



FEBRUARY 2012 MAPLE LEAF PARISH NEWS

Cherry Grove UMC

18183 160th Street
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Worship: 10:00 am Sunday
Cowboy: 5:00 pm First Sunday

Pastors: Beth Perez & Mark Rader

Email: cgumc@frontiernet.net
Phone: 1-507-937-3177

Faith UMC

617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Worship: 9:00 am Sunday
Worship: 5:00 pm Saturday

Pastors: Mark Rader & Beth Perez

Email: faithunited@centurytel.net
Phone: 1-507-346-2830
Web: faithsv.net

Fountain UMC

Cedar Street & County Road 8
Fountain, MN 55935

Worship: 8:30 am Sunday

Pastors: Beth Perez & Mark Rader

Email: cgumc@frontiernet.net
Phone: 1-507-268-4456
Web: www.fountainumc.com

FROM THE PASTOR

Every so often, as someone shows me around their home, I'll notice a series of pencil marks on a particular wall or door. The marks are short lines, stacked on top of each other, separated by an inch or two (or less) of space, and sometimes they'll have a name and date beside them. The marks, of course, are measurements, used to capture the heights of the children who have grown up in that home at various points in their lives. The unstated assumption is that seeing those pencil marks climb the wall as the years go by is expected, and that growth is a sign that things are going well.

It can be much more difficult to measure growth in the Church, particularly when we're talking about spiritual growth. Still, there are a few numbers we can look at that tend to be indicators that things are, or are not, going in the right direction. In fact, the Annual Conference is now asking us to track these on a weekly basis, in the hope that congregations can identify trends and act (or react) accordingly much more quickly.

These metrics include:

- Our average weekend worship attendance.
- Professions of Faith (this is an annual number rather than weekly)
- The number of small groups, Sunday School classes, and Bible Studies
- The number of members who are engaged in local, national and international mission/outreach activities.
- The total amount given by a local church to mission.

We now have our final figures available for 2011, and we're delighted to note that many of our "metrics" at Faith trended up last year. For instance, our average attendance increased from 111 in 2010 to 123 in 2011, and our total mission giving increased by \$1761. We were also able to identify at least 32 members who had been involved in mission/outreach activities, and we're guessing that we missed some of you. The number of small groups was lower, but we used different criteria in 2011, and our confessions of faith were down primarily because we had a smaller group of confirmands.

While we're pleased with what we're seeing, we know that these are challenging times for churches. Please join us in praying for God's leading, that we might become His church in this new age in which we live and minister!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

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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— all ages 10:00 a.m.
Coffee & fellowship at 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

Youth Director Laura Perez

Phone: 507-352-9522

Email: lauraperez3@gmail.com

Secretary:

Louise Winfield

Custodian:

Paul Eberle

Organist:

Suzanne Eberle

Bell Choir Dir.

Kathy Casady

Choir Pianist:

Kristie Shorter

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

The newsletter deadline for March 2012 will be Tuesday, February 21st at 4:00 pm.

If you would like to email your announcements or articles the address is faithunited@centurytel.net. Thank you.

FUMC - SERVICE GROUP

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
Lorin & Janet Hammon	346-2187
Don & Jan Lanning	346-2972
Louis & Lenora Schmidt	346-9993
Judy Tart	346-2469



IMAGINE NO MALARIA UPDATE!

During this past Advent and Christmas seasons we used Michael's Slaughter's *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* Bible Study to lift up the United Methodist Church's campaign to wipe out Malaria in Sub Saharan Africa. When this campaign began (as *Nothing But Nets*) one child was dying of this scourge every thirty seconds, but the widespread distribution of insecticide impregnated mosquito netting to children under the age of five has already lowered that figure to one death every forty-five seconds! While this is still far too high, it is evidence that the campaign is having a positive impact. At the end of 2011 we sent your contributions of \$834.00 to the Conference Treasurer from our special Advent offering.

While we've sent these first gifts in, you can still make an ongoing pledge to this campaign. Pledge forms are available in the church office.



UMW MEETING

UMW will meet February 8th at 9:00a.m. We will be tying a quilt and there is always kitchen cleaning that can be done. Bring cleaning supplies or quilting supplies which ever you want to do. We will go out for lunch when we are finished at approximately noon.

Darlene

RACHEL CIRCLE

We met on January 18 with Vivian as hostess. We will be meeting at Hillside. Darlene gave the last lesson from the book John 3:16. The chapter was titled "Free Flight". Many people can't believe it is so easy.

Marie opened the meeting with a reading. We discussed the prospect of having the new carpeting laid and the need for some window repair. We also talked of the Mini Market results.

Next month Diane will be hostess, Hubeta will do the lesson, and Vivian the Magazine Report.

Huberta

MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MONTH

More than half of the food distributed by food shelves statewide is collected during March in the form of funds and food. We are again participating and count on your generosity to support our neighbors in the Spring Valley area who need some food assistance. During the month of March please bring in nonperishable food items and/or cash.

Throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare collects donations for the Food Fund and distributes money to food shelves statewide based on the food shelf's March Campaign participation results. This is a great incentive and the more your congregation donates to your local food shelf, the bigger the share of the "Food Fund" your local food shelf receives.



Be the hero. Fight Hunger.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

February 19, 2012

"Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast Love, for his wonderful works to humankind." Psalm 107:8

For more than 70 years, UMCOR has brought hope and solidarity to communities both at home and abroad. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people every where.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. One Great Hour of Sharing makes it possible for 100% of your gifts to go to UMCOR projects.

Recent UMCOR Projects

- Haiti: Building homes in areas affected by 2010 earthquake
- South Sudan: Farmer training to put food on the table
- Horn of Africa Crisis
- Cote D'Ivoire Crisis
- US Spring Storms
- Liberia Emergency

The needs are great for many suffering people. Please be generous. Make checks payable to "FUMC" and write "One Great Hour" in the memo.

**Be There.
Be Hope.**

FUMC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Snow Sledding at Good Earth Village

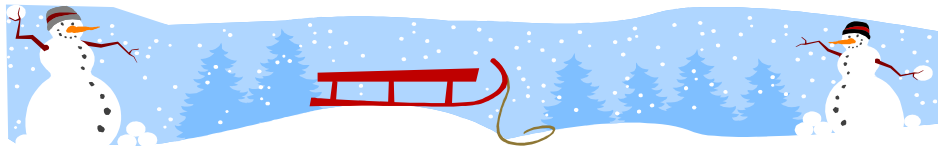
Sunday, February 12, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

with Hot Chocolate and Cookies
in Barr Lodge following our sledding.

It's a Family Affair!

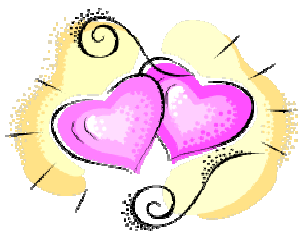
\$2.00/student to help defray
the costs of warming house and goodies!



We're Missing You!

Winter has come and there are a few of you who haven't been to Sunday School for a little while....we hope the flu bug hasn't invaded your home and that you're feeling just fine! Know that every Sunday you're gone...we miss you! Music and class just isn't the same without you. We pray that you'll be back soon and will join us for good stories, conversation and crafts; and just maybe a giggle or two!

Just so you know.....God Loves You and so do we! You're important in our lives!



Way to Go!

Kudoos to the Youth for their participation in the January Youth Worship Service! For those who weren't in attendance...you missed something very special! The music, drama and message were excellent!



FOUNTAIN NEWS

Brrrrr winter is here!! As I write this is it 11 below outside, so thankful for a warm home.

Fountain UMW will be meeting on Feb. 15 at 6 pm at Fountain Village Square. Jeremiah (Jerry) an exchange student from Kenyon, Africa will be speaking about his country and his life. Jerry is staying with Jeff and Jacki Gillespie. Hope everyone can come.

In March, World Day of Prayer will be hosted by the Fountain Lutheran Church on March 2 at 2 pm. Be sure to put the date on your calendar.

If you are ever in Harmony be sure to stop by the Harmony Health Care Center and visit Darliene Ask. She enjoys company and would like to see you.

Same with Spring Valley, stop in at the Spring Valley Care Center and have coffee with Margie Earley.

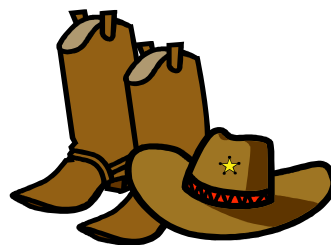
Fountain UMC Sunday School is looking for Sunday School teachers. If anyone is available and would like to work with the children please contact Sheila Arnold at 765-4540.

Remember in your prayers, Beverly and FJ Wingert, Alice Winslow, Margie Earley, and Darliene Ask.

Birthday wishes for February: Debbie Severson Feb. 2, Brandon Amundsen Feb. 4, F.J. Wingert Feb. 8, Cynthia Feb. 23, Syrus Wingert Feb. 24.

Reminder: If you have news you would like in the newsletter, about church, family events, Prayer concerns or Prayer joys, or if you would like your birthday or anniversary in the newsletter. Please let me know by email blu-val0404@yahoo.com or leave a message on my home phone 507-765-4771.

Peace be with you,
Tracy



COWBOY CHURCH

Our next Cowboy Church service in Cherry Grove will be Sunday, February 5th, at 5:00 p.m. We're still working on our lineup of musicians for this service.

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST
Administrative Council Meeting
January 16, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Jill Douglas. Members present were Jeff Kappers, Jan Hammon, Jill Douglas, Kathy Lucas, Pastors Mark Rader and Beth Pérez, Gloria Blakeslee, Darlene Vrieze, Stu Gross, Mary Grems, Barb Paul and Arlynn Ness.

A devotional was shared by Arlynn.

A motion was made to approve the December minutes. m/s/c

Finance: Jan reported that the 12/31/11 checkbook balance was \$11,676.05.

Correspondence: None

SPRC: Stu said the committee had met in December to finish evaluations and prepare for 2012.

Education: Barb reported that Saturday evening, 04-21-12, is set for the Father-Son Banquet. 02-12-12 at 1:00 pm, is the Sunday School Sledding Party at Good Earth Village. 04-22-12 will be the "plants fundraiser" for Sunday School. Celebration Sunday will be 05-20-12.

Worship: Arlynn said that a meeting will be planned soon.

Membership: Mary reported that there were no changes in the past month.

UMW: Darlene reported that the UMW will meet in February.

Pastor Beth: report not submitted.

Pastor Mark: January 2012 Pastors Report

1) We concluded the initial phase of our *Imagine No Malaria* campaign in December, using Michael Slaughter's **Christmas Is Not Your Birthday bible study** as the theme for our preaching during Advent and Christmas in all three of our congregations. At least \$834 was raised in one time gifts for this mission project (we don't have final figures at this time) at Faith Church. We've made an additional pledge of \$1/member as a congregation for the next three years. Overall Minnesota is the first Annual Conference to meet (and surpass) its goal before the end of its campaign. An article by Leia Williams, our Conference Coordinator for *Imagine No Malaria*, offers more information in the most recent edition the UM Reporter.

2) We've started our pre-confirmation classes at Faith Church this month. Pastors Beth and Mark are currently teaching the section on the "Confirmation Into the United Methodist Church" on Wednesday evenings. During Lent a number of different individuals in the church will be teaching the material on "Confirmation Into the Body of Christ" on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM. (before worship). We've had as many as five students present for classes so far.

3) Lent: We are currently working on a sermon series on "Discipleship" for weekend services in all three congregations this year. We're hoping that we might be able to launch a few small discipleship groups out of this series, in keeping with our Congregational Ministry Plan. We're still pulling together plans for a Wednesday evening Lenten Series.

4) Saturday Service. As the next item on this report indicates, the addition of the Saturday service has proven to be a boost in our average attendance. Overall we averaged 12 more in our weekend attendance in 2011 (the first full year of the service) as compared to 2010. We did, however, note that during the summer attendance at the Saturday Service slumped somewhat (as did our Sunday service. One of our next steps may be to consider whether moving the Saturday service to a weeknight during the summer months might offer the churches of the Maple Leaf Parish, as well as the greater Spring Valley area, a unique opportunity to worship.

5) Beginning this month we're being expected to make weekly reports on five metrics of congregational vitality that will track our actual numbers against goals we've been asked to set.

These metrics include:

- Our average weekend worship attendance.
- Professions of Faith (this is an annual number rather than weekly)
- The number of small groups, Sunday School classes, and Bible Studies
- The number of members who are engaged in local, national and international mission/outreach activities.
- The total amount given by a local church to other organizations for support of benevolent and charitable ministries (this amount includes apportionments paid and support for all United Methodist and non-United Methodist organizations active in work such as advocacy, education, health, justice, mercy, outreach and welfare anywhere in the world.

We now have our final figures available for 2011. They were:

FAITH UNITED METHODIST
Administrative Council Meeting
(continued)

Attendance: 123 (an increase of 12 from 2010)

Confession of Faith: 2 (a decrease of 5 from 2010 – these are mostly Confirmands)

Classes: 7 (a decline of 4, though we used different criteria in 2010)

Mission Giving: \$16,212.84 (an increase of \$1761 in 2011)

Service/Members: 32 (an increase of 32, though again we used different criteria for 2011)

Old Business: The 2012 budget was reviewed. A motion was made to accept and approve the budget as presented. m/s/c

New Business: Jeff shared a bid for the installation of existing new carpeting for the Pastors’ offices, and the main admin office. The total is \$1,047.60. A motion was made to complete this project. m/s/c Discussion was also held on whether to eliminate the stove in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Mark discussed some ideas for changing the meeting format for Ad Council. He said that he would like to have the Council do more planning and sharing of ideas, in addition to conducting the business of FUMC.

Pastor Mark also noted that Louise Winfield will now be taking minutes starting with the 02-21-12 meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:14 pm. m/s/c

Respectfully submitted,
Arlynn Ness

**LIFELONG UNITED
METHODIST?**

**NEW TO UNITED
METHODISM?**

Whether you’ve been a United Methodist for five decades or five weeks, you may be surprised at all there is to discover about our denomination.

United Methodism 101 is designed for new church members and anyone else wanting to know more about the denomination and its history, teachings and structure.

In this course, you will learn more about United Methodist:

- History
- Structure
- Beliefs
- Ministries

About the Course

The course includes four modules, each with many interactive features. Each module takes about one hour to complete. Move through the modules at your own pace.

Pre-register

No participants will be admitted once the course begins, so please pre-register before Wednesday, Feb. 1. To register go to: <http://www.umcom.org> and then click on “Store”. Type “United Methodism 101” into the search bar.

Course Details:

Cost: \$9.99

Dates: Feb. 1 – March 14

Offline Option

Instead of taking the online course, you may purchase the United Methodism 101 CD (KIT). The same interactive course blends audio, video and written materials into a fast-moving learning experience.

This kit is ideal for groups or individuals wanting to increase their understanding of United Methodism. Each kit includes five identical CDs and one leader's guide. Additional CDs may be purchased separately.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the United Methodist Women for the condolence card at the death of Lenora’s sister Fern Liverance.

Thanks to the Ruth Circle for the goodies that Lois brought us at Christmas time.

We have a new address:
Louis & Lenora Schmidt
815 Memorial Drive Suite 126
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Louis & Lenora Schmidt



The Work of UMCOR

Disaster Response

Responding to Disaster: UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR's work on behalf of United Methodists is global and includes countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean. UMCOR serves in long-term disaster recovery in the US. UMCOR always works to enable those affected by disasters to take responsibility for relief and recovery work.

Health

UMCOR works within and through communities to promote good health in the United States and abroad. Health should be attainable, accessible, and sustainable—UMCOR Health programs work to make this goal a reality.

UMCOR Health works internationally with United Methodist hospitals and clinics to reach out to communities to combat major health issues such as malnutrition, maternal and child mortality, HIV/AIDS and malaria with education, medication and preventative measures.

Inside of the United States, UMCOR Health connects people to health resources and support networks. UMCOR Health also works with advocacy networks for people with disabilities.

Hunger

UMCOR provides long-term solutions to bring hope to hungry people and empower them to self-sufficiency. Ministries of food, clothing, and medical supplies supplement programs in such areas of work as sustainable agriculture and clean water that help poor countries move forward with development.

Refugees

The plight of 11 million refugees, 22 million internally displaced people, and as many as 60 million migrants across the globe poses an immense human challenge to host nations and their churches. United Methodists and UMCOR have responded since 1940.

Relief Supply Depots

The UMCOR Sager Brown and UMCOR West facilities serve as material resource depots for assembling, storing, and deploying UMCOR supply kits and bulk materials worldwide. UMCOR supply kits help care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. They sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies.

UMCOR Non-Governmental Organization Field Offices

When there is a need to establish a long-term presence overseas, UMCOR does that through its non-governmental organization (NGO). UMCOR NGO sets up field offices within countries to provide local assistance and support in the wake of natural disasters and civil emergencies.

UMCOR Being there. Being Hope.

SPRING VALLEY DANCERS TAKE NATIONAL STAGE

(Note: our very own, Hannah Ramaker and our Youth Director, Laura Perez)



**FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK!**

Could you imagine being 15 years old and dancing in front of a crowd of almost 50,000 people? And even more, as it's being broadcast nationally? On Jan. 2, five girls from the Spring Valley Just for Kix did just that. Corrin Lee, Hannah Ramaker, Paige Webb, Rachel Harder and Shelby Larson (along with their coach, Laura Perez) were part of the pre-game and half-time shows for the 2012 Outback Bowl (Georgia vs, Michigan State).

The girls auditioned by submitting a DVD to the event staff, which reviewed and critiqued the performance and selected the five to be a part of the show. Only 350 dancers out of the 2,000 who auditioned were selected. The girls performed four routines in both the pre-game and half-time shows, along with a 1,025 member marching band. The songs the girls performed to were a medley of songs representing America, and the performances included presenting of the American flag and a flyover!

Coach Perez has 25 years of dance experience (coaching, choreography, teaching and performing). Perez started the Just for Kix program in Spring Valley two years ago and now has more than 80 students.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GRIEF

The Spring Valley Area Ministerial Association is sponsoring an informational discussion on grief at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at the Spring Valley Public Library. The meeting is open to anyone and no registration is necessary.

Carol Kuisle, LICSW, Mayo Clinic Hospice Bereavement Coordinator will share suggestions on ways to help yourself or someone else journey through the grieving process. Please call 507-284-4002 with questions.

In a continuing effort to find new ways to communicate with our members and the greater Spring Valley community, we've created a page for Faith United Methodist Church on Facebook. We're hoping to use the page to post announcements, pictures and other information about our congregation. We'll be adding a link to our new page soon on our website at www.faithsv.net, or you can respond to an invitation to "Like" our page if Pastor Mark knows that you have a Facebook account.

DAFFODILS



It's Daffodil Time!! Please order your daffodils by Sunday, February 12th. Orders will be taken before and after worship. Make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. Daffodils will be delivered to the church, Wednesday afternoon, March 14th. Give daffodils. Give hope. Questions? Contact Nancy Cornell (346-2044).

STEPHANIE O'CONNELL BENEFIT

Stephanie was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in November 2011 and has undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatments for the cancer.

A benefit will be held at the Spring Valley Community Center starting with a silent auction from 4:30 - 6:30 PM, meal at 5:00 PM of scalloped potatoes with ham, roll, salad, bars and beverage, and live auction beginning at 7:00 PM until all items are sold.

Please encourage Stephanie and her family.



Maple Leaf Parish

- **Cherry Grove UMC**
 - **Fountain UMC**
 - **Faith UMC**
- 617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Address Service Requested

Spring Valley, MN
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #62
Non-Profit
Bulk Rate

**FUMC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SNOW SLEDDING AT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE**

Sunday, February 12, 2012
1:00-4:00 PM



Hot Chocolate and Cookies in Barr Lodge following our sledding.

It's a Family Affair!

\$2.00/student to help defray the costs of
Warming house and goodies!