



First United Methodist Church of Stillwater
Growing in Love of God and Neighbor

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Stillwater, MN 55082

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Youth Director: Sam Hauser
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FEBRUARY 2019

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Pastor Dan's Ponderings

"Who is Jesus?" As church goes, it is easy for us to think that everyone should have an answer to that very question. Recently I overheard the conversation of a young girl sitting with her mom as they were eating lunch, when she asked that very question, "Mom, Who is Jesus?" I anticipated a response that would include stories of the wonderful things Jesus did, the miracles he performed and how much he loves each and every one of us. After a long pause the silence was broken not with an answer but with a question, "why are you asking?" The daughter said, "Andrea is always telling stories about what she has learned about Jesus so I just want to know who he is." Mom finally responded, "We'll talk about it later".

According to the Barna Group, only about 6% of adult Christians made their decision to follow God, over the age of 18. That means 94% make decisions as children. That's encouraging but also very scary because if we are not nurturing our children in the faith, if they are not hearing the stories of Jesus and his love, or they don't experience the community of God's family through worship, Discipleship opportunities such as Sunday School, church camp and family fellowship, then how can they make a decision to be a follower of Jesus? There is no time like the present to be shepherding the hearts of our children and grandchildren. You see they really do want to know and to experience the stories, the grace and love of Jesus.

"...only about 6% of adult Christians made their decision to follow God, over the age of 18. That means 94% make decisions as children..."

I remember sitting in Sunday School class as a young child listening as the teacher placed on a flannel board paper figures of characters and scenes of Bible stories. I learned about Adam & Eve, Abraham & Sarah, Noah and the Ark, Daniel in the Lion's Den and I learned about Jesus, the things he did and most importantly his love for me. Those early years helped in molding and shaping my faith walk as a Christian.

Truth is there are so many things and distractions in the world that are pulling at our lives, filling our every minute, consuming our thoughts that if we don't lead by example and make growing in our faith a commitment and priority, what chance are we giving God to shine in the lives of our children? I believe that Children really want to know who Jesus is and how much they are loved, and so do we.

I pray that we will all give God a chance to shine!

In Christ's Service

Pastor Dan

We're on the web!
www.fumcstillwater.org

Article Requirements:
Please help the church save the environment and money, by keeping your articles to 100 words or less.

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.



LABELED

Every person has in some way experienced being labeled. All labels, including the positive and the harmful leave an impression. Over the next several weeks we will continue our sermon series entitled "Labeled". Instead of focusing on how we label each other, we will explore some of the ways in which God sees us, or, in a way, has labeled each of us.

February 3rd	Called
February 10th	Forgiven
February 17th	Children of God
February 24th	Citizens
March 3rd	Beloved

Adult Education Wednesdays at 6:15 pm

Jesus communicated deep spiritual truths through simple, vivid, and engaging stories woven from the stuff of everyday life. The parables of Jesus made the kingdom of God understandable and accessible to his listeners. Starting Sunday Feb 3rd the adult discipleship class will begin the **Deeper Connections: The Parables of Jesus** study to give us new insights into some of Jesus' parables, their meanings and helping us appreciate more fully their relevance for our life. Everyone is welcome!



February

Feb. 2 Gary Holst; Feb. 3 Samantha Hauser, Laura Mayaka; Feb. 4 Erika Mayaka, Frankie Reyna; Feb. 6 Erik Eitzman; Feb. 8 Anthony Larson, Janet Morgen; Feb. 10 Jerry Greupner; Feb. 11 Jasmine Zenner; Feb. 15 Virginia Miller, Judy Ptacek; Feb. 16 Jill Funck; Feb. 17 Travis Larson, Christina Leines; Feb. 18 Renita Deaton, Dorene Hauser, Rachel Reyna, Linden Terwilliger; Feb. 20 Sylvia Dalzell.

Bridge Games! Friday February 1st Come join us on the first Friday of every month at 12:00 pm for a friendly game of bridge. Please call or email Ben Jackson to RSVP 651-233-8684. benj.w.jackson@comcast.net



If you are on Facebook, make sure you "like" us at **First United Methodist Church of Stillwater**. You may receive information about what is happening around here and share this with your family and friends. We post photos of events, worship, gatherings, service work, etc. This is a great way to be connected to your church family!



YOUTH NEWS

From Sam

Hi there youth!

I hope that the new year is treating you all well! Here is our February schedule.

2/6 is confirmation.

2/13 we will hopefully be doing an event at Boutwell's in Oak Park Heights. I am working with the Activities director to try and figure out if we can go to Boutwell's and play bingo or a different activity with the residents there. I will update you all with information as I learn more.

2/20 Confirmation (Mentor night).

2/27 GAMES! This is going to be a fun night where we get together and play some fun games that are going to get us up and moving! I hope that you all will be able to make it!

Senior High day is going to be Sunday 2/17.

I want to wish you all a Happy Valentine's day as well and I hope you eat all the chocolate you can that day!



YOUTH 2019

We have been talking to the youth about a Global United Methodist Youth Gathering called Youth 2019. This is a youth ministry event that is being held in Kansas City, Missouri. We have been asked by Pastor Dan's son, Matthew, if our group would like to join his youth group from Albert Lea, MN in going to the conference. This is an event for both Middle and High Schoolers. Pastor Dan and I think this would be a fun event to help our kids grow in their faith and enhance the relationships they have with each other and with God.

Feel free to reach me if you have any questions about anything! Sam 651-353-3208

KID'S CLUB

Please join us Wednesday, February 13th from 6:15 to 7:15 pm. Valentines themed!

Heifer Project Fair

There will be a "fair" in the Klaus Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 10 to raise awareness and funds for Heifer International. The Education Committee is sponsoring the event and have a goal of raising \$500 for a heifer. Bring a pocketful of change to play games and purchase treats. Bring your checkbook if you would like to purchase a share of the heifer. It will be a fun morning of treats, games, and information. See you there.



The Mission Committee wants to thank the congregation for your generous support in providing the following items for Lily Lake Elementary School: 54 hats, 42 pairs of gloves, 2 pairs of mittens and one scarf. These gifts will allow the kids without these items to join their friends during recess.

Dear Pastor Dan and the congregation~ Thank you *all* for the generous donation of warm hats and gloves! Our students will be warm and cozy at playtime. Sincerely,
The Lily Lake Family and Principal Matt Cox

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

February is "Adopt a Child" month

Adults, it's time to "Adopt" a child or youth from our church family. Check out the wall at the back of the sanctuary and take the valentine for the child/children you choose. Then do 3 things for the child named on the heart during the month of February.

1. Pray for the child and their family.
2. Send the child a valentine.
3. Greet the child in church when you see them.

The goal is to have them all claimed by February 10th. The purpose of "Adopt a Child" month is to help make connections between the adults and the children/youth in our church. We want each and every child to know that they are a beloved child of God, and a significant member of the Stillwater United Methodist Church family.



Lily Lake Update

As part of our Lily Lake Partnership, we started the book club for Fourth graders for the second year in January. Wonder by R.J. Palacio once again provided lively discussions during the Thursday morning meetings. Stay tuned for a possible Action Book Club (part of the Little Free Library program) project in the month of March in conjunction with Read Across America. Based on Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss, our church would be collecting socks for Dawn's Closet and, if approved by the school administration, Lily Lake would join us in the sock drive. Please contact Kathleen Ramsay or Ann Haraldson for more information.

2019 Captain Crash Bash

Sunday, March 3rd 1-8 pm at the Water Street Inn. Live music all day on 2 stages. Silent Auction, Wine Pull, Raffles, drink and Food Specials. **Only \$10.00 at the door.** Looking for volunteers. We also need donations for the silent auction and wine pull. All proceeds go to Camp Kesem. **The kids and teens in grief support.** Email Shelly Carter at captaincrashbash@gmail.com

Embracing the Health of Mind, Body and Spirit

If you suffer with anxiety, relationship difficulties, or other life stressors, working with a skilled and compassionate therapist can help you make peace with the past and nurture the skills to live life fully. At SpiritWoods in Stillwater, Dr. Mary Freitag addresses these issues through mindfulness-based psychotherapy for individuals and couples. She and her associates also lead workshops related to mental health and wellness, spirituality and mind-body awareness. **Learn more at drmaryfreitag.com**

SpiritWoods Wellness Center is a facility on three wooded acres with an education space, a nature trail and an 11-circuit labyrinth for mindfulness practices to restore balance in your life and meaningful connections with others.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Ada/Ruth will meet on Friday, February 1st at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

New Beginnings will meet on Monday, February 18th at 1:00 pm.

Winners Circle will meet Thursday, February 14th in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be a Valentines Day theme. The hostesses for this month are Kathy Rundquist and Nancy Clark. All women of the church are invited to attend.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM will meet at the Lowell Inn on Saturday, February 9th at 8:00 am. Join us for a devotion, breakfast, and fellowship to start the weekend. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.



MUSIC

The Rivertown Ringers are taking a short hiatus until around March. The choir will **now meet at 7pm** until their hiatus is over (or until Wednesday evening Lenten activities begin).

SCRIP

The Scrip Program provides an opportunity to contribute a portion of your everyday expenses to First UMC. **Every card purchase provides much needed funding for First UMC programs.** You receive the full value of your card purchase and First UMC receives a percentage of the card value. First UMC Scrip doesn't cost, it pays! Scrip cards can be ordered in the Fellowship Hall following worship every Sunday.



Newsflash: An Opportunity for Growth

The Welcoming and Care Ministry Teams plus Pastor Dan want to let you know about TWO amazing conferences hosted at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas coming up on Thursday and Friday April 4-5th. Participants may select to attend either: The Art of Radical Hospitality or Empowered, A Model of Care conferences. Share Church Conferences are a ministry of Church of the Resurrection with their focus on strengthening and equipping church leaders to be at their best when leading in the local church. We hope you might be interested in joining us on our trek to these conferences. The conferences are based on the principles found in Romans 12:13.

The Super Early bird rate of \$139 is available through February 21. The regular registration fee is \$199 SO let's get on board and make this happen. We will be collecting registrations and sending them in soon. So please contact Pastor Dan or Ann Haraldson with your intent and fee. It will be well worth our time to grow in love of God and neighbor.

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30 am Ada/Ruth Circle 12:00 pm Bridge Games	2 8:00 am AA meeting
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/Communion 11:30 am Fellowship Time	4 10:00 am Chair Yoga	5 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer	6 10:00 am Chair Yoga 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 7:00 pm Open Circle rehearsal	7	8	9 8:00 am AA meeting 8:00 am Men's breakfast at Lowell Inn
10 Heifer Project Fair 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/Open Circle 11:30 am Fellowship Time 2:00 pm New member class	11 10:00 am Chair Yoga	12 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer	13 10:00 am Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 6:15 pm Kid's Club 7:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	14 10:00 am Winners Circle	15 10:00 am Quilters	16 8:00 am AA meeting
17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	18 10:00 am Chair Yoga 1:00 pm New Beginnings	19 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Trustees	20 10:00 am Chair Yoga 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	21 1:00 pm Welcoming Committee 2:30 pm Caring Ministries Meeting	22	23 8:00 am AA meeting
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	25 10:00 am Chair Yoga	26 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer	27 10:00 am Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	28		