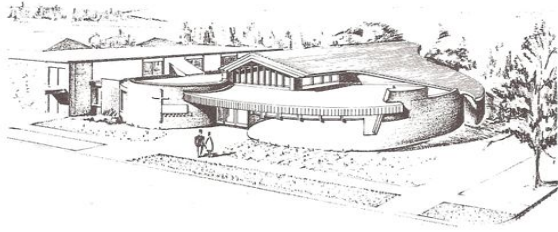


November 2019

Matters of Faith



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

?????

Sunday Worship 2:00 p.m. Oct. 6

????? 10:30 a.m. Oct. 13, 20, 27 ?????

Starting with Halloween we enter a three month period with a large number of religious holidays or holidays that came out of a religious tradition. This period of the year has always had a strong religious focus, especially in the years before the Christian era. The period often with unstable weather and clouds, fog, rain, wind and changing conditions and a lot of gloom at the end of October, came for many cultures around the world, to be a time for thinking about death and life after death. Harvest season became a time to give thanks and a time to reach out to the divine to encourage good harvests in years to come. There was also the knowledge of moving into winter, with its increase in darkness and appearance of ever-present death. With the winter solstice came a celebration of the potential for new life and an increase in the light and warmth of the sun was called for. Remember many of the pre-Christian cultures were keen observers of the heavens and nature in general and noticed the changes occurring. Some of the most important holidays in their religious life such as a day for honoring the dead, the celebrations surrounding the solstice when they reached out to the gods confessing their sins and seeking a new beginning for themselves and the world as a whole, came in the last three months of the year.

Yes, many of these holidays in these times were dedicated to different gods than we worship. So yes we could call them "Pagan" holidays. But in the early years of the church development, the church leaders recognized the value of these holidays, their traditions and symbols to the people and the potential for them to be used to bring people from the pagan religions into the developing Christian church. There was a need it was believed for a day to honor those first followers of Christ. So the holiday of All Saints Day was developed with its meanings and symbols from the various holidays honoring the dead. Some of the symbols surrounding the Solstice were converted to a celebration of Christmas and the Epiphany season. because the church wasn't sure when Christ was born. We still struggle with interpreting this in the modern church. Should our Christmas celebration best be symbolized by the carol, "Silent Night" or "Joy to the World?" From the Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah and pagan symbols of bonfires and candles burning off winter, came many symbols of light

in the Christmas and Epiphany celebration. Also the giving of gifts were important in these holidays and they became an important part of Christmas and Epiphany especially with the Wise men. The Christmas tree wreaths and greenery of all kinds at Christmas are symbols brought into the church from the solstice celebration.

I find it amazing how early Christians could see the needs for these changes and make them to make the new converts feel comfortable in the church, but now the church resists change. Perhaps we need to remember that the Spirit of the Holiday Season in the church began by accepting the traditions of others celebrations in honor of God and go from there as we struggle to make this time meaningful to tell the Christ's story! For indeed the Christmas story and the Christian story witness to new life, light in the midst of darkness and even in times of death we hold out God's love with its message of hope.

Pastor John

Thursday, November 28th:





To the members of Faith United,

Thank You so much for the cake, coffee, and gift that was for my last Sunday playing, Oct. 6. I will be back in the Spring. My playing for our church services is my service to all of you and the church.

Keep the Faith, and Thank You!

Donna



--- Faith United Church of Christ's total gift to "Neighbors in Need" was: **\$355.00**

--- **Nov. 3rd** Daylight Savings Times ends (set your clocks back).



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 Sunday 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.

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 3:00pm Worship Service
3 <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> 	4 6:30pm Girl Scouts	5	6	7 6:30pm Cub Scouts	8	9 3:00pm Worship Service
10	11 5-6:30pm Ruby's Pantry	12 10:00am Finance Mtg.	13 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	14 12:00p.m. Elephant Eaters 6:30pm Cub Scouts	15	16 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain
17	18 6:30pm Girl Scouts	19 11:30am Council Mtg.	20	21 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 6:30pm Cub Scouts	22	23 3:00pm Worship Service
24	25	26	27. 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	28 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	29	30 3:00pm Worship Service



December 2019



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2 6:30pm Girl Scouts	3	4	5 6:30pm Cub Scouts	6	7 3:00pm Worship Service
8	9 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	10 10:00am Finance Mtg.	11 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	12 12:00pm. Elephant Eaters 6:30pm Cub Scouts	13	14 3:00pm Worship Service
15	16 6:30pm Girl Scouts	17 11:30am Council Mtg.	18	19 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 6:30pm Cub Scouts	20	21 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain
22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 10:00am Evangelism & Membership Meeting	27	28 3:00pm Worship Service
29	30 6:30pm Girl Scouts	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				

Faith United Church

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We're on the Web!


Visit us at:
www.faithuccifalls.org

Find us on Facebook 

Faith United Church UCC

*and don't forget to
become a fan!*

Matters of Faith is published by Faith United Church, UCC for it's members and friends

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.* 



Address Correction Requested

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