

# Come Celebrate the Season

Faith United Methodist Church,  
2708 33rd Ave. N.E., St. Anthony, MN 55418  
612-781-3167 [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com)

## *Christmas Concert*

Friday December 9  
11:00 AM



Featuring: The Chamber Choir and Jazz Ensemble from St. Anthony Village High School. The concert is free and open to the public.

Please join us for a potluck meal at 12:00, following the concert. If you can help by preparing food for the potluck, please sign up in the Commons and let us know what you are bringing. We need to provide lunch for 50 students so generous portions are requested.

## *Advent Book Study The Journey*

Sundays, November 27 - December 18, 9:00 AM.

All our Christian Education classes will journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.



## *Children's Christmas Program*

Sunday, December 11, 10:30 AM.

The children will be sharing their special talents with the congregation.



## *Christmas Choral Worship*

Sunday, December 18  
10:30 AM



Presented by the Sanctuary Choir

## *Wednesday Night Services*

Join us for a Taizé service during the season of Advent on Wednesday evenings at 6:30-7:00 PM, November 30, December 7 & December 14, in the Worship Center.

We will create a quiet space of light and joy, welcoming the Christ child into our hearts. There will be no contemplative service on December 21 or December 28. Contemplative services resume on January 5.

(Our Wednesday meal will follow the same schedule and be served prior to worship at 5:45 PM)



## *Christmas Eve Services*

- **5:00 PM** - Festive Christmas Celebration centered around children and families
- **9:00 PM** - Traditional Service with Holy Communion featuring the Sanctuary Choir



As a part of your Christmas gift-giving, please remember to bring canned goods to support our local food shelves.



# Call of Faith

November 26, 2011

Faith United Methodist Church  
2708 33 Avenue N.E.  
St. Anthony Village, MN 55418

Telephone: 612-781-3167

Web: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com)

*Faith is Handicap Accessible*

Email: [Faith@faithumchurch.com](mailto:Faith@faithumchurch.com)

## From the Pen of Pastor Leigh



### Advent is a Season of Peace and Preparation

Last month I wrote about connecting with each other as a church community as a means of forming a deeper connection with God. As we begin the Advent season, I'd like to invite you to connect with yourself. In the anxiety and the pace of life today it is easy to be disconnected from what is going within ourselves – in our minds and hearts.

We are so busy and preoccupied, it can be difficult to quiet the noise in our heads and calm the nerves in our bodies so that we can hear what God is saying to us.

Advent is a season of peace and preparation that runs counter to our hectic – sometimes bordering on insane – secular traditions of preparing for Christmas. During this time of year restaurants and shops are packed, schedules are busy, family relationships are challenging, and expectations and emotions are high.

#### Current Worship Schedule

##### Sundays:

9:00-10:00 AM	Christian Education for All Ages
10:00-10:30 AM	Fellowship
10:30-11:30 AM	Worship Service

##### Wednesday Evening Prayer:

6:30-7:00 PM Celtic or Taizé style service

#### In This Issue

#### Page

Around the Parish	9-10
Church News	1, 4-5
Children's Center	6
Church Calendar	8
Community Connections	7
Extend and Serve	5
From the Pen of Pastor Leigh	2-3
Senior Moments	6
Team Reports	7
Youth Arcade	6

#### Church Contacts

Pastor	Rev. Leigh Brown	<a href="mailto:Pastor@faithumchurch.com">Pastor@faithumchurch.com</a>
Director of Music	Jo Halvorsen	<a href="mailto:Joh@faithumchurch.com">Joh@faithumchurch.com</a>
Director of Faith Formation	Susan Mullin	<a href="mailto:Smullin@faithumchurch.com">Smullin@faithumchurch.com</a> (Hours: Tues. Wed. Thu. 10:00 - 4:00)
Communication & Facility Administrator	Kristin Erlandsen	<a href="mailto:Kerlandsen@faithumchurch.com">Kerlandsen@faithumchurch.com</a> (Hours: Mon. & Fri. 9:00-4:00, Wed. 9:00-3:00)
Finance & Membership Administrator	Janet Olson	<a href="mailto:Jolson@faithumchurch.com">Jolson@faithumchurch.com</a> (Hours: Tues. & Wed. 8:30 - 3:30, Fri. 8:30-2:30)
Organist	Marie Kuglin	
Treasurer	Rod Long	

## From the Pen of Pastor Leigh (cont.)

As we study our Advent scriptures from the prophet Isaiah and our Advent study *The Journey*, we will reconnect to the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Messiah – God’s saving presence in our world and in our lives. It’s a season rich in mystery and enchantment – from the powerful prophecy foretelling Jesus’ birth and the story of God’s coming into the world in the most unanticipated and miraculous way; to the memories of twinkling lights, stars lighting the night sky and tales of Santa Clause we loved as children. We longed for Christmas then – the presents and the treats and the magic. What do we long for now?

It’s not an easy question to answer, and not one that we can think our way through. We need to live with the question and let it break through the thick layers of distractions, internal barriers and self denials. Living with the question will allow us to more fully experience the power of Advent.

That power lies in hope and in promise. As a child I loved to read the trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkein. The books are about magical characters such as hobbits, elves and dwarves, as well as men and women, who live in a place called Middle Earth. In the story Middle Earth is becoming increasingly a dark place as powers of evil grow and threaten to overtake all of the land and its peoples. It is a tale of despair, courage and ultimately hope – hope grounded in legends and prophecies that tell of the power of good to overcome evil, and the ability of even the most powerless and humble people to play a major role in that good.

Like the legends and prophecies in Tolkein’s world of Middle Earth, the stories and prophecies of the Bible point to the promise of God’s ultimate victory over evil. The images of the kingdom of God, a place sufficient for all God’s people where love and peace prevail, give us hope and longing for a better future. And the stories that lift up the powerless and humble – from Moses to Jesus, both homeless and endangered infants – tell us that each of us, no matter our backgrounds or deficiencies (perceived or real), can play a meaningful role in bringing that kingdom forth.

Prophecy is not the prediction of the future but the revelation of a truth that is already at hand. The prophet Isaiah revealed the truth of Israel in the days of exile, but also the expectation that God’s goodness would prevail. During the exile the people – conquered by an invading army, their Temple in ruins, and removed to Babylon, far from their homeland – felt distant from God. Isaiah writes of this experience of distance, and the longing for the presence of God.

Sometimes the world today feels like it is becoming increasingly dark, and we too are experiencing a sense of anxiety and powerlessness. For the heroes of Middle Earth and the heroes of the Bible overcoming the darkness began with longing – a deep and intimate longing for salvation for themselves and for the world. We too can connect to our longing and allow our own darkness and hunger and thirst to come to light. When we understand what is missing from our lives, what creates the hole within that we try to feed with fantasy, addictions, work, busyness, or self-created thrills or crises, then we can begin to clean house internally and make room in our hearts and lives for the peace that comes not from the world but only from God.

Then we are ready to experience the promise and hope of the Advent season.

## Untrim the Christmas Tree

Throughout the month of December, the Outreach Christmas Tree will be in the Commons, decorated with giving envelopes.

Please use to envelopes to make a donation to:

- N.E. Community Meals
- Simpson Shelter Meals
- Military Meal/Ministry



## Project Linus - Let's blanket the children with love!

This Christmas season, please bring in new blankets for us to donate to Project Linus, whose mission is "to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets."



Blankets can be sewn, quilted, crocheted, knitted or tied single-layer fleece. Bring in your blankets anytime up through Christmas Day and the Christian Education committee will deliver them to the local branch of Project Linus. They say they are particularly in need of smaller blankets, around 36" x 36".

Any questions, call Karolyn Busacker at 612-789-7247 or visit the Project Linus website:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/gtcaprojectlinus/>

**Make it a family project!**

## Advent Study

### The Journey

**Walking the Road to Bethlehem**

**On Sundays in Advent  
(November 27–December 18) at 9:00 am,**

all of our Christian Education classes will journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness in this study for all ages. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.



## Wednesday Night Dinners

Wednesday night dinners will be served at 5:45 p.m. on November 30, December 7, and December 14.



There will be no dinner on December 21 or December 28. Dinners will resume on Wednesday, January 5.

## Upcoming Services

December 4: Second Sunday in Advent

December 11: Third Sunday in Advent

Children's Christmas Program

December 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Choral Worship

December 25: Christmas Eve Services: 5:00 & 9:00 PM

December 26: Christmas Day Service: 10:30 AM

# Church News (continued)

## Upcoming Lectionary Scriptures

Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 PM, Conference Room

- December 4: Isaiah 61:1-4  
Luke 1:39-56
- December 11: Matthew 1:18-24
- December 24: Luke 2:1-20
- December 25: Genesis 3:8-14,19; 22:15-18  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:26-35, 38; 2:1-7; 2:8-16  
Matthew 2:1-11  
John 1:1-14

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

## Faith Forum

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

- All Sundays in December - participating in the Advent Book Study of *The Journey, by Adam Hamilton*
- Jan. 1 no class
- Jan. 8 Cammy Iverson, Writing Your Life Story Legacy
- Jan. 15 John Wrathall, Mormons - the Church of the Latter Day Saints
- Jan. 22 John Wrathall, Mormons - Part 2
- Jan. 29 Professor Adreinne Christiansen, Macalester College, Political Civility
- Feb. 5 Majorie Savage, Director of the Parent Program at the University of Minnesota

## Chancel Flower Sign-up

If you are interested in providing flowers for Sunday mornings, please sign-up on the chart in the Commons during the month of December. Cost is \$30 per Sunday.



## Extend and Serve

### Visiting our Home-bound Friends



Some of our congregants are not able to come to church. Some ways to remind people that we care for them even when we don't see them on Sundays are to visit, call or send a note. If you are interested in checking in with one of our home-bound friends, call Miriam Bosveld at 612-781-4812 or Sue Sattler at 763-786-8419.

### N.E. Community Meals Saturday, December 17

Faith UMC will be responsible for the entire meal which will include setting up, preparing the entire meal and clean-up. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the Commons. It would be nice to have 10 volunteers. Many hands make light work! Questions - contact Nancy Kruse



## Children's Center

### Christmas Is

10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Saturday, December 3.

Christmas is about welcoming Jesus the Christ into our hearts and into our lives. Many families exchange presents on Christmas, just as the magi brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Children will have an opportunity to make one or more gifts for their family, play games, and have a snack. All children age 4 through grade 5 are invited to participate. Children participating in the Christmas program will spend part of the time in rehearsal.

### Faith Saints – Children in Grades 1-6

Faith Saints meet the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 PM. Next meeting date is December 14. Join us for a variety of service projects, games, and fun. All children in grades 1-6 are welcome. Come and bring your friends. Please call Pete or Amy Neuswanger at 651-635-0576 if you have any questions.



### Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

December 3 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 noon.  
Includes rehearsal and Christmas Is.  
December 4 (Sunday) 9:00-9:15 AM  
(first 15 minutes of Sunday School)  
December 7 (Wednesday) 7:00-7:30 PM  
December 10 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon.  
Dress Rehearsal.  
December 11 (Sunday) 9:00-11:30 AM.

## Youth Arcade

### Middle School Lock-In

Save the Date! 7:00 pm Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> through 9:00 am Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Permission slips will be available on the church website: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com) and from your Sunday school teachers. We will have food, games, and movies. Friends are welcome. The cost is 5\$ per person and permission slips must be returned by Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### UMYs

February 3-5, 2012.

Youth in Grades 9-12 are invited to United Methodist Youth 2012, a weekend retreat at the DoubleTree Hotel in Minneapolis. Registration information and forms are on the church website, or available from Susan Mullin. Forms and fees (\$140/person) are due by Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. (Scholarships are available. Contact Susan Mullin). Grab some friends and join us for this statewide United Methodist Youth gathering, including guest speaker Kyle Huisenga, live music from Boiling Point, worship, and workshops.

## Senior Moments

### Looking Ahead: Program with Bishop Sally Dyck at Hamline University, Sunday, January 29

Board the bus at 12:45, program from 1:30-5:30 PM.

We will take a bus to Hamline University to hear Bishop Sally Dyck and her niece, Sarah Ehrman, talk about their book, *A Hopeful Earth: Science, Faith, and the Message of Jesus*. This event will include worship, a presentation, and small group discussion. Coffee and snacks will be provided. The cost will be approximately \$12 per person for the bus. Scholarships are available by contacting Susan Mullin.

# Community Connections

## Come to the Cookie Walk

Saturday December 10  
9:00 AM until sold out  
\$7.00 a pound  
Community UMC, 950 Gould Ave NE.



## Christmas Concert by the Mounds View Alumni Choir

Sunday, December 4  
3:00 PM  
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church  
8211 Red Oak Dr, Mounds View

## Christmas at Community

December 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.  
Community UMC, 950 Gould Ave NE  
Enjoy the Church and Bell Choirs featuring the  
Camarata Brass.

Treats will be served after the concert. Donations  
will be accepted on Behalf of the Southern Anoka  
County Assistance (SACA).

## The Apollo Male Chorus and the Wayzata Women's Chorus Concerts

The 2011 holiday season will bring these two dynamic  
choruses together.

Saturday, December 3, 7:00 PM  
at Hamline University-Sundin Hall  
1536 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul, MN

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 PM  
at the Hopkins High School Auditorium  
2400 Lindbergh Dr, Minnetonka, MN

Student: \$10, Adults: \$18-24  
People can contact Carla Erpelding for tickets at  
612-788-6862

# Team Updates

## FINANCE

### Year-End Giving

Consider giving an extra gift to the  
church at Christmastime. Please  
use the enclosed Christmas enve-  
lope, include your regular offering  
number and bring or mail it to the  
church.



Payments on current pledges are due by  
December 31, 2010.

### 2012 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes will be available the in  
the Commons, throughout December.

If you are not currently received offering enve-  
lopes and would like to, please call the church  
office, 612-781-3167

### 2012 Pledge Cards

Please remember to turn in your 2012  
pledge cards. Please give generously.

## OUTREACH

### ASP 2012 Registration Update



Ten youth from Faith Church will be serving on the Appalachia Service Project this sum-  
mer: John Bosveld, Adam Busacker, David Busacker, Ryan Gross, Erin Mathews, Toby  
Mathews, Nathan Largaespada, Anton Largaespada, Ross McNall, Liana Oja.  
The dates have not been determined yet. This trip has already been filled, and registration is  
closed. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please call the church office.

# Church Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
Thu. 12/1	Lectionary Discussion Group	12:00 PM	Wed. 12/14	Mary Martha Circle	9:30 AM
Sat. 12/3	Children's Prog. Dress Reh. Christmas Is	10:00 AM		Pastoral Staff Meeting	10:00AM
Sun. 12/4	Second Sunday in Advent			Organist Rehearsal	4:00 PM
	Christian Education	9:00 AM		Meal	5:45 PM
	Children's Program Rehearsal	9:00 AM		Faith Saints	6:30 PM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM		Contemplative Worship	6:30 PM
	Worship	10:30 AM		Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
	Serving at Simpson Shelter	6:00 PM	Thu. 12/15	Adult Handbell Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Mon. 12/5	Cub Dens	6:30 PM		Men's work group	9:00 AM
	Boy Scouts	7:30 PM		Lectionary Group Discussion	12:00 PM
Tues. 12/6	Cub Dens	6:30 PM		Scout Leaders	7:30 PM
	Church Council/Charge Conf.	7:00 PM	Fri. 12/16	Classical Music Rehearsal/Com	6:00 PM
Wed. 12/7	Mary Martha Circle	9:30 AM	Sat. 12/17	NE Community Meal/NE UMC	
	Pastoral Staff Meeting	10:00AM	Sun. 12/18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
	Organist Rehearsal	4:00 PM		Christian Education	9:00 AM
	Meal	5:45 PM		Fellowship	10:00 AM
	Contemplative Worship	6:30 PM		Choral Worship	10:30 AM
	Kids Bells	6:30 PM		Peyton Lewis Baptism	
	Children's Program Reh.	7:00 PM	Mon. 12/19	Cub Dens	6:30 PM
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM		Boy Scouts	7:30 PM
	Adult Handbell Rehearsal	7:30 PM	Tue. 12/20	Cub Dens	6:30 PM
	Choir Coffee/Commons	8:45 PM		Comm. & Mktg. Committee	6:30 PM
Thur. 12/8	Lectionary Group Discussion	12:00 AM		Staff Parish Relations Comm.	6:30 PM
	500 Cards	1:00 PM	Wed. 12/21	Mary Martha Circle	9:30 AM
	Trustees	7:00 PM		Pastoral Staff Meeting	10:00AM
Fri. 12/9	Christmas Concert	11:00 AM		Organist Rehearsal	4:00 PM
	Potluck Lunch	12:00 PM	Thu. 12/22	Lectionary Discussion Group	12:00 PM
	Classical Music Rehearsal	6:00 PM		500 Cards	1:00 PM
	Cub Pack Meeting	7:00 PM	Sat. 12/24	Christmas Eve	
Sat. 12/10	Men's Breakfast	8:00 AM		Family Service	5:00 PM
	Children's Prog. Dress Reh.	10:00 AM		Traditional Worship w/choir	9:00 PM
Sun. 12/11	Third Sunday in Advent		Sun. 12/25	Christmas Day	
	Christian Education	9:00 AM		Worship	10:30 AM
	Children's Program Prep.	9:00 AM	Mon. 12/26	Cub Den/116	6:30 PM
	Fellowship	10:00 AM		Outreach Committee	7:00 PM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM		Boy Scouts	7:30 PM
Mon. 12/12	Call of Faith Information Due	9:00 AM	Tue. 12/27	Hospitality Committee	6:30 PM
	Cub Dens	6:30 PM		Finance Committee	7:00 PM
	Boy Scouts	7:30 PM	Wed. 12/28	Mary Martha Circle	9:30 AM
Tue. 12/13	Adult Council	4:00 PM		Pastoral Staff Meeting	10:00AM
				Organist Rehearsal	4:00 PM
			Thu. 12/29	Lectionary Group Discussion	12:00 PM

**Bradley Childbirth Classes** are held on most:  
 Sundays 4:00 - 6:00 PM in the Nursery  
 Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Nursery

**Classical Music Academy** is held on most:  
 Mondays 7:00 - 9:00 PM in room 218  
 Tuesdays: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM in rooms 116, 121, 218

For more information check out the Calendar of Events on our website: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com). Church office hours are generally: Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.