



# Faith in Action

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

February /  
March 2023

## *Greetings,*

The beginning of February brings with it one of perhaps the United States’ most unique unofficial holidays: Groundhog’s Day. I’m not sure that anyone really knows who decided that it was meteorologically beneficial to let a ground rodent do the weather predictions for the first major change of seasons in the new year, but every year people continue to tune in to know whether or not Punxsutawney Phil or Millhouse Mel or French Creek Freddie (or any other number of groundhogs) can see his shadow. There’s a whole industry that centers around the groundhog and this year’s prediction. Punxsutawney even sells tickets to see the Phil.

I remember being very excited about Groundhog’s Day as a kid. Would spring come early this year!? When can I get rid of these pants and start wearing my shorts??? Since moving to Minnesota, however, Groundhog’s Day has had less of a draw for me. What does it matter what a rodent in Pennsylvania says? Winter will be winter for as long as it wants to be here in Minnesota.

Last year, however, I had a revelation: six weeks from February 2 is March 16. If Phil’s prediction of six more weeks of winter is accurate, then spring IS coming early!! Therefore, no matter what the weather is like in Punxsutawney at the beginning of February, Phil is going to predict an early Spring. This simple reframing of a truly weird tradition has helped me to be a little more

excited about Phil’s predictions and give me the emotional boost to remember that winter will, indeed, end. Spring is on its way! Despite the fact that outside my window is a field of snow under a grey sky, I can remember that this season will end and the next one will come.

Within the life of the church, we have our own groundhogs that point to hope in the midst of cold and snowy seasons. Ash Wednesday, while it is a day of remembering our mortality, signals the beginning of Lent and the preparation for the coming of Easter, with its Hallelujah Chorus and the joy of resurrection. With ashes on our foreheads, we look ahead to the hope of Christ’s resurrection, as well as our own. Few people would connect remembering our coming death with the celebration of new life, but the church calendar helps us to connect the two.

This year, as Lent approaches, I invite you to look with hope to the change of seasons. This year our midweek Lenten meals are back, with delicious meals prepared by a variety of groups, followed by experiences and discussions of how we connect our every day lives to the journey of faith. Together we walk this journey of faith, learning about the hope of the coming resurrection just as much as we celebrate the hope of the coming of Spring. I hope that you will join us.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Marianne*

### Concerns beyond our doors:

- ◆ Our local, state, national & international leaders
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ For Ukraine, Turkey, Syria and those around the world who are experiencing disaster and trauma.



### 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 11:30am to 5pm.

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



**February** donations support **UMCOR**, 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. Current UMCOR channels in place: Disaster response to severe weather and disasters in the United States (Advance #901670); global help and hope to refugees from Ukraine, or relief efforts for the earthquake in Turkey & Syria (Advance #982450). Information at <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>.

Our **March** Mission Offering will support the **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign** (The money & food Faith collects in March will go to our local Neighbors, Inc. food shelf). **Details on pg. 3.**

In addition to giving to the Mission Well in the church building, you can also give to the mission well through our online giving platform and selecting “Mission Well” in the “To” drop-down menu. [https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/5354400](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/5354400)

Starting this month, all funds donated during coffee fellowship will be given to the Mission Well organization for the month.



**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.

# February / March Birthdays

2/4 – Brian Sielski	2/11 – Jeffrey Boelter	3/1 – Barbara Schroeder	3/17 – Carrie Akemann
2/7 – Roxanne Napier	2/14 – Sheryl Watchorn	3/3 – Kaitlyn Cox	3/20 – Mike Hovey
2/8 – Alana Sielski	2/23 – William Bonkowske	3/3 – Jeff Ozanne	3/22 – Ellen Hiniker
2/10 – Marianne Ozanne	2/24 – Mackenna Emery	3/4 – Gil Kinnunen	3/26 – Ruth Campion

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

## 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 42<sup>nd</sup> year.

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



To date, MN FoodShare has distributed over \$18.5 million dollars via the FoodFund. 100% of donations designated to 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.”

## 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.

## Thank You!!!

♦ **SO MUCH FUN!** A **BIG** thank you to everyone who donated and helped to make Breakfast with Santa on December 4 such a great success. We served 94 delicious pancake breakfasts, and 34 happy children sat on Santa’s lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas. We collected 154 pounds of food and \$80 in cash for Neighbors food shelf. Thank you to Santa’s elves/helpers: Karen (leader) & Sunni Cohoes; Matt, Amanda, Ava & Claudia Spatafore; Dylan Meyer; Kari Hart; Marsha & Scott Spatafore; Dana Scopatz; Pat Williams; JoAnn Loutsch; Sharon Yekaldo; Gloria Gurtin; Nancy Rankin; Roxanne & Greg Napier; Taffy Storck and Judy Turk. If we missed anyone, please know that you are appreciated.

♦ **TOOK DOWN THE GREENS IN RECORD TIME!** We took down the Advent/Christmas greens in 1½ hours on January 14! Thank you to the following team: Rose, Stephen, Anna, Ally & Mia Larsen, Bruce Opp, Ward Mens, Gloria Gurtin, Pat Williams, Colette Peterson, Taffy Storck, Sharon Yekaldo, Judy & Roman Turk.

♦ **To the Members** of Faith United Methodist Church, Thank you for the fall collection to help us purchase school supplies for families that were unable to purchase. Your donation is greatly appreciated! —*Garlough School Staff*

## 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. Sunday mornings, we gather at 9:30 in the sanctuary and on Zoom for worship.

Here is some information on what worship will look like in the next few months:

**February 5** concludes our look at John Wesley's General Rules as we dig into what it means to attend to all the ordinances of God through Deuteronomy 10:11-22. We will also have communion, so make sure you have juice and bread if you're joining on Zoom.

**February 12** Josh Williams for Restoration Hope Church will be preaching on Matthew 28:18-20 and looking at making disciples of all nations.

**February 19** we will look at the story of Jesus' transfiguration as found in Matthew 17:1-9 and how we follow Christ.

**February 26** is the first Sunday of Lent, which brings the beginning of a new sermon series. *Soul Food* will have us looking at stories around the table and how God feeds us physically and spiritually. Our series kicks off with John 2:1-12 and the wedding at Cana.

**March 5** *Soul Food* continues as we look at Peter's vision around a table found in Acts 10 and how all are welcome at God's table. We will then celebrate communion.

**March 12** we will look at the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 as found in Luke 9:10-17 as we look at how we are connected to one another through faith.

**March 19** continues our *Soul Food* series by looking at service to one another through the story of Jesus feeding the disciples after a night of fishing in John 21:1-19.

**March 26** we will look at the importance of rest and refreshment as found in 1 Kings 19:3-8.

## Join us this Lent for *Soul Food*

This year as we prepare ourselves for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, you are invited to join us as we eat some soul food. Nourishment is just as important for our souls as it is for our bodies, so we will take six weeks to look at different aspects of faith and how we find the bread of life while learning to prepare food to feed our bodies at the same time.

After a few years off, our in-person **midweek meals** and Lenten experiences are back. Each Wednesday evening during Lent we will have a meal served from 5:30 – 6:05 with the Soul Food experience and discussion starting at 6:15 when we will learn to make a part of the Soul Food meal from scratch, coupled with a discussion of how we experience faith through the act of cooking and baking. Soul Food will conclude during Holy Week when we will have a meal using each of our Soul Food elements as we remember the Last Supper and celebrate communion.

### Themes include:

**2/22:** Baking Bread and experiencing change

**3/1:** Making Salad Dressing and seeing the value of unity and diversity

**3/8:** Creating Sauce and Meatballs and finding balance and connection

**3/15:** We invite you to join us as we serve our Loaves and Fishes meal and then discuss the experience of serving one another

**3/22:** Rolling Pasta and finding play and rest in life

**3/29:** Preparing Dessert and seeing sweetness and celebration.

Sunday morning themes will relate to the previous Wednesday. Whether you come one week or every week, Soul Food gives us the opportunity to deeply experience the power of faith and food. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne.

## Loaves and Fishes Update

Our Loaves and Fishes meal continues to provide food for the community, as well as opportunities for service. In late January we were surprised by a \$5,000 check from the South Robert Street Business Association to help us continue to fund our Loaves and Fishes program. What a blessing! These funds will help us with basic operating expenses, as well as to purchase some much-needed tools that will make meal prep easier. 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.
- We always need more help in the kitchen! If you would like to volunteer to help prepare and serve our meal, the sign up link is always active. To sign up to work a shift, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-faith2>
- It continues to be our goal that Loaves and Fishes is financially self-sufficient so that the meal does not burden our general operating expenses. 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.

## ▪ 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:** 10 am Craft group (Fellowship Hall)

---

Sat. 2/4	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 2/7	6 pm	Council on Ministries
Wed. 2/8	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Tue. 2/14	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 2/15		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 2/18	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 2/21	6 pm	Administrative Council
<b>Wed. 2/22</b>	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
<i>(Lent Begins)</i>	6:15pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Worship (with imposition of ashes)
Thurs. 2/23	6:30 pm	Building Use Meeting
Tue. 2/28	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 3/1	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
	6:15 pm	Midweek Soul Food
Sat. 3/4	8 am	Men's Breakfast
	1 pm	Retirement Party for Sharon Yekaldo
Tue. 3/7	6 pm	Council on Ministries
Wed. 3/8	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
	6:15 pm	Midweek Soul Food
Tue. 3/14	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 3/15		Loaves & Fishes Meal
	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
	6:15 pm	Midweek Soul Food
Sat. 3/18	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 3/21	6 pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 3/22	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
	6:15 pm	Midweek Soul Food
Tue. 3/28	6:30 pm	Women of the Bible quilting study
Wed. 3/29	5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner
	6:15 pm	Midweek Soul Food



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

February / March 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.faihumcmn.com](http://www.faihumcmn.com)

## Facebook Page

Remember to like the Faith Facebook page at:

*Join us this Lent*   
*for*   
*Soul Food*

This year as we prepare ourselves for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, you are invited to join us as we eat some soul food. Nourishment is just as important for our souls as it is for our bodies, so we will take six weeks to look at different aspects of faith and how we find the bread of life while learning to prepare food to feed our bodies at the same time. Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a meal served from 5:30–6:05 with the Soul Food experience and discussion starting at 6:15. **(See Page 4 for details)**

### **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!

---

**Mens Breakfast Group** meets on Saturdays: **2/4, 2/18, 3/4 & 3/18.**  
All men are invited to join us! For more info., contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or [bill.short26@gmail.com](mailto:bill.short26@gmail.com).