



# *The* **CONNECTIONS**

## May 2017

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### WORSHIP IN MAY

*Sunday mornings – where we are fashioned into  
“Seekers and Servants, growing in God’s transforming love!”*

**9:15 a.m. Nursery Care begins**

**9:30 a.m. First Hour Faith Formation for All Ages**

**10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary for All Ages**

**11:30 a.m. Meet, Greet and Eat at Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room!**

**(The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, preaching)**

**May 7 – Joyful Noise Sunday! Holy Communion.** On this Fourth Sunday in Eastertide, we will celebrate the power of music in our spiritual lives. Four Chancel Choir members will give witness to how music impacts their relationship with God. Scripture reading is John 10:1-11.

**May 14 – Sermon Series on our Mission Statement begins.** Pastor Anne invites us to consider the opening words of our new Mission Statement, as we explore what it might mean to be a “demonstration plot” tended by the Master Gardener. This Fifth Sunday in Eastertide, Jesus’ teachings about his being “the way, the truth and the life” will guide us (John 14:1-14).

**May 21 – Celebration of Graduates and Faith Formation Program.** We celebrate our graduates and also our First Hour faith formation leaders on this Sixth Sunday in Eastertide. Continuing the Sermon Series on our Mission Statement, Pastor Anne explores how the unconditional welcome we offer is made possible by our inner transformation. Jesus’ teaching about the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, from John 14:15-21, guides our reflections. A Salad-Bar Potluck, in celebration of graduates and First Hour programming, will follow worship. Bring salad items or dessert to share.

**May 28 – Sermon Series on our Mission Statement concludes.** The closing strategies of our Mission Statement describe how our sharing of God’s restorative power is made possible. First, we ourselves need to grow spiritually, through our own learning and participation in worship. The story of Jesus’ “ascension,” from Luke 24:44-53, guides our understanding of this connection.

**OUR WORSHIP HOUR MOVES TO 9:30 AM for June, July and August**

## From your Interim Pastor

*The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis*

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,  
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate  
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

These words from the Apostle Paul are helping to ground me, during this sad and tender week of fellow members', Bob and Jeanie Morrison, auto accident in Europe. In learning of Bob's death and Jeanie's severe injuries, I have been reminded of both the fragility and the preciousness of life. As many of us have gathered together this week, for choir rehearsal and various meetings, work on the property, phone calls, email messages, poignant conversations and prayer, I have been uplifted by the Body of Christ that is Falcon Heights Church. In this terribly disorienting time, we are experiencing several realities: life is never "safe" and there is a true and deep "safety" in God's presence and in the company of followers of Jesus.

During our Sunday worship "children's time" recently, I talked with the kids about how much I appreciate change and also how much I resist it. We laughed together as I shared how my sweet husband has already begun to pack-up our apartment in St. Paul, in anticipation of my retirement and our move to Grand Marais. "Where are the kitchen towels?" I exclaimed last week, as I discovered yet another kitchen drawer dismantled and packed-away. Ending my 38 years of ordained ministry and moving to another community are challenging, yet they are predictable and manageable changes. It's the changes that appear out of nowhere, that come with an unexpected phone call on a Tuesday afternoon when we least expect it, that are so difficult. And we may wonder where God is in all of this wrenching news and unfolding disruption in our lives.

More than ever, I sense God is in the midst of all of it. God doesn't cause me to retire, move and leave all of you good people. Nor does God cause auto accidents, nor other unexpected suffering in our lives. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me," wrote the Psalmist. As I have been reading Richard Rohr's book, *The Divine Dance*, in preparation for our May study group, my images of God's pervasive, infusing and enlivening presence has expanded. I'm struck by how vulnerable we make ourselves when we risk relationships: with God and with each other. We risk being known, we risk losing one another, we risk learning about God's deepest hopes for our lives. Opening our hearts to God and one another is never safe...but I would not want to live in any other way.

In ministry with you,  
*Pastor Anne*

## **Moderator Update** by Lynne Bradbury

At the January 29th Annual Congregational Meeting the new Mission Statement was presented along with Priorities for 2017. The priorities were established to help guide our use of resources and reflect on our role as “Seekers and Servants Growing in God’s Transforming Love.” Congregation members and friends signed up on circulating clipboards to be part of the idea process.

The following are the Priorities for 2017 with their corresponding lay leader “Conveners.”

1. **Public gatherings that address social justice issues** from a progressive Christian faith perspective (Conee Biggs, Linda Owen).
2. Expand and strengthen **Wednesday night programming** (Kyle Roeckeman, Lynne Bradbury)
3. Expand and strengthen our **Sunday morning experience** (Bryan Seyfarth and Peter Duddleston)

On a Saturday morning in the middle of February, Pastor Anne led the group of “Conveners” in a training of sorts to prayerfully consider the Mission Statement and work through a creative process. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Anne for her time and effort toward this process. It was exciting to see the walls lined with colorful post-its that identified the resources and community connections of Falcon Heights Church.

The very next Saturday morning, God’s Spirit could be felt moving throughout the church building as the three priority groups met separately to consider “How To” put the Priorities in motion. Many thanks to the participants and conveners! Your willingness to participate and contributions of ideas were invaluable.

Most of the Priority Groups met a second time to organize their ideas into recommendations for the Executive Board. At the April, Executive Board Meeting, the conveners presented their recommendations. The following are the measurable goals to move the Priorities and thus the Mission Statement forward.

Priority 1: LGBTQ follow-up actions and build connections with the Muslim community. Conee and Linda will act on behalf of the Executive Board to communicate and collaborate on this goal with the Outreach Ministry Team.

Priority 2: Hold three sessions of Wednesday night suppers with programming throughout the year. One has already happened this Spring. Lynne and Kyle will communicate with ministry teams and staff about the programming.

Priority 3: Coordinate a review of the Interim period for the Sunday Morning experience. Bryan and Peter will meet with Pastor Anne, Music Staff- Joel and Karen Johnson to choose priorities for the rest of 2017.

### **The Mission Statement, approved by the EB on September 20, 2016:**

Falcon Heights Church, United Church of Christ, seeks to become a demonstration plot for the reign of God on earth, sowing seeds of love, peace and justice, and cultivating the transformative possibilities revealed in Jesus Christ, the Master Gardener. We will (our strategy):

1. Offer unconditional welcome, sanctuary and spiritual nourishment to everyone hungry for God’s love.
2. Tend to our inner transformation through prayer, the exploration of scripture, kindness, forgiveness, and openness to God’s still-speaking voice.
3. Share God’s restorative power to repair injustice within our wider community through witness and service.
4. Teach about our faith and inspire deeper connections with God through vibrant worship and a wide spectrum of music and the creative arts.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

On April 8, 2017 we conducted an initial review of the FHUCC financial records. Members of FHUCC present were Dave Hill (Treasurer), Pete Duddleston (ex officio Audit committee) & Bob Morrison (audit committee). Libby O'Connell (Audit committee) was unable to attend.

1. We reviewed statements for two checking accounts for January and February, 2017.
2. We compared key measures in the Jan 31, 2017 Statement of Financial Position with the checking accounts.
3. We reviewed checks reported as issued for Jan & Feb with the checking account.
4. We discussed selected transactions.

Conclusions:

1. The books being kept are up to date, clear and concise.
2. Checking account balances were identical to those on the financial statement.
3. No unexpected issues were detected.
4. Several transactions involving the fire monitoring system were discussed and Peter will inquire with Property & Maintenance committee for details.
5. The audit committee will meet again at end of Q2 to review records. Going forward, the committee will add "random" investigations to the auditing process.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Bob Morrison

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Outreach Ministry Team thanks you for all your donations of cereal and breakfast bars** through the school year, for our Falcon Heights Elementary School kids weekend supplement food backpacks!

**We continue to invite your donations of cleaning supplies and personal toiletries**, which we are bringing over to the Food Shelf at Department of Indian Work, Interfaith Action, in St. Paul. Place these items in the white bucket in our Lobby, please.

## REACHING OUT TO OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

The Outreach Ministry Team invites you to join them for a "breaking of the Ramadan fast" meal at our nearby mosque, located next to the Fairgrounds. The mosque, called Masjid At-Taqwa, has invited the public to attend one of their "Iftar" meals on Tuesday, May 30 at 8:00 p.m. There is no specific program or worship time, but simply an opportunity to eat and converse with our Muslim neighbors.

The month of Ramadan is a holy time for Muslims around the world, in which they celebrate the first revelation of their holy scriptures, the Quran, to Mohammed. It is a time of fasting during the day-light hours, introspection and prayer. Many mosques throughout the Twin Cities will be opening their Iftar meals to the public again this year during Ramadan (May 26 – June 27). **RSVP's are needed: go to the Minnesota Council of Churches website to register.** <http://www.mnchurches.org/respectfulcommunities/interfaithprogramming/takingheart/registration.html>

Contact Pastor Anne if you have questions, or need help registering. Some of us plan to carpool from church at 7:30 that evening.

## 2017 GRADUATES

**Abby Pawelski** will be graduating from Roseville Area High School and was a member of the drama department there for 4 years. She was also actively involved in her band program, participating in pep band and horn choir. She volunteered at the Como Zoo's youth engagement program to promote conservation efforts in her community. Abby plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall and plans to major in genetics.

**Erin Hill** will be graduating from Roseville Area High School. She participated in Girl Scouts, band, soccer, cross country and basketball. Her favorite memory from youth group was the mission trip to Staten Island and New York City. Erin plans on attending Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin where she currently plans on majoring in biology and playing basketball!

**Kevin Holmes** will be graduating from Roseville Area High School. He participated in choir, cross country and Nordic skiing. Kevin has been very active throughout the last several years with the MN Conference Youth Events at Pilgrim Point Camp. He also attended the UCC National Youth Event in 2016. Kevin is considering college plans at the University of Minnesota-Duluth or abroad in New Zealand.

**Joe McCune-Zierath** will be graduating from Como Park Senior High School. He swam and played soccer for his high school for four years and played baseball for two years. He started swimming in seventh grade, and became captain for his sophomore, junior and senior years. Joe was first chair flute in his high school concert band and participated in the Saint Paul Public Schools Honors concert for his sophomore, junior and senior years. He has been active in scouts and recently achieved the Eagle Scout Rank. Joe is also an active brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, a prestigious organization within Boy Scouts, and is a part of the Tomahawk Scout Camp Reservation staff. Joe also sang with the FHCUCC chancel choir for special music programs and frequently provided music accompaniment at worship services with his dad, Paul. Joe plans to study Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

**Jake Frisell** will be attending the University of Minnesota Duluth this fall, part of their track and field team as a "thrower," (discuss, shot put, hammer, etc.) and will begin pursuing a liberal arts degree. Graduating from Minnehaha Academy with honors, Jake has worked on the school newspaper, was on the hockey team all four years (3-year varsity player) track and field team four years, and this past year he played on the varsity football team. He also participated in choir 2 years, and in Minnehaha Academy cultural field experience programming 3 years including his travels to Ghana in March 2016 for Cultural Immersion and Service Learning with project Okurase.

**Evy Pechous** will be graduating with a double major in political science and legal studies with a minor in history, from Hamline University. She will continue her work as an outreach specialist (fundraising canvasser) for TakeAction Minnesota, a local progressive non-profit.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PLANT SALE: MAY 13

The Women's Fellowship will have its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 13, starting at 9 a.m. There will be a big selection of perennials and other plants this year, so come on over and find the just right item for your garden or planter.

All outdoor plant donations for the sale are appreciated!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following is a list of May birthdays and anniversaries that were collected on Sundays during coffee hour or from the church database. Is your's missing and would you like to share it among us? Please call or send your information to Colleen, our Office Manager, at 651-646-2681 or [office@falconheightsucc.org](mailto:office@falconheightsucc.org). We want to celebrate YOU!

### Birthdays

Amanda Arnold, May 2  
Peter Duddleston, May 7  
Nancy Carlson, May 11  
Elizabeth Dent, May 12  
Jordan Olsen, May 18  
Claudia Seyfarth, May 22  
Kay Lyford, May 29

Michelle Vance, May 2  
John Reitan, May 10  
Sarah Dent, May 12  
Helen Brown, May 18  
Brian Prill, May 20  
Margaret Enloe, May 24  
Joe Vance, May 29

### Anniversaries

Lee Barry and Peggy Hall, May 26

## PRAYER CONCERNS

The Falcon Heights Church Prayer Ministry Team prays regularly for our congregation, and specifically for people in need when requested. Our current prayer list includes:

- Pat Moore, residing at Johanna Shores Home
- The Pastoral Search Committee – Jenica Domanico, Joe Vance, Carol Holm,
- Mike Bradbury, Pat Bohman, Kari Willey, Margot Olsen
- Joanne Carlson, in the death of her sister Faith Ohman
- Jeanie Morrison, critically injured in a crash in the Czech Republic that killed her husband, Bob, and two others traveling with them. Prayers are also needed for Jeanie's children and other family and friends.
- Jan Blomberg, recovering from knee surgery at Lyngblomsten

If you have a request for prayer, please contact Helen Brown ([dbrown@umn.edu](mailto:dbrown@umn.edu)), who will pass on your request to the Prayer Group. If you would like prayers for someone other than yourself, please obtain permission from that person first.

## SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven...”  
(Ecclesiastes 3)*

### A time to mourn...

**We mourn the sudden death of Robert (Bob) Morrison**, who died in an auto accident outside of Prague, Czechoslovakia on May 2. An internationally known veterinary specialist in the area of swine production and professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota, Bob was traveling with his wife Jeanie, and several other colleagues and their spouses, to a veterinary conference. Jeanie sustained critical injuries and is currently at a military hospital outside of Prague. Memorial service arrangements are pending for Bob. We keep Jeanie, their children Jessie, Peter and Will, as well as extended family and friends, in our prayers.

**Faith L. Ohman** died on April 8, 2017 at Episcopal Church Home in St. Paul. A long-time resident of Falcon Heights and member of our church, Faith was one of the early women attorneys in the state of Minnesota, having graduated from Macalester College and the University of Minnesota Law School. She was active in our Women’s Fellowship for many years. She is survived by her sister Joanne (Carl) Carlson; nieces Anne-Marie (Ben) Buren, Linnea (Kate) Carlson and nephew David, as well as grand nieces and nephews. A funeral service was conducted by the Hospice Chaplain at the Episcopal Church Home Coventry Chapel on April 27, 2017, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

## MAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 1 – City of Falcon Heights Listening Session, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 2 – Bible study w/Pastor Anne, 10 a.m.; Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 3 – Clergy Cluster, 12 p.m.; Youth Group, 5:45 p.m.; Outreach Ministry Team, 6:30 p.m.;  
Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 4 – Worship Ministry Team, 1 p.m.; Book Study Group (Divine Dance), 7 p.m.  
Friday, May 5 – Women’s Fellowship Spring Luncheon, 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday, May 6 – MN Conference Board of Directors, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday, May 7 – First Hour Faith Formation, 9:30 a.m.; Worship w/communion (First Sunday Offering), 10:30 a.m.; Property Ministry Team at Nelson’s home, 12:15 p.m.  
Monday, May 8 – Meals on Wheels, 10:45 a.m.  
Tuesday, May 9 – Bible study w/Pastor Anne, 10 a.m.; Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.,  
Foundation Board, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 10 – Youth Group, 5:45 p.m.; Children’s Ministry Team 7:15 p.m.,  
Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 11 – Men’s Breakfast @ Pippins, 8 a.m.; Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.;  
Book Study Group (Divine Dance), 7 p.m.  
Saturday, May 13 – Women’s Fellowship Plant Sale, 9 a.m.; Church Work Day, 9 a.m.  
Sunday, May 14 – First Hour Faith Formation, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Monday, May 15 – Pastoral Relations Committee, 7 p.m.; Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.;  
Deadline for Connections articles for June.  
Tuesday, May 16 – Bible study w/Pastor Anne, 10 a.m.; Executive Board, 7 p.m.

*Calendar continued on next page*

## **MAY CALENDAR** *continued*

Wednesday, May 17 – Pastor Anne at MN Conference Committee on Ministry, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.;  
Youth Group, 5:45 p.m.; Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18 – Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.; Book Study Group (Divine Dance), 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 21 – First Hour Faith Formation, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 23 – Bible Study w/ Pastor Anne, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Ministry Team, 11:15 a.m.;  
Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 – Youth Group, 5:45 p.m. Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 25 – Book Study Group (Divine Dance), 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 28 – Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day, office closed.

Tuesday, May 30 – Pastoral Search Committee, 7 p.m.; Iftar meal at local mosque, 8 p.m.  
(pre-registration needed, see article on page 4).

Wednesday, May 31 – (no Choir practice)

**Falcon Heights Church, United Church of Christ 1795 Holton St., Falcon Heights, MN 55113**

**Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

**First Hour Faith Formation all ages at 9:30 a.m.**

**Office hours:** 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays

**Phone:** 651-646-2681

**Office Administrator:** Colleen Degnan

**Email:** [office@falconheightsucc.org](mailto:office@falconheightsucc.org)

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis

**For Emergency Pastoral Care, call Pastor Anne's  
cell phone: 218-370-9318**

**Sunday Nursery Attendant:** Sara Nedeau

**Website:** [www.falconheightsucc.org](http://www.falconheightsucc.org)

**Choir Director:** Joel Johnson

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

**Organist:** Karen Johnson

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/fhcucc](http://www.twitter.com/fhcucc)