



Call of Faith

February, 2014 Edition

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

Telephone: 612-781-3167

Web: www.faithumchurch.com

Faith is Handicap Accessible

Email: Faith@faithumchurch.com

Church News

An All Church Meeting

will be held after worship on Sunday, February 9, 2014. Topics will include a review of the 2013 reports, election of leadership for 2014, adoption of the 2014 budget, and membership changes.



Please plan to attend!

NE Community Meal

Outreach team will be preparing and serving the N.E.



Community Meal on Saturday, Feb 15.

If you are able to help, sign-up is in the Commons.

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, March 17th at 3:00 PM

We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a presentation from Rev. Leigh about her trip to Ireland. Come to learn about the landscape, history, and spirituality that Leigh encountered during her sabbatical trip to Ireland.



New Look for Faith Website is Here

A new and improved look for Faith's website has been completed by the communications and marketing team with professional assistance from website designer, Tom Witt. Updated to be more succinct and attractive to those in the community looking for a church. The address remains faithumchurch.com. We hope you like the new layout and color scheme, pictures, and information pages!

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)
Organist	Marie Kuglin	
Treasurer	Rod Long	

In This Issue

Page

Christian Education	3
Church News	1
Church Calendar	6
Community Connections	5
For the Beauty of the Earth	4
Over the Coffee	2

Over the Coffee *by Rev. Leigh Brown*



There are many different ways that we define family. There is the family of our birth. Many people are raised in adopted families, the bonds of love every bit as strong as a birth family. Some people are raised in families that are not supportive, or have lost their family through death or estrangement. These folks often fashion a family of their choosing – after all, family is not about sharing the same DNA. Family is about love, vulnerability, acceptance, and commitment. And of course, the church is a family. Paul refers to the universal church as the Body of Christ. We are parts of the same whole.

We can get quite comfortable when we are with family. We know each other's eccentricities. We accept each other. We love each other. We get annoyed with each other. Occasionally we can get so comfortable that we forget about the commitment – the prayers, presence, gifts, service and sharing that come with being part of a family. All relationships require time and energy or they will fail. And so, if we begin to feel distant from God or from the church, the Spirit begins to nudge us once again.

Lately our church family has been growing. Or perhaps more descriptive, we are becoming a blended family. We have sister churches! Our three area United Methodist churches – Faith, Community and Northeast – have come together in ministry in a number of ways. We have joined for Lenten worship. We serve community meals together. We co-sponsored a picnic to raise awareness for Imagine No Malaria. Our middle school youth participated together in Servant Heart Ministry this past summer. And now, our confirmation class and our youth group have joined on Wednesday evenings.

This collaboration has required faith and flexibility. We are far more comfortable within our own walls. We know the space and the people. We know where things are and how to make things happen. It is easier to do something on our own than to collaborate – there is less coordination and need for compromise. But each church has shown great trust, openness and hospitality toward one another, something for which we can all be proud.

I believe the Holy Spirit has called us together as an extended family. The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, and so in truth all UM churches are an extended family. But our three churches are especially called to be connected to each other. Consider:

- We are in very close proximity to each other, serving the same community. Yet the diversity between our neighborhoods and our congregations is a great blessing. Each church has gifts that will benefit the others, and can learn from the people and ministry of the others. Together we are stronger and closer to God's vision of a multicultural church (see *Acts 2:1-13, Rev. 21:22-26*).
- We need each other – alone we do not have the population or the means to sustain meaningful youth and confirmation programs. As small neighborhood churches we face the same struggles and the same vulnerability: financial challenges, aging, fewer people to do mission and living in an increasingly secular world. Together we are able to do what we cannot do alone.
- Your clergy truly enjoy working together, and the theology of our pastors and congregations are quite compatible.

Your clergy and leadership are committed to each church maintaining its individual identity and goals while coming together in ways that make sense so that we may meet those goals. We are committed to each church having an equal voice in all decision making and collaboration. Our vision is not one of merger. It is one of three churches in collaborative ministry, serving each other and our community, and together ensuring the future of our churches.

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School

Sunday mornings, 10:30 am
Rooms 114-116



The elementary school children will be learning about the story of the house on the rock in Matthew 7:24-28, and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15) through games, art, science, and cooking. Every lesson is an adventure! We will learn to play a game called the Hard Times Rock and Roll, make splatter storm paintings (don't try this at home), and make salsa and chips to remind us of the Lord's Prayer.

All Children age 4 through grade 4 are welcome.

Middle School

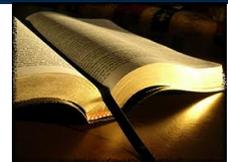
Sunday mornings, 10:30 am
Classes on February 2, 16, 23
On February 9—attending worship
Room 117

Youth in grades 5-8 will be learning three gospel stories: the woman anoints Jesus (a story of forgiveness), the transfiguration (a story about knowing Jesus), and Jesus healing Bartimaeus (a story of faith).

Our policy for middle school is to teach class when two or more students are present. If only one student is present, the teacher will invite that student to go upstairs and attend the worship service.

Adult Classes

Sunday mornings, 9:00 am



Adult Bible Study (Ebenezer Room):

The adult Bible study class is beginning a new series on January 19th that parallels Rev. Leigh's sermon series on the beatitudes (What did Jesus really say?). This eight-week study called *The Power of a Focused Heart* is written by Mary Lou Redding, managing editor of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide. The book features short chapters that can be read in fifteen minutes, and five exercises per week to help you apply the scripture to your life. You are welcome to join us for the entire eight weeks, or simply drop in on any Sunday at 9:00 AM and join in the discussion. Rev. Andy Keck (Director of Library Services at Luther Seminary and a United Methodist Deacon) will lead our discussions. If you would like a copy of the book, please call the church office or email Rev. Susan Mullin (smullin@faithumchurch.com).

Faith Forum (Fellowship Hall):

February 2 "Values: My Mamma Says", facilitated by Carroll Vance
February 9 TBD
February 16 "Fracking: Fact, Fiction and Fixes,". Guest speaker, Dr. Larry Wackett, U of M
February 23 "Happiness Is?", facilitated by Carroll Vance

What Are You Praying About? (Conference Room)

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

For the Beauty of the Earth *by Rev. Susan Mullin*



Engagement or Disengagement?

I have several friends and colleagues who have left the United Methodist Church because they can no longer abide the church's stance on homosexuality. (Currently, the UMC considers it "incompatible with Christian teachings" to conduct ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions or perform same-sex wedding ceremonies). On the other hand, there are many who are engaged in changing the United Methodist Church from the inside. Faith UMC has joined the Reconciling Movement which is working to reform the United Methodist stance on homosexuality. Reconciling churches and their pastors are taking courageous stands, sometimes leading to church trials and loss of ordained status. I don't think there is one "right" decision on whether to leave or stay – that is a decision each person must make for themselves, weighing the costs and possibilities of each option.

We are facing a similar issue as we wrestle with the implications of climate change. Fossil fuel companies have five times the reserves needed to "cook our goose" – in the words of one prominent investment strategist. If all of those reserves are tapped and burned, we will not be able to meet even modest goals to reduce the concentration of CO₂ in our atmosphere and, therefore, will not be able to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. On the other hand, we are not in a position to stop using fossil fuels immediately. As I write, the winds are howling outside while, thanks to natural gas, my house is a (relatively) toasty 64 degrees.

As a response to the threat of severe climate change from our use of fossil fuels, there is a growing movement advocating for divestment from fossil fuel companies. Many investment officers oppose this idea, saying that we should continue investing in fossil fuel companies because this allows us to engage them through investor resolutions. We could, for example, formulate resolutions to ask all companies how they will help us reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 (recommendation of the International Panel on Climate Change). We could ask companies to support national policy and legislation addressing climate change. And we could call on fossil fuel companies to study the implications of a carbon cap on their financial balance sheet. These are all approaches currently being tested by investors.

On the other hand, some folks are advocating that disengagement with the fossil fuel companies is a more effective approach. If the business of fossil fuel exploration, product development, sales and use is wrecking the planet, then is it morally acceptable to make a profit from this? Why not take our money out of fossil fuels, and re-invest in more kingdom-building kinds of commercial activities? The United Methodist Church already screens its investments to avoid any company that makes a significant percentage of its income from weapons, tobacco, alcohol, or pornography. If we refrain from profiting from the sale of alcohol, why not refrain from profits on fossil fuels?

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, said, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2). We are called not to conform to the world as we find it, but to be transformed both inwardly and outwardly. We are called to be the body of Christ for the world, exhibiting in our life together signs of the coming kingdom of God. What is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God in this instance? To be continued next month...

Community Connections

Hopeful Earth Event

Hopeful Earth is an event sponsored by the Church and Society Team of the MN Annual Conference to equip United Methodists for worship, faith formation, missions and sustainable church practices that place God's creation at the heart of our Christian life.

Featuring singer/songwriter Sara Thomsen and speaker John S. Hill, Director for Economic and Environmental Justice with the General Board of Church and Society, this event is a first step toward rallying a creation care movement within the Minnesota Annual Conference.

A group from Faith UMC will attend this event on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Richfield UMC. Get connected with other United Methodists who share a concern for creation. Talk to Rev. Susan Mullin if you would like to participate.



Metro West Builders Celebration and Dinner.



You are invited to celebrate with the Metro West Builders as they begin their 126th year. A dinner and program will be held at the newly constructed Walker Community United Methodist Church on February 23 from 4:00—6:00 pm.

Tours of the new building are scheduled at 3:30 and 6:00 pm. Rev. Judy Zabel, Twin Cities District Superintendent will be our speaker, focusing on "Building a New Day".

Cost is \$12 and may be paid at the dinner (cash or check preferred).

Reservation due by February 14 , call 612-615-6102 or go to the website: www.metrowestbuilders.org.

Growing Groceries

A collaboration of St. Anthony Citizens for Sustainability, Nativity Lutheran Church, and the University of Minnesota Master Gardeners.

Workshop I, Saturday Feb 8 from 3:00-5:00 at the Community Center, Room CS9 (Fee \$10)

Workshop II, Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, same location and fee.

Participants will learn how to create and design the garden that is right for you, as well as learning about soil preparation, how to cultivate and tend your garden, and how to protect your plants from weeds, insects, diseases, and harmful chemicals. Registration is through St. Anthony Community Services (612-706-1166)

Love Your Planet Comedy Night

"Love Your Planet Comedy Night" is a fundraiser for Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light featuring The Theater of Public Policy and J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director at Fresh Energy. This is sure to be both entertaining and informative! Saturday, February 15, 7:00 to 9:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 4201 Sheridan Ave. S., in Minneapolis. Reserve your tickets (\$20) at <http://mnipl.org>.

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Volunteers Needed

Please call Lisa Baker, 651-621-7450 if you can help with reception, data entry, etc.

Church Calendar - February 2014

Date	Event	Time
Sun. 2/2	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM
	Children & Youth Christian Ed	10:30 AM
	Pack Leaders meeting/FH	4:00 PM
Mon. 2/3	Pine Wood Derby Weigh-in/FH	6:30 PM
Tues 2/4	Administrative Council meeting	6:30 PM
Wed. 2/5	Pastoral Staff meeting/CR	10:30 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Meal/Fellowship Hall	5:45 PM
	Confirmation/Community UMC	6:15 PM
	Youth Group/Community UMC	6:15 PM
	Contemplative Worship/WC	6:30 PM
	Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM
Thu. 2/6	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
Fri. 2/7	Planet Home School/ KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	8:45 AM
	Pinewood Derby Impound/FH	6:30 PM
Sat. 2/8	Men's Breakfast/Perkins	8:00 AM
	Pinewood Derby/FH	11:30 AM
Sun. 2/9	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM
	Children Christian Ed	10:30 AM
	Youth attending worship	10:30 AM
All Church Meeting—after Worship		
Mon. 2/10	March information for Call of Faith due	
	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM
Tues 2/11	Adult Ministry/CR	4:00 PM
Wed. 2/12	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 PM
	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Meal/FH	5:45 PM
	Confirmation/Community UMC	6:15 PM
	Youth Group/Community UMC	6:15 PM
	Contemplative Worship/WC	6:30 PM
	Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM
Handbells/217	7:30 PM	
Thu. 2/13	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
	500 Cards/EB	1:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
Fri. 2/14	Planet Home School/ KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	8:45 AM
Sat 2/15	NE Community Meal Art & Soul	
Sun. 2/16	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM
	Children & Youth Christian Ed	10:30 AM

Date	Event	Time
Mon. 2/17	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM
Tues. 2/18	Communications Meeting/EB	6:30 PM
	SPRC meeting/CR	7:00 PM
Wed. 2/19	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM
	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Meal/FH	5:45 PM
	Confirmation/Faith UMC	6:15 PM
	Youth Group/Faith UMC	6:15 PM
Thu. 2/20	Contemplative Worship/WC	6:30 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Men's Work Group/CR	9:00 PM
Fri. 2/21	Lectionary Group	1 2:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
	Pack Leaders meeting/FH	7:30 PM
	Planet Home School/ KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	8:45 PM
Sun. 2/23	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM
	Children & Youth Christian Ed	10:30 AM
Mon. 2/24	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
	Scouts/EB	7:00 PM
	Outreach meeting/CR	7:00 PM
Tues. 2/25	Finance Meeting/CR	7:00 PM
Wed. 2/26	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM
	Mom's Club/115	9:45 AM
	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Meal/FH	5:45 PM
	Confirmation/Faith UMC	6:15 PM
	Youth Group/Faith UMC	6:15 PM
Contemplative Worship/WC	6:30 PM	
Thu. 2/27	Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
	500 Cards/EB	1:00 PM
Fri. 2/28	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
	Planet Home School/on break	
	Boy Scout Blue & Gold Banquet WC/FH	6:30 PM

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, 128
 Thursdays: 2:30 PM - 9:00 PM in rooms 116, 121

Bradley Childbirth Classes are held on most:

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

Abbreviation Key:

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