



Faith in Action

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

August / Sept. 2024

Greetings,

I want to begin with my sincere gratitude for the care and compassion you have given me in the past few months as I have started recovering from my concussion in mid-April. The timing of my fall was not ideal (when is there ever a good time to fall?), but your support and encouragement has made the experience less painful. Thank you!

About six weeks after my fall I had an interesting experience. One morning, as I was working on my physical therapy exercises, I looked up at my desk and saw my 2024 star word in its stand. At that time I was still in the first week of medical leave, doing my best to slow life down in order to rest my brain. The star that shown down on me was “quietness”.

For those of you new to Faith UMC or unfamiliar with our star word tradition, star words are given during the Epiphany Sunday worship service in January. They are gifts from God for those gathered. Each individual receives a unique word to reflect on, pray about, and accept as God’s gift for the year. In 2023, I received *Faith*. 2024 has brought me *Quietness*.

I’m not sure I can accurately describe my reaction to my reminder of God’s gift. I remember being reassured, chagrined, surprised and resolved all at the same time. It was as if God was reminding me that, even in the midst of the chaos of life, quiet is important— vital, even. The ability to sit in quietness has been a skill I sometimes possess, and sometimes disregard.

In this season of life, I am finding the call to quietness both challenging and reassuring. I’m beginning to understand that to dwell in the life of God’s quietness does not feel like inaction so much as leaning into God’s wisdom. Much has happened in my life, and in the life of the church this year. As we continue to follow God’s leading in Inver Grove Heights, let us as a congregation look to that wisdom that we may experience the quietness in the midst of the chaos. That is my hope for myself, as well as our gathered community

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).



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

Our **August** Mission Well donations will support Emma Norton Services. ENS is a trauma-informed organization that promotes healing and recovery, operating at a scale that is able to bring 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.



Our **September** Mission Well donation recipient will be announced soon.

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://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/5354400

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

Faith Forum

Do you want to learn more about Faith UMC? Ever wonder why we started playing baby bells? Want to understand the leadership structure & systems? Join the Faith Forum with Pastor Marianne Sundays following worship starting September 8. We will have a casual atmosphere for interested individuals to ask questions about Faith UMC. Location TBD. For more information, see Pastor Marianne.

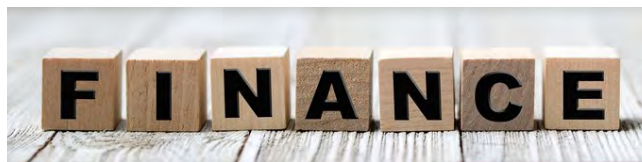
Book Study – *Anxious for Nothing*

Thank you to all who participated in our summer book study *How Happiness Happens*. The study was a great success, and has been requested to be repeated! (keep your books). This October we will start a study with a new book: *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. More information will be available soon! Plan on joining us! Questions? Contact Darlene Ashley.



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

The Administrative Council is paying particularly close attention to the finances of our church as we proceed with the many changes that are taking place. Coordinating the sale of our building and conducting the move are all currently in motion. However, we can say that income and expenditures of our regular operations have been consistent with budget expectations so far this year. Maintaining two buildings until we close on the sale of the West St. Paul building has added expense. However, that expense is being offset by the extraordinary commitment of our members who have been part of the Mt. Bethel congregation to see this process through.

While navigating all this, we have still been able to continue charitable giving through our Mission Well and special asks. Our June Mission Well collected \$324 for Neighbors which, when doubled by Neighbors' summer matching campaign, amounted to \$648. This helped Neighbors collectively raise \$63,849 to support their critical programs during a time of year when donations are traditionally down. Also, \$301.65 in funds from Mt. Bethel's Hospitality fund were donated to Heifers International with a 5x match. This resulted in a total of \$1,514.25.

In summary, our financial position is as good as could be expected at this point in the process.

IGH Days Parade

Our last parade of the summer is the Inver Grove Heights Days Parade on Saturday, September 7th. Line up is at 9:30 am and the parade starts at 11. We need people to ring bells on the float and to walk alongside and hand out candy. Our parade coordinator, Sharon, will be out of town for this one, so if you have any questions talk to Dana Scopatz.

Faith UMC T-shirts

If you would like a T-shirt to wear when representing the church at community events like parades, or just to add to your wardrobe, you can order one at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOoWtmNVmDoOT5t16F3sqj4iWoq2xzYxfhdxrpf-YWTN99FA/viewform> or by using the signup sheet at church on Sundays. T-shirts are available in six of the colors of the rainbow (sorry, no indigo) and have "Faith United Methodist Church" with the cross and flame on the front and our "who we are" statement on the back. A suggested donation of \$10 may be paid via Tithely, or by placing payment in the offering or church office labeled "T-shirt."

Hey, what's the deal with those tables up front?

You may have noticed some child-sized furniture at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. This is our 'playground'. It provides a spot for children to engage in quiet activities while still being involved in worship in age-appropriate ways. The chairs nearby let parents supervise while being involved in worship also in age appropriate ways. There are activity bags and toys on the shelves for all to use.

Would you like to read Scripture during worship?

Sharon Yekaldo is the person who manages our worship reader schedule. If you would like to participate in this area of ministry, please contact Sharon at smy55118@yahoo.com before August 15.

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: **8/3, 8/17, 8/31, 9/14 & 9/28**. All men are invited to join us! For more info., contact Bill Short at 651-552-0736 or bill.short26@gmail.com.

August / September Birthdays

8/3 – Mary Rue	8/17 – Sherry Zweerink	9/5 – Ronald Brummund, Jr.	9/22 – Bob Scopatz
8/5 – Anthony Yekaldo	8/24 – Roseanne Larsen	9/5 – Dave Eshelman	9/22 – John Scopatz
8/8 – Jamie Gregg	8/24 – Kaius Spatafore	9/6 – Wallace Sapp	9/22 – Taffy Storck
8/9 – Judy Akemann	8/25 – Mary Anich	9/10 – Sarah Eshelman	9/26 – Debra Johnson
8/11 – Daniel Bonkowske	8/25 – Jim Losinski	9/12 – Mike Monjeau	9/27 – Terry Akemann
8/11 – Vernon Emerson	8/26 – Ronald Brummund	9/18 – Linda Sue Johnson	9/28 – Josephine Kranz
8/13 – Jacey Lambert	8/28 – Ken Willis	9/19 – Gerald Gross	9/28 – Claudia Spatafore
8/13 – Marie Miklya	8/29 – Terri Bougie	9/19 – Amanda Peterson	9/28 – Patricia Williams
8/14 – Linda Emerson	9/1 – Lora Gregg	9/21 – Doug Van Siclen	9/29 – Craig Bonn
8/14 – Marsha Spatafore	9/3 – Sharon Yekaldo	9/21 – Jack Watchorn	
8/15 – Joseph Spatafore	9/4 – Ramon Nachtsheim	9/22 – Charles Beardshear	

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

Loaves and Fishes Update

On July 17 we served our last Loaves and Fishes meal at the Oakdale location. We served 198 meals and had some teary farewells with regular volunteers who are not otherwise a part of our congregation.

We cannot resume Loaves and Fishes in Inver Grove Heights without major church kitchen updates. We are gathering bids for this project and hope to have estimates for cost and timeline soon.

Food ministries remain very important to our congregation. We will continue to feed people through our garden that provides food to Neighbors, Inc. and by delivering groceries to elementary students' backpacks through Every Meal during the school year.

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.

“EVERY MEAL” Program – Outreach Ministry

Volunteer Service Opportunity

During the school year, Faith United Methodist Church partners with the “Every Meal” program to help fill the weekend food gap for students at Garlough Elementary School in West St. Paul. Each Thursday from 9:30–10:15 AM, church volunteers place bags of food for easy-to-make meals in the lockers of school children whose families have registered. These bags of food are assembled and delivered by “Every Meal” – a Minnesota-based, non-profit organization program.

This service opportunity is a quick and joy-filled 45 minutes that helps nourish our school children; hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles of these kiddos in the hallways is a perk to this service experience!

If you are interested in volunteering regularly, occasionally, or even just once, please contact **Pastor Marianne**



EVERY MEAL

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 August and September:

August 4 we continue our Hymnology series with *Precious Lord Take My Hand*. We'll be reading Isaiah 41:10-16.

August 11 the featured hymn is *Amazing Grace* and in the scripture we will read about Saul getting a concussion and becoming an apostle in Acts 9:1-20.

August 18 we'll read Peter's message to the Israelites on the first Pentecost from Acts 2:22-41 and sing *Lord of the Dance*.

August 25 features *How Great Thou Art* and the story of King David bringing the Ark into Jerusalem from 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19.

September 1 concludes our Hymnology series with *It Is Well With My Soul* and the story of Jesus calming the storm from Matthew 8:23-27.

September 8 begins a six week series titled "Faith UMC is . . ." with ". . . A Spiritual Community" reading from Acts 2:42-47.

September 15 continues the series with ". . . Seeking to Live the Love of God" and John 15:9-17.

September 22 the theme is ". . . Exploring" and the text is Luke 10:1-12, 17-24 where 72 disciples were sent into mission.

September 29 is ". . . Teaching" with a text from Deuteronomy 11:1-6 and 18-21. about putting God's word in your heart and teaching it to your children.

Regular weekly activities:

- **SUNDAYS:** 9:30 am Worship (and Zoom)
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10 am Children's Sunday School*
*starting September 8
11 am Adult Sunday School
(sign-in begins at 9:15 for Sunday Worship Zoom meetings)
- **MONDAYS:** 7 am Power Prayers (on Zoom)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85456505851>
10 am Craft group (Fellowship Hall)
- **TUESDAYS:** 12:30 pm Mahjong & Card Playing
- **THURS.:** 8:00 am Clean Team
8:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 am Every Meal food distribution at Garlough school ▶ *resuming this fall*

Tue. 8/6	5:30 pm	Night to Unite
Wed. 8/7	6 pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 8/10	9 am-4 pm	Moving Sale at Oakdale building
Sat. 8/17	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 8/20	6 pm	Administrative Council
Sat. 8/31	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 9/3	6 pm	Council on Ministries
Sat. 9/7	9:30 am	IGH Days Parade (line up time)
Sun. 9/8		Rally Sunday
Wed. 9/11	7 pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat. 9/14	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 9/17	6 pm	Administrative Council
Wed. 9/25	7 pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat. 9/28	8 am	Men's Breakfast
Tue. 10/1	6 pm	Council on Ministries

Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite you to celebrate the beginning of a new school year by **joining us for worship on September 8 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 season with a **sweet** Bible scavenger hunt! Explore the scriptures to find the verses that have hidden candy concepts. It's a great opportunity for students to come together, explore the Bible, and discover **sweet** surprises along the way. Don't miss this exciting event—bring your friends and enjoy a day of fellowship and fun!





Faith United Methodist Church
3239 70th Street E.
Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

August/September 2024



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>

NIGHT UNITE!

Join us Tuesday, August 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM

for food and fellowship with our Inver Grove Heights neighbors as we celebrate Night to Unite, (FKA National Night Out). Over 300 fliers were delivered to the doorsteps of neighboring homes and social media was used to help spread the word. There will be free brats, hotdogs and homemade pizza, along with yard activities for all ages --- including a BOUNCY HOUSE! We also expect a visit from our dedicated Police and Fire officers, trucks and all.

Not only will this be a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors and provide a venue for friendly fellowship, but it is also a great occasion to celebrate our renewal as an expanding congregation.

If you are interested in volunteering, go to <https://bit.ly/faithumcvolunteer>. Either way, we hope to see you on Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 – 7:30 PM.