

Call of Faith

April, 2014 Edition

Faith United Methodist Church
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Church News

Holy Week Schedule

April 13	Palm Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Palms for all
April 17	Maundy Thursday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Meal Service & Communion
April 18	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.	Service: The Sanctuary choir and instrumentalist will present "Prayers at the Cross".
April 20	Easter Sunday	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Both Services: Brass, Sanctuary Choir, Faith Praise Band, and Faith Praise Singers



Easter Offering

In this season when we remember the great self-giving of God for us, may we also give beyond ourselves to strengthen the lives of others. Your gift helps make possible the ministries of Faith United Methodist Church. You may place your gift in the offering plate at worship or mail to the church. Thank you!



Worship Schedule

Sundays:	9:00 AM	Adult Christian Education
	10:00 AM	Fellowship Time
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:30 AM	Christian Education for Children and Youth

If you need nursery care for your children during Adult Christian Education on Sunday morning please contact the church office at 612-781-3167 by Wednesday.

Church Contacts

Pastor	Rev. Leigh Brown	lbrown@faithumchurch.com
Director of Music	Jo Halvorsen	Joh@faithumchurch.com
Director of Faith Formation	Rev. Susan Mullin	Smullin@faithumchurch.com (Hours: Tues. Wed. Thu. 10:00 - 4:00)
Finance & Membership Administrator	Janet Olson	Jolson@faithumchurch.com (Hours: Tues. & Wed. 8:30 - 3:30, Fri. 8:30-2:30)
Communication & Facility Administrator	Molly Cabrera	Mcabrera@faithumchurch.com (Hours: Mon. Wed. Thu. 9:00—3:00)
Organist	Marie Kuglin	
Treasurer	Rod Long	

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Over the Coffee *by Rev. Leigh Brown*



What does the kingdom of God look like?

Often when we ask this question, we look to the parables of Jesus – stories like:

the story of a widow's two coins that celebrates the poor and humble over the wealthy and self-important;

the story of a prodigal son that celebrates love and forgiveness over law, merit and reward;

the story of a mustard seed that tells how the kingdom of God starts small, then becomes large;

the story of a rich young man that tells us the kingdom of God does not come easily;

the story of a lost sheep that tells of God's great love for each and every one of God's people.

Even with these illustrations the kingdom of God can be difficult to imagine, because worldly values and systems of power can appear quite different. Yet Jesus also said that the kingdom of God is here, now, in this world.

And I saw it. I saw the emergence of the kingdom of God on Rainbow Sunday. I saw the kingdom in:

the story of a ministry that started small and is expanding in passion and commitment;

the story of a church that celebrates God's beautiful and beloved gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people – people who often experience injustice and rejection in this world;

the story of a church that understands the kingdom does not come easily, and is willing to take risks and put energy into bringing that vision to life;

the story of a church that understands God's great love for each and every person, shares in that love, and lives that love out loud.

Inclusive, all-encompassing, unconditional love is the practice that Jesus Christ demonstrated most commonly and fervently. It is the practice that he called for us to follow in the Great Commandment. As Christians this is the one thing that we must get right. And on Rainbow Sunday, we got it right.

I will cherish this day always. Rainbow Sunday was the most beautiful, fulfilling and inspiring worship service that I have been blessed to be part of in all my years of ministry. I am so proud to be pastor of Faith Church!

Thank you to the Faith Reconciling Team – Barb, Bill, Carol, David, Deb, Jan, Judy, Karolyn, Kay, Michele, Miriam, Nancy, Nancy, Natalie, Pam, Sue and Tom (forgive me if I forget anyone but this team is taking off!) – for your devotion to this ministry and to making Rainbow Sunday a great celebration.

Thanks to Bill Pappin, David Dexter (and all the Dexter family), Ross McNall, and Molly and Stacy Sheahan-Spector for sharing your stories – I am still weeping (in a good way!) as I remember your words.

And thanks be to God for this Reconciling congregation that truly embodies the church of open hearts, open minds and open doors.

Church News



Volunteer Opportunities!

We have a need for volunteers for various ministries of the church. If you are interested, please contact Susan Mullin in the church office.

Nursery Assistant – Do you have a love for children? We are looking for someone to assist in the nursery on the first Sunday of each month. You will not be the person in charge, but an extra pair of hands to help with the littlest ones. This is a great way to get to know the children of our church. The commitment would be one Sunday per month from 10:15-11:30 (or whenever worship ends).

Sunday School Assistant – Would you enjoy exploring the stories of the Bible with our elementary school children using drama, art, science, games, and cooking? As a Sunday school assistant, you would help the lead teacher as they work with our children from four years old through 5th grade. The commitment would be one or more Sundays per month, from 10:30-11:30 (or whenever worship ends).

Wednesday Meal Clean-Up – Serving on our cleanup team is an essential support for our community meal and contemplative worship service. Two volunteers are needed each Wednesday to wash the dishes and put them away, clean the floors and take out the garbage and recycling. The commitment would be for two Wednesdays per month from 6:00-7:00 PM.

Not Your Cup of Tea? – Maybe you were hoping for opportunities to work with small business owners in Latin America, or tutor children in Northeast Minneapolis, or minister to the needs of seniors struggling to maintain their home? What's your passion for ministry? Please talk to Susan Mullin or Pastor Leigh about your hopes and dreams for ministry.



Prayers at the Cross

Good Friday Service at 7:00

The Sanctuary choir and instrumentalist will present "Prayers at the Cross".

In Jesus' life and death, we find many examples of how to live our lives. Jesus' prayer life is certainly one aspect of His life worthy of our attention. Of the seven "last words," or phrases, spoken by Jesus from the cross, four were directed to persons who were part of that scene. The first, fourth and final "words," were spoken to God, and were, in effect, prayers.

Adult Ministry:

Tour of Second Harvest Heartland



Lunch at the Good Earth Restaurant

Tuesday, April 22

Leaving church at 10:30 AM

We would love to have you join us for a tour of Second Harvest Heartland, the Upper Midwest's largest hunger relief organization. Their goal is not only to help our hungry neighbors today, but to provide the means for everyone to be fed tomorrow. They are known for distributing great amounts of food quickly and efficiently; in 2012 alone, they collected, warehoused and distributed more than 76 million pounds of food—but they are also constantly pioneering ways to reduce waste and better use the abundant resources available in this land of plenty. After our tour, we will go to the Good Earth Restaurant in Roseville for lunch. There is no charge for the tour of Second Harvest. Bring money for lunch. Please sign up in the Commons if you would like to go so that we can let Second Harvest and the Good Earth know how many people to expect. Thanks! If you have any questions please talk to Rev. Susan at 612-781-3167.

Save the Date for an Adult Ministry Event: We will visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on Thursday, May 15th to view the Sacred Arts Exhibit. We will leave the church at 12:30 PM. We hope you can join us!

Church News cont.



Garage Sale to benefit Appalachia Service Project

April 5, 2014, 9:00-4:00 and
April 6, 10:00-12
Fellowship Hall

You can help us by donating items – clothing, household items, toys, games, books, etc. Ask Miriam Bosveld before bringing in large items. Please bring your items you would like to donate starting Sunday, March 30 through Friday April 4. You can leave your donated items in Fellowship Hall. If you need to arrange a pick up for your items, please call Miriam at 612-781-4812.

Bake Sale to benefit Appalachia Service Project

April 13, Palm Sunday



This fundraiser not only benefits ASP, it also fills your pantry with wonderful treats. Please sign up at the Coffee Counter to donate items to the sale.

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School

Sunday mornings, 10:30 am

The children will be learning about Holy Week and Easter through hands-on activities. They will also be singing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 13. The music teachers have already started working with the children on the songs they will be singing that day. We hope that you can bring your children for this special Sunday. On Easter there will be no Sunday school. Children of all ages are welcome in the sanctuary.



Middle School

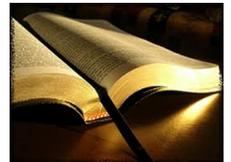
Sunday mornings, 10:30 am
Room 117

There will be a Sunday School class for Middle School students on April 6 and 27. Students are encouraged to attend worship on Palm Sunday (April 13) and Easter Sunday (April 20).

Adult Classes Sunday mornings, 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study (Ebenezer Room):

The adult Bible study class is continuing a Lenten Bible Study called *God's Gift of Life* by Larry Beman. You are welcome to join us for the entire study, or simply drop in on any Sunday at 9:00 AM and join in the discussion. Terry Krinke is leading our discussions. If you would like a copy of the book, please call the church office or email Rev. Susan Mullin (smullin@faithumchurch.com).



The **Mary Martha Circle** is using the same Lenten Bible study. All women are invited to join this women's study group at 9:30 every Wednesday during Lent. They begin with refreshments and fellowship before starting the study. Contact Maureen Krinke, 651-636-4383, if you have any questions.

Faith Forum (Fellowship Hall):

April 6 - What is Convo? Judy Jerde on the Convocation of Reconciling Churches.
April 13 - To be determined.
April 20 - Easter. No Class.
April 27 - End of Life. Issues, Marilyn Kirk, long-time hospice volunteer.

What Are You Praying About? (Conference Room)

Join others in sharing and discussing the important joys and concerns in your life.

Reminder:

Sunday Sermons

are available on our website:

www.faithumchurch.com
under worship and music,
sermons

A Statement from Bishop Bruce R. Ough



Immigration reform: A matter of justice and Christian hospitality

A statement from Bishop Bruce R. Ough

The Minnesota and Dakotas Business and Advocacy Immigration Coalition, of which both the Minnesota Annual Conference and the Minnesota Council of Churches are members, requested and was recently granted a meeting with staff of U.S. Congressman John Kline, who serves Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District. Bishop Bruce R. Ough was one of seven people who represented the coalition at a Tuesday meeting with one of Congressman Kline's senior staff members. At that meeting, which focused on immigration reform, Bishop Ough shared the following statement:

I want to thank Congressman Kline for his service to our country and to the citizens of Minnesota's 2nd District. He has served with honor and distinction. His actions and leadership are informed and governed by his Christian faith and the moral imperatives of that faith. It is a personal honor to now serve as Congressman Kline's bishop.

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church are clear on the rights of immigrants. The Social Principles state:

"We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country or origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all."

#162H, 2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church

Compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform is a matter of justice and Christian hospitality. Our great country's current immigration system denies justice and violates the principle of Christian hospitality. Families are being torn apart. Gifted young people and students are being denied education, and their contributions to this country's greatness squandered or lost. Millions of people are being forced to live in the shadows. Unscrupulous employers are taking advantage of this underground work force. Billions of dollars are being directed to enforce ineffective laws and bad immigration policy. Partisan political bickering and gamesmanship are preventing this country from harnessing the energy, gifts, and economic vitality that are the hallmarks of every great wave of immigration to our country of immigrants. Justice denied to any immigrant is justice denied to every immigrant and descendants of immigrants that have come before. Christian hospitality denied to current immigrants is hospitality tarnished and diminished for all of us who were extended that hospitality in the past.

The fundamental violation of God's beloved community and the weakening of our country's greatness and readiness to thrive in the 21st century will continue until we enact comprehensive and compassionate immigration laws that provide a clear path to citizenship, hold employers accountable, guarantee equal educational opportunities to all persons, and protect the sanctity and dignity of families.

There are very complex legal issues to be overcome to enact a just and compassionate immigration policy. I urge Congressman Kline, and all persons of faith, to be governed by the moral law that is irrefutably reflected in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The Law of Moses admonished the people to welcome the strangers, immigrants, and aliens in their midst. The spirit of this law is stated again in the New Testament book of Hebrews: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). But, for me, the most compelling admonishment comes from Jesus' teachings when he tells his followers that "whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me" (Matthew 10:40). Jesus is commanding those of us who take his name to practice a radical form of hospitality that recognizes that welcoming a child of God is the same as welcoming him and the one who sent him to redeem the world.

I urge Congressman Kline and all members of the U.S. Congress to move with dispatch to reform our immigration system, and to do so with their standards being Jesus' spirit of radical hospitality and our country's love of justice for all. I hold Congressman Kline in my prayers. I pray that he will step forward and courageously lead the immigration reform effort, protect immigrant families, and ensure the future of our nation.

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Outreach



Simpson Meal

Sunday, April 6

Choose the way you want to be involved.
1, 2 or 3 or all of the below!

1. Meet in the kitchen at 4:00 if you would like to help prepare the meal.
2. Leave the church by 6:00 in order to help transport and serve the meal.
3. Bake bars or cookies and have them at church by 4:00 on Sunday, April 6.

Please call Pete or Amy Neuswanger at 651-635-0576 to let them know how you want to be involved

Jerry Hanson

Scholarships



Scholarships are available to eligible applicants seeking to achieve advancement in their college education, career, or current employment. Funds may be used to pay for tuition, books, uniforms, necessary tools or other materials to advance one's career. Anyone living within the communities served by Faith United Methodist Church is eligible to apply. There are no limitations based on age, marital status, or educational accomplishments. Application forms will be available April 1st at the Welcome Center. Deadline for submitting applications is May 1st and awards will be announced on June 1st.

NE Community Meal

Outreach team will be preparing and serving the N.E. Community Meal on Saturday, April 19. If you are able to help, sign-up is in the Commons.



Community Connections

Early Disaster Response

Team training at Woodbury Peaceful Grove UMC, Woodbury, MN on April 4 and 5. Become an UMCOR certified volunteer to assist survivors after a natural disaster in MN and the US. Information and registration is on minnesotaumc.org.



Vigil for Immigration Reform

Friday, April 4

7:00 PM

Park Avenue UMC, located at

3400 Park Ave South in Minneapolis

You are invited to join with others to pray and intercede for immigration reform and reconciliation in our country, praying for all who have been and continue to be discriminated against because of race, nationality, religious beliefs, etc. This event is co-sponsored by Simpson Center for Servant Ministries, Amistad sin Fronteras of Park Avenue, La Puerta Abierta, and Peace and Hope International. For more information contact Jesus Purisaca Ruiz, jpurisaca001@luthersem.edu.

Church Calendar - April 2014

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
Tues 4/1	Administrative Board Meeting	6:30 PM	Wed. 4/16	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM
Wed. 4/2	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM		Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM		Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		No Confirmation or Youth Group	
	Meal/NE UMC	5:30 PM		Faith Praise Singers/Choir Rm	6:30 PM
	Confirmation/Youth Group	6:15 PM		ISLA/CR	7:00 PM
	Weds Lenten Worship/NE UMC	6:30 PM		Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:30 PM
	Choir/Sanctuary	7:30 PM		Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM	Thu. 4/17	Men's Work Group	9:00 AM
Thu. 4/3	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM		Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM		Meal/Faith UMC	6:00 PM
	Spanish Class/EB	6:30 PM		Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
Fri. 4/4	Planet Home School on break			Spanish Class/EB	6:30 PM
Sat. 4/5	ASP Garage Sale	9:00 AM		Maundy Thursday Service/WC	7:00 PM
Sun. 4/6	Faith Praise Singers/Choir Rm	8:45 AM	Fri. 4/18	Planet Home School/	8:45 AM
	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM		KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM		Good Friday Service	7:00 PM
	ASP Garage Sale	10:00 AM	Sat 4/19	NE Community Meal/NE UMC	6:00 PM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM	Sun. 4/20	Easter Services /WC	9:00 AM
	Children & Youth Christian Ed	10:30 AM		Easter Services/WC	10:30 AM
	Bradley Childbirth Class/115	4:00 PM		Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Simpson Meal/KI	4:00/6:00 PM	Mon. 4/21	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
Mon. 4/7	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM		Scouts/FH	7:00 PM
	Pack Activity/FH	6:30 PM	Tues. 4/22	Adult Ministry to Second Harvest	10:30 AM
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM		Finance Meeting/EB	7:00 PM
Tues 4/8	Outreach Meeting/EB	7:00 PM	Wed. 4/23	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM
Wed. 4/9	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 PM		Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM		Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		Meal/FH	5:45 PM
	Meal/Community UMC	5:30 PM		Youth Group/Community	6:15 PM
	Confirmation/Youth/Community	6:15 PM		Confirmation/Pizza Party/Community	
	Lenten Worship/Community	6:30 PM		Worship/WC	6:30 PM
	Faith Praise Singers/Choir Rm	6:30 PM		Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM
	Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:30 PM		Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM	Thu. 4/24	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
Thu. 4/10	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM		500 Cards/Commons	1:00 PM
	500 Cards/EB	1:00 PM		Round Robin/EB	6:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM		Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
	Spanish Class/EB	6:30 PM		Spanish Class/EB	6:30 PM
	Board of Trustees/CR	7:00 PM	Fri. 4/25	Planet Home School/	8:45 AM
Fri. 4/11	Planet Home School/	8:45 AM		KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	
	KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122		Sat 4/26	Confirmation Rehearsal/Breakfast	10:00 AM
	Girl Scouts/FH	5:30 PM	Sun. 4/27	Confirmation Sunday	
Sat 4/12	Men's Breakfast/Perkins	8:00 AM	Mon 4/28	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
	Scouting for Food Pickup/FH	10:00 AM		Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM
	Geanne Jepsen's 90th BD Party	2:00 PM	Wed 4/30	Mom's Club/115	9:45 AM
Sun. 4/13	ASP Bake Sale			Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM		Youth Group/Community	6:15 PM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM		Faith Praise Singers/Choir Rm	6:30 PM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM		Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM
	Children Christian Ed	10:30 AM		Handbells/217	7:30 PM
Mon. 4/14	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM			
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM			
Tues. 4/15	Communications Meeting/EB	6:30 PM			
	No SPRC Meeting.				

Bradley Childbirth Classes:

Sundays 4:00 - 6:00 PM
in Room 115
Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 PM
in the Nursery

Abbreviation Key:

CR = Conference Room
EB = Ebenezer Room
FH = Fellowship Hall,
KI = Kitchen
WC = Worship Center/Sanctuary

Classical Music Academy is held on most:

Mondays 7:00 - 9:00 PM in room 218
Tuesdays: 12:00 PM - 9:00 PM in rooms 116, 121, 218
Thursdays: 2:30 PM - 9:00 PM in rooms 116, 121