



Faith in Action

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

Oct. / Nov. 2023

Greetings,

As October draws nearer, on top of the other activities of the church, I am busy preparing for this year’s confirmation celebration. For the last year, seven of our youth have engaged in a process to learn about God, faith and the church, and to explore how they connect with their own understanding of each aspect of the life of faith. In the next week the students will decide whether they are ready to make a public profession of faith and are ready to join the church. As a congregation, we will celebrate our students on October 8 during worship.

I love teaching confirmation, partly because I began my ministry working with kids and youth and confirmation is one time when I get to go back to those roots. However, the main reason I love teaching confirmation so much is that I get to experience others as they process, discover new things, and experience God in new ways. At the beginning of the confirmation process I let the students, parents and mentors all know that confirmation is the next step along a journey, but Confirmation Sunday is not the end of the journey. Confirmation is not graduation in the church, but more akin to baptism: a rite of passage within the church as we grow deeper in our faith.

As I see it, the purpose of the confirmation process is to help students discern and claim their own understanding of God. Students are encouraged to ask questions, to think about

what they are taught, and bring what we discuss into their everyday lives. It is my hope that the students are engaging their faith not just during confirmation, but at other times as well because I want the statements and vows they make before the congregation to feel accurate and authentic to who they are. Confirmation is a rite of claiming one’s faith, and I want the students to experience that.

At the same time, confirmation is not the only time in life we claim our faith. While confirmation is a codified rite in the church to claim faith, we claim our faith all the time. Essentially, we claim our faith every day in the ways that we interact with the world and show God’s love to the people around us. We recite a creed weekly in worship, which acts as another way of claiming faith. There are countless ways that we choose to show our faith to the world.

This month, I encourage you to think about the ways that you are publicly claiming your faith. Each confirmation student is asked why God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the church are important in their lives. Take some time and reflect on your own answers to those questions. Then, find ways to share your answer with someone you see on a regular basis. Let’s take this time as our students confirm their faith to confirm our own as well.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marianne

FOR YOUR TIMES OF DEVOTION: Remember to pick up the latest issue of *The Upper Room* devotional booklet (daily readings available in regular or large print). This booklet is found on the table by the parking lot door.

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



◆ Our **October** Mission Well donations will help Garlough school students prepare for the coming colder weather — Faith will be helping by collecting winter gear, **specifically winter gloves, snow-pants and winter boots for kids ages 5–10**. Donated items may be used provided they are clean, and in good, gently used condition. ◆◆◆

◆ Our **November** donations will support **Neighbors, Inc.** Over the years Neighbors has partnered with other organizations to help make November *No Hunger November* – specifically in the Walk to End Hunger campaign at the Mall of America on Thanksgiving – **which is now discontinued** beginning this holiday season.



“...During the month of November, we hope to share additional information about the new initiatives each organization that participates in the Walk to End Hunger is embarking upon. We hope that you will continue to stand by our side, as you always have, and be a part of our journey forward...” –Walk to End Hunger.

The Walk to End Hunger’s grateful farewell in no way diminishes Neighbors’ or Faith’s commitment to help fight hunger in our community. Since 1972, Neighbors, Inc. has faithfully served northern Dakota County communities in need with emergency assistance, food and essential services programs.

November Mission donations help strengthen Neighbors’ goal of helping provide neighbors in need the necessities to live hopeful, independent, self-sufficient lives in which their basic needs are met and they are productive members of their communities. Help make this November *No Hunger November!*

◆
In addition to giving to the Mission Well in the church building, you can also donate 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.

October / November Birthdays

10/1 – Rebecca Seaquist
 10/6 – Joan Fitch
 10/8 – Matt Spatafore
 10/11 – Kim Van Siclén
 10/12 – Judy Turk
 10/13 – Elliana DeNardo
 10/14 – Dick DeNardo

10/15 – Linda Cox
 10/16 – Ward Mens
 10/17 – Lynn Mens
 10/17 – Carol Schuldt
 10/18 – Lori DeNardo
 10/23 – Debra Schneider
 10/24 – Nicole Brummund

10/30 – Clayton Van Siclén
 11/3 – Louis Eberly
 11/3 – Vesta Lach
 11/6 – Bruce Opp
 11/14 – Lynn Bonkowske
 11/14 – Dana Scopatz
 11/23 – Susan Filter

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



Finance Update

The third fiscal quarter of the year has been eventful. On the one hand, we continue to exceed expectations in giving, while also doing our best to keep expenses under budget. As of the end of August, our expenses have not surpassed our income. At the same time, we received news in early August that one of the three furnaces that provides heat to the sanctuary is broken beyond repair and needs to be replaced. The cost to replace the furnace is close to \$13,000. While this is not the only deferred maintenance needed in the building, it is the most urgent.

In mid-September, members of the Administrative Council and Council on Ministries met to look at the current finances of the church and the financial patterns we have had in the past that have led us to this place. As we have mentioned several times over the last few years, the church has been operating under deficit budgets for at least the last ten years. We have been able to do this because of generous estate gifts over the years. However, those reserves are being depleted.

As a result of the September meeting, we have reached out to the Annual Conference for support and resources as we begin to look at options for how to better steward the finances of the church. On October 1, Rev. Susan Nienaber, the conference Director of Church Vitality will be joining us for worship and then staying to meet with the leaders and begin to work toward how we might do that. We know that significant changes may be in our future. If you have any questions about the financial health of the church, talk to Bill Short, Church Treasurer.

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.

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?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:
10/14, 10/28, 11/11 and 11/25

All men are invited to join us! For more info., contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short26@gmail.com.

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.

Worship Update

Worship is one of the most recognizable ways that we demonstrate our life of faith. Starting with the middle of October and continuing through the middle of November, we will be looking at how We Are the Church as we engage with scripture looking at how our ministry reaches out and shares the love of God with the world.

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

In addition to the We Are the Church series, we will be celebrating the beginning of October in a few ways.

October 1 is World Communion Sunday. We will look at Philippians 2:1-13 as we reflection on the meaning of communion. If you join us through Zoom, don't forget to having juice and bread available during worship.

October 8 we will be confirming our students who have taken the last year to explore their faith and are ready to join the church.

October 15 begins the We Are the Church series.

Regular weekly activities:

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

- **MONDAYS:** 10am Craft group (Fellowship Hall)
- **THURS.:** 10am Every Meal food distribution at Garlough school.

Coming Dates:

10/5, 10/12, 10/18, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30.*

Sun. 10/1	10:30 am	Ad Council/Council on Ministries
Tue. 10/3	6:15 pm	Council on Ministries
Wed. 10/4	6:30 pm	Confirmation
Tue. 10/10	6 pm	Administrative Council
Sat. 10/14	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Wed. 10/18		Loaves & Fishes meal
Sat. 10/28	8 am	Men's Breakfast
	9 am-2 pm	Craft Sale and Bazaar
	11 am	Soup & Salad Luncheon
Tue. 11/7	6:15 pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 11/11	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Wed. 11/15		Loaves & Fishes meal
Sat. 11/18		Basket Sale event
Tue. 11/21	6 pm	Administrative Council
Sat. 11/25	8 am	Men's Breakfast



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

October/November 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>

Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale

AND

Soup & Salad Luncheon

Saturday, October 28, 2023

9:00am - 2:00pm

Luncheon: \$10 adult • \$5 ages 4-12

Luncheon begins at 11am

ALSO COMING!

*Saturday,
November 18*

*THEME
BASKET
SALE*

