

FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

www.faithunitedcog.org

Visit Faith United on Facebook



December 2018

Kids Hope USA



Kids Hope is especially on our minds this time of year, with so many needs and concerns among the children and families at Alpine Elementary. We are so grateful for all of you who mentor, pray for and support the wonderful relationships with the school. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon here at Faith United on November 14th was the best attended yet, and there were so many kind words of gratitude and appreciation for our church family. Special thanks to Diane, Erika, George, Michele and Terry for helping out. On December 14th, we will be hosting a special Christmas Party at the school for all of our KH children and mentors. If you would like to help out, just let me know. And, as always, thank you for your loving care of these little ones!

Judy Kerwin, Kids Hope Director

Children's Church



Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 5th grade

Children's Church will be offered at 10:30 AM on our Lower Level each Sunday this 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:

December 2 = Carol & Patti Cutter

December 9 = Carol & Patti Cutter

December 16 = Carol & Patti Cutter

December 23 = Carol & Patti Cutter

December 30 = To be determined

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

Youth News!

Join us for
Wednesday Night



(Grades: 6th - 12th)

***Come and bring your friends!**

6:30 - 8:15 PM

**Bring your Friends!*

December 5 – Spiritual Formation: Gifts and Strengths

December 12 – Spiritual Formation: Generosity

December 19 – White Elephant, Spiritual Formation:
Global Spiritual Practice

December 27 – No Youth Group (Christmas)

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"



Our Mission Statement

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

**Faith United Church of God
Advent Season 2018**



This year's Advent theme is "Great Joy For All."

It is in this spirit that we welcome each of you to participate in the coming events of the Season:

1st Sunday in Advent, December 2

We light the Candle of Hope and launch the 2018 season. Toddlers and children through Grade 5 will be sharing in the morning worship. No Sunday School so we can participate in a baby shower for Mary and Joseph. A cake and snacks will be provided. Please bring unwrapped gifts for babies. All gifts will be donated to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

December 3 – Women's Christmas Party

Guys (the drivers!) will meet at Cheers on Plainfield

2nd Sunday in Advent, December 9

We light the Candle of Love. Children and moms with babies will be playing the bells in the morning worship. We will have our annual **Christ Birthday Observance Bake Sale**. Tables will be set up in the narthex with delicious baked goods made by our wonderful Faith United cooks. Items will be available for donations toward the Christ Birthday offering, which supports worldwide ministries.

12:30 pm – The Gathering Singles Luncheon

Friday, December 14th

"Come Let Us Adore Him" Cantata with other Church of God congregations will be held on Friday, **December 14 at 7:00 pm** at the Cornerstone University (Matthew's Performing Arts Center – 2960 Leonard Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI). *Please invite your family and friends!*

3rd Sunday in Advent, December 16

We light the Candle of Joy and collect the **Christ Birthday Offering**. Our youth will be sharing a video about what Christmas means to them. The Children will also be participating in the morning worship.

At **6:00 pm**, we invite you to dress in your Christmas finery and join us for the annual **Candles and Carols Service**. This service, which has become a favorite for many, will include celebrating with scriptures and singing, lighting of the Christ Candle and concludes with a reception for everyone in the Fellowship Hall.

4th Sunday in Advent, December 23

We light the Candle of Peace.

Please mark your calendars with all of these dates so that you, your family and your friends won't miss these wonderful opportunities to truly experience the great gift of God's love.



Advent Booklets Available

Advent booklets are available on the information center in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home!

It's A Boy!

Mary and Joseph Baby Shower, December 2

Join us December 2 (after the worship service, in lieu of Sunday School) for the Mary and Joseph baby shower to celebrate Jesus' birth! Come and have cake, play a couple games, and fellowship! In lieu of a full potluck, we're asking for appetizers to share. Everyone is welcome (men, you, too! This isn't a ladies only shower)! A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Shower gifts should be unwrapped and will benefit the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Womens Christmas Party, December 3

GET YOUR PARTY ON!

and mark your calendars for the

Womens Christmas Party!

Monday, December 3

***6:00 PM**

Note earlier start time!

Good fun!

Good food!

Great fellowship!

**Bring your Mom,
your sister,
daughter and friends!**

You'll leave with a smile!

Erika Irving's

3501 Bluewater Pines NE

Maps available

Sunday, December 2

Parking is very limited so please consider carpooling!

Bring on the holidays!

*Guys (the drivers!) will meet at Cheers Restaurant
3994 Plainfield around 6:00 pm.*

(they are holding the front corner room for us). Join us there!

Health Corner

There is a little poster listing '5 Great Ways to Find Joy During the Holidays' in the stairwell bulletin board. We guarantee a smile when you read it. You are such a wonderful, kind and generous group of people. May this Season bring true Joy, Peace and Happiness to you and all those around you!

Your Parish Nurse, Judy



The Gathering Singles Luncheon, December 9

Please join us on **December 9** beginning at 12:30 for our holiday luncheon. Let's celebrate the season, have some fun and encourage each other as we look forward to a new year. As always some food will be provided, but you are asked to bring a dish to share. Please sign up in narthex, contact Karen Stevens at k.arnstev4@gmail.com or contact the church office by Sunday, December 2.

ATTENTION! Calling all Cooks!

Sunday, December 9

CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE BAKE SALE

Bring your special Christmas Desserts, Cookies, Family Favorites, Holiday Breads, Candies, even a special casserole.



**All proceeds go to the
Christ's Birthday Observance Offering**

Candles and Carols / Cantata Rehearsals

We are making plans in preparation for our Annual Candles and Carols Service on Sunday evening, December 16 at 6:00 pm.

Everyone who loves to sing is welcome to join us from **6:00 - 7:30 pm** on the following Tuesday nights: **December 4, December 11 - Dress Rehearsal for Candles and Carols from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.** Come and join us!

"Come Let Us Adore" Cantata Rehearsals: December 6, 6:30-7:30, Thursday, December 13 7:00 Dress Rehearsal @ Cornerstone University.

Advent Specials Children/Youth

December 2: Toddlers and up to 5th grade----sing/play jingle bells (toddlers)

"Christmas Bells"

Play the bells -"Angels We Have Heard On High"

December 9: Bells-children and mom's with babies-"Silent Night"

December 16: Youth Video-What does Christmas mean to me

Bells-children—"Joy To The World"

December 23: Zach will do a song to include children

Christmas Cantata - "Come Let Us Adore"

Faith United and our sister churches in the Grand Rapids area are planning to have a "Unity" Christmas Cantata on Friday, December 14 - 7:00 pm at Cornerstone University's auditorium.

Refreshments Needed

The Worship Board is planning on having refreshments after the Candles & Carols service on December 16, and would like dessert and snack donations for the reception.

If you are able to bring something, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Thank you.



Candles and Carols Service, December 16

On Sunday Evening, December 16, Faith United Church of God will once again welcome everyone to the Annual Candles and Carols Service at 6:00 pm. Following the service, we will host a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an event that you won't want to miss!

Christ Birthday Offering, December 16

Our annual Christ Birthday offering will be taken during the morning service on Sunday, December 16.

Northwest Food Pantry

We continue to collect items for the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of December, Faith United is collecting: **rice, potatoes (fresh or flakes), tuna fish and jello.** Many other food items and non food items are needed as well. Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!

Sarah Boluyt, Northwest Food Pantry Director

Offering Envelopes for 2019

Envelopes for 2019 are available in the church narthex. Many have been assigned already, but there are several available that are not assigned. If you don't have envelopes and would like them, please speak with Connie Evans or Rhonda Plants.

Readers Anonymous

The Women's Book Group meets the 3rd Monday of each month **except December** from **6:00 to 8:00 PM** at Erika Irving's. The selections are varied and there's always good conversation and fellowship! Interested? The schedule is posted in the church office or check with Erika for more details. Our next meeting is **Monday, January 21, 2019.**

Church Office Closed

In observance of the holidays, the Church Office will be closed on the following days: December 24, December 25, December 26, 2018, January 1, January 2 and January 3, 2019. Happy Holidays!



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

- **Ted's Tweens** (4th - 7th grades)
Teacher: Ted Evans
Sub: Tonya Mashue
Studying: "Book of Luke"
by Luke
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level
- **Youth Class** (7th - 12th grades)
Teacher: Daniel Przybylski
Subs: Ted Evans & Tonya Mashue
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level

ADULT

- **Adult Bible Class**
Teachers: Michele Paulin and Millard Knapp
Studying: *NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*
2018-2019, edited by Ronald L. Nickelson
Class meets in the west end of the Fellowship Hall
- **Bridges Class**
Teachers: Millard Knapp and Jean Lerch
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum
Class meets in the west end of the Fellowship Hall
- **Christian Topics Class**
Teachers: Mark Peterson & Judy Kerwin
Studying: "The Ten Commandments: How Our
Most Ancient Moral Text Can Renew Modern Life"
by David Hazony
Class is meeting in the center of the Fellowship Hall
- **Foundations Class**
Teachers: Ryan and Becki Simpson,
and Steve Shick
Studying: "The Jesus Questions"
by Sam Gutierrez
Class meets in the Narthex
- **"X" Pulpit Class**
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman
Sub: Janice Ertle
Studying: "Anxious for Nothing"
by Max Lucado
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level

Bridges Sunday School Class

Beginning Sunday, December 9, the Bridges Adult Sunday School class will start up again. They will be studying the Bridges Curriculum from Warner Press. If you are interested and would like more information about this class please contact, Millard Knapp or Jean Lerch. Thank you.

Cancellation Guidelines

The winter months are upon us and there may be times when we have to cancel services or meetings due to weather conditions. In case of severe weather, please do the following:

- Call the church office. Our voicemail system will tell you if we are canceling.
- You may also tune to TV channels 8 & 13. We will attempt to have cancellation information available on their news bulletins.



December Nursery Volunteers



Infant

- 2 – Judy Kerwin & helper
- 9 – Janice Ertle & Heidi Przybylski
- 16 – Mary Irving & Diane Banka
- 23 – Amy Blauw & helper
- 30 – Carol & Patti Cutter

Toddler

- 2 – Connie Evans & Jolie Stanton
- 9 – Kathy Van Dyke & Tonya Mashue
- 16 – Katie Peterson & Amy Blauw
- 23 – Rhonda Plants & Jodi Stanton
- 30 – Andy & Brittany Lerch

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 January 2019 edition of FAITHNews is Tuesday, December 11, 2019. Thank you!



Faith United Church of God

3290 Walker Avenue NW

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 (przybylskjdaniel@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

6:30 - 8:15 PM – Wednesday Night Youth (**December 5, 12 & 19**)

www.faithunitedcog.org

Follow us on Facebook!

