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# FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

www.faithunitedcog.org

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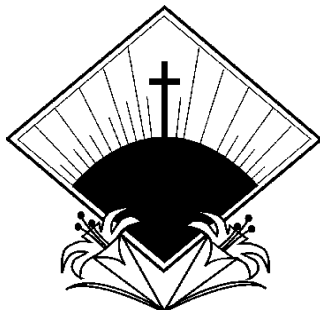
April 2011

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## Easter Services 2011

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### **Palm Sunday Service, April 17, 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 21, 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 22, 7:30 PM**

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

## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

### **Prayer Vesper: 8:45 AM**

### **Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 9:45 AM**

Join us for a Prayer Vesper at 8:45 AM followed by breakfast at 9:00 AM.

### **Easter Morning Worship Service: 10:00 AM**

Please join us in the Celebration of Resurrection. The drama team will present "Through The Shadows Into The Light" and will include speakers from the time of Christ with music. Our Easter Missions Offering will be taken today as well.



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## **Easter Breakfast**

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Join us for Easter breakfast immediately following our prayer vesper at 8:45 AM on Easter morning. In order to help with the planning of food; if you plan to attend - you are asked to sign up on the sheet that is available on the table in the narthex. Hope to see you there!

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## **Feeding America**

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Please put the following dates on your calendar for 2011: April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13. The Board of Outreach and Service has scheduled these dates for a food truck to be at Faith United. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00 pm for the dates listed above. If you are not able to arrive at 4:00 pm, then come as soon as you can. The truck arrives at 4:30 pm and customers are here from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, or until the food is gone.

If you know of anyone that needs assistance with food, please share with them the dates and times above. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the narthex.

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## **Blood Drive, April 8**

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The Walker Community Donor Center sponsors blood drives on the 2nd Friday of every month. We invite you to donate blood on Friday, April 8, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM at the City of Walker Fire Station #3 (Community Center), located at 1470 Three Mile. Walk-in when it is convenient for you.

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## **ALL CHURCH WORK DAY!**

### **April 16th**

(Rain date-April 30)

Just think what can be done  
with lots of help and  
**ONLY 3 HOURS**  
on a Saturday!

The fun starts at 9:00!

*What a great service project!*

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Our Mission Statement

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

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### **Highway Cleanup, April 16**

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On April 16, 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 Saturday, April 30 as a rain date.



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### **City-Wide United Prayer Service - DeltaPlex**

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On **Saturday, April 16, 2011**, there will be a City-Wide Prayer Service at the DeltaPlex Arena (2500 Turner Avenue NE, Grand Rapids) from **6:00 - 8:00 PM**.

#### **Admission is free.**

Gathering Grand Rapids is a united prayer movement of the Christian churches in Grand Rapids and the surrounding region. Our vision is to hold prayer and worship events that are interdenominational and intercultural in focus, seeking to represent the Body of Christ in diverse and unified form.

Join with many other congregations and Christians for the 2nd Annual Gathering to pray for God's transformation of our city and region! For more info see [info@gatheringgr.org](mailto:info@gatheringgr.org) or [www.gatheringgr.org](http://www.gatheringgr.org) or call (616) 805-9094.

Last year on April 25, over 2500 people gathered at Devos Place to pray as the body of Christ for our city. This year there will be room for 7000! Please attend!

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### **Readers Anonymous, April 18**

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Faith United Ladies Readers Anonymous will be meeting at the home of Erika Irving on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the same location. You're welcome to join us!

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### **Easter Egg Hunt, April 23**

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Save the Date as the Outreach and Recreation Boards of Faith United have teamed together to create an outreach event in our community! We are planning to have a Community Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 23 at 11:00 AM**. We are in need of volunteers to help fill the plastic eggs prior to the event and also on April 23!

Watch for updates in future bulletins. Thank you.

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### **MercyMe presents Lovewell Live in Concert, May 1**

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On Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 PM, MercyMe presents Lovewell live in concert with special guests Brandon Heath and Natalie Grant. The concert will take place at Kentwood Community Church, 1200 60th Street, SE, Kentwood, MI. Ticket Prices: \$17 - groups, \$25 - Advanced General Admission, \$40 - Artist Circle (prime seating). Charge by phone call 800-965-9324, online at [itickets.com](http://itickets.com). For more information go to [rushconcerts.com](http://rushconcerts.com) or visit [Facebook.com/rushconcerts](http://Facebook.com/rushconcerts). A poster is available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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### **Warner Camp Pride Day, May 7**

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Pride Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. For more information about this opportunity to serve, please contact Warner Camp at (269) 434-6844.

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### **Warner Camp Golf Scramble, May 14**

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Warner Camp will have their 4th Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at Cheshire Hills Golf Course in Allegan, Michigan. Cost is \$220.00 per 4 person team. Deposit of \$100 and a pre-registration form is due May 1, 2011. Additional information can be found at [warnercamp.com](http://warnercamp.com) or by calling 269-434-6844.

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### **Senior Update:**

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#### **Sunday, May 15**

1:00 PM (or as soon as we can get there after Sunday School)

Dinner out at Cronk's Oakridge Restaurant  
9103 Mason Dr, Newaygo, MI 49337

#### **Wednesday, May 25** "Spring Fling" -

in Marshall, Michigan - \$34 per person  
(a "Second Half of Life" group gathering with other ChoG Seniors in Michigan)

Lunch at 12:00 Noon - Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings

Followed by "Married Alive" at 2:00 PM  
(a funny and touching musical - see the flyer displayed in the church narthex)

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### **Missions Task Force (Mini-Workcamp)**

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The Michigan Church of God Missions Task Force has planned three individual Mini-workcamps to refurbish the Warner House on the Warner Campgrounds. The dates are: **May 20 & 21, June 3 & 4 and June 9 - 11**. Visit [choginmi.org/missionstaskforcetrips](http://choginmi.org/missionstaskforcetrips) for more information. You can check with the church office also to see who is going down on particular dates.

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## Youth News

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### **Save The Dates!** (and your pennies!)

May 20-22, 2011 for State Youth Convention

If you plan on attending SYC 2011, a \$40 deposit should have already been paid (to the church office) with a \$50 Balance due by Sunday, May 15, 2011.

We are also looking for ideas and assistance with fundraisers for the Youth. If you have an idea or are willing to coordinate a fundraiser, please contact Pastor Steve or Karen Pokora.

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### **Scrapbooking Event, May 21**

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A Scrapbooking/Card Making event is scheduled for May 21 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person; please bring a lunch dish to pass. Dinner, Snacks and beverages will be provided. We will have a brief card making training session which will include supplies. Everyone 14 and older is welcome. Please invite your friends. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Any questions, please see Krinn VanderSloot.

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### **5th Sunday Fellowship, May 29**

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Four times each year our calendar gives us an extra Sunday to worship together with a 5th Sunday in that month.

#### **On Sunday, May 29**

we will celebrate that special occurrence by gathering in the narthex immediately following the morning service for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

It's a great opportunity to get to know your friends at Faith better.

Join us in this fun event!

*There is no Sunday School on this day  
so parents are encouraged to bring  
their children upstairs to join in the fun!*

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### **Hope Totes for Mel Trotter Ministries**

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Thank you to everyone who filled a Hope Tote or brought items to help fill them. By the time April is over, we should have delivered 75 bags to help with the work of Mel Trotter Ministries. Working together, we can accomplish some wonderful things!

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### **Health News**

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Because Faith United is a vital, active and growing congregation, the Health Corner articles for 2011 will focus on Faith and Fitness. Each month, you will see a different poster with ideas to make simple, positive choices that can improve your body and spirit. This month, please review the "12 Ways to Add Value to Your Daily Walk." A poster with this information is available on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway, next to elevator. Blessings to each of you.

Your Parish Nurses, Joan and Judy

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## Northwest Food Pantry

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Faith United continues to support the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of March, we are collecting: **tuna and other canned meats. Many other food items and non food items are also needed.** Thank you for your support of the NWFP!

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### **Children's Church**

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Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade



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

#### **April 2011 Children's Church Volunteers:**

April 10, 2011 = Tim & Jodi Stanton

April 17, 2011 = Mary & Jean Irving

April 24, 2011 = Lisa McDaniel

#### **May 2011 Children's Church Volunteers:**

May 8, 2011 = Kathy & Katie Van Dyke

May 15, 2011 = Velvet Lerch & Esther Hickerty

May 22, 2011 = Chad & Jenny Morris

May 29, 2011 = Karen & Faith Pokora

#### **June 2011 Children's Church Volunteers:**

June 12, 2011 = Tim & Jodi Stanton

June 19, 2011 = Mary & Jean Irving

June 26, 2011 = Lisa McDaniel & Heather Bessinger

Volunteers, if you are unable to be here on the date that you are scheduled, please contact Lisa McDaniel.

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### **Boy Scout News Troop #197**

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Congratulations Charlie Lerch! A great Eagle Court of Honor was held in honor of Charlie Lerch on Sunday, March 6th. There were 34 candles lit at one time during the ceremony. Charlie's father pinned the Eagle Award on Charlie, and Charlie pinned his father's pin on his father and his mother's pin on his mother.

His grandparents, Glen and Jean Lerch removed the old bolo and replaced it with the Eagle Bolo. His brothers, Andy and Brian, read of his accomplishments as a scout. His Sister-in-law, Mandy, also took part.

Thanks to all who attended the ceremony as this is a very special event in the life of a scout when he receives the Eagle!

We have five more scouts who still have to do their Eagle Projects and get them approved. If you know of

any special projects that could be used for an Eagle Project, contact Herm Gast.

Scoutmaster, Michele Hickerty  
A.S.M. Herm Gast  
A.S.M. Josh Plummer  
A.S.M. Matt Marckini

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### **Warner Youth Camp Information**

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2011 Warner Camp Youth Camps are coming! Please note that a \$50 pre-registration fee is due before May 25, 2011, saving you \$20 per person. For more information, see the poster and application forms on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway, or more information can be found at [www.warnercamp.com](http://www.warnercamp.com) or by calling 269-434-6844.

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### **April Nursery Workers**

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#### **Infant**

3 – Tim & Jodi Stanton  
10 – Lisa McDaniel & Lydia Irving  
17 – Rhonda & Emily Plants  
24 – Brittany Lerch & Charlie Lerch

#### **Toddler**

3 – Sue Athanon & Katie Van Dyke  
10 – Karen & Faith Pokora  
17 – Mary Irving & Heather Bessinger  
24 – Amy & Hannah Blauw

Please contact Brittany Lerch if you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday.

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### **Newsletter Deadline**

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Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the May 2011 edition of FAITH*News* is Friday, April 15, 2011. Thank you!

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### **Church Secretary Away, April 1-10**

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Our church secretary will be away from April 1 - 10. Connie Evans will be in the office during Rhonda's absence.

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### **Introduction of Constituents**

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Over the past several weeks we have been introducing and highlighting different ones during our worship service. Below are some of those persons!

**Gary & Ramona Gerke, and their children, April, Christian, Sarina and Lauren,** live in Sparta. Ramona and Roxanne Eady are sisters.

Gary works as a Tool and Die Maker at Datum Industries, and Ramona is a stay-at-home mom. Gary likes deer hunting and fishing, and he is a handyman who can do just about anything. He does small engine repair (lawn mowers and golf carts), and he enjoys riding his Harley Davidson. Ramona's hobbies/interests include: crafts, sewing and re-decorating. She also enjoys roller skating and ice skating.

April attends Sparta High School and she enjoys cheerleading, basketball and ice skating. Christian attends Sparta Middle School and enjoys soccer, basketball and ice skating. Sarina attends Applevew Elementary and she enjoys cheerleading, basketball and ice skating. Lauren attends Applevew Elementary and enjoys gymnastics, soccer, cheerleading, basketball and ice skating.

Ramona and the children enjoy making scarves and mittens, and they take their completed items to Mel Trotter Ministries. They recently made four fleece blankets and sent them with their Aunt Rhonda Lomonaco to take on her mission trip to Mexico.

**Virginia Eady** lives in Comstock Park and has been an active member of Faith United for many years. Virginia formerly worked for two different women's clothing stores (receiving and some selling), for a printing company (printing labels), for Lear (Lear-Sigler), and also for Zinplaz (she put the ends on hoses for kitchen sinks). Virginia currently works at the snack bar (once a week) at M & W Incorporated (the Auction - where her son, Dave works). She enjoys visiting and seeing people at the Auction that she hasn't seen in a long time.

In years past the Eady family enjoyed camping together, and Virginia has enjoyed travelling to see friends, family, and attractions in many different locations. Another thing she enjoys is baking cookies for her grand children.

In the 1960s the Eady family hosted "Backyard Socials" for Pasadena Park Church of God once a year for five or six years. Virginia baked a lot of bread for those events. People would come over during the week to "hand crank" homemade ice cream and put it in the freezer for the upcoming social.

**Lorrie Lovley** has worked at Priority Health for more than eleven years and she has been worshiping with us for over a year now. Skip and Connie Evans are her uncle and aunt.

Lorrie has three children: Matthew, 27; Jennifer, 21; and Katie, who is 17. Besides Lorrie and her children, her home is inhabited by three cats: Pinky, Stinky, and Midnight! Lorrie is a reader and enjoys getting out and taking walks.

**Beulah Caniff** was born on October 6, 1916, and at 94 years of age, she is our eldest member! She and her late husband, Arby, were married in 1933 – Arby was 19 and Beulah was 16. They had five children: Ada Bernice, Ron, Peggy, Sally, and Karen, and when Peggy was a baby, Beulah gave her life to Christ.

Beulah was a homemaker until her older children were in high school, at which point she went to work outside the home, holding jobs at Red Flannel and the Wolverine Office. Sometime later she and Arby purchased and ran a gas station and convenience store in Cedar Springs.

Beulah was an avid golfer, and though she hasn't been on the course in a few years, she's a lifetime member at Silver Lake. Over the years she has hosted many persons in her home, one of those being Pastor Steve. In 1995, during the month of February, Steve lived at her home until the McDaniels could move into their house.

**George and Peggy Clifford** were married on December 26, 2010 – they're still newlyweds!

George owns Clifford Electric and he has been an electrician since 1979. 25% of his business is cabinetry work for the gas station industry. In 1967 he went to work for a company installing gas tanks, lines, and pumps for service stations. And in 1979 he was involved in the construction of the first self-serve gas station in Michigan.

Peggy was a customer service representative for Herman Miller for 20 years. She handled accounts for furniture dealers, the city of New York, and the federal government in Washington. And Peggy says as difficult as the New York accounts were, they were much easier than working for the government!

George and his late wife, Bonnie, had two children: Peter and Lori, and George has four grandchildren. Peggy and her late husband, Jim Beckett, had five children: Vicki, Jimmy, Debbie, Kelly, and John, and Peggy has twelve grandchildren.

George likes woodworking, golf, baseball games, cards, and games in general. Peggy plays the piano and sings, and she enjoys her children and grandchildren, along with cooking and baking.

**Gene and Marcia Ellen** were married on April 26, 1952, which means that next month they'll be married 59 years. They picked April 26 because Gene was stationed in North Carolina and it was the only time he could come home. But Marcia's family was upset about the choice. They were all fishermen, and that weekend was the opening of trout season!

Gene was a construction superintendent for a company that built large structures such as malls, shopping centers, theaters, and senior adult retirement homes. A lot of his work was in Lansing and Kalamazoo, which kept him on the road a bit. Gene was in the Marines from 1950 to 1954, and served in Korea in 1953 during the Korean War. Marcia has always been a homemaker, something for which she's very thankful. After the kids were grown and out of the house, she thought about working outside of the home, but then grandchildren came along and she began to do a lot of babysitting, having as many as seven grandchildren to watch and care for at once. Gene and Marcia have three children: Randy; Sandy; and Jeff; and they have eight grandchildren, ranging in age from 24 to 7.

Gene and Marcia used to have travel trailer and did a lot of camping and traveling together. Now they enjoy senior dinners, getting together w/ friends, their children and grandchildren. And Marcia likes to do needlework.

**We are so thankful** that the Gerkes, Virginia, Lorrie, Beulah, George and Peggy, and Gene and Marcia are a part of our church family!

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## Sunday School Classes

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### **CHILDREN**

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)  
Teacher: Connie Evans
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)  
Teachers: Erika Irving
- **Pre-K & Kindergarten** (4 yrs - kindergarten)  
Teachers: Karen Stevens and Esther Hickerty  
Class meets in room #1 on the lower level
- **Primary** (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
Teacher: Lisa McDaniel  
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level
- **Middler/Junior** (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teacher: Mary Irving  
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level

### **YOUTH**

- **Jr. High** (6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teacher: Cindy Irving  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall
- **Sr. High** (8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teachers: John Pokora  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall

### **ADULT**

- **Bridges Class**  
Teachers: Lou Van Dyke, Barb Bleiler, and Millard Knapp  
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class I**  
Teachers: Steve McDaniel and Mark Peterson  
Studying: *The Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight  
Class meets in the Girl Scout Building
- **Elective Class II**  
Teachers: Josh Irving and Michele Hickerty  
Studying: *A Man of Passion & Destiny: David* by Charles R. Swindoll  
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level
- **Elective Class III**  
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman  
Studying: *In the Eye of the Storm* by Max Lucado.  
Class meets in the sanctuary

## 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

Pastor: Steven D. McDaniel ([sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org](mailto:sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org))

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

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

Custodian: Karen Stevens

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

### Parish Nursing Program

Judy Hewett Kerwin, R.N. ([judyhewett@comcast.net](mailto:judyhewett@comcast.net))

Joan Kowalczyk Lundberg, R.N. ([joanyko@juno.com](mailto: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

PRAYER  
*changes things*

THANK YOU to everyone who made **40 Days of Community** a success! During the 40 Days campaign we celebrated that we are *BETTER TOGETHER* at worship, discipleship, connecting, reaching out, and serving. It was a joy to see a great many of our congregation involved in small groups, meeting to build stronger friendships and study the topics that we were exploring in worship. I want to give a huge “Thank You” to all of our group leaders, and to Erika Irving, our 40 Days Coordinator. Blessings to each of you for all of your hard work – it made a big difference.

As we turn to April and Easter quickly approaches, our congregational attention will be on prayer. My sermons on April 3, 10, and 17 will focus on this subject, and we will have printed, daily needs to remember in prayer. This emphasis is being given in conjunction with Church of God Ministries “Focus 40,” which is a call for all of us to be praying for our neighbors, friends, family, and others to come to know Christ. We want others to have the joy that we have. We want them to know the goodness of Christ, the peace of forgiveness, and the blessings of being a part of a Christian faith community such as Faith United.

As I shared with you last month, there are a number of ways for you to participate! **1) Join us for worship.** Through teaching and congregational prayer we will emphasize salvation prayer on Sunday mornings. **2) Attend a Sunday School class and/or Small Group.** Groups will focus on this during their prayer times. **3) Pick a day/time/meal to fast each week.** Fasting is simply going without food as a sign of commitment to God and using part of that time to pray. You can fast a meal one or more days a week, or you can fast one or more entire days each week. Speak with your physician to make sure that your body will tolerate fasting. **4) Give a two or three minute testimony on a Sunday morning.** Share with us what you’re learning through this experience and how it’s helping you to grow and focus on the most important need we all have – to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

There are two more events I want to draw to your attention. First, our community **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 23; please be in prayer that we’ll have a large turn-out from the community! Not only will a few families receive some great door prizes, and children will be able to participate in a fun Easter egg hunt, the children and those with them will hear the story of Jesus’ resurrection, the true meaning of Easter. Pray that God will work through our efforts to bring joy and new life to many!

As we gather on Easter morning, a wonderful breakfast will be provided at 9:00 am, and then at 10:00 am, we will have a special time of worship. The drama, *Through the Shadows Into the Light*, will be presented to help us celebrate not only the resurrection of Jesus, but the new life we have in him. Plan to be there, and bring someone with you!

Pastor Steve