



Faith United Methodist Church
432 59th Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10 AM	Worship Service
10 AM	Children's Church
11 AM	Fellowship



JANUARY/FEBRUARY ECHOES OF FAITH

Faith United Methodist Church

432 59th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

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John Wesley read the Bible daily, ordinarily early in the day or late in the evening when he was free to devote concentrated attention to its message. He randomly opened the Bible looking for divine comfort and direction. He made precise suggestions for reading the Scriptures. (1) If possible, set apart a little time in the morning and evening every day for Bible reading. (2) It is advisable to read a chapter from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. (3) Read with a single purpose – to know the will of God. (4) Look for the connections between the passage of Scripture being read and the fundamental ideas of Christian faith. (5) Prayerfully seek the guidance and instruction of the Holy Spirit as you read. (6) Resolve to put into practice what God teaches you in your reading and study (*Explanatory Notes Upon the Old Testament*, 1765).

The United Methodist Church follows Wesley's devotion to the Bible. It clearly announces in *The Book of Discipline*: "We properly read Scripture within the believing community, informed by the tradition of that community. We interpret individual texts in light of their place in the Bible as a whole ... While we acknowledge the primary of Scripture in theological reflection, our attempts to grasp its meaning always involve tradition, experience, and reason. Like Scripture, these may become creative vehicles of the Holy Spirit as they function within the Church. They quicken our faith, open our eyes to the wonder of God's love, and clarify our understanding." (*The Book of Discipline*, 2008, 75-76)

In his *John Wesley: Holiness of Heart & Life*, Charles Yrigoyen Jr. points out that our situation today is quite different from Wesley's. Our study and interpretation of the Bible have been enhanced by resources that Wesley never anticipated. Archaeology, discoveries of older biblical manuscripts, research on the biblical languages, new translations, and other developments have created a vast amount of information about the Bible and its message. Wesley's resources were less complex, and we can only guess what he would have made of biblical scholarship today. (43-44) While we can imagine that he would remind us that these new tools have not changed the basic message of the Bible, he would probably be appalled by the biblical illiteracy that is so widespread in today's church. "How do we expect faith and holiness to grow unless we search the Scriptures?"

Spiritual formation is a lifetime process. Many Christians today do not have consistent and regular devotional lives. Often they think attending Sunday school as a child is sufficient training for Christian life. They do not read their Bibles and they do not pray. They spend more time fumbling with their television remote controls than they do reading their Bible and being empowered through God's Word. If our church is to be empowered spiritually, we must develop strong devotional lives by reading our Bibles, praying, and devoting ourselves to spiritual formation and empowerment. We must learn to tarry in the spirit, invoke the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and discover and activate spiritual gifts for ministry.

Developing a consistent devotional life helps us understand the importance of developing a strong spiritual life for service to Christ. Enhancing our spiritual understanding helps us to know that our work in the church rests on a higher power and has larger implications than we could ever know. Let us begin formulating a pattern of weekly devotions by reading the Bible regularly and over time build toward daily devotional study. It is one of my ministerial plans for this year to begin a small group ministry. I think this small group ministry will provide a space and an opportunity for sharing God's Word in our lives and for praying and supporting each other.

Our calling is to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called to come to Him and to follow Him wherever he leads. Jesus called us to learn from Him, live in Him, and have Him live in us. Jesus called us to be made new by Him and in Him. It demands discipline, single-mindedness, a determination to indeed make Jesus Christ the center of our lives. However, when we join God's ministry and when we follow Christ day by day, God equips us, empowers us, uses us, supports us, and helps us. We are all called to the ministry for the kingdom of God. And we are all equipped to discharge that ministry. As we begin a new year with new minds and plans, I would like to challenge you to do a little a bit more for our church and God this year 2017. I plan to offer more opportunities for Bible study and small group gatherings in various settings and invite you join in one of those meetings this year. A strong devotional life teaches discipline, patience, compassion, and understanding in doing our ministry. Let us to be made new in Christ and to dive into the word of God, so we may be devoted more to Christ, grow together and reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Charles



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Reception of New Members

Those persons who wish to join the Faith United Methodist Church will be welcomed into membership in February 2017.

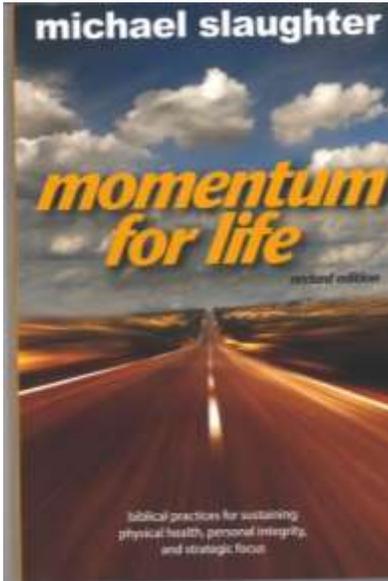
Orientation class for those interested in membership will be conducted by Pastor Charles on Sunday, January 22, at 11:45 a.m. in the Library

The United Methodist Church receives persons into membership by:

1. Profession of Faith and Baptism, or Confirmation for persons joining a Christian church for the first time;
2. Transfer of Membership from other churches, both United Methodist or churches of other denominations;
3. Reaffirmation of faith for persons whose names were removed from the membership rolls of a church to which they once belonged.

The class is for anyone who wishes to be official members of our church family whether one is a recent visitor or a long-time associate of our church. All are welcome. If you wish to join, please contact Pastor Duk Kwon or the church office.

New Sermon Series: “Momentum for Life” (6 weeks)



Jan. 1 – Momentum: Mass in Motion
Jan. 8 – Devotion to God
Jan. 15 – Readiness for Lifelong Learning
Jan. 22 – Investing in Key Relationships
Jan. 29 – Visioning for the Future
Feb. 5 – Eating and exercise for Life

If you want to read the book “Momentum for Life” by Michael Slaughter along with the sermon series, you may purchase it for \$16 at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

As most of you know, Matt Gressett resigned as Director of Children's Ministries in November. Since then, the children had been busy practicing for the Christmas Pageant under the direction of Barb Abarro. As we begin a new year, we need a few more volunteers to help with Sunday School and Children's Church.

Chuck Bair will be temporarily leading Children's Church starting in January. He has also kindly volunteered to organize our Sunday School teachers. However, Chuck alone cannot possibly accomplish what is required of a team, so please let me know if you could help in any way.

We need:

- Children's Church assistants 10-11 am
- Sunday School teachers 9-10 am
- Sunday School substitutes 9-10 am
- Toddler Sunday School substitutes 9-10 am
- Toddler babysitters during service 10-11 am
- Nursery babysitters 9-11 am
- weekly snack donations 10 am



Sandy Welson
Christian Education Chairperson



By Don Hayward

Echoes articles are not easy for me to write. I have to depend on the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is there, I sometimes cannot write fast enough to get it out on paper. When the Holy Spirit is not there, it is hard to put out anything on paper. Kind of like a light switch; it is either “on” or “off.” No in between. Sometimes the Holy Spirit fools me when writing. I will be writing as fast as can be and then the Holy Spirit throws out a flag and BOOM! Nothing at all. I literally hit a wall!

The Holy Spirit has been tugging at me for a couple years on the topic of “The Heart.” Yes, we all know what the heart does and where it is located. Somebody like Dr. Mayuga could tell you more about the heart because he is a heart doctor and is concerned about the health of the heart. Things like blood pressure and cholesterol are things we use to help monitor the heart. My expertise is not in this area.

Many of us associate Valentine’s Day with cards, gifts and other things, like clever sayings. A valentine is represented by the image of the physical shape of a heart. We also associate the day with love to show emotional feelings, relationships and other physical types of adoring feelings. We even talk about bad times, such as when a relationship has gone bad, the person has a “broken heart.”

My guess is that this has always tugged on my heart in different ways. In the 90’s, Will Kupisch invited me to speak to the Downers Grove North High School cross country team. Public speaking is not my thing, but God wants all of us to come out of our comfort zones and go different directions. My speech was about the boys running a good race by drawing from the heart. Yes, to finish first is good, but only one can do that. “So let us focus on doing each his personal best from the heart. My source for some of this was a book called “On the Anvil” by Max Lucado. We delve into examples of things that affect us directly, but have we looked deep enough? That is the question. Some of us might have never thought much about the heart. I will be talking about different facets of the heart and how it works.

In Exodus chapter 25 Moses asks for sacred offerings. Moses was to receive contributions from each man whose heart prompts him to give. The people were given a list of precious metals, threads, skins, cloth and precious stones. In I Samuel we see Samuel anoint David King of Israel. Many of us know it was a number of years until David ascended the throne. Here is what God said to Samuel. (I Samuel 16:7b NLT) “The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Sometime clear your mind and think about what the Lord sees there in your heart. Wow! Wow! Wow! Wow! Wow!!! That is awesome. We probably all have done things from the bottom of our hearts. In my first example, God relied on the generosity of the people to give from their hearts, but He also supplied the resources needed to do this. God provides all of our resources and He prompts us to give. This does not have to be monetary, but that is the most obvious to most of us.

We probably give from our hearts countless times each day. God does this through the Holy Spirit and knows each heart because He is the Almighty. He won't ask us to do no more than we can handle, but that does not mean that He won't ask us to stretch. That is how we grow as Christians!

My example in Exodus is kind of lame in my opinion. It was the easiest for me. Many of us could probably come up with examples of scriptures that have said the same thing. Will Kupisch showed me the scripture in I Samuel over 15 years ago.

My sister, Helen, told her daughter, Jenna, at the local church that they both attend, that every Monday morning there is a printed out prayer she enjoys. Jenna told her mother that she is the one who wrote the prayers. See, God saw that in Jenna's heart there was this pent up ability to maybe write prayers. All God had to do was to nudge the heart and through His Holy Spirit, Jenna came to write prayers.

Today we have looked at the unseen heart that God controls. Your heart can do many marvelous things if you let it. God prompted my heart to write this article that you are reading.

Lord, today we turn over our hearts to you so we might express ourselves in various ways. One ingredient that is important is a relationship with your Son Jesus Christ. Lord, today I ask all of those who do not have Jesus in their hearts based on the relationship with Him to follow this simple format and read the following statement:

“Lord I want to have Jesus in my heart and have a relationship with Him. Today I am turning over all my past, present, and future sins to Jesus so I might be free. By doing this, my heart is open and free to be yours. I realize that today I am a brand new Christian with a brand new heart.”

Today, if you accept what you have read above, the time is now to act on this and the decision is yours.

From our friends...

Dear Friends & Supporters of the Methodist Full Gospel Mission,

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your support and prayers through the years for the Methodist Full Gospel Mission. I also regret to inform you that due to circumstances beyond our control, it is necessary that we terminate the activities of this mission to Russia.

As some of you know Bruce Inglis, our missionary to the Russian people for many years, is no longer physically able to carry out the duties of this ministry. Bruce is at home now and he is resting after many years of vital mission work for the Lord Jesus. It is necessary that we terminate our financial support to the churches in Russia, but please do not stop praying for the Russian people that we all love so much. Bruce is at home in Illinois and I am listing his address below in the event you would like to send a card to encourage him.

We are saddened that the support for this ministry will be terminated, but we are thankful for all that God has done through Bruce and the mission in Russia. We know God will provide for His people in His way. Please continue to pray for the believers in Russia and for Bruce and Marlene. Pray that the believers there will have boldness to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with unbelievers. Thank you very much.

Bruce & Marlene Inglis
554 White Oak Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

In Christ and for His Kingdom
Charles McCreight
President, Methodist Full Gospel Mission

Dear Faith Church,
We wish all members of Faith United Methodist Church of Downers Grove the very best of the coming New Year...2017.

Conrad/Estrella and JayR Villanueva
Tucson, AZ.

Hello,

I made a vow to myself that if I ever get the opportunity to repay the kindness and love that was given to my two children and me, I would. Please use this donation however it is needed.

Byron is in his last year of Med School in Portland, OR. Now looking for a place to do residency. Hoping for San Diego, CA. Elizabeth is in her last year of Law School at the Univ. of Seattle Law School. I have retired and take care of my granddaughter, Leilani. I also get the opportunity to read!

May God bless you and continue to show His favor ... From Darlene Etta



*Elmer Angel Alcantara
May 6, 1966 – December 23, 2016*

Elmer Angel Alcantara was born in Manila, Philippines and is the second child of Sanita and Angelito Alcantara and brother of Raquel. He was raised in Malabon City.

He has a bachelors in engineering and began working at Intel Corp. in 1995. In 1997, he moved to the United States to live with his parents. He flew back and forth from the United States to the Philippines to visit his wife, Rose, whom he married in 1998, until she and their two daughters (Natalie and Sarah) moved to the US in 2003. A year later, they had another daughter named Gabrielle. After that, Elmer continued to work as an engineer in other places, such as Telabs and PerkinElmer.

Elmer loved singing and had always put his family first. He would always make everyone laugh and was always friendly towards others. He was very religious and was always grateful for what he had.

New Arrivals



Keziah Mayuga Kim

December 4, 2016

Daughter of
Tim & Rachel Kim

Granddaughter of
Rupert & Amy
Mayuga



Dylan Ann Manzke

December 14, 2016

Daughter of
Jake & Meghan
Manzke

15th Great-grandchild
of Bill Wagner



Thank you "Seniors" for coming to our lunches this past year. We will not meet for lunch in January and February. Stay warm, cozy and in good health.

So until then, take care and God bless.

Bonnie Gentile



CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage

provides spiritual, emotional and material support to women dealing with an unplanned pregnancy enabling them to choose life for their baby. Our church supports the work of CareNet in our community by participating in Coins for CareNet.

On January 15th you will have the opportunity to pick up a baby bottle, fill it with change, and return it to Faith Church by Feb. 5th. Please watch for the display in the narthex.



November 2016 Finance Report

November general giving was \$3220 per week. Our giving in October and November was \$2400 less than last year. Thanksgiving giving was slightly less than last year at \$2350. Net Harvest Home giving was \$6303.

Expenses are in line with expectations and below budget. The conference gave us our third and final monthly reimbursement of Health/Medical insurance for our pastor (almost \$4000 YTD).

Available cash is still around \$20,000. Normally we build cash in the final quarter so hopefully December giving will pick up.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Denby



Mark your 2017
calendar for Sunday,
Jan. 8th

Please join us after fellowship time to take down and put away the Christmas decorations.
Thank you.

Recognition of Servant Leadership - There will be a time of recognition and installation of the servant leaders at Faith Church on January 15.

Downers Grove: Faith UMC **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2017**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson:	Mel Gehrs
Vice Chairperson:	Wally Carlquist
Secretary:	Kim Wilcox
Lay Leader:	Rupert Mayuga
Lay Member of Annual Conf:	Don Hayward
Alternate Lay Member of A.C.:	Bill Wagner
Scout Representative:	Don Hayward
Senior Fellowship:	Janette & Willard Skaer
United Methodist Women:	
Youth Representative:	Natalie Alcantara
Pastor:	Pastor Charles Yoon
Director of Children's Ministries:	
Director of Youth Ministries:	
Church Financial Secretaries:	Dennis and Sharon Kelly

PLUS ALL WORK AREA CHAIRPERSONS

Members At Large:	Class of 2017	Mar Francisco	Judy Fox
	Class of 2018	Emer Cordova	Nancy Gehrs
	Class of 2019	Pam Whitt	Kristine Scherbring

STEWARDSHIP and FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Bruce Denby – 2016

Members:

Pastor in Charge – Pastor Charles Yoon	Chair of Worship – Tess Octava
Chair of Trustees – Don Hickok	Lay Leader – Rupert Mayuga
Chair of SPRC – Elaine Carmichael	Lay Member to Annual Conf. – Don Hayward
Chair of Ad. Council – Mel Gehrs	Financial Secretaries – Dennis & Sharon Kelly
Chair of Christian Ed. – Sandy Welson	Treasurer – Bruce Denby

Members At Large: George Welson, Sharon Paul, Rose Paulhus, Bill Wagner, Roy Espino

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Don Hickok 2019 (To be elected at the 1st meeting of each year)

Class of 2017:	Dennis Kelly	Harold Whitt	George Welson
Class of 2018:	Jim Fox	Bill Wagner	Willard Skaer
Class of 2019:	Don Hickok	Ed DeLongo	

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE – A subcommittee of the Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Evelyn Nicola

Members: Sharon Kelly, Pam Bielak, Elaine Carmichael
Bill Wagner – Trustee Liaison

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Elaine Carmichael

Class of 2017: Ignacio Alagano Hazel Cramer Elaine Carmichael
Class of 2018: Chuck Bair Bonnie Gentile Willy Han
Class of 2019: Bonnie Russell Karen Swanson
Pastor – Charles Yoon
Lay Leader – Rupert Mayuga

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Pastor Charles Yoon

Class of 2017: Elsie Alagano Pat Hayward Bonnie Gentile
Class of 2018: Will Kupisch Pam Whitt Paul Pagulayan
Class of 2019: Janet DeLongo Angelica Alcantara

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Sandy Welson 2017

Pastor – Charles Yoon
Director of Children’s Ministries –
Director of Youth Ministry –
Members: Tess Octava, Broderick Whitaker, Rita Bair, Barb Percy

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Chuck Bair

Members: Cort Wilson, Rosanne Paulhus, Jon Wilcox, Terry Paulhus
Eric Natividad, Elsie Alagano, Rose Mills, Hazel Cramer

HARVEST HOME COMMITTEE (Task Force)

Chairpersons –

Members: Bill Wagner Eric Natividad Barb Lynch
Jeff Lin Hazel Cramer Elsie Alagano
Paul Pagulayan Angelica Alcantara Priscilla Alcantara

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Tess Octava

Secretary – Sharon Kelly
Fellowship Coordinators – Rose Alcantara, Emma Deguia, & Priscilla Alcantara
Flowers – Tess Octava Audio-Visual Chair – Dennis Kelly
Senior Pastor – Charles Yoon Christmas & Easter Flowers – Kate Conner
Members: Naty Alcantara, Don Hayward, Hazel Cramer, Marilyn Remedios

CHILD ADVOCATE:



Tuesdays from 6-7AM at Omega Restaurant on Ogden Ave. Study of "Hebrews" led by Bill Miller.

Saturdays from 7-8AM in the Fireside Room.
A study of the "Gospel of John" led by Bill Miller.
Breakfast \$2 each.

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS ARE NEEDED!

Please sign up on the new Fellowship poster in the narthex. If you have questions or need help, please call Rose Alcantara (815) 372-9956 or Emma Deguia (630) 759-7292.

Aurora District leadership Training Event will be held on Jan. 28 (Sat.) from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Grace UMC in Naperville. Featured speaker is Rev. Dr. Phil Schroeder, Director of Congregational Development from North Georgia Conference. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Charles or church office by Jan. 15.

(https://www.umcnic.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/leadershipevent2017_updated3.pdf)

Prison Ministry

Cort Wilson is collecting 2017 calendars for prison ministry. Maximum size is 8x10. Collection box is located on the narthex shelf outside Fellowship Hall.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Peggy Martin, Esther Yoon
- 8 Bonnie Terese
- 11 Alita Abron
- 13 Evelyn Nicola, Sarah Yoon
- 14 Barnett Palmer
- 16 Judy Baer, Jane Johnson
- 17 Ron Dubinoff
Barb Abarro
- 21 Shirley Kendall
Alvin Madrid
- 22 Fred Moore
- 24 Aimee Mayuga Farrer
Barb Percy
- 28 Jean Reid

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rev. Charles Yoon
- 3 Lydia Espino
- 4 Bonnie Gentile
- 5 Jenna Dubinoff, Lauren Dubinoff
Elyssa Wold
- 6 Jim Nicola
- 7 Rachel Mayuga Kim
- 13 Tim Johnson
- 14 Benjamin Francisco
- 15 Chuck Bair
- 17 Marcelino Francisco, Jason Farrer
- 18 Michael Abron
- 21 Ann Miller, Marilyn Remedios
- 24 Barb Lynch, Sandy Mitchell
- 27 Don Hayward



Thank you so much!

On behalf of the church staff, Mike Abron, Barb Abarro, Sharon Kelly, Barnett Palmer and I want to express our sincere appreciation for the generous Christmas gifts you offered to each of us.

The gifts warmed our hearts and made us feel we are loved and appreciated by the people we serve.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.
Have a Happy New Year!

*Pastor Charles
Mike Abron
Barb Abarro
Sharon Kelly
Barnett Palmer*

