

FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

www.faithunitedcog.org

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January 2019

Kids Hope USA



The first half of the school year for Alpine Elementary and our Kids Hope program brought changes and surprises and many successes in the progress that our children are making, thanks in great part to your generosity as a church and the work of our amazing, faithful mentors. God bless each of you and may you know His continued guiding presence in this blessed ministry.

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 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:

January 6 = No Children's Church

January 13 = Andy & Brittany Lerch

January 20 = Chad & Jenny Morris

January 27 = Jodi & Jolie Stanton

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

Information needed for Church Directories

If you have had a change of address, phone number or email address lately, or if you are a new member at Faith United and would like to be included in our phone directory, please contact the church office at 784-5060 or email Rhonda Plants (secretary@faithunitedcog.org) with your information. Thanks for your help!

Youth News!



(Grades: 6th - 12th)

YOUTH LOCK-IN, January 2 –

7:00 PM through

January 3 at 7:00 AM

This is Daniel's last youth event
(his last Sunday is January 6, 2019)

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

Faith United Church of God

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



1st Sunday Fellowship, January 6



Please mark your calendars for

Sunday, January 6

as we worship together during a Fellowship time.

We will be recognizing Daniel Przybylski as this will be his last Sunday serving as our Youth Director.

We will gather in the narthex immediately following the morning service for refreshments and fellowship.

Take this great opportunity to get to
know your friends in faith!

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

Our Mission Statement

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

All Boards Retreat, January 26

Church officers, board and council members, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 26, 2019, for our annual All Boards Retreat. It is important that all board members attend this meeting from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. We will begin with prayer, a devotion time with Pastor Brian Hansen and continuing with strategizing and planning for the coming year. Thank you in advance for being there. Your input is always essential!

A thank you from Michigan Chapter of NCAN



The Michigan Chapter of NCAN (Neuroendocrine Tumor Awareness Network) thanks Faith United for allowing our group to use the fellowship hall again! Our Saturday, December 1 meeting had about 12 people attend. We had a guest speaker on dietary needs for those with NET Cancer and shared information and supported each other. Thanks again for supporting our support group through the use of our great facility!

Financial Update

The 2019 Offering envelopes have been assigned already, but there are several available that are not assigned. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, please speak with Connie Evans or Rhonda Plants.

We appreciate your faithful giving!

Health Corner

One of the joys of living in Michigan is the wonderful change of Seasons. However, as most of us enjoy in the snowy first few weeks of 2019, you might take a look at the Health Corner Board in the stairwell for some great ideas in how to stay safe and warm. Let's all take care to make it a very Happy (and Healthy) New Year!

Your Parish Nurse, Judy

Prayer Chain

If anyone is interested in joining the Prayer Chain (email or phone) at Faith United, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Northwest Food Pantry



We continue to collect items for the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of January, Faith United is collecting: **soup, canned spaghetti o's and ravioli.** **Many other food items and non food items are needed as well.** Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!

Readers Anonymous, January 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! Interested? The schedule is posted in the church office or check with Erika for more details.

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

The Singles Gathering Social

January Singles Gathering date **TBD** –

Let's get together at Bob Evans after church on a Sunday this January – check the Faith United Church of God website calendar or contact Karen Stevens (k.arnstev4@gmail.com) with questions.

Spreading the Cheer

This fall Faith United assisted a family of five in need with groceries, toys, bedding and even beds. The family expresses their gratitude for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

By opening your hearts and sharing these gifts you have helped to bring the spirit of Christ to this family who would not have had much Christmas otherwise.

I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!
Matthew 25:40

Also this year, many of you brought art supplies for Ben's Big Art Box in memory of a friend of the Morris' children, Ben Klooster.

Ben passed away last December after a difficult battle with cancer. Art had become a favorite pastime of his while undergoing treatments at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and his family had organized this charity in his memory.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your generosity and care in reaching out to these families. May God bless you all!

Thank you notes

Dear Church Family,
During this Christmas season we have especially enjoyed being a part of Faith United's church family. We have received many cards and expressions of love from you.

We appreciate the kind words and Christmas gift we received on December 23 and look forward to serving with you in the New Year.

Pastor Brian and Luella

Dear Faith United Family!

Heidi and I were lost with words when receiving this generous gift! This was a nice surprise and you sure got all of us good last Sunday! We used this generous gift for some Christmas shopping. Again thank you so much for this gift, we sure did feel the love and appreciation from everyone!

Sincerely,

Daniel, Heidi, and Ivy Przybylski



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the gifts I received for Christmas. It definitely has been a year of transition, and without out the help of others, I could not have stayed on top of everything! I so much appreciate your generosity and the kind words of encouragement from each of you. It continues to be a pleasure to serve and work in the church office.

Blessings! Rhonda Plants

Dear Faith United Family,

Thank you for the year end gift and the many cards and sentiments. You are my second family indeed and are in my thoughts and prayers continuously. We have wonderful people all through this congregation that give their time and effort to making this a special place to worship and work. May God continue to bless each of you and draw us ever closer. Happy 2019!

Karen Stevens

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: To Be Determined
Subs: To Be Determined
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

Church Office Closed

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on the following days: December 31, 2018, January 1 and January 2, 2019.



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.



January Nursery Volunteers



Infant

6 – Karen Stevens & Wendy Shick
13 – Janice Ertle & Ann Perry
20 – Kathy Van Dyke & Amy Blauw
27 – Diane Banka & Deb Ankrum

Toddler

6 – Connie Evans & Jolie Stanton
13 – Chad & Jenny Morris
20 – Andy & Brittany Lerch
27 – Ryan & Becki Simpson

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 February 2019 edition of FAITHNews is Tuesday, January 15, 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 (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

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