

FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

www.faithunitedcog.org

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January 2016

Kids Hope USA



As we start the 2016 semester at Alpine Elementary, we need to sincerely thank all of the mentors: Deb, Diane, the two Erikas and Steves, Michele, Mary, Terry, Ann, Andy, Miranda and Kathy, as well as their Prayer Partners, for consistently being there for our children. We've had to be very flexible with schedule changes, seeing some of our little ones moving on, but also taking on new ones, all of whom greatly need support. You are a wonderful team, and God is blessing your work.

Judy Kerwin, Kids Hope Director

Children's Church



Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 3rd grade

Children's Church will be offered at 10:30 AM on our Lower Level on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. Each week we will be doing hands-on worship where kids encounter God, so we always encourage your children to attend!

Children's Church Volunteers:

January 3 = No Children's Church
January 10 = Andy & Brittany Lerch
January 17 = Tim & Jodi Stanton
January 24 = Lisa McDaniel
January 31 = Carol Cutter

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

Youth News

WINTER JAM CONCERT, JANUARY 3

The Youth Group is planning to attend the Winter Jam Concert on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Cost is \$10.00. (The concert is in lieu of SNF).

We will meet at Faith United at 4:00 PM. Please let Pastor Miranda know if you are planning to attend.

SUNDAY NIGHT FUSION - JANUARY 10, 17, 24 & 31

Attention Youth and Parents!

Sunday Night Fusion will be held on January 10, 17, 24 & 31 at Faith United Church of God from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Remember to bring your friends!

KIDS FOOD BASKET, JANUARY 26

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Questions? Please contact Pastor Miranda at (231) 349-4106, or fusionfamilyym@gmail.com

Readers Anonymous, January 18

Faith United Ladies Readers Anonymous will be taking a break for the holidays, so the next meeting won't be held until January 18, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the home of Erika Irving.

You're welcome to join us!

All Boards Retreat, January 23

Church officers, board and council members, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 23, 2016, for our annual All Boards Retreat. We will meet 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, beginning with a time of prayer and continuing with strategizing and planning for the coming year. Thank you in advance for being there. Your input is always essential!

Secret Prayer Sisters

As you receive the name of your new Secret Prayer Sister, we encourage each of you to put an occasional card or simple note of encouragement in her mailbox in the stairwell. What a blessing to know that someone out there is keeping you in her thoughts and prayer life. If you have not yet joined, but would like to, there is a sign-up sheet on the information table in the Narthex.

Our Mission Statement

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

Chili Cook-off, January 31



Calling all chili chefs and chili aficionados! We need you on Sunday, January 31, right after Sunday School, for the Chili Cook-off. Chili's will be judged by those in attendance, and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. So plan to make you best chili, and/or come and taste them all! *Donations will be collected to support the Feeding America Food Truck at Faith United.*

Information needed for Church Directories

If you have had a change of address, phone number or email address lately, or if you are a new member at Faith United and would like to be included in our phone directory, please contact the church office at 784-5060 or email Rhonda Plants (Secretary@faithunitedcog.org) with your information. Thanks for your help!

Financial Update

A Big THANKS and Request for Memos on Your Giving: Our church Treasurer and Recording Secretary are having a bit of a challenge lately with placing all of the offerings in the correct funds. If you write a check or give cash in an envelope that is for more than just the General Fund, please write on the check or offering envelope something like \$30 GF, \$30 CF. GF meaning General Fund, and CF meaning Capital Fund. We've had to guess somewhat lately, and that's really not so good. And oh, how could we possibly not thank you for your generous giving! The response to the Capital Fund Campaign has been so wonderful. Truly Faith United and Friends are a generous group of people!

2016 Giving Envelopes will be on the table in the narthex soon, please look for yours. Some of the numbers may have changed, so please do not use 2015 envelopes after year end! This will avoid your offering being recorded under someone else's name!

Sunday 12/27/2015 will be the last day for offerings to be credited to 2015. If you are trying to make a last minute "catch up offering" for the General Fund, the Capital Fund, etc., that is the date!

Personal Giving Statements, suitable for tax filing, will be issued in the first couple weeks of 2016.

Northwest Food Pantry

We continue to collect items for the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of January, Faith United is collecting: **soup, canned spaghetti o's and ravioli. Many other food items and non food items are needed as well.** Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!

Feeding America, January 12



In 2016 we will continue to host events on the Second Tuesday of the month. So, please add: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13 to your calendars.

The Service Board has scheduled these dates for a food truck to be at Faith United, and volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. 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 serviced from 5:00 to 6:00 pm or until the food is gone.

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

Health Corner

As your Parish Nurse, my role is to provide support and resource information to members of the church. I am, therefore, pleased to share the following:

We now have a brand new Red Cross approved first aid kit on the wall across from the elevators, as well as a well-equipped first aid kit in the lower level kitchen next to the refrigerator.

There is also a new and easy to use blood pressure kit in the cabinet in the secretary's office.

And while we do have a few CPR qualified persons in our congregation, I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming certified or in receiving updated first aid training, to contact me for dates and locations of future training sites.

I am excited for Faith United in this coming year as we continue to grow as individuals and a congregation. May God bless and nurture each of you as we go forward together.

Your Parish Nurse, Judy

January Nursery Volunteers

Infant

- 3 – Marilyn Pullen & Velvet Lerch
- 10 – Mary Irving & Kathy Van Dyke
- 17 – Rhonda Plants & Karen Stevens
- 24 – Carol Cutter & Jeni Grayeb
- 31 – Tonya & Jamie Mashue

Toddler

- 3 – Connie Evans, Jolie, Luke & Deegan Stanton
- 10 – Heather Bessinger & Sue Athanon
- 17 – Andy & Brittany Lerch
- 24 – Erika & Lydia Irving
- 31 – Velvet & Jordan Lerch

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

Thank You Notes

Dear church family,
My wife and I would like to thank you very much for your well wishes, concerns and most of all your prayers. My surgery was successful and I am recovering according to the doctor's expectation.

Sincerely, Noe Athanon

Thank You to our church family for donating coats for the Indians at Wounded Knee, SD, Church of God. We recently sent two big boxes of coats (via UPS). They will be appreciated since winter weather in South Dakota is very cold.

Glen & Jean Lerch

Dear church family,
Thank you for your most generous Christmas gift. We greatly appreciated it! It has been a joy to serve and worship with you this past year, and we are looking forward to the opportunities God will bring our way in 2016. Thank you, also, for all of your thoughts, prayers, and acts of kindness during several months of health challenges for Lisa, as well as your prayers for me as I have continued to strengthen. Your love and support have been wonderful. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. We love you!

Pastor Steve & Lisa McDaniel

Dear church family,
You're amazing! I am so very thankful for each and every one of you. You are such a blessing to me! Thank you for your very kind Christmas gift! You rock!

Sincerely, Pastor Miranda

I would like to express my appreciation to my church family for the generous Christmas gift. It continues to be a blessing to serve in the church office at Faith United!

Rhonda Plants

Dear Friends of Faith United,
Thank you for the bonus I received this Christmas. Of course an extra bonus for me is the kindness I am shown and everyone's involvement in taking care of our building.

May God bless all of our people in the New Year.

With love and gratitude, Karen Stevens

Cancellation Guidelines

The winter months are upon us 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.
- We will also attempt to communicate via our website and Facebook page.

Children, Youth and Adult Classes



CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)
Teacher: Connie Evans
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)
Teachers: Erika Irving and Sue Athanon
- **Pre-K - 3rd Grade** (4 years - 3rd grade)
Teachers: Carol Cutter and Heather Bessinger
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level

YOUTH

- **Ted's Tweens** (4th - 7th grades)
Teachers: Ted Evans and Miranda Turner
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level
- **Tonya's Teens** (8th - 12th grades)
Teachers: Tonya Mashue and Miranda Turner
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level

ADULT

- **Foundations Class**
Teachers: Ryan and Becki Simpson,
Steve Shick and Steve McDaniel
Studying: *The Life You've Always Wanted*
by John Ortberg
Class meets in the Narthex
- **Adult Pulpit Class**
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman
Studying: *He Chose The Nails (What God Did To Win Your Heart)* by Max Lucado
Class meets on the Sanctuary Platform
- **Bridges Class**
Teachers: Lou Van Dyke, Millard Knapp,
and Barb Bleiler
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum
Class meets in the west end of the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class I**
Teachers: Mark Peterson and Gloria Weltevrede
Studying: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by
Karen Armstrong
Class is meeting in the center of the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class II**
Teachers: Michele Hickerty and Esther Hickerty
Studying: NIV Standard Lesson Commentary
2015-2016, edited by Ronald L. Nickelson
Class meets in the east end of the Fellowship Hall

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the February 2016 edition of FAITHNews is Friday, January 15, 2016. Thank you!

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: Steve McDaniel (sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org)

Youth Pastor: Miranda Turner (fusionfamilyym@gmail.com)

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

Church Custodian: Karen Stevens

Kids Hope USA Director: Judy Hewett Kerwin (judyhewett@comcast.net)

Parish Nursing Program

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

Living Link Missionaries

Neville & Anne Tan (Singapore)

Alfonso & Elizabeth Ayala (Belize)

Sundays

10:00 AM Celebration of Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

6:00 PM Sunday Night Fusion at Faith United (January 10, 17, 24 & 31)

Check out our website!

www.faithunitedcog.org

Follow us on Facebook!

