



Faith in Action

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

April / May 2024

Easter message: Resurrected

— Bishop Lanette Plambeck

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. —Mark 16:1-8 (Common English Bible)

In the quiet—just before the dawn of Easter morning—United Methodists of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Granger, Iowa, members of our church and community, would gather at the foot of the cross on a hilltop just outside of town. It must've been around 6:30 in the morning. We would huddle together to keep warm, waiting for the sun to rise.

In the warmth of our faith, we had been drawn by the promise of resurrection. And as light broke into the darkness, a voice from the crowd would proclaim: "Christ is risen!" And we would turn to one another proclaiming, "He is risen, indeed!" And we would sing the songs of resurrection hope.

In the heart of every United Methodist, Easter is not merely a commemoration but it's a celebration of the transformative power of God's love. Death had been defeated. Light and life were not overcome. Jesus lives. Love has prevailed.

As we reflect on our recent journey of Lent—marked by remembrance, repentance, and a reordering of our life, our faith, and our priorities—we were reminded of the depth of our human frailty and the boundless mercy of our Creator. We revisited that mercy in the solemn observances of Holy Week: the breaking and sharing of bread; the lifting, blessing, and sharing of cup. Do you remember? The washing of feet when Jesus asks, "Do you understand what I have done for

you?" Do you remember? We then walked with Jesus to the garden, witnessing his deepest prayers and then his arrest. Do you remember? And then we approached the cross on Friday, having walked the path of Jesus' suffering, contemplating the weight of human suffering and the sacrifice of love—a sacrifice that knows no bounds. Do you remember? And on Saturday, we waited.

It was on the hillside on Easter morning that our hearts were lifted, our spirits renewed, and our faith reaffirmed. For on this day, on Easter day, the stone is rolled away, and the tomb stands empty, echoing with the promise of new life. Christ is risen, indeed!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, the beacon of hope that illuminates our darkest moments and guides us through the shadows of doubt and despair.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we find the assurance that death does not have the final word, that suffering is not the end of the story, and that love triumphs over all. It is a proclamation of victory over sin and death, a testament to the enduring power of God's grace to transform hearts and lives.

As United Methodists, we are called to embody the Easter message in our lives, to be agents of justice and reconciliation, and instruments of peace in a world marred by division and strife. We are called to bear witness to resurrection hope that shines brightly in the face of adversity, offering healing to the broken-hearted, comfort to the grieving, and compassion to the marginalized.

May this Easter be a time of renewal and revival, as we embrace the joy of resurrection and the promise of abundant life. Let us live each day with the certainty that Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Happy Easter, friends! Every morning is Easter morning from now on. This we proclaim in the name of the resurrected Christ. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia and Amen.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck is resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church.

Watch the video of this message at
<https://vimeo.com/928514796>

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 **April** Mission Well funds are dedicated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**), an organization that helps with relief efforts around the world. Funds given to UMCOR through the Mission Well will either go to disaster relief, or to cover administration costs so that funds given for specific disasters can be spent entirely on relief efforts



Our **May** Mission Well offering will support the **Love Offering**. Each year, Minnesota Annual Conference churches collect a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the **2024 Annual Conference**—which will take place May 29-30—is “Jesus. Redeemer.”

Our Love Offering this year will help our neighbors—in Minnesota and around the world—heal from trauma and find safety.



- 30% of the Love Offering will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine.
- 30% of the Love Offering will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network.
- 30% of the Love Offering will go to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services’ new Restoring Waters facility.
- 10% of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

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.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.

Finance Update

At the end of 2023, the Administrative Council made the commitment to pay our apportionments to the Minnesota Annual Conference in full for the first time in many years. The conversation brought up many questions about apportionments: how they are determined, what the funds are used for, and how much each member “owes” toward our apportionment each year. As a result, I’m taking this month’s Finance Update to share information on why apportionments are important in The United Methodist Church.

Core to the practice of apportionments is the understanding that we can do more together than alone. When the churches within the denomination share their resources, our impact is multiplied. Dating all the way back to John Wesley, apportionments have been collected by Methodists to help support the ministries of local, regional and global churches. In Minnesota, 68% of apportionments gathered is reinvested in supporting local churches, 23% goes to the denominational apportionment funds and 9% supports the Annual Conference structure.

Apportionment amounts are determined for each church in the Annual Conference using membership and church expenditures averaged over three years in relation to the total Annual Conference membership and local church expenditures. Because of this fact, the amount of how much each member changes our apportioned total varies from year to year. This year, our total apportioned amount is \$20,830. If each member of the church gave an equal portion of our apportionment, that dedicated apportioned giving would equal \$165.32.

The Administrative Council is committed to continue paying our Annual Conference apportionments in full well into the future because we believe in the impact that we make together as United Methodists. For more information about where our apportionment dollars go, see this information from the Annual Conference: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/files/websites/www/3.30.2023+apportionments+guide+8.5x11.pdf>. If you have questions about apportionments, see Pastor Marianne. If you have question about the overall financial health of the church, see Bill Short, the church treasurer.

Location Update

Since only a small number of us have ever experienced a congregational relocation, here is a quick list of answers to questions you may have right now relating to our move. If there are questions that are not answered, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Administrative Council or Pastor Marianne.

- May 12 is our last worship service on Oakdale Ave. May 19 is our first worship service on 70th St. in Inver Grove Heights.
- Mt. Bethel as a congregation will have their last worship service on May 12. They have voted to close as a congregation (called discontinuance) and have the membership of the individuals in the congregation transferred to Faith effective May 19. They also voted to give us their building. Once the property transfer happens, we (Faith UMC) will be the living legacy for the Mt. Bethel congregation. At that time, we will change the signs to reflect the name change from Mt. Bethel to Faith United Methodist Church
- We will be moving the sanctuary things for the first worship service, but the offices and other spaces will be moved at a later date that will be determined in the future. There is a group of individuals working on inventorying all of the items in the church so that we can bring what is most important, but not everything will be coming. (If you want to help with that process, see Lynn Bonkowske.)
- The Administrative Council is working with the city to sell the current property, hopefully sometime this summer. When we sell, we (Faith UMC) keep all of the proceeds from the sale. Those funds can be used exclusively for capital expenses and/or new ministries. As long as we are an active United Methodist congregation (which we are and will continue to be), they do NOT revert to the Annual Conference.
- In order to finalize the sale, the Ad Council will need to meet with the District Strategy Team for approval AND there will be a Church Conference (congregational) vote. There will be plenty of notice for this; it takes 14 days and 2 forms of communication to call a Church Conference.

April / May Birthdays

4/10 – Donald Seaquist	4/25 – Joan Ryan	5/4 – Abbie Losinski	5/17 – Dan Miller
4/10 – Nicholas Sielski	4/26 – Kathryn Peterson	5/4 – Sheri Lukas	5/18 – Fred Mens
4/13 – Liz Chun	4/27 – Leona Opp	5/6 – Christina Yekaldo	5/21 – Jenny Kranz
4/16 – Collette Peterson	4/28 – Mariah Lambert	5/8 – Judy Pfenning	5/24 – Lisa Ann Boelter
4/18 – Kayla Rebischke	4/30 – Ava Spatafore	5/11 – Louise Gross	5/29 – Ben Brummund
4/19 – Brandon Adams	5/2 – John Kemp	5/11 – Gloria Gurtin	5/29 – Ruth Martin
4/23 – Jeffrey Akemann	5/3 – Norma Nitti	5/15 – Jody Sielski	

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

Same Faith UMC, New Location

This year as we celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the church, we will also celebrate our first worship service in a new building.

Join us for worship on May 19 at 9:30am at our new location, 3239 70th Street E. in Inver Grove Heights. Following worship, we will have cake and coffee as we begin ministry in a new community.

For those who join us remotely for worship, we will continue to host worship over Zoom. Check the Weekly Update for connection information.

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 March, we served 203 meals with the help of 15 volunteers, including 3 who do not otherwise connect with our congregation. As we begin to transition to Inver Grove Heights, we have started to work with Loaves and Fishes to continue this vital ministry of the church in a new place. 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>
- 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.

Online Giving Available 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.

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and
rivers in the desert.* *Isaiah 43:19*

April-May Worship Update / Calendar

Worship Update

Worship is one of the most recognizable ways that we demonstrate our life of faith.

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

Here is some more detailed information on worship in April and May:

April 7, the Sunday after Easter, is Holy Humor Sunday. We will read the story of Easter found in Mark and the Sunday School will retell the story through a game of charades.

April 14 begins our look at resurrection stories. We start with the long ending in Mark, which summarizes several experiences.

April 21 we will journey with some disciples on the road to Emmaus as we discover Jesus walking alongside us, as told in Luke 24:13-35

April 28 brings us John 20:19-29 and the Upper Room on the day of resurrection as Jesus appears to the disciples, then returns later to speak with Thomas.

May 5 we will dig into the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:16-20 and how Christ continues to commission us.

May 12 is our last worship service in the church building on Oakdale. We will look at our resurrection story as we remember the lives changed through the ministries in our time in West St Paul.

May 19 is our first worship service in the church building on 70th St. in Inver Grove Heights. We will celebrate the birth of Christ's church at Pentecost, looking at the story found in Acts 2.

May 26 worship has not yet been planned, stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.



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.:** 9:30am Every Meal food distribution at Garlough school. Next Dates: all Thursday mornings in April & May

Tue. 4/2	6pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 4/13	8am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 4/16	6pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 4/17		Loaves & Fishes meal
Sat. 4/27	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sat. 4/27	4:30-8pm	Live & Silent Auction /Dinner
Tue. 5/7	6pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 5/11	8am	Men's Breakfast
Sun. 5/12	9:30am	Last worship on Oakdale
Wed. 5/15		Loaves & Fishes meal
Sun., 5/19	9:30am	First worship in Inver Grove Hgts.
Tue. 5/21	6pm	Administrative Council
Sat. 5/25	8am	Men's Breakfast

Pictures and Stories Needed!

As we prepare for our last Sunday worshipping in the church building on Oakdale, the Council on Ministries is looking for pictures of events and celebrations in the building. Do you have pictures from confirmations, weddings or baptisms? How about children's Christmas programs or Rally Day events? If so, we want to see them!

Digital pictures can be added to the church tech Google drive ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pqOXxD9SWYTr7uQUCaBmCS4sTSMDVoxm?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pqOXxD9SWYTr7uQUCaBmCS4sTSMDVoxm?usp=drive_link)) or emailed to the church office. We are also looking for short video reflections on events that happened at the church. If you have a story to tell, record a video and put it in the google drive as well.

All pictures and reflections need to be submitted by May 6. For more information, see Pastor Marianne.

*17th Annual Dinner
Live and Silent Auctions
Saturday, April 27, 2024*



* Photos from previous years' auctions

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- 4:30 P.M.** Bid on Silent Auction Items
Preview Live Auction Items
 - 5:00 P.M.** Dinner - Chicken Supreme Sandwich on a Bun,
Pickle, Chips, Dessert and Beverage
\$9.00 - 12 & over; \$4.00 - 4-11; 3 & under - FREE
 - 6:00 P.M.** Live Auction - Our lively Auctioneer
makes bidding fun!
 - 6:30 P.M.** Silent Auction Closes
 - 7:30 P.M.** Raffle Drawing
 - 8:00 P.M.** Free Door Prize Drawing
(You do not need to be present to win.)

**Faith United Methodist Church
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651-457-5686 www.faithumcmn.com**



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Sunday Worship Options

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday worship time is 9:30 a.m. Join us in the sanctuary, or 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

Facebook Page

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

May 12 Happenings

Join us for worship on May 12 at 9:30am for our last worship service in our Oakdale location. We will take time to celebrate and remember the ministry and lives changed in this location. Part of the service will be to deconsecrate the space as we prepare to begin ministry in new ways in Inver Grove Heights. Following worship we will have a potluck meal as we share memories and pictures of our time here. For more information, see Pastor Marianne.

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 meets on Saturdays: **4/13, 4/27, 5/11 & 5/25.** All men are invited to join us! For more info., contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short26@gmail.com.