



Faith in Action

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

Aug. / Sept. 2023

Greetings,

Before anything else, let me say thank you! Thank you for the generous amount of time out of the office in July to rest, travel and do some of the very important work of a pastor that cannot be done in the midst of the day-to-day workings of the church. It was such a blessing to me to be able to take the time and trust that you were caring for one another while I was away. Thank you!

While I did take some time for vacation and relaxation, much of the time I was away was dedicated to learning and reflecting. Jeff and I spent two weeks traveling throughout England learning about John and Charles Wesley’s life, faith and ministry. Some of the information I learned in seminary, but some of it was new; I found all of it helpful in reflecting on how we are living in the legacy of the early methodists and how we might express our faith more vibrantly today in our time and place. Some of these thoughts I will share in our Travels with the Wesleys sermon series that starts on August 20. I spent the final week of my time away reading and reflecting on my values in church leadership and how I lead when I am at my best. In the end, I have a document detailing those reflections for me to refer back to and use in the next several years as I continue to grow and develop as a leader. My time away was good, and it was both hard and necessary. Essentially, July became a pilgrimage for me.

One of the books that was assigned reading for my Wesley trip was focused not on Britain or the Wesleys, but on the concept of pilgrimage. In the United States, we often associate pilgrims with the Mayflower and the first Thanksgiving, but the concept of pilgrimage is much more expansive. To be a pilgrim is to take a sacred journey. No matter where the destination, a journey taken seeking God becomes a pilgrimage. I went on a pilgrimage to Great Britain, but I also was a pilgrim as I did my internal reflection and wrote about my values in leadership.

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage? You may not have thought of it that way, but you may have been on a pilgrimage at some point in your life without even knowing it. Have you traveled with an intention of seeking and experiencing God? If so, then you have gone on a pilgrimage. If not, then I encourage you to try it. The distance does not matter (a trip to the grocery store could become a pilgrimage if taken with mindfulness and awareness of God); the most important part is your attitude and willingness to experience God.

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.
- ◆ For teachers and students as they prepare to return to school for another academic year.

Concerns closer to home:

- ◆ Prayers for **Ellen Schuld** as she waits for a viable kidney donor. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a live organ donor, contact Ellen at 612-695-7197.
- ◆ Prayers for the **Mens family** for the passing of Dianne on August 16th.

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



Our **August** Mission Well is supporting **school supplies for Garlough**. Needed Specifically: Notebooks, Markers, Colored Pencils, Personal Hygiene Products, such as toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, bodywash, toothpaste, etc.

Our **September** Mission Well 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 and services are offered in collaboration with key community partners.



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

—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.

August / September Birthdays

8/5 – Anthony Yekaldo	8/26 – Ronald Brummund	9/19 – Gerald Gross	9/22 – Taffy Storck
8/11 – Daniel Bonkowske	8/29 – Terri Bougie	9/18 – Linda Sue Johnson	9/26 – Debra Johnson
8/14 – Marsha Spatafore	9/3 – Sharon Yekaldo	9/19 – Amanda Peterson	9/28 – Josephine Kranz
8/15 – Joseph Spatafore	9/4 – Ramon Nachtsheim	9/21 – Doug Van Siclen	9/28 – Claudia Spatafore
8/24 – Samantha Kropp	9/5 – Ronald Brummund, Jr.	9/21 – Jack Watchorn	9/28 – Patricia Williams
8/24 – Roseanne Larsen	9/6 – Wallace Sapp	9/22 – Charles Beardshear	
8/24 – Kaius Spatafore	9/11 – Harison Van Siclen	9/22 – Bob Scopatz	
8/25 – Jim Losinski	9/17 – Olivia Van Siclen	9/22 – John Scopatz	

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



Finance Update

The second fiscal quarter of the year ended in July. At that time, our finances were holding steady, with income exceeding expenses. We received a large donation that, along with our anticipated income, has allowed us to continue operating without pulling money out of legacy reserve funds. However, the Administrative Council acknowledges that we will very likely need to pull reserve funds in the near future.

If you have any questions about the financial health of the church, talk to Bill Short.

Help Us Plan for Christmas

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. In order to plan for worship on December 24, the Council on Ministries is asking for your input on which worship services you are most likely to participate in that day. Please go to this link: <https://forms.gle/rfRFmYwhL5bZvkzp9> and submit your responses.

If you would like help filling out the survey, 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 10 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.

HEART MATTERS

A relationship between two or more of Christ's followers is simply a heart-to-heart matter.

Methodism founder John Wesley said: "If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand." In other words, when two (or more) people know Christ, they have something wonderful in common. Therefore, they should embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Attending worship and being involved in church activities draws us closer to Jesus and to each other. As Christians, we are called to be hospitable toward strangers, not just our friends and acquaintances. Remember Christ's words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..." (Matthew 25:35, NRSV).

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. 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.



Every Meal



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Late last winter, Pastor Marianne and Ellen Hiniker began partnering with Every Meal, an organization that helps provide food to families struggling with food insecurity, by distributing food to backpacks of students at Garlough Environmental Magnet School. We will be doing so again, and are asking for your help!

We are creating a distribution rotation to increase our volunteer force and make sure that each week of the school year is covered. Food distributions happen every Thursday morning when school is in session and takes about 15-20 minutes. Are you someone who would like to help deliver the food? If so, let us know!

For more information, see Pastor Marianne or Ellen Hiniker



Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8:00am on Saturdays: **8/19, 9/2, 9/16 and 9/30.** All men are invited to join us! For more info., contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short26@gmail.com.

The soul lover

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley wrote the moving song "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" in 1739. According to one story, Wesley penned the lyrics after surviving a raging storm at sea. A frightened bird apparently flew into Wesley's window during the uproar, seeking safety in the folds of Wesley's coat.

The first stanza is as follows:

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

This brings to mind the frightened disciples in Matthew 8:23-27. Pummeled with wind and waves, they feared drowning and called to Jesus to save them.

We, too, can take refuge in our Savior during life's storms, knowing we have a safe haven and a sure destination.

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. For the remainder of August and all of September, we will be looking at the locations where John and Charles Wesley lived, worked and experienced God. We invite you to join us on our travels as we learn more about our methodist heritage and how that relates to the message of Christ.

August 20 we begin our travels with John and Charles at their childhood home in Epworth and looking at Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

August 27 brings us to Oxford, where John and Charles went to college and began to establish their patterns of life and faith. We will look at this time in their life through the lens of 1 John 3:13-18.

September 3 continues our travels in Savannah, Georgia where both brothers served briefly. We will look at Isaiah 61:1-3, as well as celebrate communion as we journey with John and Charles as they seek peace and assurance of faith.

September 10 we will journey to Aldersgate Street in London where John had his heart strangely warmed while attending a small group meeting. We will look at 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 as we seek to more fully understand our own faith.

September 17 finds us in Bristol, where John first preached in the fields to share the message of God's love with those not in the churches. Our text for the day is Matthew 5:13-17.

September 25 we return to London as we look at how the movement begun by John and Charles set the church on fire and came to the United States using Acts 2:42-47.

Regular weekly activities:

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

Sat. 8/19	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Wed. 8/23	10 am	Memorial Service - Dianne Mens
Sat. 9/2	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 9/5	6 pm	Council on Ministries
Sun. 9/10		Rally Day- Blessing of Backpacks
Wed. 9/13	6:30pm	Confirmation
Sat. 9/16	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 9/19	6 pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 9/20		Loaves & Fishes Meal
Wed. 9/27	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Sat. 9/30	8 am	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.

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!



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

August/September 2023

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.faithumcmn.com

Facebook Page

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

School Supply Needs for Garlough

For our **August Mission Well** we are collecting school supplies to donate to the students at Garlough Environmental Magnet School.

School Supplies needed:

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

Later, we will also be helping with winter gear, specifically winter gloves, snowpants and boots for kids ages 5–10. These items can be used **provided** they are in good, gently used condition.

ONLINE GIVING

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.