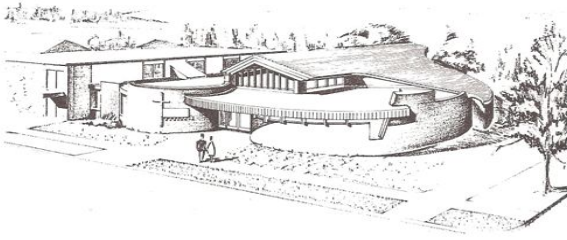


May 2019

Matters of Faith

**Faith United Church of Christ
1001 5th Street Int'l Falls, Mn
218-283-2486**



Saturday Worship 3:00 p.m.

After the winter we have had the hope of summer is something to be looked forward to. The warmer weather. The chance to get outside more and enjoy the flowers and bird songs. Yet even with these pleasures comes things like yard work, gardening, field work but hopefully we aren't plowing or shoveling snow. Two things the gentle northern breezes remind us of is they still have the chili that says there is still ice on the lake and snow in the woods. And those of us living on the north side of Baudette are reminded that it's spring by the smell of septic lagoon just yards away. Oh well! Perhaps we can negotiate with the members of Faith Church a trade for the smell of the mill. I'm not sure which is worse!

Anyhow this is a time of year that always reminds me of the blessing of living in a world created by and given to us by a loving God. Who else can give us such beauty and really such rich bounty. Within all that beauty is to be found more that we need to live a life of comfort and peace. The problem is we have to appreciate what God has given us and be willing to take on the responsibilities of taking care of it and using what it gives to us wisely. Unfortunately too many have looked at what God has freely given us as something free for the taking that we can use to increase personal wealth in the short term. This practice continues today as we struggle with questions of renewable resources and climate change. Add to that how little value we put on being told the truth and our unwillingness to search it out.

Within the creation story is a clear message that the garden contained all that people needed to have a bountiful life, it also was the responsibility of people to take care of it, so that it would always be there for those who were to follow. The same in the parable of the wicked vineyard workers. The land owner has made an investment in the vineyard that it was expected to have a return on for many years and it was the responsibility of the workers to provide it. The world is God's vineyard and we are the workers and God expects us to provide a return for all that come after us. But somewhere along the line we have become self-centered and today we allow a few wealthy companies and individuals to lead us down a well-traveled path that has increased personal wealth of a few and done great damage to God's vineyard. Care of God's vineyard depends on all of us working together to care for the vineyard, so that it will provide for the needs of the future.

I was asked by someone this spring why more in the church didn't speak up about some environmental issues being moral issues based on scripture. I'm not sure for many it would make any difference but the reality is biblically speaking we are called to care for the world as God's gift to all of us for all generations. But yes for many personal wealth and greed is more important. But the idea is there in scripture. Psalm 24 tells us that the earth belongs to God and everything in it. How would we feel if we gave to others some of our things to use and they destroyed them or made the unusable? Why don't we talk about it more in the church? Because it is a controversial issue where a serious moral discussion is difficult to have because something might be said that offends people and they might stop supporting the church or something. My favorite hymn is an old one that probably needs to have the language updated. "This is My Father's World." It's ok with me if you rewrite it to say; "This is God's World" as long as you don't change the central message that this wonderful world is a gift of love given us by God that we need to take care. ---*Pastor John*



Special Thanks to:

- Marcia & Ivan Stewart

for the alter and vestibule flowers for our Easter Service.

- Pam & Tom Urban

for the hot crossed buns they served with coffee after Easter Service.



Faith United Church has an active prayer chain. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call the church office at 283-2486 or Norma Krats at 285-7015. You must have permission to put someone on the chain... either from the person, or from a close relative. They will remain on the prayer chain list until a request to remove them is made.

To put someone on the list for Saturday bulletin prayers, call the church office at 283-2486. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.



May 12th



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

May 27th



May 2019



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2 6:30pm CubScouts	3	4 3:00pm Worship Service
5	6 6:00pm Girl Scouts	7	8 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	9 12:Elephant Eaters 6:30pm CubScouts	10	11 3:00pm Worship Service
12 Mother's Day  2:00pm MayAnn Kalar's Piano Recital	13 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	14 10: Finance Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts	15	16. 11:30 Council Mtg. 6:30pm CubScouts	17	18 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
19 3:00pm Girl Scout Banquet i	20	21	22 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe 6:00pm Girl Scouts	23 10:Evangelism &Membership Committee 6:30pm CubScouts	24	25 3:00pm Worship Service
26	27 Memorial Day 	28	29.	30	31	



June 2019 (tentative)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1 3:00pm Worship Service
2	3	4	5 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	6	7	8 3:00pm Worship Service
9	10 5-6:30pm Ruby's Pantry	11 10: Finance Meeting	12	13. 12: Elephant Eaters	14	15 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
16	17	18	19 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	20 11:30 Council Mtg.	21	22 3:00pm Worship Service
23	24	25	26.	27 10: Evangelism & Membership Committee	29	29 3:00pm Worship Service
30						