



Call of Faith

May, 2014 Edition

Faith United Methodist Church
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Church News

Love Offering

Each year in May, a Love Offering is collected and brought to the Minnesota Annual Conference. The offering benefits international, national, and local mission projects, and helps fund Volunteer in Missions scholarships. This year's love offering will be split as follows:

- 80% Feed My Starving Children
- 10% Project AgGrad
- 10% Volunteers in Mission scholarships



The Love Offering will be collected during the first three weeks in May. Deadline for donations is May 18.

Please come prepared to give generously.

Music Sunday
May 11, 2014
10:30 am

*"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations."*

Come and celebrate with Faith's music groups as we worship with song.

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
Minister of Faith Formation & Community Outreach	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*



Early in Holy Week I received a call that one of our youth, Nicola, would like to bring a lamb to worship on Easter morning. Her family, through friends, has access to lambs and other furry/feathery sorts. I gave an enthusiastic “Yes – if approved” and called our Worship Team chair to check in with her. With her blessing it was settled. Lamb visiting for Easter!!!

Amidst the occasional smile and anticipatory “baaing” noises I was making around the office (try it, it’s fun!) I had two things to consider. One, will the lamb poop in the Sanctuary? Nothing I could do about that, so on to the second consideration – the children’s Easter message with regard to the visiting lamb. To understand this factor, one must be mindful of how the lamb became an Easter symbol. Unlike the bunny, the lamb is rooted in the history of our faith. Jesus is called the “the Lamb of God” in the Gospel of John, and the idea that Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins according to God’s will is long ingrained in the Christian tradition. This view of the atonement (that which reconciles us to God) is known as the “substitutionary” or “penal” theory.

The image of Jesus as a sacrificial lamb perhaps made sense within the ancient understanding of how God’s forgiveness and reconciliation was obtained. The sacrificial system was at the center of Jewish religious life in Biblical times. At Passover, each family was expected to offer a sacrifice (*korban*). Poor Jews offered pigeons or doves. Those with means offered a lamb or a goat – not a sick animal, but one “without blemish.” On the eve of Passover, a “Passover Lamb” was offered by the priests, and that animal was served at the Passover meal. Passover was not a good time to be a lamb!

Jews (and early Christians) continued to offer animal sacrifices to God until the destruction of the second temple in 70 CE. At that time animal sacrifice ended, as the two were tied to one another – sacrifice could only be made at the temple. In light of the sacrificial system that had endured for so long, early Christians came to understand Jesus’ suffering to be – rather than a *consequence* of Jesus’ obedience to God’s will – God’s will *itself*.

Thus by the time John’s gospel was written, Jesus became “the Lamb of God.” This title is also used in Christian prayers such as the *Agnus Dei*. In the remembrance of the Last Supper on Maundy (or Holy) Thursday, and in the sacrament of Holy Communion, is our Christian correlation to the Passover. But how exactly does Jesus’ crucifixion reconcile us to God? How do we relate to a God that requires such a sacrifice?

Many religious scholars and clergy believe in the literal resurrection of Christ (I am one of these) and many believe in a symbolic resurrection. Clergy and scholars also embrace differing views of the atonement on the cross. Believing in a literal resurrection is not the same as embracing the “substitutionary” theory of atonement. I will share with you what I believe and teach: Jesus (as God incarnate) chose to follow God’s will always; teaching us what the kingdom of God is like and how we ought to live by his example of love, forgiveness, justice and service. The crucifixion was the consequence of his devotion to that purpose — and he knew it would be. Jesus was killed not by God but by the Roman authorities, because he was a threat to the dominant world order and to the emperor of Rome. *Human* will prevailed in Jesus’ death. *God’s* will prevailed in his resurrection. The resurrection is God’s affirmation of Jesus’ teaching on the kingdom of God, and God’s rejection of the powers of the world that executed him. The resurrection is the manifestation of how God’s goodness will ultimately triumph over evil, and of God’s ability and propensity to bring goodness out of calamity. The resurrection is the assurance of new life and eternal life. These truths are for me consistent with the God of love that Jesus showed us in his very life, while the idea of a God that requires the death of an innocent in order to forgive is not. (I welcome and encourage any conversation or questions – this topic is, after all, at the heart of our faith.)

So as I considered the lamb as a symbol of Easter this year, I thought of God’s willingness to become vulnerable through the incarnation, of the purity of Jesus, of Jesus becoming one with us (his “flock”), and of Jesus’ charge that if we love him we will “feed his sheep.” I thought of the promise of Easter — Jesus is alive and brings to us new life and new possibilities! Now that will preach. It’s good news for children, youth, adults and lambs alike. And lambs are *always* welcome at Faith Church! Especially if they don’t poop in the Sanctuary.

Church News

Senior Adult Ministry Minneapolis Institute of Arts Thursday, May 15, leaving Faith UMC at 12:30 PM

Join us for a trip to the Sacred Arts Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on Thursday, May 15th. We will leave church at 12:30 and carpool to the museum. In this exhibition, simply titled "Sacred," curators have assembled art from every corner of the world. Each of the ten galleries in the exhibition features an installation or "mini-show" designed around different themes or narratives inspired by the word "sacred." In this exhibit, you can explore historical and contemporary expressions of the divine, the spiritual, the essential, and the beloved while reflecting on the meaning of the word "sacred." What does it mean to you? There is no charge for this exhibit. We will return to church around 3:00 PM. All are welcome. You don't need to be a senior to join us on this trip!



Eco-Kids Summer Day Camp For children entering 3-5th grade

Dates: Monday-Friday, August 4-8
Times: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Cost: \$50, with scholarships available.

We are excited to be offering a summer camp that will give upper elementary school children the opportunity for hands-on exploration of our local environment and how to be good stewards of God's creation. Daily themes will include water, animals, food, climate, and the four R's (Reduce, reuse, recycle, rejoice). We will take field trips to local areas of interest, and will be learning with all of our senses through science, art, games, cooking, and plenty of time to be outside. This camp is a collaboration of the Northeast Area United Methodist Churches and will be held at Northeast UMC, 2510 Cleveland Street NE. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this opportunity. Talk to Rev. Susan Mullin (612-781-3167) if you would like more information or would like to volunteer to assist with the camp.



Wednesday Evenings at Faith

Cynthia Bourgeault says, "in essence, contemplative prayer is simply a wordless, trusting opening of self to the divine presence." On Wednesday evenings, we gather at 6:30 for songs, readings, and a time of wordless silence when we can experience the divine presence within us and among us.

Come for dinner at 5:45, followed by the worship service from 6:30-7:00 on May 7, 14, and 21.

—Susan Mullin



Summer Worship Schedule Begins

May 25

Worship: 9:30 am
Fellowship: 10:30 am

Church Directory Updates

Have you moved, changed a phone number, added an e-mail address, had a name change or addition to the family? During June/July the Church office staff will be updating our Church Directory and we would like to include all the latest information. Please notify us of any changes or additions for the directory by calling 612-781-3167 or e-mailing faith@faithumchurch.com.

Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference

By Susan Mullin

The Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference meets every year to worship and enjoy fellowship; receive reports, adopt goals and programs; determine budgets; take stands on key issues; ordain clergy; and receive the bishop's appointment of ordained ministers. Those representing Faith UMC include Rev. Leigh Brown, Rev. Susan Mullin, and Rev. Andy Keck (clergy delegates), and Michele Dexter (lay delegate). The 2014 Session will meet from May 28-30 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. There are a couple of ways that you can get involved:

Renowned speaker and well-known author Adam Hamilton will lead three 90-minute teaching sessions this year—and Minnesota United Methodists are welcome to come to St. Cloud for one or all three. Please contact Susan Mullin for information on how to register.

Can't make it to St. Cloud? Not to worry. This year, for the first time, many events from annual conference session will be live streamed—meaning that you can watch them on your computer from anywhere that has an Internet connection. Visit the Minnesota UMC website (<https://minnesotaumc.org/>) during annual conference for a link to live streaming. Events that will be live streamed include all three of Adam Hamilton's teaching sessions, worship services, and plenary sessions (including Bishop Ough's episcopal address).

REMINDER!

Sunday Sermons

Available on our website:

www.faithumchurch.com

Under website tabs:

Worship & Music, and then Sermons



Calling All Recent Graduates!



We would like to acknowledge all graduates during our Sunday, June 1 worship service and reception following in the Commons. To do so, we would like the names of everyone who has graduated from any high school, college, degree program, certification process, or trade school since July 1, 2013.

Please call the church office 612-781-3167 or email faith@faithumchurch.com by May 25, 2014.

We need the graduate's:

- Full name
- Where he/she is graduating from
- Degree received

ART & SOUL HAPPENINGS

JUNE – the date, time and name are going to change! We are arranging for an artist to come in and teach us how to paint a picture. We will all do the same picture and it is a lot of fun. However, we need to know **ASAP** if you want to participate. The preferred date is the evening of **Friday, June 20th**, but Friday night, June 13th and Saturday afternoon, June 14th are options as well. The cost is \$35 and must be paid in advance. Contact Denise Wells at 612.706.9644 or at thetruffelady@msn.com with questions. See our display in the lobby!

May 17th – we will have a regular craft day from 9 - 5, but we will have our very own Teresa Perkins present flower arranging. Bring a vase, scissors and a bouquet of flowers. The time is TBD (dependent upon Teresa's work schedule), but either late morning or late afternoon.

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



In celebration of Earth Day, I participated in a rally for clean energy and jobs at the state capitol. One of the speakers was Rev. Peg Chamberlin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches and President of the National Council of Churches. She reminded us that we are all one; one humanity, one earth. What affects our brothers and sisters around the globe affects us. Armed conflicts, food shortages, and weather-related disasters are not isolated events – they set off a chain of reactions and consequences for all of us.

You have probably seen the bumper sticker slogan – thing globally, act locally. Climate change is something that affects all of us, and yet it is something that we must address at the local level. In our homes and our communities, we make decisions about how to generate and use energy. Our collective decisions have an enormous impact on the health of our planet.

The rally at the capitol was in support of the Clean Energy and Jobs Campaign in Minnesota. This campaign supports policies that increase our state's renewable energy standard to 40 percent (renewable energy) by 2030, increase the use of solar energy in Minnesota and the creation of local jobs in the solar industry, provide incentives to promote and increase energy efficiency, and remove barriers to producing local power.

At our Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference in May, we will be voting on legislation that I authored, encouraging all of our congregations to calculate their carbon footprint and work to reduce that footprint 10% by 2016. Our trustees at Faith UMC historically have been very pro-active in looking at ways to reduce our energy use as a means of saving money while protecting the earth. That might make it more difficult for us to reduce our carbon footprint by ten percent. Still – I would love to see us take up this challenge!

The Earth Day rally ended with a prayer circle on the steps of our beautiful Capitol building. We had representatives of different faith traditions leading us in prayer and song. I'll leave you with this image: A circle of people young and old, from many faith traditions, singing these words from Psalm 133:

Hine(y) ma tov u'ma-nayim

Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"

Outreach

NE Community Meal



Outreach team will be preparing and serving the N.E. Community Meal on Saturday,

May 17. If you are able to help, sign-up is in the Commons.

Fidgety Fairy Tales

The Mental Health Musical

Saturday, May 10 at 5:00 PM

Northeast United Methodist Church

Sponsored by the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health, this family-friendly performance features new takes on "The Emperor's New Clothes" (brain damage), "The Little Match Girl" (autism) and "The Snow Queen" (depression). The performance is free, but reservations are suggested. Contact www.macmh.org/fidgety-fairy-tales. Northeast UMC invites attendees to stay for a free community meal following the performance.

RECLAIM FLOWER SALE

Pre-orders taken May 4 through May 11

Sunday May 18th

8:45 - 12:0

Choose from vibrantly colored geraniums, impatiens, and begonias to be planted in your garden or patio pots!



Each plant will be only \$6.00 on Sunday but if you preorder you can save money and have a much better selection, enabling you to get just what you want.

Preorders include hanging baskets, 14" patio pots, and a wide choice of potting plants and herbs. Pick up and return your order forms and checks on the outreach table in the commons area.

Proceeds from this sale help support RECLAIM.

RECLAIM aims to bring mental health support directly to the most vulnerable LGBTQ youth (ages 13-25) where and when they need it, reducing barriers related to finances, transportation, and scheduling.

"The support I get from RECLAIM encompasses so much more than counseling and community, but allows me to see the connections for myself between my physical, emotional, and mental well being. I'm finding that the ways I walk through the world can create stress in more ways than I am even aware of sometimes. It's incredibly empowering to recognize these stressors through a healing process, and to be offered skills that help me to cope and to care for myself."
current client

"I wouldn't be alive today without RECLAIM. It's what gave me a foundation of mental health support that allowed me to be successful on my own terms. Being a part of this community feeds my sense of purpose, of family, and of belonging."
- Former client and current volunteer group facilitator

Community Connections

The Wayzata Women's Chorus will be presenting its 28th Annual Spring Concert "Celebrate Spring" on Saturday, May 17th, at Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue N.E., St Anthony, MN at 7:00 p.m. The show will feature a variety of sacred and secular music.

On Monday, May 19th, there will be a repeat performance of the concert at St Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community, 630 E Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata, MN at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 and \$10 for students and seniors 65+. You can purchase tickets by calling Carla Erpelding at 612/788-6862 or at the door. We hope you can join us! Happy Spring!



Nicaragua Service/Learning Trip Welcomes the Whole Family July 6-18, 2014, Cost: \$1,450 plus airfare

Interfaith Service to Latin America (ISLA) is a nonprofit organization that has been taking teams to Central America and operating medical, construction and education programs since 1993. Many members and friends of Faith UMC are involved in this organization. The trip in July is designed as a family-friendly sampler of ISLA's public school and public health programs in Jalapa, Nicaragua. Participants from all backgrounds will get a range of experiences working and learning in different community settings, especially with children and youth. Lodging is at a family-run hotel with a built-in playground area that feels much like a north woods resort. For more information, visit the ISLA website at www.isla.cc or contact Jon Kerr at jon@isla.cc or 612-819-8877.

Mission Trip: Hurricane Sandy Relief August 9-17, Cost: \$250



The Minnesota Annual Conference is returning to New Jersey this summer to continue Hurricane Sandy relief work. Anyone 14 or older at the time of the trip is welcome to join the trip. The group will depart on Saturday, August 9, from somewhere in the Twin Cities (more information will be available to participants as the trip nears).

The group will travel by van (adults 25 and older are asked to drive if they are comfortable) to New Jersey. There will be an overnight somewhere in Ohio on the way out and probably one in Indiana or Chicago on the way back. The group will also take the ferry over to New York City for part of a day.

Projects that members of the group will take on may include electrical work, installing drywall, painting, and various other tasks as requested based on the collective skill levels of participants. This is an amazing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus while helping people rebuild their lives and their homes. The goal is to take 60 people on the trip. Those who went on last year's Sandy relief mission trip loved their experience and returned home changed because of it. Don't miss out!

Register by July 20th at: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1598045/Sandy-Mission-Trip-2014>

Community Connections cont.

Sacred Journey: Engaging Dakota Stories

You are invited to participate in this one day workshop on Saturday, May 10, 8:30 am—3:00 pm, at the Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55417. The cost is \$30 and lunch will be provided. The workshop is open to all lay and clergy of all ages.

At the 2013 Annual Conference, Bishop Ough and the Native American Ministry Team (NAMAT), invited us to journey with the Indigenous communities of Minnesota toward a future Act of Repentance. As part of this journey, you are invited to learn new stories with members of The St. Paul Interfaith Network's "Healing Minnesota Stories" team, as we visit three Dakota sacred sites: Mini Owe Sini (Coldwater Spring), Wokiksuye K'a Woyuonihan Marker at the Deportation Site after the Dakota-US War (1863), and Oheyawahi (Pilot Knob).

Come and take new steps with others as part of the Minnesota United Methodist journey toward repentance. This event is sponsored by NAMAT and lunch is included in the workshop. If interested please contact Gary Walpole (651-387-4095) or email him at: gary@peaceumc.com.

Christian Education

Christian Education Sunday



On Sunday, May 4th we will celebrate a year of learning and growing in faith. Our children will be helping with the worship service, and we will recognize the people who have volunteered their time by serving as teachers, assistant teachers, or leaders of our education classes for children, youth, and adults.



Elementary Sunday School

The children will be singing in worship on Sunday, May 4th for Christian Education Sunday. We will also be reading a children's book during worship – *Jonah and the Two Great Fish*. Please bring your children to worship on this special day. We are expecting real live children who wiggle and giggle, talk when we are quiet, and even whine or cry from time to time! On May 11 and 18, the children will be in Sunday school, exploring the story of Queen Esther by making king and queen action figures to tell the story, and by cooking up some crown cookies.



Middle School

Middle school students will be in worship on May 4 for Christian Education Sunday. On May 11th and 18th, the students will be learning about church. They will learn about the Great Commission and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

And they will learn the importance of sharing and equality in Christian communities.

Church Calendar - May 2014

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
Thu. 5/1	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM	Sat. 5/17	Art & Soul	9:00 AM
	Cub Dens/114, 115, 116	6:30 PM		Classical Music Academy Recitals	2:30 PM
Fri. 5/2	Planet Home School/ KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	8:45 AM		Wayzata Women's Chorus Warm-up	5:00 PM
Sun. 5/4	May's Love Offering			NE Community Meal	6:00 PM
	CE Sunday & Teacher Recognition		Sun. 5/18	Wayzata Women's Chorus	7:00 PM
	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM		Reclaim Flower Sale (pick up pre-orders)	
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM		Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM		Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM
	Pack Leaders/FH	4:00 PM		Worship/WC	10:30 AM
Mon. 5/5	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM		Children & Youth Christian Ed	10:30 AM
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM	Mon. 5/19	Jo Halvorson's Birthday Party/FH	11:30 AM
Tue. 5/6	Admin. Council Meeting /EB	6:30 PM		Band Rehearsal/WC	
Wed. 5/7	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	1:00 PM		Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM
	Meal/Faith	5:45 PM	Tue. 5/20	No SPRC Meeting	
	Youth Group/Community UMC	6:15 PM		Communication Meeting/CR	7:00 PM
	Contemplative Service/WC	6:30 PM	Wed. 5/21	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	1:00 PM
	Faith Praise Singers/Choir Rm	6:30 PM		Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Sanctuary Choir/WC	7:15 PM		Last Meal Until Fall/Faith	5:45 PM
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM		Youth Group/Community UMC	6:15 PM
Thu. 5/8	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM	Thu. 5/22	Contemplative Service/WC	6:30 PM
	500 Cards Club/EB	1:00 PM		Lectionary Group	12:00 PM
	Worship Center in use	4:00 PM		500 Cards Club/EB	1:00 PM
	Cub Den/114	6:30 PM		Cub Den/114	6:30 PM
	Trustees Meeting/CR	7:00 PM	Sun. 5/25	Honoring Our Military	
Fri. 5/9	Krinke Rehearsal/WC, Commons, FH, KI			Summer Worship/WC	9:30 AM
	Planet Home School/ KI, FH, 114,115,116,117,121,122	8:45 AM		Fellowship/Commons	10:30 AM
Sat. 5/10	Krinke/Murphy Wedding		Mon. 5/26	Memorial Day-Church Office Closed	
	Men's Breakfast Group/Perkins	8:00 AM	Tues. 5/27	MN Annual Conference	
Sun. 5/11	Mother's Day			Finance Meeting/EB	7:00 PM
	Music Sunday		Wed. 5/28	MN Annual Conference	
	Adult Christian Ed/various	9:00 AM		Mom's Club	9:45 AM
	Fellowship/Commons	10:00 AM		No Pastoral Staff Meeting	
	Worship/WC	10:30 AM		Youth Group/ Community UMC	6:15 PM
	Children Christian Ed	10:30 AM	Thu. 5/29	MN Annual Conference	
Mon. 5/12	Cub Dens/114,115,116	6:30 PM		Cub Dens/114	6:30 PM
	Scout Leaders/FH	7:00 PM	Fri. 5/30	MN Annual Conference	
Tues. 5/13	Call of Faith Info Due In Office				
Wed. 5/14	Pastoral Staff Meeting/CR	1:00 PM			
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM			
	Meal/Faith	5:45 PM			
	Youth Group/ Community UMC	6:15 PM			
	Contemplative Service/WC	6:30 PM			
	Handbells/217	7:30 PM			
Thu. 5/15	Men's Work Group	9:00 AM			
	Lectionary Group	12:00 PM			
	Cub Dens/114	6:30 PM			
	Adult Ministry to MIA	12:30 PM			
Fri. 5/16	Planet Home School End of Year Picnic				
	Classical Music Recital	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, 218
 Thursdays: 2:30 PM - 9:00 PM in rooms 116, 121

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