

FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

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May 2018

Kids Hope USA



As our Kids Hope mentoring for the 2017-2018 school year begins to wrap up, we extend our gratitude to the 19 men and women who showed up week after week to give their time and energy and love to mentor these children. We also thank you, Faith United, for your support and generosity not only to the KH kids, but also for stepping up when help was needed to pay for school lunches, for filling Thanksgiving dinner baskets, for the overwhelming response to the "Warm Hearts, Warm Hands" program in providing scores of badly needed warm gloves, and for your support of the Alpine Elementary teachers, staff and families. It has been a remarkable year and a great encouragement as we stay connected with the community and are already planning for the coming year. In so many ways, you are meeting our commitment to Love, Grow and Serve in His name.

Judy Kerwin, Kids Hope Director

Children's Church



Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 3rd grade

Children's Church will be offered at 10:30 AM on our Lower Level on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. Each week we will be doing hands-on worship where kids encounter God, so we always encourage your children to attend!

Children's Church Volunteers:

May 6 = No Children's Church

May 13 = Connie Evans & Wendy Shick

May 20 = Tim & Jodi Stanton

May 27 = Heather Bessinger & Velvet Lerch

Volunteers, if you are unable to be here on the date that you are scheduled, please contact Carol Cutter or Wendy Shick.

Youth News!

Join us for
Wednesday Night



6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday Evenings
(Grades: 6th - 12th)*

***Come and bring your friends!**

(Youth Schedule is available in narthex)

May 2 – Diner Night, Spiritual Formation:
Spiritual Disciplines

May 9 – Spiritual Formation:
Scripture Reading (Lesson 1)

May 16 – Go Kart Racing,
Spiritual Formation: Scripture Reading (Lesson 2)

May 23 – Garage Sale Prep at Orchard View

May 30 – Spiritual Formation:
Scripture Reading (Lesson 3)

Questions? Please contact Daniel at (616) 914-5460,
or przybylskijdaniel@gmail.com

Faith United Church of God

"Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others"



Snacks for Wednesday Night Youth Group

We are looking for volunteers to help with snacks for Wednesday Night Youth. If you are willing to bring or supply Daniel and the Youth with some snacks, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, please let Daniel know. Thanks for your help!

Our Mission Statement

"Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others"

Preacher, Rev. Millard Knapp, May 6

Bio

Millard Knapp has had a wide variety of experiences and opportunities throughout a long and exciting life. He completed three years of higher education following high school graduation. Later in life, a course in a community college was added.

He married his college sweetheart and has three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Millard became a Christian as a child. He received and accepted God's call to pastoral ministry while a teenager and entered the active ministry in his mid-twenties. He was actively involved in pastoral ministry for over thirty-five years.

Most of the congregations he pastored were not able to provide a living wage; thus God enabled him to do manual construction and engineering. He has been involved with engineering projects throughout the United States and in foreign countries.

He is most excited about his daily walk as he follows the invitation God extended to him as a teenager.

Adapted from the Author's Bio in Come, Follow Me

Welcome Brian & Luella Hansen!



We are excited to announce that Rev. Brian Hansen and his wife Luella will be joining Faith United as our interim pastor. Brian will be worshipping with us on May 6, and following the service we will celebrate our First Sunday Fellowship with them. Please join us as we welcome them to Faith United. The following Sunday, May 13, will be their first official week with us as Brian will begin handling pastoral duties.

Some background information provided by Brian:

Bio

Brian and Luella have been part of the Church of God (Anderson) all our lives; Luella (Joslin) Hansen and I grew up in the same congregation of the Church of God in Muskegon, Michigan. Luella grew up in a Church of God household with her father serving as the youth counselor for more than 25 consecutive years! He was a dear friend, an amateur playwright and directed inspiring, Christ-centered plays for the local church.

My call to the ministry came one evening while working at a factory near our home in Muskegon. We were married and already had two children. The call was clear, and within the year we had sold our home and moved our family to Houston, Texas where I attended what was then

called Gulf Coast Bible College and earned a Bachelor's degree in Bible and Theology. (Today that school is in Oklahoma City, OK and called Mid-America Christian College.) During college, Luella and I worked full-time and volunteered at the Spring Branch Church of God where Luella directed a Children's Church of a couple of hundred kids. Upon graduation we moved to northern Indiana where we served a rural church (Big Lake Church of God.)

After several years we moved closer to family and served the Eastwood Church of God during which time I earned my post-graduate degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. Several years later we accepted a call to a church in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. To aid with the finances of this small church, I became bi-vocational and accepted an invitation by a small, volunteer hospice program to work as its director. With support from its Board of Directors, we were able to achieve Medicare certification, negotiate contracts, and hire professional caregiving staff. I was also able to initiate the local hospital's first volunteer chaplaincy program.

It was during this time that Mercy Health Systems recruited me, and we moved to Southeast Michigan where I worked as a hospice administrator. Fourteen years later, and following my own diagnosis of cancer, I stepped down from administration and worked for about seven years as a hospice chaplain. Luella worked for Guardian Industries, a world-wide glass manufacturer. Brian and Luella are retired from full-time work and enjoying our grandchildren and time to visit with their friends and family.

We have served three churches as interim pastor: First Church of God in Owosso, MI; the West Court Street Church of God in Flint, MI and most recently the Family Worship Center in Grass Lake, MI.

We have some familiarity with Faith United Church of God, having known some of your previous pastors (Paul and Diana Stover, and Steve McDaniel). We have worshiped with Faith United on a couple of occasions and are pleased to be invited to be a part of your congregation for a time.

In the past year and one-half, since returning to live in western Michigan (Norton Shores/Muskegon), we have worshiped with the First Wesleyan Church with active community ministries. There, Luella and I have led small group studies ("Life Groups"), helped to roll out a church management software tools (Servant Keeper 8) and been blessed to make a friend in the local state Correctional Facility (Brooks) whom I visit regularly. The move back to western Michigan has also enabled us to support and be supported by our own family for which we are grateful. We have not yet become "snow-birds" and stayed this past year in our condo in Norton Shores.

We are enjoying our own "take" on retirement, and now look forward to learning how we may serve together with you.

1st Sunday Fellowship, May 6



Please mark your calendars for

Sunday, May 6

as we worship together during a Fellowship time.

We will gather in the narthex immediately following the morning service for a time of refreshments, fellowship and to meet interim pastor,

Rev. Brian Hansen and his wife, Luella.
and fellowship.

It's a great opportunity to get to know your

Friends at Faith better.

Join us in this fun event!

*There is no Sunday School on this day
so parents are encouraged to bring
their children upstairs to join in the fun!*



Join us May 13 as we celebrate the women of Faith United. Refreshments to take to Sunday School will follow the service.

The Movement - Youth Gathering – May 17

This is a **FREE** event for youth!

The Movement - Youth Gathering (City Fest) is on **Thursday, May 17** at Grand Rapids First Church.
2100 44th Street SW, Wyoming, Michigan 49519

Speaker: Jarrett Stephens

Guest Artist: Andy Mineo

Pre-party begins at 6:00 pm with games, free food, inflatable zorbs and obstacle course, a GaGa ball pit, and a DJ from the Edge Urban Fellowship. The main event starts at 7:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm.

More information can be found at:

www.cityfestwestmichigan.org/the-movement-promo.

Scholarship Fund Offering, May 20

On Sunday, May 20, we will receive an offering for our College Scholarship Fund. This money is used to assist Faith United students who complete the written application and meet the requirements of our College Scholarship Guidelines. Copies of our guidelines are available from the church office.

2018 Graduates & College Scholarship Information Needed Soon!

The church office needs you to contact them ASAP if anyone in your family will soon be celebrating a high school or post high school graduation. Also needed is information from anyone seeking to apply for a scholarship from Faith United. If you are interested in a college or graduate school scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year, please know that the **deadline for your application is Sunday, May 13, 2018**

Contact Rhonda in the church office if you are interested and she will get you the forms that are required. Thank you.

Northwest Food Pantry



We continue to collect items for the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of May, Faith United is collecting **cereals (hot and cold), peanut butter and jam; personal items and cleaning products are also needed.**

We are in need of some new faces as volunteers who would be willing to work from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please call the pantry (451-4036) and ask for Waverly.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sarah (The Northwest Food Pantry)

Readers Anonymous May 21



The women's Book Group meets the 3rd Monday of each month from **6:00 to 8:00 PM** at Erika Irving's for good reads and great conversation! Won't you join us?

The next meeting is **Monday, June 18.**

Health Corner

Did you know that Faith United is one of only a few churches in West Michigan to have an ongoing volunteer Parish Nurse Program? Or that we were one of the very first Parish Nurse Training programs provided by Calvin College? For the past 14 years, our goal has been to provide health and wellness information, visitation and spiritual support to the congregation whenever needed. Please be assured that you are welcome to contact me in person, by phone or email. You are always in my heart and my prayers.

Your Parish Nurse, Judy

Children, Youth and Adult Classes



CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)
Teacher: Connie Evans
Subs: Mary Irving & Jean Estebez
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)
Teachers: Erika Irving and Velvet Lerch
- **Pre-K - 3rd Grade** (4 years - 3rd grade)
Teachers: Carol Cutter and Heather Bessinger
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level

YOUTH

- **Youth Class** (4th - 12th grades)
Teacher: Daniel Przybylski
Subs: Ted Evans & Tonya Mashue
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level

ADULT

- **Foundations Class**
Teachers: Ryan and Becki Simpson,
and Steve Shick
Studying: *The Gratitude Diaries*
by Janice Kaplan
Class meets in the Narthex
- **"X" Pulpit Class**
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman
Sub: Janice Ertle
Studying: *"New Testament Characters"*
By Carolyn Nystrom
Class meets on the Sanctuary Platform
- **Adult Bible Class**
Teachers: Michele Paulin and Millard Knapp
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum
Class meets in the west end of the Fellowship Hall
- **Christian Topics Class**
Teachers: Mark Peterson & Judy Kerwin
Studying: *Lies We Believe About God*
by William Paul Young
Class is meeting in the center of the Fellowship Hall

Church Garage Sale, May 24-26



May 24 - 26, 2018 – The youth will be having a garage sale at Orchard View. They'll be collecting items to sell. If you have any items you'd like to donate, let Daniel know.

Any monies raised will help off-set the cost for future youth events!

May Nursery Volunteers



Infant

6 – Carol Cutter & Rhonda Plants
13 – Chad & Jenny Morris
20 – Janice Ertle & Kathy Van Dyke
27 – Mary Irving & Heidi Przybylski

Toddler

6 – Connie Evans & Jolie Stanton
13 – Velvet Lerch
20 – Becki Simpson
27 – Judy Kerwin

Please contact Rhonda Plants if you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the June 2018 edition of FAITHNews is Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Thank you!

Administrative Assistant Away

Rhonda Plants will be away May 15 through May 30, 2018, and Velvet Lerch will be in the office (limited hours) while she's away.

Faith United Church of God

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Grand Rapids, MI 49544-9431

Phone (616) 784-5060 / Fax 784-9141

Church Website: <http://www.faithunitedcog.org>

Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Brian Hansen (blhansen11@gmail.com)

Youth Director: Daniel Przybylski (przybylskijdaniel@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant: Rhonda Plants (secretary@faithunitedcog.org)

Church Custodian: Karen Stevens

Kids Hope USA Director: Judy Hewett Kerwin (judyhewett@comcast.net)

Parish Nursing Program

Judy Hewett Kerwin, R.N. (judyhewett@comcast.net)

Living Link Missionaries

Alfonso & Elizabeth Ayala (Belize)

Daniel & Christy Kihm (Netherlands)

Sundays

10:00 AM Celebration of Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesdays

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth

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