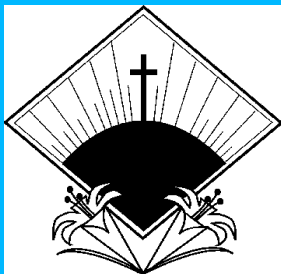

FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

www.faithunitedcog.org

April 2010

Easter Services 2010



Palm Sunday Service, March 28, 10:00 AM

We will celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Our children will wave the palms in our service.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 1, 6:30 PM

Please join us for communion and our foot washing service at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday Service, April 2, 7:30 PM

Ecumenical Service at St. Adalbert's Basilica, 701 Fourth Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Open Communion: 8:00 - 9:00 AM

The sanctuary will be open from 8:00 to 9:00 for a time of come and go Communion.

Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 9:45 AM

Join us for breakfast following Communion. If you are able to bring a food donation for breakfast, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Easter Morning Worship Service: 10:00 AM

Please join us in the Celebration of Resurrection. We will celebrate together with a time of music, the drama team will present "A Very Cold Night" by Dennis Winnie, and a sermon will be shared by Pastor Steve. Our Easter Missions Offering will be taken today as well.



Easter Fun and Festivities, April 4

The Christian Education Board will be having Easter Fun and Festivities (including games, crafts, snacks and prizes) for all children thru the 5th grade during the Sunday School hour (11:00-11:15 AM) on Easter morning. The kids will be meeting in the children's Sunday School rooms. Hope to see you there!

Donations Needed for Easter Breakfast

The Board of Recreation & Fellowship needs food donations for the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 4th. If you are able to donate any items, see the sign up sheet on the narthex table today! Thank you.

Blood Drive, April 9

The Walker Community Donor Center sponsors blood drives on the 2nd Friday of every month. We invite you to donate blood on Friday, April 9 from 12:00 to 7:00 PM at the City of Walker Fire Station #3 (Community Center), located at 1470 Three Mile. Walk-in when it is convenient for you.

Guest Preacher, April 11

Preaching for us on April 11 will be Mr. Dave Dow. Dave and his wife Carole attend St. Paul's United Methodist Church here in Grand Rapids where both of them are very involved. Dave works for Gordon Food Service of Canada. He is also a Certified Lay Speaker with the UMC, and we have been privilege to hear him twice over the last few years. I know you will be blessed by his message.

Highway Cleanup, April 17

On April 17, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, we will be gathering together to clean up Walker Avenue between 3 and 4 Mile roads. Come on out and take part in this worthwhile event. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the narthex.

In case of bad weather, we will use April 24 as a rain date.

Our Mission Statement

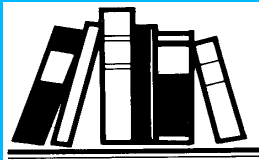
"Love God, grow together in Christ, serve others"

Warner Camp Pride Day, April 17

Pride Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th. For more information about this outreach opportunity, please contact Warner Camp at (269) 434-6844.

Readers Anonymous, April 19

Faith United Ladies Readers Anonymous will be meeting at the home of Erika Irving on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the same location. You're welcome to join us!



All Church Work Day, April 24

We will be having an All Church Work Day on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. There is work for anyone and everyone! Give just a few Saturday hours to help keep our church building and grounds attractive and well maintained. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Any questions? See John Pokora or Terry Kerwin. Thank you.

Gathering Grand Rapids, April 25

Gathering Grand Rapids is a movement to come together as the body of Christ in worship and prayer for the city and region of Grand Rapids. The sole purpose is to pray to God in one accord, asking for God to transform our city and region. This worship event will occur Sunday, April 25, 2010, 6-8:00 pm, at DeVos Place. Hundreds of believers will unite in prayer. Come and pray!

Wedding Shower, April 29

Ladies please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The Board of Recreation and Fellowship is hosting a Wedding Shower for Katie Stratton. Katie Stratton and Jim Peterson are registered at Kohl's and Bed, Bath and Beyond. Come and join in this special celebration.



Warner Camp Golf Scramble, May 1

Warner Camp will have their 3rd Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Beeches Golf Club in South Haven, Michigan. Cost is \$240.00 per 4 person team. For more information, see the (downstairs) hallway bulletin board at church, contact Warner Camp by email, warnercamp@ymail.com, or call them directly at (269) 434-6844.

Widowed Persons Service – “Growth Through Loss” Seminar, May 1

Widowed Persons Service (WPS) is a non-profit organization which has provided supportive services to widowed individuals of all ages from the Greater Grand Rapids area since 1978. On Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Faith United will be the host facility for the Spring WPS "Growth Through Loss" seminar, which provides information and support to men and women who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death. If you have questions or know of someone who might benefit from these services, please feel free to contact Terry Kerwin, WPS Program Coordinator.

Missing

Some of our Princess House glass casserole dishes from the church kitchen are missing. Please check to see if you might have any of them at home. Thank you!

Clothing Needed!

The Church of God in Piedro Negras, Mexico, is in need of clothing! Glen and Jean Lerch are planning to make a trip in mid May.

Please bring your donations of clothing items to the church by Sunday, May 2nd. Your donations are much appreciated!

Helping Hands Ministry

Warner Camp Needs Compassionate, Caring Volunteers! These jobs don't get paid \$\$, but the benefits are:

- Free room and food
- Experience for your resume
- Eternal rewards
- Involvement in a servant ministry
- Work Outdoors
- Work with young people
- Independence and freedom
- Flexible schedule available

The jobs:

- Counselor – must be 18 years old
- Media Tech – must be 18 years old
- Counselor in Training – must be 16 years old
- Leather Shop – must be 15 years old
- Grounds Worker – must be 15 years old
- Maintenance Helper – must be 15 years old
- Cleaning – must be 15 years old

Contact “Doc” Stevens at:

Warner Camp, 60 - 55th Street
Grand Junction, MI 49056
(269) 434-6844 or warnercamp@ymail.com
www.warnercamp.com

Warner Youth Camp Information

We have received a poster from Warner Camp regarding 2010 Youth Camps. Please note that only a \$50.00 pre-registration fee is required with the registration form (a \$20 late fee will be assessed AFTER May 26, 2010). For more information, see the poster and application forms on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway. Thank you.

April Children's Church

Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 2nd grade



Time for Children will be offered the first Sunday of the month, and each consecutive Sunday Children's Church will take place at 10:30 AM. Each week the children do a craft, play a game or sing fun songs, so encourage your children to attend!

Boy Scout News Troop #197

When the scouts go out, nothing stops them from having a good time. It was a cold, snowy and windy night when they went to Camp Gerber the last week end of February. There was a clothes dryer in the lodge, and it ran all day Saturday. They went on two long hikes, and no one complained about anything; they just had fun, except for asking, "Isn't there any more food!"

Scoutmaster, Michele Hickerty

Assistant Scoutmaster, Herm Gast

Senior Update

April 11 (Sunday) Visit the Butterflies @ Meijer Gardens (eat lunch too!)

April 17 (Saturday) Gaither Homecoming Concert @ the VanAndel Arena, 6 p.m.

Be watching for future Senior events. We always have a good time when we get together!

Update: Men's Fellowship

A group of fourteen men met for the Men's fellowship at O'Charley's on Monday, March 8th, and we had a fun evening of food and laughter. In fact it was so much fun, we will be doing it again on Monday, June 8, 2010. Watch for more information as June approaches!

Herm Gast

Northwest Food Pantry

For the month of April, Faith United is collecting: **tuna or other canned meats. Many other food items and non food items are needed as well.** Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!



Health News

Successful Aging: Staying Active and Connected

Staying Active:

Exercise and staying active can help improve your health, make you feel better, help avoid the decline and deterioration often associated with aging, and bring more joy into life. Anyone can exercise, even if you have a medical condition – exercise can even help! However, it is important to consult your doctor before beginning any exercise plan.

Exercise Safety:

As you begin an exercise plan, it is important to feel safe and comfortable during your activities (e.g., wear loose fitting clothing and shoes that fit well, drink plenty of water, and stop exercising and call your doctor if you experience chest pains, dizziness, shortness of breath, or increased joint or muscle pain).

Staying Connected:

It is important to stay connected with others and to maintain friendships to increase quality of life. Try and also add this into your weekly plan with activities such as gardening with your neighbor, joining a club, or organizing a card game. Also, think about exercising in a social setting such as walking outside or in a mall with someone.

Please see additional information regarding Health News posted on the downstairs bulletin board (in the hallway). Thank you.

Joan & Judy, your Parish Nurses



Pastor Steve & Family Away, April 5-13

Pastor Steve and family will be away from April 5 - 13. In case of an emergency, please contact Mark Peterson, our church chairperson.

Pastor Matt & Kristin Away, April 5-11

Pastor Matt & Kristin will be away from April 5 - 11. In case of an emergency, please contact Mark Peterson, our church chairperson.

Sunday School Classes



CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)
Teacher: Connie Evans and Mary Irving
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)
Teachers: Erika Irving
- **Primary & Kindergarten** (4 yrs - kindergarten)
Teachers: Lisa McDaniel and Esther Hickerty
Class meets in room #1 on the lower level
- **Middler** (1st - 2nd grade)
Teacher: Kathy Van Dyke
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level
- **Junior** (3rd - 5th grade)
Teacher: Chad and Jenny Morris
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level

YOUTH

- **Jr. High** (6th - 7th grade)
Teacher: Cindy Irving
Class meets in room # 4 on the lower level
- **Sr. High** (8th - 12th grade)
Teachers: Brian Farlow and Pastor Matt Stone
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall

ADULT

- **Bridges Class**
Teachers: Barb Bleiler and Millard Knapp
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum
Class meets on the lower level
- **Elective Class I**
Teacher: Cecil Mathewson
Studying: *The Beatitudes and The Lord's Prayer for Everyman*
Class meets at the Girl Scout Building
- **Faith 401**
Teacher: Steve McDaniel
Studying: Spiritual Practices such as prayer, Bible reading and study, worship, service, and more.
Class meets in the GR Ophthalmology Building



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
*Make the Connection
with Others*

April Nursery Workers

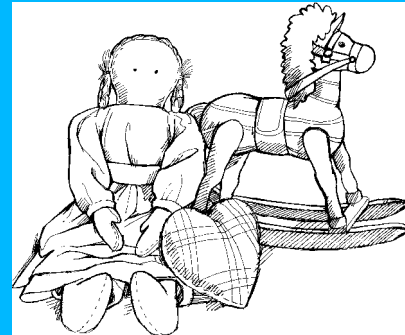
Infant

- 4 – Kathy & Katie Van Dyke
- 11 – Velvet & Charlie Lerch
- 18 – Karen, Kayla & Shelby Lovins
- 25 – Josh & Cindy Irving

Toddler

- 4 – Noe & Sue Athanon
- 11 – Tim & Jodi Stanton
- 18 – Karen & Faith Pokora
- 25 – Amy & Hannah Blauw

Please contact Sue Athanon if you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the May 2010 edition of FAITHNews is Thursday, April 15, 2010. Thank you for your help!

Faith United Church of God
3290 Walker Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544-9431

Phone (616) 784-5060 / Fax 784-9141

Church Website: <http://www.faithunitedcog.org>

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Steven D. McDaniel (sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org)

Associate Pastor: Matthew E. Stone (mattstone@faithunitedcog.org)

Kids Hope USA Director: Karen K. Pokora (kpokora@tds.net)

Office Secretary: Rhonda J. Plants (secretary@faithunitedcog.org)

Small Group Coordinator: Erika Irving (jeirv@comcast.net)

Parish Nursing Program

Judy Hewett Kerwin, R.N. (judyhewett@comcast.net)

Joan Kowalczyk, R.N. (joanyko@juno.com)

Living Link Missionaries

Ben & Kelli Shular (Tanzania)

Neville & Anne Tan (Singapore)

Sundays

10:00 AM Celebration of Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 1108

Change Service Requested

The week of March 21 was the final week of our “40 Days of Love” campaign. I am very thankful for all that was learned, shared, and experienced during those six weeks. And I’m certainly thankful that so many of you were willing and able to commit to a weekly morning, afternoon, or evening class or small group meeting. I’m equally grateful that many of you are choosing to continue your small group experience beyond our 40 Days campaign. Those of you who have been involved in small groups know as well as I how enjoyable and meaningful they can be. And you know how important it is to have good leadership. Thank you to all who either hosted or facilitated a group. We couldn’t have done it without you! And thank you to Erika Irving, our Small Group Coordinator, for all that she did to organize and oversee this great campaign!

Coming away from 40 Days we go right into Holy Week where we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ. We look to the cross and see the greatest gift of love to humanity, and we look to the empty grave and see the great love of the Father, who raised his Son to life, and promises to do the same for those who give their lives to him. I think of the chorus from the familiar hymn, “Lead Me to Calvary”: “Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget Thine agony, Lest I forget Thy *love* for me, Lead me to Calvary.” Join us for our Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services as we worship the Lord for all he has done and the love he has shown.

Here at Faith United we know that April not only brings to us the joy of Easter, but also the sadness of saying “good-bye” to Pastor Matt and Kristin Stone. Their last Sunday with us will be April 18, and on that day we will celebrate their ministry to and with us. Following the worship service we will remain in the sanctuary so that we can share great memories. After that time, everyone will be invited to the narthex for cake and punch. Please join us for this morning of celebrating our love for Matt and Kristin.

Please also know that we are being very intentional about finding our next Associate Pastor. Our goal is to hire someone who is gifted in leading in the areas of worship and youth ministry. I am committed to continuing the style of blended worship we outline in our vision statement (www.faithunitedcog.org – see link on home page), a style that Pastor Matt has led us in so ably. Much contact work has been done and is continuing to happen. While I am saddened that Matt and Kristin will not be with us, I am convinced that God has someone for us, and I’m excited about our future!

May you bless Matt and Kristin with your prayers as they complete their ministry here at Faith United, and at the end of April, begin their ministry in Greenville. May you also keep Faith United in your prayers as we strongly continue our worship and youth ministries, and as we pursue our next Associate Pastor. Blessings!

Pastor Steve