



# Call of Faith

Spring Edition 2017

Faith United Methodist Church  
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*Faith is Handicap Accessible*

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## About Lent and Easter 2017

“As we travel through Lent and Easter, we find ourselves on a journey of discovery of God’s presence throughout history and in our lives today.

“Lent is usually a somber season, denoted by the color purple – often referred to as an ‘I’m sorry’ color. Certainly, much of the mood of Lent is of growing sorrow, and growing awareness of the inevitability of Good Friday. Yet, interestingly, the scripture readings this season evoke a sense of light. There is an increasing sense that people become aware of new ways to see, new ways to understand, and that the light of Christ is growing around them. Consequently, part of this season will involve the growing of light throughout the season; the contrast then becomes all the richer when these lights are extinguished on Palm/Passion Sunday.

“In the Easter season, the light returns as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet there is an odd slowness to this – the Sunday after Easter we read of the disciples in hiding out of fear of the religious authorities, and of Thomas coming even more slowly to a realization that Christ is risen. We read of disciples travelling in uncertainty, only recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Yet the light does grow, the faith does grow, and the church does grow. Indeed, throughout this season we begin to capture a sense of the unstoppable nature of the Christian faith. While the authorities try to squelch it by killing Stephen, the light only shines brighter. Faith in the risen Christ is contagious!”

*Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Lent, Easter 2017*

<b>Worship Schedule</b>		
<b>Sundays:</b>	9:00 am	Adult classes
	10:00 am	Fellowship Time
	10:30 am	Worship Service/Nursery Available
	10:30 am	Kids Connect

**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.**

<b>Church Contacts</b>		
<b>Faith UMC Staff</b>		
Pastor	Rev. Diane M. Christianson	<a href="mailto:dchristianson@faithumchurch.com">dchristianson@faithumchurch.com</a>
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Deacon (under secondary appt.)	Rev. Andrew Keck	
Director of Music	Jo Halvorsen	<a href="mailto:joh@faithumchurch.com">joh@faithumchurch.com</a>
Organist	Marie Kuglin	
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# A Message from *Rev. Diane M. Christianson*

Dear Friends,

**2017 is our quasiquicentennial year.** We are celebrating 125 years as a congregation! The name of our congregation changed over the years from Second Swedish to Ebenezer to Faith, and the name of our denomination changed from Methodist Episcopal to Methodist to United Methodist, and we are a congregation that has thrived through all these changes.

Many events are part of our celebration this year:

- **January** pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sunday sermons now include photos and stories from the trip.
- **April 30** worship and luncheon with former pastors and their families. Invite family and former church members to this time of reconnection. Our Communications Team has placed pictures of Faith's former pastors on a display in the hallway between the church office and the music room.
- **October 15** worship with Bishop Bruce Ough preaching. We have one of the best bishops in United Methodism right here in Minnesota and we warmly welcome him among us in our quasiquicentennial year.
- One of our **November** worship services will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Faith Church. We became Faith Methodist Church in 1957, and in 1968, when the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) and Methodist Churches merged, we became Faith United Methodist Church.
- In **December**, we will celebrate the founding of our original congregation, Second Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, Minneapolis.

We have a great history. We are a congregation that has reached new people with the good news of Jesus Christ each time we moved to a new location. We are a church that offers avenues for both nurture of our congregation and outreach to our community and world. We celebrate the present and say "yes" to God's future.

It is a blessing to be in ministry with you!

*Pastor Diane Christianson*

## **The Way – Lenten Study with Pastor Diane**

*The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Rev. Adam Hamilton focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus. We will travel to the Holy Land via DVD and experience fresh encounters with scripture through a discussion format. The study book is available in regular print (\$10) and large print (\$13). Please don't let finances keep you away; contact Pastor Diane for a Scholarship. There are two ways to participate!

- 1) Join this study with the Mary Martha women's group every Wednesday from 9:00-10:30 am March 1-April 5, Ebenezer Room.
- 2) Come to the evening study group every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm March 2-April 6, Ebenezer Room.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Locations via DVD</b>
1	Introduction: Baptism & Temptation	Jordan River & the Wilderness
2	The Healing Ministry	Capernaum
3	Proclaiming the Kingdom	The Mountains
4	Calming the Storm	The Sea of Galilee
5	Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor	Samaria
6	The Final Week	Jerusalem

# Lenten/Easter Season Schedule

## Lenten Worship – Wednesdays

### **Ash Wednesday, March 1**

- 12 noon Short worship service including imposition of ashes
- 5:45 pm Supper
- 6:30 pm Worship Service including imposition of ashes; Choir sings

### **Other Wednesdays in Lent**

#### **Schedule is 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:15-7:00 pm Worship**

We join our neighbors at:

Northeast UMC, 2510 Cleveland Street NE, Minneapolis, &  
Community UMC, 950 Gould Avenue NE, Columbia Heights

Our focus this year is "Living Christianity: Being Christian."

We will explore ways to deepen our relationship with God by practicing our faith in everyday life.

#### March 8 @ Faith "Saying Yes and Saying No"

If we want to say yes to God and life abundant, we must also say a related no to other things. Who are we, and who shall we become?

#### March 15 @ NE "Household Economics"

Thinking about our own households leads us to think about the importance of our economic practices to the well-being of all who share this planet that is our home.

#### March 22 @ Faith "Hospitality"

How can our lives be patterned to provide a place of rest for one another and a welcome for those we don't know?

#### March 29 @ NE "Dying Well"

We are shaped in lament, hope, judgment, and mercy, not only in our last hours, but as we respond to the reality of human mortality through all the years of our lives.

#### April 5 @ Community "Singing our Lives: Shaping Communities"

Singing is the practice in which our very breath sounds the truths of our lives and responds with beautiful music to the active presence of God. We'll look at how singing shapes communities that are structured to permit the just and full participation of all.

## Lenten Worship – Holy Week

### **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9**

- 10:30 am Worship Hear the stories of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his suffering on the cross.

### **Holy Thursday, April 13**

- 7:00 pm A service of Holy Communion

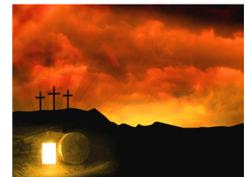
### **Good Friday, April 14**

- 7:00 pm A service of Tenebrae (Darkness); Choir sings

## Easter

### **April 16**

- 9:00 am Easter Sunday Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship



## **Colors of Grace: Lessons for Lent**

Sunday March 5 during the church service



Come and hear Jesus' greatest lessons of His ministry: service, obedience, humility and forgiveness.

In the suffering of Holy Week, we find joy. In its darkness, see light. "For Light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

This is the power of Christ's grace and the source of great joy.

The Easter Season concludes with the celebration of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

## Church News (continued)

### Anti-Racism Initiative

“Surely we aren’t blind, are we?” – John 9:40

One of our texts during Lent is the story of a man who was blind from birth. Jesus spits on the ground and takes this dirt/saliva mixture and smears it on the man’s eyes and tells him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man does this and then he sees. On one level, this is a miracle story of physical healing. On another level, it brings up questions of sight versus blindness. Some of the Pharisees engaged in discussion about this incident end up asking the question, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?”

In what ways are we blind to what is happening in our communities? The deaths of black men at the hands of the police in recent years have caught our attention: Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Jamar Clark, Philando Castile. How do we learn to “see” racism at work in our culture and in the structure and organization of our communities? How do we respond? What is the role of the church?

In December 2016, Faith was notified that we are the recipient of an “Investing in Congregations Grant” of \$2,500 from the Minnesota Annual Conference. This grant will allow us to host a ½ day workshop this spring and a ten-week Anti-Racism Study Dialogue Circle in the fall.

- The half-day workshop on “Discerning Whiteness” will be held on Saturday morning, April 8 from 8:00-12:30. This workshop is designed to help us see the pervasiveness of racialized assumptions, expectations, images, values, and beliefs in our culture and how these socially-constructed identities shape our sense of reality.
- The ten week Anti-racism Study Dialogue Circle (ASDIC) will offer a way to better understand the ways race and racism operate in our lives. The goal for those who participate in the study circle is that they will attain a greater clarity of thinking, strength of relationship, and effectiveness of action in addressing systemic racism. The study dialogue circle will be held on Saturday mornings from 8:00-12:30, September 9 through November 11. Participants are asked to commit to attending all ten sessions.

Many people in St. Anthony Village are hungering and thirsting for the opportunity to engage in dialogue around racism. Please invite your friends, colleagues, and neighbors to participate with you in these events. We also need volunteers to help prepare and serve breakfast (eleven Saturdays!) and to provide child care if needed. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Rev. Susan.



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> at the Welcome Center. Deadline for submitting applications is May 1<sup>st</sup> and awards will be announced on June 1<sup>st</sup>.



### Art & Soul

The next Art & Soul gathering is on Saturday March 25, 2017 from 1:00-5:00 pm for Open Crafting.



# Church News (continued)

## Eco Kids Camp News



Eco-Kids Camp will take place August 7-11, 9:00-4:00 Monday through Thursday, and a half day on Friday. This camp is for all children entering grades 3-6 and will be held at our sister church, Northeast UMC. Information and registration forms are available on our website: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com).

The theme for camp this year is Trees Please! We will be exploring the amazing life of trees through field trips, hands-on science, and the arts. The cost is \$75 per camper. Full or partial scholarships are available.

You can help by inviting families that you know, especially families in the St. Anthony/New Brighton/Northeast Minneapolis/Columbia Heights area. We will also need youth and adult volunteers to lead activities, serve as camp counselors, take photos and/or video, and help with various tasks at camp.

**If you would like to volunteer for camp, please attend one of two orientation/planning meetings. These meetings will be held at Northeast UMC (2510 Cleveland St NE) on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 pm and Monday, March 13 at 7:00 pm.**

We will talk about the theme of camp, review of best practices for managing the classroom, and make plans for the content of camp sessions. Please come! This is a great way to get to know some of the children and the families in our community, help create the world we want to see, and learn something new about trees.

## Outreach Committee Plant Sale

Once again, the Outreach Committee will have a plant sale to make your deck and gardens beautiful and to support RECLAIM. You can place your orders for annuals, hanging planters and pre-planted pots on May 7 and 14. Plants can be picked up at church on Sunday, May 21. This is a great way to get quality plants and support RECLAIM, an organization that works with queer and transgender youth and families. Watch for more information in the bulletin or you can contact Judy Jerde (651-426-0156 or [jaj@hopefultravelers.net](mailto:jaj@hopefultravelers.net))



## March is Minnesota FoodShare Month.

Faith UMC is collecting food items, hygiene products, and monetary donations throughout the month of March for the Salvation Army NEED and Ralph Reeder food shelves. A portion of all donations received is matched by Minnesota Foodshare. Please use a pew envelope for your monetary donation and mark it Foodshare. Donations need to be in the church office by Sunday, March 26. Checks payable to Faith UMC.

Food items and hygiene products can be placed in the brown box inside the parking lot door.



# Extend and Serve



## NE Community Meal

Outreach team will be preparing and serving the N.E. Community Meal on Saturday March 18, Saturday April 15 and Saturday May 20. If you are able to help, sign-up is in the Commons each month.

## Simpson Shelter Meal

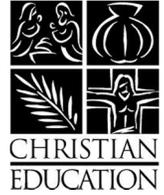
Faith's next evening meal service at Simpson Shelter is Sunday, April 9. Please gather to help cook at 3:00 p.m. We will leave Faith at 6 p.m. to serve the meal at 7:00 p.m. We usually return to Faith by 8:30 p.m. It is a wonderful way to serve others. If you have questions or want to help please call Pete or Amy Neuswanger at 651 635 0576 or email at [paneuswanger@gmail.com](mailto:paneuswanger@gmail.com).



# Christian Education

## Kids Connect

Our curriculum this year is called “Seasons of the Spirit Fusion.” Fusion is a good description, because we are fusing worship and Kids Connect—we study the same Bible passage in worship and in our classes downstairs. Here are some suggestions for Lent from our Seasons of the Spirit curriculum:



**Lenten Stones:** During Lent, we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, and we also take our own journey of faith. Many people pick up stones when they travel to remember the places they have been. As a family, decorate some small stones and place them in a pattern (a line or a spiral or some other shape) to remind yourselves of the journey of Lent.

**Lenten Offering Box:** Make a slot in the top of a box or container. Decorate it any way you like, perhaps using scraps of tissue paper and painting them on with diluted glue. Think about giving up something for Lent – something that costs money (like going out to eat, going to a movie, or special treats). Then each week put the money that you save into the container. At the end of Lent, donate the money to a project or cause of your choice.

**Lenten Blessing:** Light a candle during your mealtimes in Lent. At the end of the meal, one person can extinguish the candle, and say “The light has not gone, the light continues on, lit in our hearts by God’s love.” Take turns giving the blessing each time you eat together.

## Faith Forum

Sunday Mornings

9:00-10:00 am in the Ebenezer Room

March 05 –

Save the Boundary Waters, Chris Donato

March 12 –

Lent and Easter Quiz!

March 19 –

Holy Land Trip. Pastor Diane Christianson and others

## What are you Praying About?

Sunday Mornings

9:00-10:00 am in the Conference Room

Bring your coffee and share what you are praying about. We discuss a variety of topics as determined by the group. It’s a great way to get to know other people from Faith church in a casual setting.

## Adult Bible Study during Lent

The Sunday morning Bible Study will embark on a journey of faith throughout Lent with the help of seven gifted and unique 21<sup>st</sup> century theologians (on DVD), including Brian McLaren, Lillian Daniel, and Nadia Bolz-Weber. We will be digging into questions that many of us have about faith and spirituality:

- Who is God?
- How can we claim our religious tradition in the midst of a general distrust of organized religion?
- What did Jesus have to say about salvation?
- How do we live with scripture?
- What was Jesus up to?
- What does the cross mean?
- What does it mean to be the church?

You probably learned some answers to these questions when you were confirmed, but confirmation is not meant to be the end of our questioning! Come join the conversation and deepen your understanding and commitment to the work of Jesus during this Lenten season.

Stop in anytime: You are welcome to drop in for any of these study sessions. You do not have to bring a book or read anything in advance.

# Community Connections

## MN Reconciling Congregations Annual Social Gathering



### Gather with other Reconciling United Methodists

Please join Minnesota Reconciling United Methodists at Spirit of Hope UMC, 7600 Harold Ave, Golden Valley, MN on Saturday, March 4 for the Reconciling Congregations Annual Social Gathering. Gather at 11:30 for social time; enjoy potluck lunch at noon (please bring a dish to share). After lunch at 12:45, we will gather in the sanctuary to hear Retired Bishop Melvin Talbert who will explain the Call for Biblical Obedience as we work together to make the United Methodist Church fully inclusive for the LGBTQ community. Bishop Talbert is a strong advocate for social justice that began in the civil rights era with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If you can't attend for the entire event, join us for the program!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Commons where you can indicate if you plan to attend and if you would like to car-pool to Spirit of Hope. If you have questions, please contact Judy Jerde ([651-426-0156](tel:651-426-0156) or [jaj@hopefultravelers.net](mailto:jaj@hopefultravelers.net))

## Emma Norton Services 2017 Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Partners Along the Journey of Change

Monday, April 10, 2017; 5:30 am—8:00 pm  
Minneapolis Marriot Northeast  
7025 Northland Drive North  
Brooklyn Park, MN

Join Emma Norton Services as we celebrate our 100th anniversary and our lifelong partnership with the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. The evening includes a silent auction and dinner featuring Minnesota Conference Bishop Bruce Ough and the National United Methodist Women immediate past President Yvette Richards.

You must register to attend. Register at <https://2017annualdinner.eventbrite.com>  
Cost is \$50/individual and \$500/table



## Women of Song

will present their spring concerts on Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. in Watertown, MN and on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. (location to be announced). Please watch the Sunday bulletins for more details; or, see Carla Erpelding, a member of our congregation who sings in this group.



## One Voice Concert

OneVoice concert will include poetry by RECLAIM clients One Voice, the largest LGBTQ and allies chorus in the US, will perform on Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 at the Ordway.

The concert, "Well-Versed", is a celebration of LGBTQ youth with an evening of choral music, strings and poetry with New York's hottest string quartet, Well-Strung. Inspired by the poetry of local LGBTQ youth, Well-Versed also features the premiere of a four-movement composition for One Voice and Well-Strung.

Youth poets from RECLAIM, are featured as spoken word artists. Tickets can be purchased at the Ordway website.

# Church Calendar - March 2017

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time	
Wed 3/1	Mary Martha/EB	9:00 AM	Thu 3/16	Men's Work Group	9:00 AM	
	Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 AM		Lectionary /CR	12:00 PM	
	Ash Wednesday Service/Comm	12:00 PM		Lenten Study Group/EB	6:30 PM	
	Covenant Discipleship/CR	2:00 PM		Fri 3/17	Planet Home School/ Downstairs	8:45 AM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM			Sat 3/18	Women's Breakfast at Perkins
	Meal at Faith/FH	5:45 PM		NE Community Meal		6:00 PM
	Ash Wednesday Service/WC	6:30 PM		Sun 3/19	Third Sunday in Lent	
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM			Adult Faith Formation Classes	9:00 AM
	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM			Fellowship Time	10:00 AM
	Thu 3/2	Lectionary/CR			12:00 PM	Worship Service/WC
Lenten Study Group/EB		6:30 PM	Kids Connect		10:30 AM	
Fri 3/3	Planet Home School/Downstairs	8:45 AM	Square & Twirl			
Sat 3/4	Cub Scouts Build it Day /FH	9:00 AM	Square Dancing/FH	4:00 PM		
Sun 3/5	First Sunday in Lent		Mon 3/20	Cub Scouts 115	6:30 PM	
	Choir Cantata-Colors of Grace			Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM	
	Adult Faith Formation Classes	9:00 AM	Tue 3/21	SPRC/EB	6:30 PM	
	Fellowship Time	10:00 AM		Wed 3/22	Mary Martha/EB	9:00 AM
	Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting		10:30 AM	
	Kids Connect	10:30 AM	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		
	Mon 3/6	Cub Scouts 114-117	6:30 PM	Meal at Faith	5:30 PM	
		Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM	Lenten Service at Faith	6:15 PM	
	Wed 3/8	Mary Martha/EB	9:00 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM	
		Staff Meeting/CR	10:30 PM	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM	
Organist Rehearsal/WC		4:00 PM	Thu 3/23	Lectionary /CR	12:00 PM	
Outreach meeting		5:00 PM		Lenten Study Group/EB	6:30 PM	
Meal at Faith/FH		5:30 PM	Pinewood Derby Weight Check and Early Impoundment /FH	8:00 PM		
Lenten Service at Faith	6:15 PM	Fri 3/24	Planet Home School/Downstairs	8:45 AM		
Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM		Pinewood Derby/FH			
Thu 3/9	Lectionary Group/CR	12:00 PM	Sat 3/25	Pinewood Derby/FH	9:00 AM	
Lenten Study Group/EB	6:30 PM	Art & Soul		1:00 PM		
Fri 3/10	Planet Home School/Downstairs	8:45 AM	Sun 3/26	Fourth Sunday in Lent		
Sat 3/11	Men's Breakfast/Perkins	8:00 AM		One Great Hour of Sharing-UMCOR Sunday		
Sun 3/12	Second Sunday in Lent			Adult Faith Formation Classes	9:00 AM	
	Adult Groups	9:00 AM		Fellowship Time	10:00 AM	
	Fellowship Time	10:00 AM		Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM	
	Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM	Kids Connect	10:30 AM		
	Kids Connect	10:30 AM	Mon 3/26	Cub Scouts 115	6:30 PM	
Mon 3/13	Cub Scouts 114-117	6:30 PM		Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM	
Tues 3/14	Communications/CR	6:30 PM	Tues 3/27	Finance/CR	7:00 PM	
Wed 3/15	Mary Martha/EB	9:00 AM	Wed 3/29	Mary Martha/EB	9:00 AM	
	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM		Mom's Club/114-115	9:45 AM	
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM		
	Meal at NE	5:30 PM	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		
	Lenten Service at NE	6:15 PM	Meal at NE	5:30 PM		
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM	Lenten Service at NE	6:15 PM		
	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM		
			Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM		
			Thu 3/30	Lectionary /CR	12:00 PM	
				Lenten Study Group/EB	6:30 PM	
		Fri 3/31	Planet Home School/Downstairs	8:45 AM		

**Classical Music Academy— Spring Schedule:**  
 Mondays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Instructor: Alex) Room 218  
 Tuesdays 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Instructor: Alex) Room 218  
 Tuesdays 2:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Instructors: Tina, Dz) 116, 121  
 Thursdays 3:30 PM - 9:00 PM (Instructor: Tina) 116, 121

**Childbirth Education (Sarah Beth Seguin):**  
 Sunday 2:00 - 4:00 PM, in the Nursery

Abbreviation Key:  
 CR = Conference Room; EB = Ebenezer Room  
 FH = Fellowship Hall, KI = Kitchen  
 WC = Worship Center (Sanctuary)