



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



March 8, 2020
2:00 AM

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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AF1 (All For One) Retreat Testimony

Chelsea Deneb Octava

First and foremost, I want to take the time to thank the church for supporting us and giving us the opportunity to attend this year's "All For One Winter Retreat." After the amazing opportunity to lead a Bible camp in South Korea along with the youth group, I wanted to relive that once again. I was so happy to get a chance to do that at AF1. This was my very first time attending a winter retreat and my first time being a counselor at one as well. Initially, I was feeling very anxious going into the retreat. Although I believe in the gospel and attend church regularly and even participate in the praise band, teaching and explaining the Word of God and making it applicable to the lives of teens is not something I'm very experienced in. I was extremely nervous as well in the possibility that the girls in my small group would have questions I wouldn't be able to answer properly or that I would come off as a fraud in front of them. Honestly, right before camp I even thought that maybe I had overestimated my abilities and that being a counselor was something I couldn't handle.

Clearly, since I'm up here talking to you about it, I obviously ended up going to the retreat. The retreat was over the span of 3 days and two nights where we got to spend time with fellow youth and young adults to worship God and to listen to His Word. And here's one thing I learned that I want to share with you today.

A few days before the retreat, all the counselors and the volunteers had a mandatory meeting. The service during the meeting focused on the main message of the retreat: "Nothing Else." I'd like to quote the main song of the retreat called the same name.

"Oh, I'm not here for blessings, Jesus. You don't owe me anything.
More than anything that You can do, I just want You."

Throughout the entire retreat, whenever I felt nervous during the small group discussion time, whenever I felt self-conscious during praise and worship, or whenever I felt shy meeting new people, I would go back to this message. At the end of the day, no matter what the burdens are that we're holding onto in our hearts, or no matter what we've done, Jesus and His love for us is the only thing that matters. It's the only thing that can truly save us, nothing else. My hope is that from now on we can all find comfort in that truth.

This retreat not only gave me a chance to exercise my leadership skills in a Christian setting and have great fellowship opportunities with other believers in Christ, but also I learned a great deal of things that we can

implement into our youth program. It's truly an experience I want to take part in again next, hopefully with more of the youth with us. Once again, I'd like to extend our gratitude to the church for always supporting us youth and young adults in our Christian journey. Thank you.

Eunice Yoon

Good morning. I would first like to start off by thanking the church for supporting us in going to this retreat. I think this retreat was very helpful to all of us. I did not know what to expect from this retreat. I have never gone to this retreat before and I also have never ever been a camp counselor or small group leader. I was nervous about what kids I would get. Up until the day before the retreat, I didn't even know I would be the small group leader of 6th graders. Although I was nervous, I was still excited to meet new people.

However, I had nothing to worry about. The kids I had were so great. They were all so excited to do everything. They woke me up at 7:30 because they wanted to go to the playground before breakfast. And although they did not know each other in the beginning and didn't talk, by the end of the retreat, they were all sleeping together on the floor.

There were a couple of notable moments for me. Every night, when the kids went to sleep, all the counselors would meet together and talk about the day: the good things and the things to improve upon. Then we would all pray for each individual kid that we had. I thought this was very special because although there were over 180 kids at the camp, this ensured that collectively, we prayed for every kid at camp – every single kid. Even if the prayer was not big, there was someone that cared to pray for everyone in the camp.

The worship was amazing. We would sing songs for hours. I only knew a couple of songs coming in, but I learned a ton of new songs. About two-thirds of the songs were upbeat songs. So, about half of the kids would go to the front of the room and start jumping up and down. Surprisingly, all my small group kids were excited to go to the front and dance. All except one. However, by the end of the second day, she also was jumping up and down to the music. Even though it was not easy going through the 2 and a half hour worships, the music was very much worth it for my small group kids and me.

Thanks, again, to everyone here for supporting our short but very sweet retreat.

Matthew Francisco

First off, I would like to thank the church for giving us the opportunity to go on such a great retreat. On this retreat and others and I made a great deal of new friends. These new friends have shown me that it's okay to be all in with Christ. This is something that I've never felt that I would be looked at the same way if I was. But because of my new friends, I saw that many others in my age group are fully for Christ and that it's okay for me to be too. Another thing that we experienced was a new way of worship. During praise songs, a large group would form at the front next to the stage jumping and having fun. This was a new type of experience that made their worship more fun and involving.

Alex Alagano

My first day at AF1 wasn't the ideal for anyone. Since this was a new camp for all of us, I was really nervous. So nervous, that I threw up three times. Thank the Lord that Francis, Ben and Matthew were there to pull my hair back as I puked on the sidewalk in the dark, missing half of the small group time the first day. So, you can imagine I was not in the mood to worship after that. I was tired and just wanted to sleep. But once the lights dimmed and the praise band started, all my worries honestly started to fade away. It was honestly, very homey, despite this being our first time at AF1. I looked around during the songs and I expected people not really being into it because you know, we're teenagers. I glanced up, and there were people having their

hands in the air and praising God. I just stood there in awe. I was also scared to sing along as well with that stigma, but when I heard everyone else sing, I was no longer afraid. I think God knew about that thought of mine and lead me to a place that I shouldn't be fearful. Surprisingly, that 3 hours of my stomach not feeling well at all, stopped exactly when the sermon started.

I had many God moments within that small trip, like how my small group got so close in such a small amount of time, aka one hour, and that I was the only one who didn't mention anything about my time to the others besides Robyn with the text of "I threw up." I think the biggest one I thought of at the top of my head was our time with our church. We were the smallest group there. No youth leader or pastor with us. We started voicing our concerns about our youth group and how we could make it stronger, telling each other our real concerns and not just some façade, because we were scared that we would tell each other's family because we are all related. It honestly was very heartwarming seeing us all so passionate over this. Right after the praise team started singing a song, all of our instincts lead to us wrapping our arms together and singing together, not just as a youth group, but as a family, and as children of God.

One thing I liked a lot about the camp is that there was so much prayer time. Time to talk to God about everything, and letting our walls down and just being vulnerable to them. Sometimes when you feel like you're all alone, you forget God is always listening. I think that was something I took out of the trip. As a junior, it's hard, academically, socially, and spiritually. You're so focused on one, so you forget about the other. Having an opportunity to finally open up to God is something God probably knew I needed, and that we all need. A way God has let me know He was with me is if I cried. And I did. So, I didn't feel that at quest. I only felt that in two places – S. Korea, the day before we left our kids, and at AF1, talking to God about my true concerns and not sugar coating anything.

Something Francis said to us when we were talking about what we were going to say during this that always stuck with me for the past 2 weeks was "we all look like model Christians, but in reality we all have difficulties with our faith" and we will always have our struggles, because God gives them to us so we can grow stronger within Him. I truly trust His plan for us. I have a feeling God wants me to be a counselor there, but only time and God will tell eventually.

Thank you to our congregation for helping to send us to AF1, and I hope you can help us again next year to send us again, and again, and again and for us to maybe become future counselors or even be counselors again. Thank you.

Francis Pagulayan

At AF1 we had worship every morning and night, including one six-hour worship at the end of the second day. During worship, everyone was enthusiastically jumping and dancing to the praise band, taking notes during the sermon, and feeling the presence of God in the chapel. It amazed me how we were all able to focus solely on God during this time and how we were able to put Him first. However, later on we were given time to meet one-on-one with each other and pray for each other's problems. During this time my eyes were opened to how God works in each and every one of us. Every kid in the building seemed like the model Christian always putting the Lord first. But while I talked with my peers, I saw them as they really were, nobody different from you or me. Despite having such great faith, they all struggled with the same problems I do, such as school and other personal issues. It was then that I realized that it was not that they were perfect, but through God we are fulfilled. We were pushed further and truly strengthened through worship and community. It was not that every kid was born a model Christian, but brought up like that through God's presence and hardships to overcome. None of us are flawless, even if it may seem that way on the outside. But through God we are refined and focused to become the best Christians we can be.

Children and Youth Ministry
Sanha Kang, Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Children Ministry

Upcoming Events:

-Breakfast with Bunny will happen on April 4th. Similar to Breakfast with Santa, we will need volunteers and donations for the event. More news will be announced as we get closer to the event.

-Ice Skating – On March 15th, I have planned for the children and youth to go ice skating together after church. We will need volunteers who can drop off and pick up. At the moment, Rocket Ice Arena seems like an option, but if you know a better ice arena, please let me know.

Announcements:

-Children's Church – Originally, only second-grade and younger kids had to attend, but since the children will sing every month, we have decided that all children must attend children's church. This way, we can both practice the songs for the following months and review the lessons.

Youth Ministry:

Completed Events:

-Youth Christmas Gathering – The gift exchange was fun, but I believe that the youth enjoyed it more when we went out to eat together. We may go out to eat together as a group again every once in a while.

-Souper Bowl Sunday – The youth had no problem serving the food. I was informed that we had sold out on bread bowls. Thank you to both the youth and adult volunteers who made the event possible.

-Movie Day – We watched the *Prince of Egypt* together with many of the children, and it seemed like everyone had fun. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the youth and I couldn't discuss the movie until a following Sunday, but they all were engaged in discussing the movie in relation to the biblical stories we have been reading together.

-South Chicago Korean Church – Everyone had a lot of fun, and their pastor told me that their youth enjoyed their time here. Thank you to the adults who bought and set up dinner for everyone.

Announcements:

-The youth group is currently reading through the Bible. We are going through select passages about the story of Moses that cover Moses's calling/life and God's relationship with Israel. After we are finished with Moses's story, we will jump to Matthew.

2020 Children & Youth Acolyte & Scripture Reader Schedule (March-April)

	Acolytes	Scripture Reader
3.1.2020	George & Jamie Welson	Ben Francisco
3.8.2020	Jesse Park & Ben Francisco	Matthew Francisco
3.15.2020	Ben & Caila Abarro	Ben Abarro
3.22.2020	Francis & Robyn Pagulayan	Caila Abarro
3.29.2020	Matt Bair & Bella Madrid	Francis Pagulayan
4.5.2020	Dale & Carson Fischer	Hope Alcantara
4.12.2020 Easter	Yanna Madrid & Danel Corre	Matt Bair
4.19.2020	Krystina Corre & Alex Alagano	Jesse Park
4.26.2020	Nathan Musni & Hope Alcantara	Alicia Pergler

SPECIAL CONFERENCE

Pastor Charles Yoon and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Don Hayward, attended the Special Conference at Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL on Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 9am to 1pm. The purpose was to discuss and approve three items that could not be considered during the summer session. There were only three items which were discerned by the Special Session. At a Special Session only the items put forth on the calling of the session can be reviewed and discussed. They are as follows:

1. Approve the 2020 financial plan which includes budget, apportionment formula, and the general administration fund decision.
2. Hear a report from the Exploration Team. This was formed as a result of legislation at our June session to explore our future as an Annual Conference.
3. Take a special Bishop's Appeal offering. The offering will be used to support and provide relief for farmers.

All of the items were discussed and passed successfully.

We all have read the glaring report that the church is going to split. Nothing is definite until the General Conference meets in Minneapolis May 5-15, 2020. Pastor Charles and I will monitor the situation and advise the congregation.

Your servant,
Don Hayward
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Breakfast with Bunny



Saturday, April 4, 2020
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 & cups	utensils	napkins

Volunteers are needed:

- Easter Bunny
- Cooks
- Photographer
- Registration
- Egg hunt leader 0-PreK
- Egg hunt leader K-2nd
- Egg hunt leader 3rd -6th
- Front door greeter
- Back door greeter

Please put your donations in the collection box in the office.

Thank you.



2020 Lenten Devotional booklets are available at the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to take a moment for personal or family devotions during the 40-days journey of the Lenten season. Please take one for your family and take more if you want to share it with your friends and neighbors.



HOLY WEEK

- April 5 Palm Sunday – Sanctuary at 10:00 am
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service (Christian Seder meal) – Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm
- April 10 Prayer Vigil – Sanctuary from 6:00 am through 6:00 pm
- April 10 Good Friday Service with Choral Cantata – Sanctuary at 7:00 pm
- April 12 Easter Sunday Service – Sanctuary at 10:00 am
- Easter Brunch – Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 10, 2020

6:00 am to 6:00 pm



In a few weeks look for the sign-up poster in the Narthex to pray at church. You can sign up for 30-minute prayer time slots. Come alone, or come with family and friends. Prayer requests will be available for you to pray over, as well as other materials to assist you. There are so many things we can pray about that 30 minutes will seem like no time at all! Pray for the requests provided, for our families, our missionaries, our church, our country, whatever is on your heart.

If you have a prayer request that you would like to add, please complete form below. Return forms to the office or in the offering plate on Sunday.

Prayer request: _____

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**Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020,
for our Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.!**

Easte

Immediately following our Worship Service.

Invite your family and friends!

FINANCIAL REPORT
2019 Year End

	OPERATING			VARIANCE	BUILDING/CAP EX/MAINTENANCE			VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	LAST YEAR	LAST YEAR	ACTUAL	BUDGET	LAST YEAR	LAST YEAR
Income	228,523	235,450	228,521	2	21,815	15,000	23,732	(1,917)
Expense	229,133	238,023	232,785	(3,652)	18,953	27,500	25,542	6,589
Net Income	(610)	(2,573)	(4,264)	3,654	2,862	(12,500)	(1,810)	4,672

Available cash is \$15,100 versus \$15,700 last year.

We paid \$16,000 in apportionments vs. \$18,000 last year.

Income

- Income was flat to 2018.
- General giving was down \$5,000 from last year.
- Rental income was up \$3,900 from last year.
- Easter income was up \$3,900 from last year.
- Christmas and Thanksgiving was down \$2,100 from last year.
- Harvest Home netted \$21,725 which was well above the \$9,000 last year (not in the above numbers).
- Building giving was down \$1,917 from last year.
- Missions giving (also not in the above numbers) was down at \$21,500 vs. \$25,785 the previous year (excludes youth giving for mission trip).

Expenses

- Expenses were down \$3,652 from last year.
- Apportionment expense was down \$2,000.
- Utilities were up \$1,000.
- Insurance was up \$1,000.
- Salary and benefit expenses were flat.
- Several other expense categories were down less than \$1,000.
- Maintenance expense was down from the previous year.

December giving was off, which was likely a by-product of strong support for Harvest Home. We maintained our available cash position while increasing the fund for the trustees to use towards special projects. We will need to continue that trend in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Denby

From our friends....



Walter and Carol Carlquist cordially invite Faith family and friends to attend the wedding ceremony of their granddaughter, Aubrey Carlquist and Tyler Sobey on Saturday, March 28th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church. We wish for you to share in our joy and that of this young couple.

Dear Faith Church,
Many months out of the year, we benefit from your continuing generosity. We thank the congregation and all others connected with Faith Church for the food, toys, clothes, and miscellaneous items you sent to us. Your kindnesses to FISH seem to always be so timely and always what we need. We are currently assisting between 110-125 families a month, so as you can see, our needs are ongoing.
We thank you for your thoughtfulness.
Downers Grove FISH Pantry



March is here and I hope spring is coming with some warmer weather. We will meet for our luncheon rain or shine.

Thursday, March 12th at 11:30 am
Stevens Restaurant
2393 63rd St., Woodridge

Thursday, April 9th at 11:30 am
Blueberry Hill Pancake House
7340 Rt. 83, Darien



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 5** **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 \$13.00

Qty. _____ Hyacinth \$10.50

Qty. _____ Daffodil \$10.50

Qty. _____ Tulip \$10.50

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

Qty. _____ Hydrangea \$21 (pink or blue)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

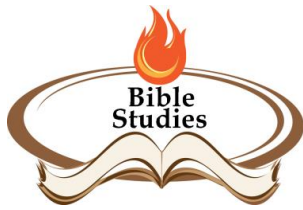
In Memory of _____

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 The Baked Apple Restaurant on Ogden Ave. A study of "Romans" led by Bill Miller.

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

Women – Wednesdays from 10-11 am in the church library. "Women of the Bible" led by Pastor Charles.

Men & Women – Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Youth Room. A Study of 1st John led by Rev. Dire.

Adult Bible Fellowship – Sundays at 8:45am in the church library.

March 1 – Where Satan Lives

March 8 – No class

March 15 – The Mark of the Beast

March 22 – Hot or Cold (Last class)

Next class coming soon: The Mission of Jesus

NIC Workshop:
Fresh Expressions
Thursday, March 12, 2020
9am to 3:30 pm
Barrington UMC
98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL

Special Guest Speaker:
Bishop Kenneth Carter

Learn how established churches and new faith communities are reaching unchurched and dechurched people through fresh expressions of faith.

Please contact Pastor Charles or church office if you are interested.

March Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Szalajka
- 4 Sharon Paul
- 5 Yanna Madrid
- 7 Bill Wagner
- 8 Ed Smith
- 9 Lauren Denby
- 11 Pat Hayward, Louanne Mitchell
- 12 Vernon Swanson
- 15 Judith Cordova
- 18 Glen Wagner
- 20 Clark Francisco
- 28 Jack Dubinoff
- 29 John Deguia

April Birthdays

- 2 Roy Espino
- 5 Bonnie Mattiuz
- 6 Chuck Sebaski
- 7 Paul Magday
- 8 Jamie Welson
- 10 Aria Farrer
- 13 Hannah Ji, Robyn Pagulayan
Emily Lin, Ben Abarro
- 14 Dale Fischer
- 16 Jenny Ji
- 17 Alicia Pergler
- 18 Elsie Alagano
- 23 Elaine Carmichael, Joyce Apostol
- 28 Hank Ji

The A/C units have arrived. We are now ready for hot weather.



Trustees: Jim Fox, Harold Whitt, Don Hickok, Dennis Kelly

Thanks to each of you for your generosity during the Harvest Home season last fall. The heating/AC units will be installed in the months ahead. We are so thankful for the comfort this will give to all.

The Trustees and Harvest Home Committees

Trustees Report

You have all noticed by now the signs in the restrooms asking you to hold down the flush handles until the flush is completed. The reason for this is the installation of low flow toilets for the conservation of water. So why do we ask you to hold down the handle which uses more water? The church (and most homes) is old enough that the sewer system was installed to function with more water flow to push the solids through into the main sewer line. (a drop of 1/8 inch per foot). Any excess solids or paper will not flow properly with this lower water flow to carry the material. We just paid a plumber \$845 to clean out our sewer line due to low flush toilets. We bring this up because the odds are your home sewer system is old enough to have been installed to code that wasn't established to handle low flush toilets. Be careful. Plumbers are expensive!

We finished the wood tables (thanks to Harold Whitt) that you now see in the narthex. The idea was to have something more in line with our church motif. We are looking for ideas of what type of runner we need and what to place on them.

Don Hickok