

Special Points of Interest:

- December Calendar with Birthdays & Anniversaries.
- Housewalk—
Dec. 1 & 2.
- January Newsletter Article & Calendar Reservation deadline—
December 11.
- Food @ Faith—
December 15.
- Christmas Eve Worship—4:30 p.m., Dec. 24.

Advent: A Time to Celebrate Jesus

The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance. Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

During this time, Christians observe a season of prayer, fasting and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of time.

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. This year advent begins on December 2. Below we have listed the lectionary readings for each Sunday in Advent in 2012. I encourage every adult to take the time to read this passages and reflect on what God has done for you in Jesus.

3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2012 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:47–55; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45

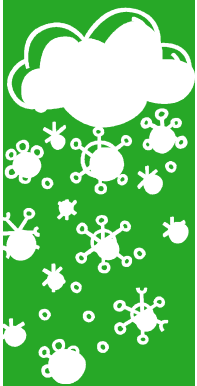
We also want to encourage our children to think about the meaning of Advent. One way we will do this will be to mail every family with a child in grades K-6 an advent calendar for the family to use during the season of Advent. We will also have some Advent calendars on sale in the narthex as long as they last, they are \$7.00. Please pay in the Office or the offering.



This is the rich heritage we celebrate during the Advent Season it also one of our busiest times of the year. My prayer for you and your family as well as my family is that we all slow down take a holy breath and reflect on the gift of God Jesus the Christ, who came down as a babe and walked this earth and died for our sins, rose from the dead and will come again.

~~ Pastor Victor Waters





Join us in December!

December 1 & 2—Christmas Housewalk

December 2—Advent Begins

December 16—Cantata and Children’s Christmas Pageant (9:30 a.m.)

December 24, 25, 26 & 28—Church Office Closed

December 24—Christmas Eve Candle Light Service (4:30 p.m.)

December 27—CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

December 31 & January 1—Church Office Closed



Newsletter Note

NEXT NEWSLETTER HAS EARLY DEADLINE!

Newsletter articles and calendar items are **due by DECEMBER 11** for the January Newsletter. My goal is to have the next newsletter out before the holiday’s hit.

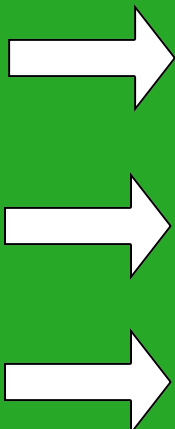
PLAN AHEAD, and make your January arrangements now! If you have any questions or comments, please call Tina at (507) 835-3167.

Thank You!

On the bulletin board you can find:

To save on postage and paper, be sure to check out the bulletin board. Some items will only be posted there.

- Brochures from various schools, camp grounds and more!
- Newsletters from various agencies and organizations including: Emma Norton, Midwest Distribution Center, Gambling Alliance, United Theological Seminary, and more!
- Mowing/Lawn Care and Snow Removal vouchers.
- New items almost daily—be sure to check things out and ask for copies if you want to take something home.



FAITH IN MISSION: This Christmas give a Gift of Hope

You are being asked this Advent Season to help bring Hope to people in our neighborhood, in our nation and around the world. **The projects that we are sponsoring are:**



Feed My Starving Children is a Christian non-profit organization founded in 1987. It tackles

world hunger by sending volunteer-packed, nutritious meals to nearly 70 countries where they are used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics, and other building blocks of healthy communities. Last year Feed My Starving Children produced 133 million meals, maintaining its 7th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and spent 92% of total donations directly on feeding the hungry. \$50 will fund a box of meals, \$80 will feed one child for a year, \$350 will feed one family for a year, \$500 will feed one school for a year and \$550 will feed one orphanage for a year. **How much Hope can we give?**



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is a disaster relief facility located on

an 8 acre campus, 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois. They started their operation in 2000. MMDC is a caring ministry related to the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, which includes Minnesota. As of January 2010, MMDC is also a cooperating depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Supply Network. Their mission statement reads: "To compassionately help God's people in need locally, nationally, and around the world, and to offer a center to fulfill the call for service to our neighbors in Christ's name". They do this by providing opportunities for individuals and groups of all walks of life, denominational backgrounds, abilities, and ages to help provide disaster relief kits and resources; as well as, sending educational and medical supplies to those in need, both locally and internationally. Your

monetary donations are used to buy supplies for health kits, school bags, hospital gowns, quilts, school desks, and flood buckets. These supplies are made into kits and distributed throughout the United State as and internationally as the need after disasters. **How much Hope can we give?**

The Neighborhood Service Center

offers many programs to the residents of Waseca County. Some are:



- Back Pack Program— packs food for kids to eat over the weekends when hot lunch isn't available.
- MAC/NAPS- Help with extra food during the month, for Seniors and Moms & Children.
- ALE (A Little Extra)- Program to help with people that have disabilities, with food needs.
- Thanksgiving/Holiday basket- a meal for the holidays
- Santa Anonymous- a gift giving program that helps parents provide gifts for kids ages 0-18.
- SA Family Match—groups (family, business, etc.) are matched to a family and provide gifts for the entire family, including parents.
- Offer a Food Shelf to families once a month and if they are in a big need they can come in and get what is called TFAB and that is a little food to get them by for a few days
- People can also come into the store and get what is called a store voucher so if they are in need of household items they can get a voucher for Clothes, Bedding, Dishes and Furniture and more.
- There is also the Back to School Program- offering school supplies to families that meet the requirements.

How much HOPE can we give back to the world that we live in today this Christmas Season?

Thank you!

Lord! Please hear our prayer...

Cedarview Care Center—Elaine Flathers

Colony Court—Rosalind Peterson

Colony Court Memory Suites—Anna Swenson

Lake Shore Inn— Elvira Blowers, Florence Gutknecht,
Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse & Mable Long

Lakeview Ranch, Dassel— Raymond Pommerenke

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI— Marlene Rietfort

Oaklawn Care Center, Mankato—Gerri Peterson

Shorewood Sr. Campus, Rochester—Darlene Lynch

Those who are ill or injured: Jim & Marian Keller, Willie Mahler, Gerri Peterson, Chuck Youngberg and Nina Youngberg.

- *Please remember our family and friends in Military Service, and those who travel for a living. Keep them safe when they are away from home.*
- *Keep our children, parents and neighbors safe this Holiday Season.*
- *Please pray for our involvement in the Healthy Church Initiative.*
- *Help us remember the reason for the season and put Christ first this Christmas.*



BLOOD DRIVE

This Holiday Season, give something that means something!

**Monday, December 10
Noon to 6 p.m.**

American Legion (Waseca)

To schedule your appointment, call Pat at 835-4757. Picture ID or donor card required. Visit red-crossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Join Margaret Dahnert, and her family, as they celebrate Margaret's 80th birthday on Dec. 2 during Fellowship. Coffee and cake will be served.

FOOD @ FAITH

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Anyone wanting to purchase a cart for someone you know in need, or maybe you want to give one anonymously, see Karen Norby or Tina, in the Office. Gift Certificates are valid for 3 months and cost \$25.

CARD SHOWER

Willie Mahler turns 98 years young this **December 10!** To celebrate and share this amazing landmark, send her a card or post-card:

Willie Mahler
7200 York Ave. South, #112
Edina, MN 55435





YOUTH EVENTS

**SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 9
FROM 6:30-8:00 YOUTH GROUP.**

This is a time where we relax and have fun playing some games, getting to know each other, and spending some time in scripture to hear what God has to teach us.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT
GRACE GARAGE**

The youth have been asked to help serve a meal to the families that come for dinner. We need to arrive at 4:45 and we will be through by 6:30. Let me know if you are interested in helping to serve the meal. UMW ladies from Faith will be preparing the meal and helping us serve.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

This is the fourth Sunday of the month and it is our contemporary Sunday. A time where the service is more upbeat and informal. It is also the Sunday we ask our youth that are available to serve as ushers.

PUPPETS!

Would you believe we found more puppets! Stop into the office and say “Hi.” We are looking for homes, and if no-one claims them by the end of December, we will see if Hansel & Gretel or the NSC want them...

CHURCH LIBRARY



When was the last time you “checked out” a book from the church library? ... Exactly! The Trustee’s have voted to discontinue the church library and utilize the space for other purposes.

Through the month of December, we encourage each of you to look over the books on the shelves and see if there is anything you would like to take home, for your personal library. In January, the shelves will be cleared and the books donated to the NSC, or destroyed if they are refused for donation.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING! Anyone interested in recycling their cardboard through Job’s Plus can bring it to Faith UMC on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Please break it down flat. Put it in the red pick-up truck parked by the garage/kitchen entrance. This vehicle belongs to Karen Norby’s sister, Cheri Waugh; she is a regular Food @ Faith volunteer, and works at Job’s Plus. She also takes all the cardboard from Food @ Faith! A special thank you to her (and her family) for all this help!

GIFTS THAT CONTINUE TO GIVE—
CONSIDER THE GIFT OF CAMP!

Stumped? Don’t know what to give for Christmas? Feeling like your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews have everything they need? Camperships are the perfect gift that will continue to give for a life-time! Contact the Retreats & Camping Office for a personalized gift card that can be used for any Minnesota United Methodist Camp. (612) 230-CAMP (2267) or visit: www.camps@campminnesota.org.

Another option to consider is a gift to the Camp Minnesota Campership Fund to help any child, youth or adult that needs extra funds to make camp possible. Checks for Conference Camperships can be sent to the Camping Office at Camping, #400—122 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis MN 55404 or online at www.donations.campminnesota.org.

Circles are one of the small group opportunities available at Faith where Bible Study, Devotions and Prayer are shared.



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Faith Messenger

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, December 19 at 3 p.m. in the Upper Room.** Circle members will share devotions and snacks. Visitors and guests welcome.

Mary Circle

Mary Circle is meeting on **Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.** at the home of Marilyn Possin.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle's meeting will be announced.



BERTS' UPDATE: December 2012

UMW unit meeting was held Monday November 19 at 6:00. Sandy Voshell presented our World Thank offering program.

The members were happy to welcome a new UMW member, Julie Svoboda.

Reports were given on the activities and meetings held this last quarter:

Char Frankenberry reported on the Southern Prairie Annual Gathering that was held September 15.

Barb Friedl reported on the Minnesota Annual Gathering held at the Hope church in Blue Earth on October 6. It was great to have eight UMW members attend the meeting from Faith UMC.

Roberta Walker talked about the Flemming Fold family group that entertained us at Guest Night on October 18.

Edy Barber, Linda Lohse and Shirley Burdick reported on the Fall Bazaar that was held on November 3. So far, the profits for missions are about \$2,883.

The officers for 2013 for United Methodist Women are as follows:

Co-Presidents: Mary Jane Stauffer and

Roberta Walker

Vice President: Sherry Scholljegerdes

Secretary: Shirley Hansen

Treasurer: Sandy Voshell

Nominations: Edy Barber, Karen Ferch, Char Frankenberry, Linda Lohse

The 2013 calendar was approved as presented.

Sherry Scholljegerdes gave a short report on her mission trip to Haiti. She is planning on doing a power point presentation in January.

The UMW program books will be available on UMW Sunday which will be held on January 27.

Supper at Grace Garage is a program sponsored by the Neighborhood Service Center. A supper is provided to people twice a month. Our church has been asked to help with providing the supper for November 29 and December 20.

We plan to serve soup and homemade bread and cookies November 29.

On December 20 we are going to serve Bar-B-Q pork, mashed potatoes, squash and homemade bread and dessert. We also plan on having Santa Claus for the kids.



UMCOR—SANDY RECOVERY

UMCOR is working with annual conferences affected by super-storm Sandy, providing grants and support as they minister to survivors.

More than \$100,000 in grants has been approved so far for Peninsula/Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, New York, and Greater New Jersey annual conferences. UMCOR is also providing funds to Cuba in its recovery from the storm.

Your gift to UMCOR US DISASTER RESPONSE, HURRICANES 2012—Advance # 3021787 will help survivors recovery. You can also text the word RESPONSE to 80888 to give an immediate \$10 donation.

- More than 16,000 cleaning buckets have been distributed to sites in five states, from Maryland to New York, in response to super-storm Sandy. This is in addition to the thousands of buckets sent after Hurricane Isaac damaged Gulf Coast state in late August.
- Cleaning bucket inventory is low. Consider packing one, or making a donation to help replenish supplies.

THANK YOU'S

THANK YOU! – Mary Born, and her family, thank you for your prayers and concerns regarding her back surgery and subsequent recovery. She is doing fine and remains in the hospital working on physical therapy. She is walking with a walker, and may be in a wheel chair for a while, but the surgery went well.

~~ Mary & Louis Born, Lucille & George Kubista, Tom & Karen Kuyper

Thank you each and every one for your many kind words, cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. My family and I do indeed feel loved and appreciated by this congregation!

~~ Pastor Victor

Thank you to my church family for your calls, cards, prayers and visits since my last surgery and recovery.

~~ Bruce Stauffer

**Looking for a “snow bird” address?
Call the Church Office!
(507) 835-3167**

“THERE’S A SONG IN THE AIR...” HOUSEWALK 2012

It is obvious that evidence of the beautiful Christmas Season abounds at Faith UMC! Many hands and willing spirits arrived on Friday, November 16 to deck the halls and sanctuary—helping prepare our church for welcoming visitors on the Waseca Arts Council’s Christmas Housewalk, December 1 & 2.

No words can express the gratitude the decorating committee holds for the following workers who gave of their time and talents: Clair & Sandy Voshell, Bruce & Lorraine Wick, Wally & Betty

Ruedy, Barb Friedl, Julie Blom, Marian Keller, Jolene & Alyssa Kilmer, Shirley Burdick (for a charming Children’s Tree) and Bob Stephan.

A special thank you, with hugs, to our wonderful hubbies: Bruce, Vern, Reg, Paul & George.

Blessings for a most Holy Christmas!

Karen Cass, Shirley Hansen, Karen Ferch, Mary Stauffer and Linda Lohse



NURSE’S NOTES: THERE IS HOPE IN HAITI

The Haitian people show us that just because one has no monetary resources, it doesn’t mean that joy cannot be felt. They laugh easily, smile broadly, and show the patience of Job. A kind and gracious people—Christian people.

I had the privilege to go to Haiti, November 2-10, with a medical mission team. There were 9 of us, 3 surgeons, 2 anesthesiologists, an RN, a handy man, and me. Our destination was Hospital Bon Samaritan (Good Samaritan Hospital) in Limbe, Haiti. Limbe is 32 miles from Cape Haitian, which is on the northern coast.

During the week, there were 46 surgeries (major and minor) and 115 cervical cancer screenings done. It was a very full week! I did the cervical cancer screening. Leslee Jeager, MD checked each patient having lesions before treatment & she did some biopsies, as well. Three women had cervical cancer and 2 had surgery immediately; the other woman, it was too late to treat her so

she went home with some comfort therapy.

We often see pictures that break our hearts. The Haitian people, are very thin, but there was no sign of starvation. Their clothes were clean, in spite of not having running water. My heart leapt with joy to see children on their way to school in their uniforms. Education is one of the keys to unlock a brighter future for Haiti.

On Sunday, January 20th, we will have a soup lunch after worship service and following, we will present photos and stories on the medical mission trip to Haiti. I hope you will be there!

Thank you, again, for all your support.

Wishing you Joy!

*~~ Your Parish Nurse,
Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN,*

P.S.—I’ve been asked to return to Haiti to continue this work and I would love to go!

MEALS AT GRACE GARAGE

The Neighborhood Service Center, provides the opportunity to serve meals on Thursday nights to anyone who needs a meal. Churches and other groups provide the food and serve the meals.

We are committed to 2 meals—November 29 and December 20. If you are interested in providing cookies for the Dec. 20th

supper, please let the church office know, (507) 835-3167.

One step further: Would you be interested in leading this mission outreach in our own community? Pray about it—ask questions. Roberta Walker, Char Frankenberg and Sherry Scholljegerdes can give you the scoop on this project. We will be doing around 4 suppers each year, serving about 45 people.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of, or have expressed an interest in, this organization. Please recycle this publication when you are finished with it. Thank you!

Faith Messenger is published monthly by Faith United Methodist Church, Waseca, MN. Article deadline is given in the newsletter and may vary every month. The publisher reserves the right to refuse submissions at any time.

For submissions, corrections and address updates, or to be removed from this mailing list, contact Tina England, Administrative Assistant at (507) 835-3167 or faithwaseca@gmail.com or by mail at 801 Fourth Ave. NE, Waseca, MN 56093.



Information To Keep You Connected

Church Staff (835-3167)

Rev. Victor Waters
Tina England, Office
Bob Stephan, Custodian
Barb Klampe, Choir Dir.

Bulletin Board Coordinator

Kelly Adams (507) 201-7033

Church Building

Clair Voshell 835-4122

Church Council

David Baldini 835-3697

Communion Coordinator

Karen Norby 833-3556

Education Coordinator

Linda Lohse 835-1917

Fellowship Coordinator

Sandy Voshell 835-4122

Flower Gardens

Clair Voshell 835-4122

Food @ Faith

Karen Norby 833-3556

Greeter & Valet Coordinator

Betty Jane Ruedy 835-7798

Grounds

Bruce Stauffer 833-2979

Historian

** OPEN

Kitchen Clean-Up Coord.

Karen Ferch 833-2515

Lake Shore Video Coord.

Janet Welch 835-4678

Liturgist Coordinator

Janet Jones (507) 201-2023

Membership Care

Janet Welch 835-4678

Membership Secretary

** OPEN

Memorials Chair

Bruce Stauffer 833-2979

Missions Coordinator

Char Frankenberry 833-7489

Newsletter & Bulletin

Church Office 835-3167

Nominations Committee

Sherry Scholljegerdes
835-4304 or

Mary Jane Stauffer
833-2979

Parish Nurse

Sherry Scholljegerdes
835-4304

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Deloris Asmus 835-1367 &
Church Office

Staff/Parish Relations

Paul Lohse 835-1917

Trustee's Chair

Neil Fruechte 835-7006

UMW

Roberta Walker 835-3044

UMW Historian

Janet Jones (507) 201-2023

UM Youth Fellowship &

Confirmation Coordinator

Pastor Victor 835-3167

Usher/Acolyte Coordinator

Roger Walker 835-3044

VBS Coordinator

Julie Blom 837-4046

Worship Team

Pastor Victor 835-3167

** Looking for Volunteers!

Welcoming Team

Pastor Victor 835-3167

** Looking for Volunteers!

Plug-In!

give us a

call & get

involved!



Call Us !



Faith United Methodist Church

"Faith by the lake ~ and beyond!"

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Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

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56093

Change Service Requested

JOIN US!



Christmas Worship at Faith



9:30 a.m., December 16—

**Christmas Cantata &
Children's Program**

4:30 p.m., December 24—

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

