



# Call of Faith

March/April Edition 2016

<b>Faith United Methodist Church</b> 2708 33 Avenue N.E. St. Anthony Village, MN 55418 <i>Faith is Handicap Accessible</i>	Telephone: 612-781-3167  Web: <a href="http://www.faithumchurch.com">www.faithumchurch.com</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:Faith@faithumchurch.com">Faith@faithumchurch.com</a>
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## Church News

### *Easter Season Schedule*



<b>March 20</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10:30 a.m.	Palms for all. Children's Processional & Singing
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Holy Thursday</b>	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Meal Service & Communion
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Service
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Both Services: Sanctuary Choir Faith Praise Band
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Easter II</b> Choir Cantata	10:30 a.m.	"Journey to the Cross"

#### **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 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.**

#### Church Contacts

Faith UMC Staff

Pastor	Rev. Diane M. Christianson	<a href="mailto:dchristianson@faithumchurch.com">dchristianson@faithumchurch.com</a>
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Rev. Susan Mullin	<a href="mailto:smullin@faithumchurch.com">smullin@faithumchurch.com</a>
Deacon	Rev. Andrew Keck	
(under secondary appt.)		
Director of Music	Jo Halvorsen	<a href="mailto:joh@faithumchurch.com">joh@faithumchurch.com</a>
Organist	Marie Kuglin	
Business Manager	Janet Olson	<a href="mailto:jolson@faithumchurch.com">jolson@faithumchurch.com</a>
Facility Manager	Carl Anderson	<a href="mailto:canderson@faithumchurch.com">canderson@faithumchurch.com</a>

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## A Message from *Rev. Diane M. Christianson*

Lent is upon us! This season of reflection and preparation for Easter is an opportunity for spiritual growth. Sharing a meal on Wednesday evenings, gathering for worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and participating in the Lenten study are all ways to take part in Lent.

The lectionary Gospel readings for this season guide us in drawing closer to Jesus:

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Jesus helps us focus on building up treasures, not on earth, but in heaven.

Luke 4:1-13 Jesus faces temptations and, in so doing, lets us know that he is trustworthy.

Luke 13:31-35 Jesus calls us to come to him for safe shelter.

Luke 13:1-9 Jesus teaches us, through the use of a story, that God offers second chances.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Jesus tells the Parable of the Prodigal Son to help us understand the enormous love of God.

John 12:1-8 Jesus accepts the gift of perfume that Mary used to anoint his feet, as he prepares for his death.

Luke 19:28-40 Jesus enters Jerusalem to both great acclaim and protest.

Luke 22:14-23:1-49 Jesus prepares his disciples for his crucifixion with the Passover meal and prayer. We walk the road to Calvary with him and see him die on the cross.

If that were the end of the story, we would be left in a sad place, indeed. We already know, however, that this is not the end of the story. On Easter (March 27 this year), we will read Luke 24:1-12 and hear the almost unbelievable news that Jesus is raised from the dead!

In the weeks after Easter, we will continue to hear about the resurrected Jesus and the life that is available to all humanity through him.

*Christ the Lord is risen...  
Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Following our exalted Head,  
Made like him, like him we rise,  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
Alleluia!*

---Charles Wesley, 1739

God bless you on the Lenten/Easter journey!

Pastor Diane M. Christianson

## Eco Kids Camp News



Eco-Kids Camp will take place August 1-5, 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, Community UMC. Information and registration forms are available on our website: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com).

The theme for camp this year is River of Life. We will be exploring the Mississippi River through field trips, hand-on science, and the arts. Weather permitting, we will canoe the Mississippi River from Brooklyn Park to Boom Island! 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 and serve as camp counselors. There is a sign-up sheet in the Commons.

## Travel with Pastor Diane in 2017!



Pastor Diane invites you to join her on a 10-day Holy Land Classic program that will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel".

This journey will take place January 10-19, 2017. You will visit Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and other Biblical and historic sites. Brochures are available at the Welcome Desk or from Pastor Diane.

Our Pastor has extensive travel experience, having journeyed to 39 of the 50 states and 18 countries on three continents. Educational Opportunities is a United Methodist-related tour organization that has brought travelers to the Holy Land for over 40 years. Pricing starts at \$2898. Learn more at [www.eo.travel](http://www.eo.travel).

## Wednesday Evening Schedule



During Lent, we are meeting with the other Northeast United Methodist Churches on Wednesday nights. Our theme is "Welcoming the Strange One." Each Wednesday we meet at one of the churches at 5:30 for a soup supper and worship. The confirmation students are assisting with planning and leading these services. The remaining Wednesdays in Lent include:

March 9: Welcoming Ethnic Diversity @Faith UMC

March 16: Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ!  
@Community UMC

After Easter, our regular Wednesday schedule will resume on Wednesday, March 30 and will continue through May 11. Dinner is at 5:45 and open to all, no reservations required! The Contemplative Service is from 6:30-7:00. During these services we light candles, sing songs, and listen to readings. Our readings always include Scripture, and often include more contemporary poetry or prose that help us to experience the Scriptures in new ways. And we pray. We pray out loud for our world, our community, and ourselves. And we pray or meditate silently. You are always welcome to join us!

## Church News (continued)

### It's time to become a RUM

#### (Reconciling United Methodist)

When Faith became a Reconciling Congregation, it joined the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). RMN is the national organization that mobilizes United Methodists to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. Individuals can also join RMN. Reconciling United Methodists (RUMs) demonstrate their support for RMN, receive regular updates about RMN's work and can help to financially support RMN. In preparation for the 2016 General Conference, RMN wants to add 2016 new RUMs. Will you be one?

On Sunday, March 6, you will have an opportunity to sign up to be a RUM. If you miss that opportunity, you can go to the RMN website ([rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org), select Act or Donate) to sign up. If you have questions about RMN, please talk to Judy Jerde (651-426-0156).

### March is Minnesota FoodShare Month.

Local food shelves are in need of food and hygiene donations and monetary contributions, after the holiday rush. Portions of the donations are matched by Minnesota FoodShare during the month of March. Please contribute by March 27.



### 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>.



## Extend and Serve

### Hamline-McVay Snacks

We are in need of more snacks for the Hamline-McVay Youth Partnership. Please place them in the bin under the Outreach table.



### NE Community Meal

Outreach team will be preparing and serving the N.E. Community Meal on Saturday, March 19 and Saturday April 16. If you are able to help, sign-up is in the Commons.

### Simpson Shelter Meal

On Sunday, April 3, Faith UMC will be serving a meal at Simpson Shelter. Preparation begins at 3:00 pm, food is brought to the shelter at 6:00 pm, and served at 7:00 pm. Clean-up ends about 8:30 pm. Assistance with the meal and donations of homemade bars or cookies are needed. Please contact Amy Neuswanger, 651-635-0576 or sign-up in the Commons if you are able to help.

### SignUp Genius.com

SignUp Genius is an online scheduler used to recruit Faith members to sign up for helping others in our congregation. Since its start up in the summer SignUp Genius has been used to secure rides for individuals, provide meals when needed, etc.

To use the site and volunteer,  
visit: <http://www.signupgenius.com>

or

Sign-up sheets are on the "volunteer table" at church. Reggie McCarthy is the organizer of this valuable service!

## Rev. Susan Mullin reflects on Global Creation Care Team meeting in Paris

**By:** Rev. Susan Mullin

*Rev. Susan Mullin, a deacon who serves as minister of faith formation and community outreach at Faith United Methodist Church in St. Anthony, is one of six people selected in 2014 to serve on the United Methodist Church's Global Ministries Creation Care Team. Mullin represents all of North America on this new team, created by the General Board of Global Ministries. In early December, the team represented the global United Methodist Church at a United Nations climate change conference in Paris. Below are Mullin's reflections on the experience.*



Our Global Creation Care Team had the opportunity to travel to Paris the first week of December to participate in the civil society events surrounding the climate talks. We are a team of six United Methodists from around the world, including representatives from the United States, Argentina, Switzerland, Liberia, Fiji, and Cambodia.

Members of the team have powerful stories of what is happening in their countries as a result of climate change. Jefferson Knight from Liberia talked about returning last year to a village along the Suakoko River, where he grew up, and finding that the tree-lined river he remembers is completely dry and the trees have been cut down. He was shocked. Another member, Sotico Pagulayan, shared that in 2015, 13 (out of 24) provinces of Cambodia experienced crop failure. Extreme drought and flooding have combined to threaten the livelihood and food security of farmers.

As a team, we are committed to energizing local churches to take action on climate change and other environmental crises. This was only our second opportunity to meet together, so about half of our time in Paris was devoted to discussing how we can best work in our own regions and with the General Board of Global Ministries.

Highlights of our time in Paris included a roundtable discussion on the intersection of faith, race, and climate and a conference devoted to women on the frontlines of climate change that included powerful, passionate indigenous women leaders from the U.S., Canada, Ecuador, Sweden, and the Maldives.

Thilmeeza Hussain, founder of Voice of Women, told us that the Maldives "might be a small group of islands, but our lives are not small." She pointed out that for her people's food security, clean water, and housing are all impacted by climate change. "Climate change is not distant," she said. "People are dying. How many lives are we ready to sacrifice?"

Meanwhile, Josefina Skerk, vice president of the Sami Parliament in Sweden, also said that her country is seeing the effects of climate change. If the earth warms an average of two degrees Celsius, it will mean an increase of eight degrees in her northern lands. "We are not white strawberry jam," she said. "We don't want to be preserved: We want to guide our own development."

Eriel Deranger, communications manager of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation of Canada, reiterated what many poor and endangered peoples have said: "Our voices are left out of the discussions." She added, "We are people of the delta. Our entire system is threatened."

(continued)



## Rev. Susan Mullin reflects on Global Creation Care Team meeting in Paris (continued)

Worshipping and sharing a meal with the members of Resurrection United Methodist Church was also a powerful experience. Most members of the congregation immigrated to France from Ivory Coast, and both their worship style and the wonderful meal they provided reflected their cultural heritage.

We met with our team from the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) on multiple occasions. This team was credentialed to enter the blue zone, where the actual climate negotiations were taking place. The feeling from the team was cautiously optimistic throughout the negotiations. They worked very hard lobbying leaders from the U.S. and around the world to make sure there would be adequate financial provisions for countries that have not contributed significantly to the problem of climate change but increasingly will suffer loss and damage. They recorded daily videos of their work that are available on the [GBCS Facebook page](#).

The final accord is worth celebrating. For the first time, we have a worldwide agreement with a goal of limiting global warming to “well below 2 degrees Celsius” (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures. Nations also agree “to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius” (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). These goals are much more ambitious than many people expected to see in this accord. But...this is only an agreement! Now we have to actually achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

If there is one thing that I take away from this experience, it is the many ways that climate change intersects with issues of social and economic justice. After hearing the pain in the voices of sisters and brothers from all around the world, after learning how their ability to provide food, housing, and water for their families is threatened and disrupted by climate change, it is no longer a matter of facts and figures, or computer models that predict the future. Climate change exacerbates all injustices, including race, poverty, gender, and age. As United Methodists, we say that our task is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our team reflected on the vision of Ezekiel (47:7-12): a river of fresh water flowing from the sanctuary, bringing life where there is no life. We challenge ourselves and all United Methodists to look for places where the waters of God are bringing life where there is no life, and to join in the healing of our world.

There are many ways that you and your congregation can get involved:

**Reduce the carbon footprint of your congregation.** Resources for congregations are available at Cool Congregations ([www.coolcongregations.org](http://www.coolcongregations.org)), Energy Star for Congregations ([https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/owners\\_and\\_managers/congregations](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/owners_and_managers/congregations)) and GreenFaith ([www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)).

**Register for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual United Methodist Creation Care Conference.** Sowing Seeds: Where Food & Faith Meet, April 8-9, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia (<http://www.umccreationcare.org>).

**Study Climate Justice at Mission u this summer.** The United Methodist Women will be offering climate justice studies for adults, youth, and children around the country. (<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/transformative-education/mission-study>).

**Want to do more?** The Board of Global Ministries will be recruiting, training, and commissioning volunteers ready to transform the world by organizing their communities to take action on caring for God’s creation. The first training event is tentatively scheduled for October 18-23, 2016. For more information please contact Rev. Pat Watkins, Missionary for the Care of God’s Creation: [pwatkins@umcmision.org](mailto:pwatkins@umcmision.org).

*Article originally published by the Minnesota Annual Conference, December 17, 2015*

# Christian Education

## Kids Connect Update

Kids Connect meets from 10:30-11:30 am downstairs. We hope to have the kids sing on Palm Sunday (March 20). Jo Halvorsen and Maret Olson are teaching the song at the beginning of class most Sundays. Bring your kids to Kids Connect often so they will be ready on Palm Sunday!

Our elementary Class (4 year-olds through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) have been learning about two parables of Jesus: The Wedding at Cana (among other things, God loves a good party), and the banquet with Simon (we are forgiven). In Lent we are learning about Jesus' journey to the cross through games, art (working with clay), and our sense of smell.

Our middle school students (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade) is learning about Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. After Easter we will be studying the stories of the first encounters with Jesus after his resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit experienced by the early church and continuing to work in us today.

Senior High Youth meet occasionally with Carroll Vance. Most of our senior high youth are already receiving text updates letting them know about upcoming discussions or activities. Contact Carroll Vance if you would like to be included in these events.



## Faith Forum

Sunday Mornings

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

- Mar. 6 The Al-Huda Islamic Cultural Center, Ahmad Atieh
- Mar. 13 Undersea Adventures, Brian Bosveld
- Mar. 20 Manna and Mercy: Why did Jesus die?, Carroll Vance
- Mar. 27 Easter Sunday, no class
- Apr. 03 Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs, Ron Urbanski, Lutheran Social Service-MN
- Apr. 10 Nutrition: Fads, Factoids and Facts, Professor Julie Miller Jones, St. Catherine University

## 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 Opportunities

During Lent, the Mary Martha women's group is studying, *The Gift of New Creation* by Thomas L. Ehrich. We meet every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 am in the Ebenezer Room. There is an extra book available just for you!

After Easter, Mary Martha will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:30-11:00 am to study the lectionary readings that are printed in the bulletin. All women are invited.

The Adult Bible Study Class The Adult Bible Study Class meets in Room 219 at 9:00 am on Sundays. Each week we gather to read together one or more scripture passages and a short sermon on those passages by Brian McLaren—an author, speaker, activist and public theologian.

McLaren suggests, "If tradition could be compared to a road that began in the distant past and continues to the present, Jesus dares to propose that the road isn't finished yet. To extend the road of tradition into the future—to fulfill its potential—we must first look back to discern its general direction. Then, informed by the past, we must look forward and dare to step beyond where the road currently ends, venturing off the map, so to speak, into new territory." Each week we venture into that new territory together, discussing our thoughts and reactions to the readings, and how we can live out our calling as Christians today.

Stop in anytime. You do not have to bring a book or read anything in advance. You are always welcome.

# Church Calendar - March 2016

Date	Event	Time	Date	Event	Time
Wed 3/2	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM	Thu 3/17	Men's Work Group	9:00 AM
	Staff Meeting	10:00 AM		Lenten Study Group/EB	10:30 AM
	Chemistry Class/114	10:00 AM		Lectionary /CR	12:00 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM	Fri 3/18	Planet Home School	8:45 AM
	Combined Meal and		Sat 3/19	Women's Breakfast at Perkins	9:00 AM
	Worship at NE UMC	5:30PM		NE Community Meal	6:00 PM
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM	Sun 3/20	Palm/Passion Sunday	
	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM		Adult Faith Formation Classes	9:00 AM
Thu 3/3	Lenten Study Group/EB	10:30 AM		Sr. High Youth/120	9:45 AM
	Lectionary/CR	12:00 PM		Fellowship Time	10:00 AM
Fri 3/4	Planet Home School	8:45 AM		Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM
Sat 3/5	Art & Soul Setup/FH	9:00 AM		Kids Connect	10:30 AM
Sun 3/6	Adult Faith Formation Classes	9:00 AM		Square & Twirl	
	Sr. High Youth/120	9:45 AM		Square Dancing/FH	4:00 PM
	Fellowship Time	10:00 AM	Mon 3/21	Covenant Discipleship/CR	1:30 PM
	Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM		Cub Scouts 115	6:30 PM
	Kids Connect	10:30 AM		Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM
Mon 3/7	Covenant Discipleship/CR	1:30 PM	Wed 3/23	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM
	Cub Scouts 114-117	6:30 PM		Staff Meeting	10:00 AM
	Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM		Chemistry Class/114	10:00 AM
	Pinewood Derby Weight Check	8:00 PM		Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
Tues 3/8	Ad Council/EB	6:30 PM		Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:15 PM
Wed 3/9	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM		Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Chemistry Class/114	10:00 AM	Thu 3/24	Lenten Study Group/EB	10:30 AM
	Chandler Service	10:45 AM		Lectionary Group/CR	12:00 PM
	Staff Meeting	1:00 PM		500 Cards/EB	1:00 PM
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM		Meal/FH	6:00 PM
	Meal at Faith/FH	5:30 PM		Holy Thursday Service/WC	7:00 PM
	Lenten Service at Faith	6:15 PM	Fri 3/25	No Planet Home School	
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM		Good Friday Service/WC	7:00 PM
	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM	Sun 3/27	Easter Sunday	
Thu 3/10	Lenten Study Group/EB	10:30 AM		Worship Service/WC	9:00 AM
	Lectionary Group/CR	12:00 PM		Fellowship Time	10:00 AM
	500 Cards/EB	1:00 PM		Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM
	Trustees/CR	7:00 PM	Mon 3/28	Covenant Discipleship/CR	1:30 PM
	Pinewood Derby Weight Check	8:00 PM		Cub Scouts 115	6:30 PM
Fri 3/11	Planet Home School	8:45 AM		Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM
	Pinewood Derby Impound Night	7:00 PM	Tues 3/29	Finance/CR	7:00 PM
Sat 3/12	Men's Breakfast/Perkins	8:00 AM	Wed 3/30	Mom's Club/115	9:45 AM
	Pinewood Derby/FH	11:30 AM		Staff Meeting	10:00 AM
Sun 3/13	Adult Groups	9:00 AM		Chemistry Class/114	10:00 AM
	Fellowship Time	10:00 AM		Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM
	Worship Service/WC	10:30 AM		Meal at Faith/FH	5:45 PM
	Kids Connect	10:30 AM		Contemplative Service	6:30 PM
Mon 3/14	Covenant Discipleship/CR	1:30 PM		Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:15 PM
	Cub Scouts 114-117	6:30 PM		Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM
	Boy Scouts/Webelos II/FH	7:00 PM	Thu 3/31	Lectionary Group/CR	12:00 PM
Tues 3/15	Communications/CR	6:30 PM			
Wed 3/16	Mary Martha/EB	9:30 AM			
	Staff Meeting	10:00 AM			
	Chemistry Class/114	10:00 AM			
	Organist Rehearsal/WC	4:00 PM			
	Meal at Community	5:30 PM			
	Lenten Service at Community	6:15 PM			
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/WC	7:30 PM			
	Centennial Handbells/217	7:30 PM			

**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

**Abbreviation Key:**

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

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