 8** is the celebration of Epiphany. We will look at the story of the coming of the Magi from Matthew 2:1-12.

**January 15** we will remember our baptisms as we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday, looking at the story as told in Matthew 3:13-17.

### Epiphany Open House

Come and celebrate the end of the Christmas season with Pastor Marianne's family at her home (1617 County Road H2 in White Bear Township) for an Epiphany Open House on **Sunday, January 8 from 1–3 pm**. There will be appetizers, treats and the traditional cup of wassail. Everyone is welcome! For directions or more information, see Pastor Marianne.

## CALENDAR

### Regular weekly activities:

- **SUNDAYS:** 9:30 am Worship (and Zoom)  
10 am Children's Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship Time  
11 am Adult Sunday School  
*(sign-in begins at 9:15 for Sunday Worship Zoom meetings)*
- **MONDAYS:** 11 am Craft group (Fellowship Hall)

Thurs. 12/1	7 pm	Staff Parish Relations Meeting
Sat. 12/3	9:30-11:30 am	Breakfast with Santa
Sat. 12/10	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 12/13	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 12/14	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Wed. 12/21		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 12/24	8 am	Men's Breakfast
	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</b>
Sun. 12/25	—	No Worship Service today
Mon. 12/26 - Fri. 12/30		Church office closed
Wed. 1/4	6 pm	Trustee meeting
Thurs. 1/5	6 pm	Finance meeting
	7 pm	Church Council
Sat. 1/7	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 1/10	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 1/11	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Wed. 1/18		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 1/21	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 1/24	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 1/25	6:30 pm	Confirmation

### Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference to celebrate the ministry of 2022 and look forward to the ministry of 2023 will be happening in late January. More information will be available in the Weekly Update after Christmas.



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

Dec. 2022 / Jan. 2023

## Sunday Worship Options

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

We are holding worship services in the sanctuary. If you are not 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](http://www.faithumcmn.com)

## Facebook Page

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

### Christmas and New Year's Worship Schedule

- **Join us for Christmas Eve worship** on December 24th at 4 pm. We will read the Christmas story from Luke 2, sing carols and pass the light of Christ to Silent Night.
- **Christmas Day, December 25, there will be NO WORSHIP.** We encourage you to spend time with family. There will be links to local worship services sent out in the Christmas Weekly Update.
- **New Year's Day, January 1,** we will have our regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 in the sanctuary and on Zoom. To kick off the new year right, we will be having a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal service.

### 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: **12/10, 12/24, 1/7 & 1/21.** All men are invited to join us! For more information contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or [bill.short26@gmail.com](mailto:bill.short26@gmail.com).