
FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

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January 2012

Kids Hope USA



January is National Mentoring Month. Here at Faith United we are living out our mission statement "Love God, Grow together in Christ and Serve Others," by sending out mentors from our congregation to encourage and support children at Alpine Elementary. Each member of this dedicated group of people uses his or her time and resources to change the life of child, one hour each week, while being a positive influence in the school. They in turn are supported by prayer partners who are just as dedicated, just as needed. Please take time to view the list of Kids Hope volunteers on the bulletin board in the narthex, and then take a moment to thank God for this ministry, each volunteer, and the staff and families of Alpine Elementary. God Bless us all in 2012. Thank you, Faith United Church!

Karen Stevens, Kids Hope Director

Feeding America, January 10

Please put the following dates on your calendar for 2012: January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13.

The Service Board 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.

Blood Drive, January 13

The Walker Community Donor Center sponsors blood drives on the second Friday of every month. We invite you to donate blood on Friday, January 13, 2012, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM at the City of Walker Fire Station #3 (Community Center), located at 1470 Three Mile Road. Walk-in when it is convenient for you.



All Boards Retreat, January 14

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM is our annual All Boards Retreat here at Faith United. All ratified leadership is needed for this important meeting and anyone else who would like to attend is welcome as well. Please join us for a great time of visioning and planning!

Readers Anonymous, January 16

Faith United Ladies Readers Anonymous will be meeting at the home of Erika Irving on Monday, January 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the same location. You're welcome to join us!

Chili Dinner for Feeding America, January 22

Our goal has been to raise funds for **Feeding America** outside of the church congregation. With that in mind, we will only hold one **Feeding America** fundraiser this year. On January 22, 2012 we will host a Chili Dinner. Baked potatoes and hotdogs will be provided along with condiments. We need you to bring the chili. Choose your temperature – cool, warm, hot, and face melting! Please make plans to attend and bring your best homemade chili concoction to share.

We will be accepting cash donations for lunch, and a sign up sheet is available on the table in the narthex.

Faith United has committed to host at least 10 trucks in 2012. Volunteers are needed to help on the second Tuesday of every month (except July and December) from 4-6:00 pm. Please join us if you can. The Service Board

5th Sunday Fellowship, January 29

Five times this year our calendar will give us an extra Sunday to worship together with a 5th Sunday in that month.

On Sunday, January 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!

Our Mission Statement

"Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others"

Faith Promise

Faith Promise here at Faith United is an opportunity for us to support local, national, and global ministries with monies given above and beyond our tithes and offerings. Below is a listing of disbursements that we were able to make in 2011.

Wounded Knee Wind-Turbine Project Discretionary Fund (for Faith United families needing assistance)	\$500.00 350.00
Hunger (given to Mel Trotter Ministries)	300.00
Bethany Christian Services	300.00
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services	150.00
Kid's Hope USA National Program Support	300.00
Michigan Kingdom Builders (this helps to start or assist Church of God congregations in Michigan)	300.00
The Shulars – Living Link Missionaries	500.00
The Tans – Living Link Missionaries	500.00
Mission Trips (support for the Eagle Pass Church of God congregation in Texas)	300.00
Total	\$3500.00

Your faithful giving to Faith Promise has made this possible! Thank you for supporting these ministries.

During our October Faith Promise Sunday worship service, many of you pledged to give as God provided. Has he already provided the amount you indicated? Would you be willing to tell us about it? We'd love to hear your story!

Also, if you would like to pledge but were unable to do so in October, the opportunity is always available. Please be in prayer for the ministry of Faith Promise and for the persons/ministries in our budget above.

Clothes for Alpine Elementary

There is an URGENT NEED at Alpine Elementary for good used children's clothing such as underwear, pants, and tops that are warm; even snow pants, heavy jackets, etc. Their need isn't to clothe the school but for accidents that do happen from time to time. Please check your children's unused or too small clothing to see if you have something you can donate.

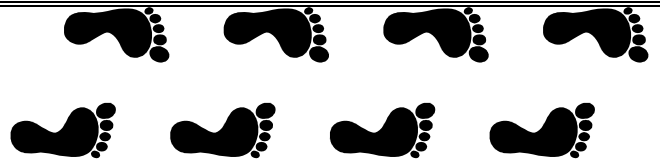
There will be a box in the narthex for these items to be placed in. The collection deadline is Sunday, January 15, 2012. Thank you.

The Discipleship Board

Medical Equipment for use

Faith United has had several pieces of medical equipment donated to the church for people to use who need to rent or buy for a short term. Please contact Rhonda in the church office if this need arises.

Follow Me!



That's the theme for the emphasis the Discipleship Board is planning for 2012! FOLLOW ME to Sunday School, Youth, and Adult classes. Each month the Discipleship Board will be sharing something about our Sunday morning classes. Do you attend a class? There's something for every age and interest. Check one out this Sunday! And be watching for those **footsteps!**

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.'" Matthew 16:24

Secret Sisters

It's an exciting **New Year** for all the ladies participating in the **Secret Sister** program in 2012!

This is a wonderful opportunity to better know one of your fellow sisters in Christ.

Remember to acknowledge her monthly with little gifts and cards and of course on her birthday and special dates in her life. Most of all, pray for her regularly as you quietly work to get to know her over the coming year.

As with all ministries at Faith United, the **mission** of the Secret Sister program is to:

Love God by extending His love to our friends;
Grow together in Christ by making an intentional effort to better acquaint ourselves with the women of Faith;
Serve others by supporting them in prayer as we develop meaningful relationships.

If you have any questions about your involvement in the program, please ask Erika Irving.

Cancellation Guidelines

The winter months are here and there may be times when we have to cancel services or meetings due to weather conditions. In case of severe weather, please do the following:

- Call the church office. Our voicemail system will tell you if we are canceling.
- You may also tune to TV channels 8 & 13. We will attempt to have cancellation information available on their news bulletins.
- Check on the HOME page of the church website: <http://www.faithunitedcog.org/introduction.htm>.

January 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 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!

January 2012 Children's Church Volunteers:

January 1, 2012 = No Children's Church

January 8, 2012 = Lisa McDaniel

January 15, 2012 = Chad & Jenny Morris

January 22, 2012 = Tim & Jodi Stanton

January 29, 2012 = Lisa McDaniel &

Heather Bessinger

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

Youth News

Pando, January 2012

We need snow!!!

Letters To Christian Prisoners, January 22

During the Chili Cook-off on January 22, we'll meet in the church office area to write letters to Christians around the world who are imprisoned because of their faith. This ministry is safe and is sponsored by The Voice of the Martyrs. Eat some lunch and head to the office!

Movie Night, February 3, 7:00 PM

We'll meet in the Sanctuary to watch a movie on the big screens. We'll have plenty of snacks. Suggested items to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, bean bag chair – comfortable stuff. The Sanctuary holds over 200 people. How many friends can you bring?

“Where's Waldo” with surprise Special Guests, February 26

We'll head to Rivertown Mall for an afternoon of “Where's Waldo.” Time and details coming.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Egg Making Day, March 17

We'll make these irresistible eggs and sell them as a fund raiser for your youth accounts.

Chocolate Cross Making Day, March 24

We'll make these chocolate crosses and sell them as a fund raiser for your youth accounts. Both State and International Youth Convention are coming!

State Youth Convention, May 18-20, 2012

International Youth Convention, Denver, July 4-7

\$130 Deposit due January 15.

Northwest Food Pantry

Faith United continues to support the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of January, Faith United is collecting **soup, spaghetti and ravioli. Many other food and non-food items are needed as well.**

Thank you to those that participated in the “pick an ornament” drive for the NWFP in December.

Boy Scout News Troop #197

Good news to report: Robby Stevens went before the Eagle Board of Review on December 8th and passed it. Then Tyler Plants went before the Eagle Board of Review on December 13th, and he also passed. We now have two more Eagle Scouts in our troop.

Gabe DeGood turned in his application, and we are waiting to hear when he will go before the Eagle Board of Review.

These scouts have worked 5 long years to earn their Eagle, and now they join Charlie Lerch, Josh Plummer and Ben Gast.

Not just the leaders made this possible, but everyone in our church has helped them also, and we are thankful for all your help and support.

Scoutmaster, Michelle Hickerty

A.S.M. Herm Gast

A.S.M. Josh Plummer

Jr. A.S.M. Tyler Plants

Mel Trotter Volunteering

We have had wonderful participation in our volunteer ministry at Mel Trotter during 2011. To date, over 250 hours have been given by approximately 23 members from Faith United. It is time to get set up for 2012. We will be enlisting Team Leaders and Helpers to serve 2 hours per month in the kitchen area at Mel Trotter. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex at church. This has been a great experience for those persons who have served in the past.

Baby Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Jim & Katie Peterson on the birth of their son, Lloyd Robert Peterson. Lloyd was born December 15, 2011 at 8:30 PM, weighing 8 lbs. and measuring 20 inches long. Congratulations to Lloyd's grandparents, Mark & Cherry Peterson, and to the entire family.

Highlighting Our Church Family

Jim and Katie Peterson live on the northeast side of Grand Rapids, and since highlighting them in church, their family has grown! Jim and Katie just welcomed baby Lloyd Robert to their family on December 15, 2011.

Jim is an Apprentice for Burggrave Masonry and Katie is the Operations Manager of Holiday Inn for White Lodging Management. Jim enjoys golf, and Katie enjoys shopping.

Janice Ertle is married to Floyd and together they have three daughters, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Floyd works for Federal Armored and Janice works part time for Rogue River Credit Union.

Floyd likes to relax at home, while Janice enjoys cleaning, which helps Floyd to relax at home!

We are thankful for each of these persons and families. It is a blessing to be friends and to worship and serve together!

Nursery Workers



Infant

- 1 – Judy Kerwin & Jodi Stanton
- 8 – Karen, Kayla & Shelby Lovins
- 15 – Kathy & Katie Van Dyke
- 22 – Sue Athanon & Vicki Skutt
- 29 – Mary Irving & Brittany Lerch

Toddler

- 1 – Cindy & Abbey Irving
- 8 – Heather Bessinger & Lisa McDaniel
- 15 – Rhonda & Emily Plants
- 22 – Velvet & Charlie Lerch
- 29 – Dana Pechumer & Carol Cutter

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

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the February 2012 edition of FAITHNews is Sunday, January 15, 2012. Thank you!

Sunday School, Youth and Adult Classes



CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)
Teachers: Connie Evans, Ellie Evans, and Janice Ertle
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)
Teacher: Erika Irving and Sue Athanon
- **Pre-K & Kindergarten** (4 yrs - kindergarten)
Teacher: Karen Stevens and Carol Cutter
Class meets in room #1 on the lower level
- **Primary** (1st - 2nd grade)
Teachers: Kim and Ted Evans
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level
- **Middler/Junior** (3rd - 5th grade)
Teachers: Mary Irving and Esther Hickerty
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level

YOUTH

- **Jr. High** (6th - 7th grade)
Teacher: Cindy Irving
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall
- **Sr. High** (8th - 12th grade)
Teacher: 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: *NIV Standard Lesson Commentary 2011-2012*
Edited by Ronald L. Nickelson
by Standard Publishing
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level
- **Elective Class III**
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman
Studying: *When Christ Comes* by Max Lucado
Class meets in the Sanctuary

Faith United Church of God

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

Church Staff

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

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

Church Custodian & Kids Hope USA Director: Karen Stevens (mkarn738@netzero.net)

Parish Nursing Program

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

Joan Kowalczyk Lundberg, 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

“THANK YOU” to everyone who helped to make our Advent Season such a wonderful celebration! Special thank yous to our Worship Board, our worship planners, worship and song leaders, vocalists, musicians, readers, sound and video technicians, drama directors and actors, and our children and children’s ministry leaders. All of you served the Lord, our guests, and the congregation of Faith United very well!

As I write this article, Advent is quickly coming to a close and the new year will soon have its own advent. Each new year brings the opportunity for renewed energy and fresh focus. And we will use the opportunity to energetically focus on our Mission Statement.

In 2010 we began highlighting our Mission Statement, **“Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others,”** through a yearly theme. 2010 was “A Loving Community,” 2011 was “A Growing Community,” and 2012 will bring us “A Serving Community.” Starting in February, everyone will be invited to participate in a small group designed to help us be more loving, growing servants of Christ. You will have the option of reading the book, *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith, and my sermons will parallel Smith’s chapters. We will seek to practice the principles we find in our reading, and in so doing, we will grow deeper in our walk with Christ.

I’m very thankful for all that will be going on in 2012 that will help us to be loving, growing servants. Renewed attention will be given to Sunday School and Sunday classes. We want everyone in a class! Why? Because our best growth happens when we’re together. We’d also love to have everyone join a small group for the same reason.

We’re going to give a lot of energy to building stronger friendships. We want everyone to feel connected to Faith United and to have good friendships within the congregation. We need each other!

We are going to pray and ask God to open doors for us to lead others into a relationship with him. Everyone needs to know the joy of forgiveness and the blessing of having the presence of God in their lives through a relationship with Christ. May God help us to share this greatest expression of his love.

We’re going to joyously worship the Trinitarian God who teaches us how to love and serve one another. And we’re going to continue serving the communities of Grand Rapids and Walker through our involvement in Mel Trotter Ministries, Feeding America, the Northwest Food Pantry, Kids Hope USA, as well as through other ministries which we support.

2012 will be a great year as we submit ourselves to God and allow him to shape us into loving, growing servants. Join us in this great adventure!

Pastor Steve