



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



You are cordially invited

Sunday, March 19, 2017
11:00 AM after the Worship Service

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



MARCH/APRIL ECHOES OF FAITH

Faith United Methodist Church

432 59th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

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Welcome New Member – Charlotte Sirovy



Pastor Charles, Charlotte Sirovy, Barb Lynch

Charlotte Sirovy

Transferred from Westmont First UMC

1040 Woodbine Lane, Darien, IL 60561, (630) 968-5161

Charlotte lost her husband a year ago, so her family now consists of her son Tim, his wife Karen, and their children, Emily and Dan, and her daughter Cathy and her husband Greg, and their children Drew and Alyssa. They live out of state, but they still see each other often. This year their family vacation will take them to Seattle, WA.

Charlotte was so glad to find Faith because of its caring. She hopes this will continue for many years. Charlotte's church sponsor is Barbara Lynch.

Strength for today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow

by Dr. Rupert Mayuga

Greetings. Isn't it great to be in a country where we are guaranteed freedom to worship and have fellowship together in church? My theme for this sermon has to do with common aspects in our daily life that can easily get in the way of our goal of obtaining all of what God has intended for us. I am referring to loss of spiritual strength and consequently loss of hope.

Belief in life after death, the reality of heaven and hell, are essential to our being able to completely grasp the whole concept of having strength today and hope for the future. Ref: John 14:2, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:43. Being a physician caring for critically ill patients allowed me to be in proximity to patients who are terminally ill. I observed time and again that those who professed a deep faith in God through Christ were much more likely to have a "peaceful" passing. The assurance that there is life after death is key to this. This assurance is supernatural, not based on any earthly knowledge or proof but is based on the most authoritative source of all... the word of God. This is the source of strength that those who die as believers have. The decision to give oneself to Jesus Christ can only be made while we are alive on this earth, while we still have at least one last breath. After death claims us, the scriptures teach that we can no longer change our decision. (Ref: Luke 16:19-31). It is not wise to procrastinate, thinking we could always turn to Jesus in our deathbed...because we, like so many others, may not have the luxury of planning our passing. All too often death comes suddenly when we least expect it. No priority is more important than making certain that our booking is confirmed on the one way trip to heaven. (Further reading: "One Minute After You Die" by Pastor Erwin Lutzer) Severe, often sudden, stressful situations may happen to anyone anytime and trigger a disorder of mood or affect. I call the manifestation of this disorder the 3 D's. Namely: Despair/Despondency/Depression.

As a treating physician, though I had a working knowledge of the disorder and the current strategies for treatment, I did not yet fully understand what some patients were going through until one fateful day in April 2015...when I woke up one morning unable to stand or walk and unable to move my right arm normally. I suddenly realized I had a stroke. My world as I had known it came crashing down. I initially tried to rationalize hope that this stroke, like other types of stroke, would be mild and that I would recover all or most of my initial deficits in a few weeks or at most a few months. I was initially encouraged by statistics and probability estimates. Even some doctors who initially saw me also supported that view. But as it became apparent that this was becoming a severe stroke, one that even threatened to take my life, I started to panic, then anger followed. Why me? I asked. It was then that my initial hopeful attitude started to wane and despair began to grab hold...

Have you ever been in a situation where you are in significant physically or emotionally in pain, or when your comfort bubble is suddenly burst, or when you are so angry that you can't think straight, or when you are in so much grief from a loss of a loved one, or when you just received some horrible news that affects you directly, or when a certain terrible fear grips you? There are other scenarios...but you get the picture. This is the time when it is difficult for us to find the strength to go on, and even more difficult for us to think of hope. Any of these situations can make us weak and cloud our ability to be optimistic ...and the evil one is just waiting to pounce on our weakened state. All too often we hear of individuals with these problems make the wrong turn in their lives by resorting to alcohol, drugs, rebellious or destructive behavior and some even do the unthinkable...and harm themselves. We need to find strength in these and similar circumstances. We need to fight the overwhelming tide of pessimism before we can even search for that glimmer of hope. We need to turn to that someone who is more powerful than what the world or the devil has to offer. We need to turn to the almighty God for strength and encouragement.

Strength

Strength: the state or quality of being physically or mentally strong. 2. the ability to withstand or exert great force, stress, or pressure. 3. something that is regarded as being beneficial or a source of power: their chief strength is technology.

A clear distinction has to be made between the secular definition/concept of strength versus the biblical definition. The secular or common worldly definition excludes the essential need to protect ourselves daily from the lies, deceptions, traps and attacks of Satan while the biblical definition does. Strength from God is infinitely more powerful than worldly strength but we must learn how to tap it. Ref: John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." The apostle Paul tells us to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" In Ephesians 6:10, Paul tells us that the unlimited power and strength of Christ are the source of strength for those who belong to Him.

It is too easy to yield to the worldly view that "bigger is better/stronger". In the biblical account of David and Goliath, The Philistine giant, Goliath, was clearly the odds on favorite to win the fight against David, the little shepherd boy who was the chosen champion of the Israelites. But David had an advantage, a supernatural advantage. He knew from prophecy that the Lord God would help him vanquish Goliath. And that was all he needed to be strong, courageous and not be intimidated. He had faith.

As Christians, we are to be strong in the mighty power of God. As Paul tells us in Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). In other words, there is no other source that reliably gives us the strength to overcome the world with its trials, its temptations, and mortality. It is through submission to God's strength that we overcome the power of Satan: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). It is by first aligning ourselves with the strength of God through our total submission to Him that we are able to withstand the wiles of the evil one. In (Ephesians 6:10-11) we read, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

God will give us strength to seek answers to the difficult questions, strength to do what ought to be done and strength to accept the inevitable. Now with our newfound strength in the Lord as a springboard and protected by the "armor of God", we can confidently launch into the future with hope.

Hope

Definition: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen, a feeling of trust (noun); want something to happen or be the case (verb).

Worldly hope is built on some expectation of success subject to the laws of statistical probability (odds). For example when one buys a lottery ticket he/she hopes to win millions of dollars...often ignoring the tremendous odds against winning (it is more likely to be struck by lightning- twice- than to win the lotto). But, in contrast, in Jesus Christ earthly odds and probability mean nothing. Oftentimes when confronted with overwhelming odds and all seems lost something happens that brings that glimmer of hope...something that happens when we ask the right resource. We are called to rebel against our sinful nature with the hope of righteousness and the promise of salvation which can only come by grace through faith in Jesus. The assurance of hope in the scriptures is from the Jesus himself (Ref: John 3:16, John 16:33). It is the best and most reliable assurance there is. We can always tap in to this hope because Jesus said so.

As Christians we are assured of a secure tomorrow through faith in Him. "Martin Luther, deep in thought and needing to grasp hidden strength during a time of danger and fear in his life, was seen tracing on the table with his finger the words, "He lives! He lives!" In the all-time favorite Easter hymn is this excerpt "because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future and life is worth the living just because He lives..." There is no reassurance of hope stronger than this.

Application to us as believers:

How then should we face trouble? It can be as simple as ABC.

A – Ask: Just ask. Take it to the Lord in earnest prayer. Seek wisdom, clarity and strength from the word of God. Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you"

B – Believe: Jesus said: John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me" Believe in the promise of Jesus when he said "I will never leave you nor forsake you ". Do not give up. Trust and have Faith in Him.

C - Commit Turn away from temptations and evil and repent. Commit to a path of righteousness and surrender control of your life to the Lord. Have faith. Then the Holy Spirit will come to protect you, comfort you, guide you, and give you courage, strength and hope. Psalm 37:5-6 "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun."

Returning to my personal story, the stroke and its consequences namely: loss of work and income, inability now to perform what I had been trained to do for most of my adult life -(being a doctor and all the perks that came with it), losing my independence, etc., losing control of my circumstances...but wait a minute.. Then a sudden shock of realization hit me... I was never in control. As a believer I had read the words and heard the sermons that "God is in control" - but it never mattered as much to me previously as it did at that crucial time. "God is in control ". Sometimes God lets events happen in our lives that we do not wish for or expect - in order to get our attention. He had caused me to "be still and know that he is God". (Ref. Psalm 46:10). The stroke was a trial from God. The scriptures tell us that trials are God given opportunities for us to grow in character, to grow in wisdom and discernment and to grow in faith. We must however recognize it and completely yield to God and allow him, trust him to do his work in us. Thus, the stroke was a gift... and as strange as it may sound... I have since repeatedly and faithfully given thanks to God for my stroke.

My prayer used to be: Lord, heal me of my stroke deficits and restore my body. Now I pray: Lord you have given me a stroke for a reason. Use it to make me a better person, a better husband, a better father and grandfather, a better son, a better friend, a better neighbor and a better Christian and only after you have shaped me, then if it be in your will may you also heal me of my physical disabilities. Because I have found new strength in Jesus, I also have developed a renewed hope for the future. As a consequence of our sin nature inherited from Adam and Eve, I remain a weak and imperfect being in this flawed world. I am still going to make mistakes and still am subject to the attacks of the devil. The big difference now is that I have the living God in Jesus Christ at my side to protect me and to lift me up whenever I stumble.

When troubles and trials come, all you need to do is Ask for God's help, Believe in Jesus Christ His son and Commit your life to Him.

Closing prayer: O loving and eternal God and Father, for our troubles now and troubles yet to come, be our strength and be our hope. In the name of Jesus my Lord and Savior, Amen.

(Excerpt from Dr. Mayuga's message on February 12, 2017 (Boy Scout Sunday))

You are cordially invited



Missions Luncheon

**Sunday, March 19, 2017
11:00 AM after the Worship Service
Faith UMC Fellowship Hall**

Chicken, salad and dessert provided by Outreach Committee.

Please bring your favorite side dish.

Suggestions:

Potato salad

Pasta salad

Baked beans

Cole slaw

Bean salad

etc.

Upcoming Worship Services and Events at Faith Church

Faith Church invites you to special services as we begin the 40-day journey of Lent. We will have a time to reflect on Jesus' life, ministry, and sacrifice on the cross for us through message, songs, and prayers for healing and wholeness. Each Wednesday we will have a special rite in remembrance of Jesus.

New Sermon Series: "The Lord's Prayer (7 weeks)

- Feb. 26 The Basics of Prayer
- March 5 Our Father in Heaven
- March 12 Thy Kingdom Come
- March 19 Give Us This Day
- April 2 Forgive Us Our Trespases
- April 9 Deliver Us From Evil
- April 23 The Power and the Glory

Lenten Services: 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

- March 1 Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes
- March 8 Lenten Evening Service with Anointing with Oil
- March 15 Lenten Evening Service with Anointing with Oil

There will be special Lenten messages and activities for children in the Toddler Room.

Cultural Competency Training

- March 26 (Sun.) 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Led by Rev. Young-Mee Park (District Superintendent of DeKalb District)

Breakfast with Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt

- April 8 (Sat.) 9:00 am – 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Holy Week/Easter

- April 9 Palm Sunday
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 14 Prayer Vigil 6:00 am to 6:00 pm
- April 14 Good Friday Service with Choral Cantata
- April 16 Easter Sunday & All-Church Easter Brunch



**Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017, at 10AM
for our Easter Sunday Worship Service!
All-Church Easter Brunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following our Worship Service.
Everyone is invited.**

Breakfast with Bunny



Saturday, April 8, 2017

9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

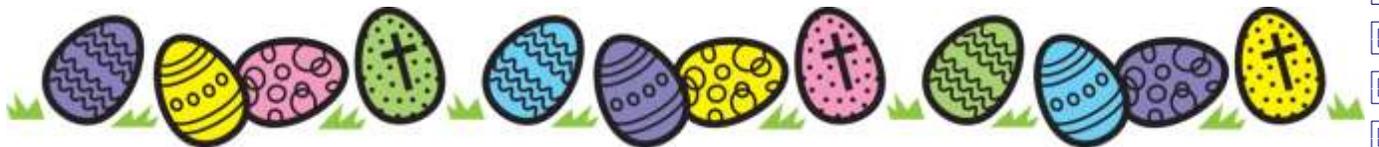
Egg Hunt starts at 10am!

For all children up to and including 6th grade

Crafts, games, food... FREE!

The Easter Bunny will be available for photos during the breakfast. (Bring your own camera)

For more info, call the church office (630) 968-0442



Donations are greatly appreciated (enough for 200 people):

| | | |
|--------|------------------|-------------|
| candy | small goody bags | pancake mix |
| syrup | sausage | milk/juice |
| plates | utensils, | napkins |

Please put your donations in the collection box in the narthex.
Thank you.

From our friends...

Dear Friends at Faith Church,
Bruce has dementia and is declining rapidly. He is now dependent on me for most of his care. Thanks to the members of Faith Church. Your continual prayers and support for the mission work made it possible for the Word of God to be planted in many hearts. God bless you for this.

Love,

Marlene & Bruce Inglis

(Bruce is a retired missionary to Russia)

Dear Faith Church Family,

I want to thank you so much for your loving kindness following my mother's December home going. Thank you to Rose and Terry Paulhus who made and delivered a delicious casserole for our entire family, thank you to the many who sent cards and prayed for my mother, thank you to the Dellongo family for the gorgeous flower arrangement and many visits to mother at Manor Care and to several friends who sent memorials to our church in my mother's name. Thank you to Bonnie Mattiuz who delivered her delicious selection of freshly baked cookies for our family. Also I want to thank those of you who made it out on that bitter cold day for mom's memorial service and for the kindness of Emma Deguia, Terry Paulhus, Sandy Welson and Pam Whitt who set up, served and cleaned up following the fellowship time that day. Your friendship and love shown that day mean so much to me. I greatly appreciate all of you more than you know. And Pastor Charles, I so appreciate your many visits to my mother while in the hospital and at ManorCare and for presiding over her memorial service after only knowing her for a couple months. My mother attended our church so many times over the last 44 years that we've been members and loved our church more than the one she attended. She asked in her last days if Pastor Charles would agree to do her service. She loved it, as did I, when pastor sang to and with her on his visits. So 'THANK YOU', Pastor Charles and church family for loving her and extending your kindness and generosity to a non-member, like my mother. Blessings to you all.

In Christ's Love,

Nancy

Choir members having a wonderful luncheon at the Chinese Kitchen!

Jan. 22, 2017



Hello Seniors 55 and older,

It's near spring!! March is here and it's time to think about our lunch dates. It has not been a bad winter this year. I hope spring will be a nice one.



On March 9th we will be going to Steven's Restaurant and April 13th to the Trio Restaurant. The time is still 11:30 am, and if you need a ride, call Bonnie Gentile at 630-969-3419. I will need to know the Wednesday before the date if you are going.

March 9th – Steven's Restaurant
2393 63rd St., Woodridge

April 13th – Trio Restaurant
980 75th St., Downers Grove

The Trio Restaurant is where the Bohemian Garden was.

All in God's grace,
Bonnie Gentile

News from the Trustees

1. Please note that we have installed alarms on the fire "Emergency Exit Only" doors. Unfortunately, we have several instances of the doors being left open, which compromises our church's security.
2. With the thought in mind of redoing the kitchen floor and possibly cabinets, your Trustees are asking for feedback of what we can do with the hundreds of dishes currently stored on our shelves. I cannot remember the last time we used them, but we need a general consensus of do we leave them alone, sell them, or do we give them away to the Salvation Army. Please make your wishes known to any of the Trustees. Thank you.

Finance Report

January giving stabilized to last year. This is far below the level we need to sustain our programs, salaried employees and maintenance. We will be having a Finance meeting in March to discuss this. Please prayerfully consider your giving as without an improvement we will need to take other actions.

Bruce Denby
Finance Chairman



To celebrate the beauty and life of Easter, you are invited to purchase an Easter flowering plant to decorate our Sanctuary during Easter.

All orders must be returned by **Sunday, April 9th**, accompanied with payment. Place in the offering plate or you can make payment in the office.

**Please make check to:
Faith United Methodist Church.**

Thank you.

Qty. _____ Easter Lily \$12.50

Qty. _____ Hyacinth \$10.50

Qty. _____ Daffodil \$10.50

Qty. _____ Tulip \$10.50

Qty. _____ Azaleas \$20 (red, pink or white)

Qty. _____ Hydrangea \$20 (pink or blue)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

I will pick up my plant after the:

10 AM Easter Worship Service

Donate to a Shut-In



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

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

Women – Wednesdays from 10-11 am in the church library. A study of "The Third Third of Life" led by Pastor Charles.

Confirmation Class

Sundays from 12-1:30 pm in the church library led by Pastor Charles.

- Feb. 26 God
- March 12 Human & Sin
- April 2 Meeting with Mentors
- April 23 The Holy Spirit

Youth Group Meetings

Sundays from 12:00-1:30 pm in the Youth Room led by Mike Abron & Pastor Charles.

- March 5 How Do I See Myself?
- March 19 Informational meeting for Mission/Vision trip to Korea (2019)
- April 9 How Can I have Genuine Conversations with People of other Faiths?
- April 30 How Can My Faith Shape My Life and Career?

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Hancock Szalajka
- 4 Sharon Paul
- 7 Bill Wagner
- 8 Ed Smith
- 9 Lauren Denby
- 11 Pat Hayward
Louanne Mitchell
- 12 Vernon Swanson
- 14 Sanita Alcantara
Myttle Mayuga Davis
- 15 Broderick Whitaker
Jean Orcutt
Judith Cordova
- 18 Glen Wagner
- 20 Clark Francisco
- 24 Albert Depante
- 28 Jack Dubinoff
- 29 John Deguia
- 31 Conrado Villanueva, Jr.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Roy Espino
- 05 Bonnie Mattiuz
- 06 Betty Sheaks
Chuck Sebaski
- 07 Paul Magday
- 13 Hanna Ji
Robyn Pagulayan
Emily Lin
- 16 Chuck Sebaski
- 18 Elsie Alagano
- 19 Marian Tapé
- 23 Elaine Carmichael
Joyce Apostol
- 25 Andrew Gonzalez

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.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.