



# Arms of Faith

## Faith Presbyterian Church

*April 2025*

Dear Faithfuls,

April promises to be a full month of dynamic worship experiences. We look forward to the Avail Academy High School choir, from Fridley, Minnesota, to be with us on April 6. The choir director of this 50-member choir is the granddaughter of Marlin and the late Dottie DeBoer. They will be providing music during the worship service, and staying for a potluck lunch. In advance, thank you to the many cooks who are cooking and baking extra so that we can feed this choir.

April 13 is Palm/Passion Sunday, a day to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and looking toward the week that follows. Our puppet team will have something special for us that morning. We will remember that we are a "group project," that is, our 'good enough' faith is a shared faith. Even Jesus was in community with at least 12 people most of the time, and often he was with the crowds, as demonstrated on that morning he arrived in Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday is April 17, a day to honor and remember the last Seder meal that Jesus had with his disciples. We commemorate that night every time we partake in The Lord's Supper. We worship a God who blesses us regardless of what we do, just as Jesus blessed the disciples regardless of how they behaved that night. (This service will be a combined Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday service.)

Easter Sunday is April 20, and we will joyfully praise our God of Resurrection Life. We will celebrate that even a 'good enough faith' rejoices in new life.

During all of this, we will remember that we are not climbing any of life's ladders; rather we are nurturing and tending to our faith in the way that the children are nurturing and tending to the ladder plants.

Peace,  
Becky

*"Our lifework is sharing Christ's love,  
spreading Christ's Word, caring for others"*

## Session Highlights

Your elders met in person this month! Since the adult class has been talking about being un-offendable, the elders were asked what had offended them recently. One elder confessed that he had honked at a "van full of old people", because the van didn't turn soon enough after the green light. The elders got a big laugh out of that.

More seriously, your elders:

With sadness, removed Bill Wollenhaupt from the membership rolls

Agreed to host a presbytery wide National Day of Prayer service in our sanctuary on May 1

Considered that next year, our support for the Youth for Christ fundraising event might be a financial gift, rather than "buying a table" for the dinner

Please pray for your elders as they lead this church to share Christ's love, spread Christ's Word and care for others.

## Sightings

This month's sightings is a personal note of gratitude from Becky Balestri. Several years ago, I attended an in-person Marcia McFee (Worship Design Studio) continuing education event. Marcia kept referencing "your worship team." The majority of the pastors attending this event, including me, kept trying to tell her that we served small churches and didn't have such a team. Our 'worship teams' were a team of one - the pastor.

Since I've been at Faith, I've discovered what she means by a worship team. Yes, we have a great worship committee AND, this church has a worship team: **Mary Ann Stevens, Debbie Eggers, Peggy Wagoner, and John O'Brien.** The five of us meet every other month to plan music and to coordinate what choirs/praise teams will be providing music, and what that means for set up. For example, there was a lot of planning for March 30, when the adult choir, the bell choir and the puppet team all contributed to the worship service. And, it makes a remarkable difference for me to suggest scripture and hymns and hear their ideas for other hymns and music. I am very grateful!

This month, I'm especially grateful for the planning and coordinating that **Debbie Eggers** has done to make it possible to have a large youth choir in worship with us on April 6. Not only has she planned for when they will sing during the worship service, she has made sure that there is enough food to feed them. Thank you to the Worship Team!



*Winter is out, so come on out!*

*Join the Lunch Bunch on  
Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.  
We will meet at Spaghetti Works  
at 84<sup>th</sup> & Park Drive in Ralston.*

*You never know what we will find to  
celebrate this month. But you will have  
fun and fellowship with this great group  
of Faithfuls.*

*Sign up at church by April 2 or contact  
Sharon Fleming at 402-709-2103 or  
[sfleming43@aol.com](mailto:sfleming43@aol.com) for your  
reservation or if you need a ride.*

## Grateful for an Anonymous Gift

We are grateful for a large anonymous gift that the donors indicated was to be used for modernizing the church. Your Facilities Committee has prioritized the areas of the building that need updating. Due both to the age of the carpet in the lower level, and because of two water leaks (big ones!) in the past six months, this month's project has been new carpeting in the Fellowship Hall and the lower level hallways. We are grateful for the generous gift, and we are grateful for the Facilities Committee overseeing big projects.

## Crossroads Connections Needs Sponsors

Crossroads Connection is grateful for the volunteer sponsors who pick up incarcerated men from the Work Release Center and bring them to the worship services on Sunday nights. Being a sponsor is an opportunity to get to know the inmates on a one-on-one basis, to hear their stories, and to *share Christ's love with them*.

Crossroads would be happy for those sponsors who could drive one Sunday a month, one Sunday every other month, or as many Sundays as you are able. The Department of Corrections does require a two-hour training, which will be arranged for you, with Crossroads help.

If you are interested in serving Christ's brothers in this way, and need more information, please contact Becky Balestri, 402-709-0568, and she will share her experiences of being a sponsor, and get you connected with the right people at Crossroads.



April 2 Ranae Overton  
April 3 Ben Jamieson  
April 6 Rob Crick  
April 9 Anna Howard  
April 17 Ginny MCKulsky  
April 17 Peter Svoboda  
April 19 Debbie Kippley  
April 19 Barb Rooker  
April 21 John O'Brien  
April 22 John Davey  
April 30 Bob Meyer

### Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

We continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

## Transitions Group

When a family member's memory starts to change and decline, it is a challenge for the people around them. If you are in this situation, Faith Church is here for you. A small group of members and friends meets monthly, all of whom have a family member with some form of dementia. We share our experiences. We listen. We comfort and console, and we even give a little advice.

If there is a member of your family that is transitioning to the next stage of life, a time when their memory isn't good, you are invited to be part of this group on the third Friday of every month, at 10:00 am in Room 1 – the comfy room. Coffee is always served.






## Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda	
Discipleship	Angie Madden
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
	Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Joni Huddleston
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

## End of Life Booklet

*Earlier this year, the Discipleship Team produced an End of Life booklet with information about care facilities, planning your funeral, estate planning and more. If you did not receive one of these helpful resources, please contact the church office and we will provide you with one.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>2</b>  7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes Sorting 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 10:30 am Chair Exercise 1:00 pm Mission/Evang mtg 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>  10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC <b>Committee meetings</b> 4:00 Worship Team 5:00 pm Fellowship 5:45 pm Discipleship 7:00 pm Facilities Meeting: FH	<b>4</b>  8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	<b>5</b>  1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
	<b>6</b>  11:00 am Potluck Meal 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppets Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>7</b>  6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Cappella Group	<b>8</b>  6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Deacons meeting	<b>9</b>  7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 10:30 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>  10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Finance meeting	<b>11</b>  8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue
<b>13</b>  11:00 am Brunch 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppets Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>14</b>  5:45 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Cappella Group	<b>15</b>  1:00 pm PW meeting 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>16</b>  7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 10:30 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>   10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>18</b>   8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group	<b>19</b>  9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
<b>20</b>   5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>21</b>  6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Cappella Group	<b>22</b>  6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>23</b>  7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 10:30 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Newsletter articles due 9:00am</b>	<b>24</b>  10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>25</b>  8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	<b>26</b>  1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
<b>27</b>  1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppets Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>28</b>  6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Cappella Group	<b>29</b>  6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>30</b>  7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 10:30 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b>  10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>Sunday Worship Time</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>Fellowship</b> <b>9:30-9:55 am</b>	

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**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithpresby](http://www.facebook.com/faithpresby)**

**FAITH PRAYER CHAIN**  
 Email prayer requests to  
[prayer@faith-presbyterian.com](mailto:prayer@faith-presbyterian.com)  
 or call the office from 9am - 5pm  
 402-331-6944