

## Faith This Week for May 1-7, 2020

**Worship with Faith:** Service information and links are sent out Saturdays, for Sunday morning worship which is on Facebook and YouTube. It's a Communion Sunday, so follow the guidelines below if you want to share Communion at home during online worship. Printed materials and Communion "kits" are being dropped off or mailed to the homes of those who cannot access the internet (or by request--details in attachment).

Take the "**Follow the Shepherd**" challenge to read Psalm 23 (in any Bible translation) every day, for 7 days in a row. Commit it to your heart (and hopefully your memory). Some of you already know it by heart (and memory), but for all of us, it's a great reminder from the Scriptures to live with all throughout our days (and as a disciple of Christ, to teach it to others). Please do share it with others as you learn it or know it. You can share it publicly with others on social media, or privately with someone in your home or family or a friend over the phone. If you share on social media, use the #psalm23 or #followtheshepherd and tag Faith Church. More details on the Faith Church website.

### **Update from the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:**

Many churches are working to plan for the day we are able to gather together in church buildings again for worship.

"Here is some guidance provided to Minnesota United Methodist churches to help us create a plan for gradually returning to in-person worship after it becomes safe to do so" (*no earlier than May 30th*). A link to the article published on April 29 by the Minnesota UM Annual Conference is here: <https://bit.ly/2YjScyX> In the meantime, we continue to worship together online, and with at-home worship materials for those who don't have online access. We continue to meet in small groups via Zoom and over phone conversations. We continue to pray together every day. *We keep in growing in love, with God and neighbors.* We continue to "break bread" in our homes and with the community through the weekly outreach meal Loaves and Fishes "to go", which served more than 240 meals last week! **We keep on being the church!**

*Are you interested in committing to Faith Church as a member? Ready to say, "Yes!" to Faith Church? Be in touch with Pastor Karen (contact info below) for more information and to schedule in time for our May 10 online worship service.*

**Annual Conference Meeting Update:** *Given the current COVID-19 situation:* The Dakotas and Minnesota Cabinets and respective Sessions Teams have made the decision to cancel the joint Dakotas-Minnesota Annual Conference, previously scheduled for June 10-12, 2020 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The May 28 Minnesota Clergy Session has also been canceled and will be conducted virtually at a later date yet to be determined.

**Loaves and Fishes:** On Wed, April 29, 240+ meals were served and as usual, there were exactly enough meals for all those who came to get one. We ask God to bless it all, and there's always enough. If you or someone you know needs a meal, drive up is from 5:30-6:30pm Wednesdays (or call earlier in the day to request a delivery for supper). The cars begin to line up starting about 5pm. Chef Scott is always looking for healthy volunteers. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-faith1>

**"Taco Tuesday"** is online via the Zoom application on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. If you'd like to join in, send me an email ([karen.faithumc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.faithumc@gmail.com)). Ask for the link and login info! We'd love to see you--whether you're eating homemade or takeout tacos or not!

**Zoom\*** is an "online" way to connect with others; we're using it for Taco Tuesday and more. We see each other ("virtually"), meet and talk and learn and even pray and worship together when we can't get together in person. This might be an opportunity for you to take part in a learning group, Bible study, or join in Faith community...

*We had a successful Administrative Council meeting on Thursday, April 23rd, with 14 participating by video or phone (minutes are on the website—under Ministry Updates).*

\*If you've never used it, Zoom can take a little learning, but we're glad to teach you how to do it. You can even call in over the phone to participate. Give it a try!

*Please let Pastor Karen know if you're willing to read Scripture, offer prayers, lead the Faith for Kids, or participate in worship online in some other way. For the time being, this requires that you take part in the worship recording session on a Saturday via Zoom.*

**Prayers** (Email [Prayerteam.faithumc@gmail.com](mailto:Prayerteam.faithumc@gmail.com) or call (651) 460-6110.)

- Prayers for the family of Rosemary Swedin, who passed away on April 25th.
- Prayers for Frank Phillips and family; Frank continues to be in-patient at Mayo recovering following a liver transplant.
- Prayers for all who are challenged by difficult circumstances during Covid-19.

Prepare your tithes and offerings, which may be made online at [www.faithinyourheart.org/give](http://www.faithinyourheart.org/give) or you may still send a check to 710 8th Street Farmington, MN 55024 (or drop off on Wednesdays between 10am-4pm)

Pastor Karen Evenson "Choose Joy!"

Faith Church, United Methodist

651-460-6110 (Faith Church Office) or 763-370-4245 (cell)

[karen.faithumc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.faithumc@gmail.com)

***Preparing for Communion at Home (to watch during Sunday May 3 worship):***

You'll want to have the following :

- Grape juice\* (or white grape or apple) and a cup
- Some kind of bread or crackers.

*Our United Methodist tradition is to offer non-alcoholic juice of the vine, so as not to be a barrier for anyone to come to the table. \*If you don't have juice, water will do—we know that Jesus will be present in what you bring (and we know that Jesus turned water into wine—John 2:1-11).*

*Go ahead and grab those things, so you're ready when the Communion part of the worship service begins. If you don't have them, that's okay! You can re-watch later, or you can have a "spiritual Communion" with us instead.*