



# Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church  
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“Grounded in Christ, open to make a difference – together”

June / July 2023

## *Greetings,*

I can remember being asked as a child what my plans were for summer vacation. Occasionally, we would have big vacations planned, but more often than not, I remember summer as time spent by the pool for swim team, or just playing with friends from the neighborhood. Now, more often I get asked what the plans for my kids are for the summer, and the answer involves a degree of childcare and playing with kids from the neighborhood. This summer, however, my answer is very different.

After careful planning, and with consultation with the Administrative Council, I am taking the month of July for study, renewal and reflection. During that time, I will travel to Britain on the Wesley Pilgrimage, sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship and led by Wesleyan scholars, take time for personal reflection, culminating in a written plan for my leadership in the coming years, and spend a little extra time with my family. The first week of July is a week of vacation, but the rest of the month is a time of continuing education. I am working during that time, I just won't be working in the office.

While I am away, the ministry of the church will continue. I am working on finding nearby pastors who will be available for any pastoral emergencies that may arise. Please do not hesitate to give them a call, should the need arise. Likewise, Susan will still be in the office as

usual, and so is available to answer questions about who to call for more information.

I already have worship leadership covered for the five Sundays that I will be away. Because we tend to do worship in series, the theme for July will be *Who Do You Say that I Am?* Each individual leading worship in the month of July will focus their worship service on their personal reflections on who Jesus is in their life. While I suspect there will be some similarities, hearing multiple perspectives will bring depth to the discussion and theme.

I am incredibly grateful for the generous amount of time that the Administrative Council has allowed me to take this summer. In my thirteen years of active ministry, the only other times that I have taken this length of time away from church have been maternity leaves. (I'm not coming back with a baby this time, I promise). Not only will this time benefit me, but I believe that it will also benefit the congregation as I will have much to share about my time on the Wesley Pilgrimage, as well as a renewed sense of purpose for leadership. However, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let either Ellen Hiniker (as the Staff-Parish Relations chair) or me know.

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
- ◆ For Ukraine and those around the world who are experiencing disaster and trauma.

### We extend our sympathy:

- ◆ To the family of **Roland Hunter**, who died March 22. Obituary published on May 2 in the StarTribune.
- ◆ To **Pastor Rod Stemme** and family on the death of his mother, **Bonnie Lou Stemme**, who died on April 13.
- ◆ A private committal service for **Esther Craine** was held on June 3.

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

**Neighbors, Inc.** is in its 51st year of faithfully serving our community. Our **JUNE** Mission Well offering will continue to support their efforts through non-perishable food, hygiene items and cash donations.



Our **JULY** Mission Well offering will support **Aspen House**, a community-based facility for teens ages 12-18 in Dakota and Washington counties who temporarily need a safe place to live. Aspen House will not only provide temporary housing but also incorporate mental health assessments and services, recreational activities, educational instruction, coordination with outside supports, stabilization services, and on-going connections with family support systems. Learn more by visiting <https://www.nexusfamilyhealing.org/aspen-house/short-term-youth-shelter>.

In addition to giving to the Mission Well in the church building, you can also give to the mission cause 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)

—All coffee fellowship donations will be given to the Mission Well organization of 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.

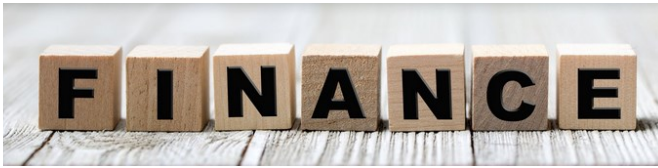
**Hospital Calls:** If you learn someone is hospitalized, please contact the church office or Pastor Marianne. Because of HIPPA laws, hospitals no longer call when a member is admitted. We would rather have several calls telling us of someone’s hospitalization than not to know. Thank you.

**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.

# June / July Birthdays

6/1 – Chuck Martin	6/17 – Johnny Gallegos, Jr.	7/3 – Ann Beardshear	7/21 – Zoe Ozanne
6/2 – Jeffrey Cox Jr.	6/22 – Cornell Chun	7/6 – Gabriella Solheid	7/22 – Jack Gurtin
6/9 – Bryce Ozanne	6/22 – Mike Schwendinger	7/10 – Dianne Mens	7/25 – Bonnie Wood
6/11 – Karen Cohoes	6/25 – Dianna Gallegos	7/11 – Mark Mohr	7/28 – Gregory Napier
6/11 – Bonnie Dick	6/25 – Stanley Lukas	7/11 – Leonard Young	7/29 – Jeanna Schwendinger
6/14 – Paul Williams	6/26 – Charles Scopatz	7/16 – Desarae Gallegos	7/29 – Christina Solheid
6/14 – Charlotte DeNardo	6/26 – Bill Short	7/19 – Fred Dick	

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



## Finance Update

In an effort to provide more consistent and transparent feedback about the financial health of the church, the Administrative Council decided that each newsletter will include a finance update. Sometimes the topic will focus directly on the finances of the church. At others, we will share information that may help you to discern how you can best support the life of the church through your financial gifts. So, without further ado, here is this month’s financial update.

At the end of the first fiscal quarter of the year, our finances are as anticipated. Our income exceeded 25% of our anticipated annual income, as it does every year, because of individuals who give their total annual offering at the beginning of the year. Our expenses came to just about 25% of the annual expense budget, with line items lower than expected balancing with items higher than expected, including energy costs. Our winter energy costs exceed those of the spring and summer, so we expect to see some savings in the next few quarters as we stop needing to heat the building.

Last fall, the Church Council passed a budget where anticipated expenses exceed anticipated income, as we have done for many years. We did so recognizing that the new Administrative Council would need to pay close attention to the finances this year since our reserve funds have been drawn on for many of these deficit years and so have been diminished. Each month when the Ad Council meets, we take a look at the current financial realities of the church and continue our work to steward the finances of the church as best we can while increasing income. One of the ways we are doing this is by working with each of the organizations that uses the church building to update rental agreements and increase rental income to help defray the building costs. We also continue to work to find new and enhanced revenue streams for the church.

Overall, we do not see any surprises in the financial health of the church. As yet, we have not needed to transfer any funds out of our reserves this year, but will need to do so in the next few months because tithes and other offerings tend to drop during the summer months. As we move into the second quarter of the year, the Administrative Council will continue to closely watch our finances. If you have any questions about the financial health of the church, talk to Bill Short.

## Loaves and Fishes Update

Our Loaves and Fishes meal continues to connect with the community. We see guests who come for the first time, as well as regular participants each month. In May, we fed 128 guests and 26 volunteers. With all of the construction around the church, we were worried about whether people would still come, but we had a great turnout!

If you would like to help with Loaves and Fishes, here are a few options:

- 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 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 always accepting donations. All financial donations given to Loaves and Fishes help us to buy food, which we get at a reduced rate from the warehouse, and supplies like take-out boxes and plastic utensils.

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



## THANKS

### Auction Success

What an exciting night ... we raised \$3,294 at our Auction on May 20! Thank you to all who donated ... and an additional thank you to all who helped: our awesome and always entertaining auctioneer Gil Kinnunen, Sharon Yekaldo (who cooked and served an awesome dinner along with her daughter Christina), Bob Scopatz (for supplying his sound equipment), Dan Miller, Bill Short, Ron Brummund and his Uncle Bill Brummund, Susan Filter, Pat Williams, Gloria Gurtin, Nancy Rankin, JoAnn Loutsch, Greg & Roxanne Napier, Taffy Storck, and Pastor Marianne Ozanne. If we missed anyone, please know you are appreciated. —Lynn Bonkowske & Judy Turk

**Dear Friends** at Faith United Methodist, Thank you for the hard work and heartwarming generosity you showed to Neighbors during Minnesota Food-Share March Campaign! Members of your congregation donated a total of \$1,590.61 and 124 pounds of food! These donations will help Neighbors provide food, clothing, and financial counseling to those in need in our community. Donations made during the March campaign also receive a proportional match from GMCC, which means that your donations will make an even bigger impact as we receive additional funds based on the amount we raised! ... Thank you again from all the staff at Neighbors for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

—Neighbors, Inc.

**Thank you** to Paul Williams for carefully crafting and installing our brand new **mug rack** in the Fellowship Hall! We look forward to filling it!

### Calling All Mugs!

In an effort to be more hospitable and environmentally friendly, we are moving to using mugs rather than Styrofoam cups. The new mug rack in the Fellowship Hall is waiting for mugs! So, we invite you to clean out your cupboards a little and bring a mug for yourself and one for a friend to church to keep on our mug rack for use during fellowship times. If you have any questions, see Pastor Marianne

## 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:

**June 4** is Trinity Sunday. We will look at some of the original trinitarian language as found in Matthew 28:16-20

**June 11** we will begin a short series on the book of Jonah. Dana Scopatz will kick it off with looking at chapters 1 and 2

**June 18** continues our look at Jonah with chapter 3 and Jonah's words to Nineveh

**June 25** Jonah concludes with chapter 4 and the unpredictable plant.

**During the month of July** our theme will be *Who Do You Say that I Am?* Each week a different person will lead worship, all looking at the theme of who Jesus is in their life. Our worship leaders for July include:

**July 2:** Dana Scopatz, who many of you already know

**July 9:** Chris Carr, a United Methodist deacon who works with churches in the area of safety and security.

**July 16:** Josh Williams, the pastor of Restoration Hope Church

**July 23:** Joan Fitch, who will lead us in a curated hymn-sing

**July 30:** Becky Boland, a lay speaker who attends Hamline UMC.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets on Saturdays: **6/10, 6/24, 7/8, 7/22 & 8/5.** 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).

## Regular weekly activities:

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

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Tue. 6/6	6pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 6/10	8am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 6/20	6pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 6/21		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 6/24	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sat. 7/8	8am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 7/11	6pm	Council on Ministries
Tue. 7/18	6pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 7/19		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Sat. 7/22	8am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 8/1	6pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 8/5	8am	Men's Breakfast

## 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. **\*NOTE:** *Pastor Marianne will be away from the office during July — see page 1 for details.* Susan will be in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30am to 5pm.

## 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!



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## *Sunday Worship Options*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

If you are unable to worship with us in the sanctuary, we invite you to join us in worship 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:  
<http://tinyurl.com/FaithUMCmn>



## *Get Ready!*

This year, for our **August Mission Well** we will be collecting school supplies to donate to the students at Garlough Environmental Magnet School. After talking to the school social worker to determine which supplies the students need the most, we have discovered that some of the supplies are ones you would expect to be on a school supply list, but others are not. To give you time to find some of the less-expected supplies we're giving you the list now. While you may get the supplies now, please hold onto them until August.

### **School Supplies for Garlough:**

- Notebooks
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Personal Hygiene Products, such as toilet paper, shampoo & conditioner, bodywash, toothpaste, etc.

Later in the year, we will also be helping out with winter gear, specifically cold-weather gloves, snow-pants for kids ages 5–10 and boots for kids ages 5–10. These items can be used as long as they are in good condition.

## *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.