

February 2011

Faith United Methodist Church
 617 Maple Lane
 Spring Valley, MN 55975

Pastors Mark Rader & Beth Perez
 Saturday Worship 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 5 pm Worship	
6 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School & Coffee/ Fellowship 5 pm Cowboy Church-Cherry Grove	7 7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	8	9	10	11	12 10 am Confirmation Class 5 pm Worship
13 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School & Coffee/ Fellowship 4 pm Boy Scouts Chili Feed Fundraiser 5 pm - 7 pm Youth Meeting 7 pm Movie Night	14 7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	15 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Church Council	16 9:30 am Rachel Circle tentative 1:30 pm Sarah Circle tentative	17 1:30 pm Ruth Circle	18	19 5pm Worship
20 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School & Coffee/ Fellowship	21 7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal No School	22	23	24	25	26 10 am Confirmation Class 5pm Worship
27 7:45am Vocal Choir 9am Worship 10am Sunday School & Coffee/ Fellowship 5 pm-7 pm Youth Meeting	28 7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal					

**Faith United Methodist
Church**

617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Web Page: faithsv.net

Saturday evening worship
5:00 p.m.

Sunday morning worship
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Coffee & fellowship
10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:

8:00 - 4:00 Tuesday through
Friday

Office Phone:

507-346-2830; Fax:
507-346-2877

Office E-mail:

faithunited@centurytel.net

Pastor Mark Rader:

Phone: 346-2878

Email: faithpas@centurytel.net

Pastor Beth Perez

Phone: 259-4553

Email: bethperez@myclearwave.net

Secretary:

Louise Winfield

Youth Director:

Laura Perez

Phone: 919-971-9255

Email: lauraeperez3@gmail.com

Custodian:

Paul Eberle

Organist:

Suzanne Eberle

Bell Choir Dir.

Kathy Casady

Choir Pianist:

Kristie Shorter

The Service Group handles the Sunday Coffee Hour the first three Sundays of the month. The 4th Sunday will be served by the Sunday School and Youth. The 5th Sunday will be served by Cursillo participants.

FEBRUARY

* Les & Shirley Hyland	346-7572
* Jon & Georgie Nolte	346-7567
Jo Baker	346-2764
Arlynn & Arlene Bestor	657-2290
Jennifer Dessner	951-7434
Darrell & Vivian Drinkall	346-2302
Eric & Christina Howard	352-2944
Don & Jan Lanning	346-2972
Louis & Lenora Schmidt	346-9993



Saturday Night Service

5 pm

Special Music / February 2011

Feb 5th	Erin Kraling and Company
Feb 12th	Laura Perez and Company
Feb 19th	Cindy Seabright and Dave Vickmark
Feb 26th	Faith Singers



NEW BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER

Late this winter (perhaps in conjunction with Lent) we're planning to offer a six week "experiential" study on prayer built around Maxie Dunnam's book entitled The Workbook Of Living Prayer. Cost for the workbooks will be \$11.00 and scholarships will be available upon request if needed.

Depending upon interest we may offer the study at multiple times during the week to accommodate different schedules. If you'd be interested in participating please let Pastors Mark or Beth know a.s.a.p. or contact Louise in the office.

FROM THE PASTOR

I'm kind of reluctant to confess this, because I know that we have some folks who take their fishing rather seriously around here, but 2010 was pretty much a failure for us on the fishing front. To be completely honest, it would have been impossible for us to have done any worse. Joel & I didn't catch a single fish last summer while we were visiting my parents at their place on Black Lake in Michigan. For that matter, we didn't get a single bite – not even from one of those too small to keep “bait stealers” that my father likes to accuse me of angling for!

And so it was with a renewed sense of hope that I read in last Wednesday's Spring Valley Tribune that the winter catch & release Trout season has already begun on select Minnesota streams. It seems like there's just something about fishing that brings out the optimist in a person. It doesn't matter whether we've been skunked every day for a week, when the sun comes up again we're just certain that *this* will be the day we catch the big one!

It was helpful too, that the Tribune article offered some tips on fishing SE MN's trout streams in the wintertime. For instance, the article advised fishing when and where the water is warmer (think afternoon or near where a spring feeds into the stream), staying out of the water so as not to spook the fish (it's clearer in the wintertime), and it had recommendations on what baits work well too!

As I read the Tribune article a possible reason for why we did so poorly at the Lake last summer began to occur to me. It may have been because we never *actually* went out fishing – we never put our poles & tackle in the boat,

or even took them onto the dock or along the shoreline. Nor did we pick up any bait; or even bother to purchase a fishing license! We just sort of waited for the fish to crawl out of the water, clean themselves, and leap into the freezer! Needless to say, that didn't work too well. Problem is, we're an awful lot like that in the church sometimes.

This past Sunday's Gospel reading was from Matthew 4, and it included the account of Jesus calling His first disciples along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. They are fishermen of course (two sets of brothers too boot), and as Jesus invites them to follow He offers them a new future. “From now on,” He says to them, “You will be fishing for people!” While Jesus is probably just making a play on words, and maybe even gently teasing them about their profession, it's occurred to me that the parallels between fishing for fish and fishing for people hold up pretty well!



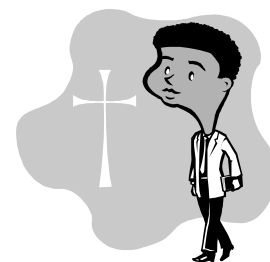
For one thing, you GO fishing - you don't stay in the comfort of your home. You get up at 3:00 in the morning, finish loading up your truck & boat, drive over to the Mississippi and get out to your favorite fishing hole before the sun comes up just to make sure that some Packer fan doesn't beat you to your spot! You GO fishing! You don't expect the fish to come to you. And if they aren't biting in the first place you might move on down the river, just as Jesus did with His disciples. Jesus didn't ask His new disciples to build a church, put out a sign advertising service times, and then wait for folks to come. They went

out “fishing!”

Fishermen rotate through their baits as well, changing up their presentation. If one lure isn't working, they'll move on to something else. At last count one friend of mine had over 13,000 lures in his home (we should pray for his wife)! As any *good* fisherman knows, serious fishing requires both *strategy* and *effort*!

So it is with fishing for people. When one strategy stops working, we need to be trying something else, maybe something entirely new. It does little good to lament over how much the world has changed, or to wish that we were back doing ministry in the 1950's or 1960's when our churches, and our church schools were full, because this is 2011 and we have “fishing” to do in the here and now!

Expecting folks to simply “come to church” today just because we have a nice building, good music, and fun worship is a little like expecting fish to crawl out of the water, clean themselves, and jump into our



Volunteers needed for Zumbro Valley recovery

Materials and skilled volunteers are sought for reconstruction and refurbishing in the Zumbro Valley flood area. If you can work or provide materials, please contact Craig Richardt, construction manager, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, at (612) 741-7236.

Ad Council Minutes

The Ad Council meeting convened at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Pastors Mark Rader & Beth Perez, Mary Grems, Matt Ramaker, Jill Douglas, Jan Hammon, Carol Langdon, Darlene Vrieze, Deanna Capelle, Gloria Blakeslee, Barb Paul, Gene Ramaker and Arlynn Ness.

There was discussion with Anna Krahn, regarding a licensed day care proposal at FUMC.

Trustees: Matt said that he & Jeff recently ran a new computer cable for the worship computer.

Education: Barb said that future plans include sledding, roller skating, and a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

Staff/Parish: Deanna said that the first 2011 SPRC meeting is set for 01-25-11.

UMW: Darlene said that UMW did not meet in January.

Worship: Carol said that the next meeting is 01-23-11.

Missions: Jan said that they are interested in putting on the Easter Breakfast this year. A motion was made to let Missions do this. m/s/c

Financial: Jan reported that current checking balance as of 01-15-11 is \$6,775.03. (the balance on 12-31-10 was \$13,348.44)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Beth reported that scheduling has been going well regarding hers and Pastor Mark's service of the 3 churches.

Pastor Mark reported on the Stewardship Campaign. A few late pledge sheets are trickling in, so he did not have a final report as of yet. Several have represented increases in giving.

The worship computer has been built, and much of the necessary software has been installed. Matt & Jeff ran a cat5 cable from the office to the audio visual desk.

The YF, led by Laura Perez, had their "Winter Kick-Off" meeting on 01-16-11 with 7 youth attending.

Several possibilities are being considered for Lent. Keeping the services in Spring Valley is a preference at this point.

A "prayer study" is being planned during Lent. This will be based on Maxie Dunnam's "*Workbook on Living Prayer*".

The cooperative parish council meeting has been postponed until early February.

Two funerals were held after Christmas: Norris Johnson (Pastor Beth) and Floyd Kaster (Pastors Beth & Mark).

New Business: More discussion was held on Anna Krahn's daycare proposal. A motion was made that a committee be formed to help work out the details. m/s/c Those present, who requested to be on this committee, include Gene Ramaker, Barb Paul, Jan Hammon, Matt Ramaker, & Pastor Beth Perez. Pastor Mark suggested that a member of SPRC be on this committee.

Pastor Mark also shared FUMC's current "wedding guidelines & policy" which was last revised in September 2008. After discussion, a motion was made that the current policy be revised in the near future, but at this time the children of active participants do not need to pay the \$500 fee for the use of the church. m/s/c

The date for the February 2011 meeting of Ad Council will be 02-15-11 at 7:00 pm. Jan Hammon will lead with a devotional.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlynn Ness, Co-Ad Council Secretary

Dear Friends,

I was having a conversation with one of our older members of the Faith church family and he shared with me some of the things he and his sweet wife worry about. I wasn't surprised and I want you all to know that I worry for you because life gets tougher in old age. As I listen to my Mom, I hear about the same worries and concerns that you all have.

In thinking about you (and I think of you often and pray for you always), I thought I would tell you

about this book which is written by Missy Buchanan who is a



member of the Rockwall UMC (where my sister and brother-in-law live). The book is called **Talking With God in Old Age.** I purchased this book and would lend it out to anyone who wants to read it.

This is a description of the book:

Aging often brings concerns about health, worries about finances, and frustrations about change. The so-called golden years can seem filled with loneliness and pain. How is a person of faith to cope with the challenges and find purpose for the rest of his or her life?

Missy Buchanan encourages older adults to maintain open dialogue with God. Through a series of personal poems and reflections, each coupled with

a selection from Psalms, Buchanan presents heartfelt talks with God. She addresses topics such as the fear of falling, despair over feeling useless, and grief after the loss of a spouse. She also shares pleas for God to help her see the beauty of life and the world in the midst of these trials.

Readers can join Missy Buchanan on the journey of faith as she shares with honesty both the heartaches and concerns of the elderly persons she has interacted with on a daily basis and the hope they reveal "in old age."

There are many books about the tough problems of aging, but precious few about the spiritual gifts of aging. Missy Buchanan is a rare voice of insight and inspiration in this natural and yet anxiety-producing phase of life. And, make no mistake! Despite the overwhelming emphasis on youth in popular media, America is aging. Missy connects our need for faithful, fresh reflections on growing older with the timeless wisdom of Psalms. It's a powerful gift to all of us.

Missy Buchanan is a skillful writer with the gifts of compassion and love for aging and older persons. Such empathy is clearly exhibited in Talking with God in Old Age. While the book gives voice to various storytellers, Missy Buchanan's



insights readily apply to anyone who is coping with aging and later life issues. Her wisdom and clarity are a gift for us all.

In "Talking with God in Old Age", Missy Buchanan captures the very essence of the journey of frailty. Her honest and inspiring meditations reflect the pain and frustration people often experience as they age into frailty. Yet within each reflection is the glimmer of hope and an acknowledgement of profound courage and strength that remains in each person no matter their abilities or disabilities. The clear messages of faith, love, and grace through God's abiding presence shine through like a beacon of hope and understanding, and the words of the Psalms offer comfort and compassion.

Know that you are loved.

Pastor Beth



What Valentine Can I Give Him?

What can I give to Jesus
On this special Valentine's Day
How can I tell Him I'll love Him,
And follow Him, come what may?
How can I show I need Him?
Should I send a red heart, with lace?
How can I thank Him enough
For His sacrifice, love and grace?
What Valentine can I give Him,
my adoration to impart?
I'll give Him what He wants most;
I'll yield to Him my heart.

Youth News from Laura

We have had an amazing start to our Winter Session of Youth this past month. I am so pleased on how things are working out and with the potential we have for the youth of Faith United Methodist Church.

I learned a lot about our youth during the "Get to Know You" segment of our Kick off event....



1) We have a very "NORMAL" (and I use that term loosely- as normalcy is so very hard to define ESPECIALLY with teenagers) group of teenagers here at Faith. They are fun loving, good hearted, and just trying to find their place in a society of chaos and skepticism.

2) This group of kids is highly competitive however for the most part good natured and spirited!

3) (Most importantly) The members of this group are extremely spiritual and though they may not be super "religious" (Yes, I believe there is a difference)... they KNOW where God belongs in their lives. They CRAVE that peace and comfort of knowing that Jesus is our Sav-

ior. They DESIRE to know more and understand to make their OWN decisions. They want to uphold their faith even in the midst of unbelievers.

THIS is the reason I feel called to youth ministry- for kids like this who have a strong Faith and want to find where it fits in their life and in this world. For kids who may not know WHY they come to church but will silently drop to their knees in private and give their problems to God. For those kids who may act macho and hard core- but deep down they KNOW that it is God who wears the super hero cape. It is God who holds the shield to protect us. It is Jesus- our Lord and Savior, who bears the tattoos of crucifixion.... not because it was a cool symbol or all the other kids were doing it....

but because God loves each and everyone of us. It is because of that we believe... we trust.... we have faith. We may not always get it and may not always agree with "religion" but being a member of FUMC Youth is NOT about religion it's about having Faith, strengthening our Faith and leaning on others



who are on similar spiritual journeys.

Ok Lets be honest..... it's also about having fun and eating some really good food provided by our church members!!! Just kidding..... though that is just one of the many perks!

I invite anyone and everyone grades 6- 12 to join us for our Youth Meetings and the many events we will be doing throughout the year. I look forward to serving with you all!

-In HIS name,
Laura Perez



FEBRUARY CALENDAR for YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Feb 12: Youth will provide opening music at Saturday Night Service

Feb 13: Youth Group meeting 5:00 pm- 7:00pm

Feb 27: Youth Group Meeting 5:00pm- 7:00pm

If you have any questions feel free to contact me

at lauraeperez3@gmail.com

or 919-971-9255.

FUMC Mission Committee

Committee members:

Nancy Cornell, Mary Vickmark,
Jan Hammon, Arlene Johnson,
Marilyn Matson & Marie Tart

UMCOR.

Be There. Be Hope.

UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people.

UMCOR receives Peacebuilder Award

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the denomination's disaster-relief agency, was awarded the Peacebuilder Award, "For seeing what needs to be done and then doing it with love, respect, and humility." The award, announced Nov. 23, was given by Peace X Peace, a global network of peacebuilders that specifically advocates for women.



Spring Valley Ministerial Association

We at Faith United Methodist Church are a part of the Spring Valley Ministerial Association. This group of local churches provides assistance to families in need. The type of assistance given is quite varied. Some families need help to pay a utilities bill or fuel to heat their home. Assistance with automobile repair costs or even gasoline may be the request. Sometimes families are in need of food and lodging without the means to pay for it. The demand for this assistance has been particularly heavy the past two years with so many families out of work.

A total of \$12,046.78 was spent from the Ministerial As-

sociation's fund during 2010 providing this assistance.

Last year at this time there was \$6,406.00 in the fund. By June there was only \$200 remaining in that account. The current balance of this fund is \$6,454.10 which is very close to the amount that was recorded at this time last year. No doubt that will not be sufficient to cover the needs for the entire year.

Our congregation was able to donate \$750 to the Ministerial Association through our Christmas offering.

We are pleased to have been able to help out that much. We have also been able to assist these families through our support of the Spring Valley Food Shelf. All of this is good, but the need is great. It is important for us to continue our support to the food shelf, but monetary donations to the Ministerial Association are also going to be necessary to assist families with other needs. Any donations you can make to this fund will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Arlene Johnson

Food Shelf

The Spring Valley Food Shelf is open on Wednesday 2 pm till 5 pm and Saturday 9 am till 12 noon.. Volunteers are needed; anyone wishing to volunteer can call Kathy Baarsch at (507) 346-7668. She will work with you and your schedule in directing you to a needed time.

Last year, over 200 families on an average used the food shelf. A total of 6000 lbs of food was distributed per month.



At this time, the food shelf needs product more than cash, since many items are no longer available through Channel One in Rochester. Donations can be brought directly to the Spring Valley Food Shelf during open hours; or to Deb Zimmer at Spring Valley City Hall or you can leave donations here at FUMC. This Month the main needs are: Cleaning supplies; personal hygiene items and staple supplies like flour, sugar and cereals. Thank you for participating in our Spring Valley Food Shelf. Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Matson



One Great Hour of Sharing February 13th, 2011

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

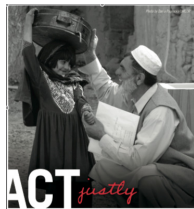
Micah 6:8 (NIV)

History In 1946, One Great Hour of Sharing began as a special effort of the Episcopal Church. In 1949, the observance became ecumenical. Originally, one special worship hour during the year was reserved for people of faith to contribute over and above their regular offerings. Today different denominations celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing on various dates, but the cooperative spirit remains.

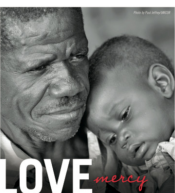
Recipients Many people around the world lack necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering makes those necessities a reality by sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt.

One Great Hour of Sharing" Con't:

When a catastrophe occurs, your offerings to One Great of Sharing assist the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide humanitarian aid. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of designated gifts go to the specific



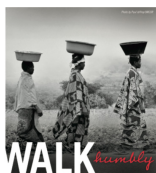
causes. Unlike other mission programs, UMCOR receives no World Service or other apportionment money. God calls us to be the hands, heart and hope of the church for people who are suffering. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we enable the church to answer that call. every member gave \$1, that would



total more than \$7.8 million!

Receipts In 2008, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering totaled \$3,212,946, an average of only 41 cents per U.S. member. If every member gave \$1, that would total more than \$7.8 million!

The Children will be taking up a Sock Offering to go to "One Great Hour of Sharing". They were given their socks on Jan 23rd during children's time and a Sunday school to remind them to "walk humbly" They will return them on February 13th to be placed in the offering plate for the special offering. The Bible verse at the beginning of this article tells us three things God has on His "to do" list for us, act justly; love mercy and walk humbly with God.



This is the verse we are basing the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering on this year.

To show your support of the victims of the Australian floods and Brazilian mudslides please give



generously to UMCOR through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering

***The FUMC Mission Committee
Wishes to Thank you for all
your generous support
& offerings.***

Valentine's Day is Coming:

This Christian Valentine poem is based on a famous Bible Valentine verse on love.

1 Corinthians 13

*valentine's Day is a
day of love,*

*For showing that we care,
And if we read the Bible,
God describes love there:*

*If we speak like
celestial angels*

From heaven up above,

*All our words mean nothing
if we don't have Christian love.*

Love is patient, love is kind;

*It doesn't brag or boast;
Love conquers pride and envy;*

It is never self-engrossed.

*Love is not rude or angry;
Forgiveness counters wrong;*

*Love stays away from evil;
It sings a truthful song.*

*Love is full of trust
and hope;*

*It always perseveres;
Love never fails; it's faithful;*

*To the Bible it adheres.
And if you give this
kind of love*

*To your special valentine,
You'll be loving right
in harmony
With God's own
sweet design.*

The Chocolate Journey: From Bean to Bar

Do you know where chocolate comes from? Have you ever seen a cacao bean or a cacao pod? Most people have only experienced the end result, like a chocolate bar or a cup of hot cocoa. These divinely delicious products can be magical – inspiring our palates, bringing back fond memories, and simply making us happy. The manufacturing of chocolate is a precise and scientific process, and yet, it still holds some of this magic and inspiration. From the cacao farms that can feel like enchanted forests, to the manufacturing plant, each step impacts the final quality of the chocolate and each step is a combination of science and art. Due to the great care and pride that our producers put into their work, these beans can be transformed into chocolate that will wow the senses and put a smile on your face.



So, sit back, bite into a delicious piece of Equal Exchange chocolate and why not remember someone on Valentine's Day with a bar or



two of Equal Exchange chocolate or some tea or coffee, why not one of each thing in a gift basket.

***Happy Valentine's Day
Everyone!***



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617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

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