



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2022
phone: 651.439.1880
Office hours M-F 9:00 am -1:00 pm
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813 W. Myrtle Steet
Stillwater , MN 55082

Pastor's pause...



“Your people shall be my people...” Ruth 1:16

My daughter called late Sunday to say that she had had a little spat with her husband regarding who would take care of their daughter, Camila, while they were going to run some errands. Certain grandparents seem more favorable in her eyes than others. I just listened but, in my head, I was remembering back to the day when they were little, and we had to negotiate all the grandparents and who got time with our little ones...or not. It seems that the relationship people struggle with most is getting along with those in-laws. In-laws are the gift we received in marriage – and sadly, a gift many may want to give back.

Even in healthy in-law relationships, there will be tensions and challenges. You both love the same person, and the only reason you're attached is because of that person. That can mean competing interests. In-laws can sometimes be made to feel like out-laws. They get to be the brunt of many a tale (especially mothers- in-law), the universal catch-all of abusive humor.

Rather than offering advice on the in-law relationship, I offer four stories in Scripture that might provide some clarity:

- Moses and his father-in-law in Exodus 18, or**
- Ruth and her mother-in-law in the book of Ruth, or**
- Jacob and his father-in-law starting in Genesis 29, or**
- David and the all-time worst in-law, King Saul in I Samuel.**

Sometimes, you just have to remember that these folks are the reason your partner exists, and sometimes that will have to be enough. If not, I hope reading about these Biblical marriages might help offer some perspective and encouragement.

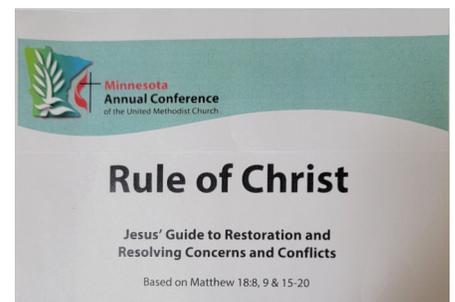
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If you're struggling with one (or both) of your in-laws, or a relationship in general, talk about it with God. Ask God for guidance in how to navigate them with wisdom, grace, and respect.

PRAYER: Dear God, I struggle in my relationship with _____. I need You to give me wisdom on how to love ____ well. You are my shield and defender. Show me how, when, and where to erect boundaries in our relationship. I believe You are my healer and I trust You to guard my heart and mind. I forgive _____ for hurting me and forgive me for _____. Help me to love _____ courageously. I surrender what I think our relationship should be. Please transform it so that it honors You. In Jesus, I pray. Amen

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RULE OF CHRIST TRAINING/WORK- SHOP EVENT



A Christian life-equipping tool for every part of your life! This Rule of Christ Training/Workshop Event will share the process for working through conflicted situations based on the scripture of Matthew 18. All of us run into conflict, whether it is created by a misunderstanding, or misinformation. We can all use help to better navigate through the rough times. Wouldn't it be great to have a step by step Christian life tool for working through these difficult issues? We invite ALL older youth and adults of the church to attend this 2½ - 3-hour training. This individual, family, work, school, and church life-equipping tool will better prepare you for life! Sunday, November 6th, 2022 11:00 a.m. following church

RECONCILING COMMITTEE

The Healthy Church Initiative brought forth the suggestion that First UMC should study the issue of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, as a way to make sure we are “wrapping EVERYONE in God’s love”.

A reconciling congregation is one that embraces and works for the full participation of all people in the United Methodist Church, including full equality in membership, ordination, and marriage for God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children. The Reconciling Ministries Network strives to transform the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice and inclusion for all of God's children. A committee has been put together to help the church explore this idea and we would like to invite others in



the church, who might be interested, to join us. The committee includes Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Frank Anderson, Sharry Swann, Gene Ramsay, Monica Basaker, Bonnie Haines, along with Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen. Please let the office or one of these committee members know, if you would like to join this group.

FINANCE SUMMARY SEPT 30, 2022

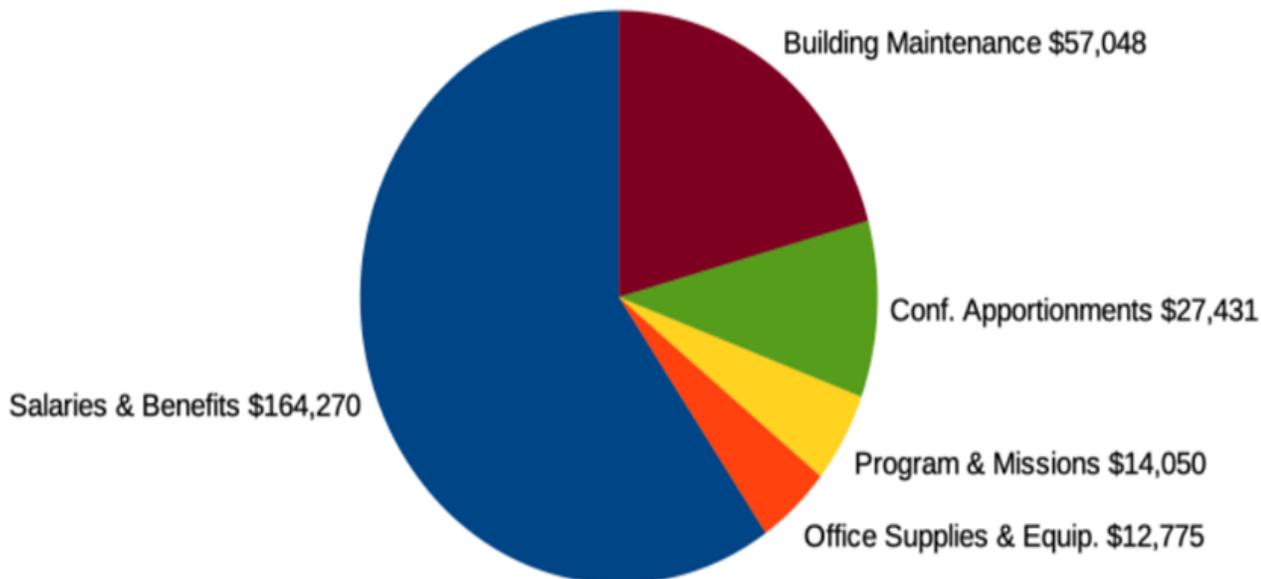
At the end of September, all church funds are in good shape and Apportionments paid in full. We head into the Fall in good shape with \$92,947 in the bank and General Fund balance of \$7,698. Capital Fund Pledges are still significantly behind – please keep your 2022 Capital Fund Pledge up to date. Thank you for your generosity.

Below is pie chart showing the 2023 Budget and how your contributions are being spent. Total budget of \$275,164 is 5% less than 2022 budget of \$290,000. The primary reason is Pastor Jenny's salary and benefit package is lower than Pastor Dan's due to her shorter time being a pastor. The MN Conference sets her salary and benefit package. Also, I want to point out that this Budget does not show the thousands of dollars of contributions (and Memorials) that you make throughout the year, like Ukraine relief, Missions donations, Heifer Project, and many others too numerous to mention. Thank you again. The Budget may be modified slightly prior to its final okay in November.

Commitment Sunday is November 13th when you turn in your Pledges for 2023. The **Country Store will be open that day too** – tell your friends and family. In the next couple weeks, please listen to the Stewardship speeches, read the Stewardship letters, and prayerfully consider what you want to pledge in 2023 to continue the spiritual and meaningful and work of FIRST UNITED Methodist Church and its members.

FIRST UNITED 2023 Budget

Total: \$275,574





THIS MONTH IN MISSION

NAMI National Alliance for Mental Illness.

Please call Linnea Shinn at 651-354-4999 with questions.

November and December we will be focused on Mental Illness Awareness. We will raise money in support of mental health services that Family Means provides in Stillwater Area Schools. This is part of a campaign called the "Wellness Center Challenge!" Also we will be

collecting gift cards to donate to support youth holiday gifts in Cimarron and Landfill. Family Means will be collecting gift cards through December 22nd. Thank you!

COUNTRY STORE



November 13th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. **PLEASE have ALL your donations to church by SATURDAY, November 12th at 10:00 am.** Items that have been a hit in the past include:

Gift cards, craft items, baked goods, jewelry, treasures (gently used items)
All donations are appreciated! Call Bev Walmar with questions at 651-770-2770.



We would like to thank Shawn and Connie Helwig who have been bringing pop-cans to the Recycling Center. The cash received from the cans helps to fund the Youth Program. Cans may be brought to Church anytime and placed in the container downstairs on in bags on the floor beside the container provided for cans. Keep bringing in your extra cans. They are helping finance our kids programs.

Thanks, Dennis Harcey

CAN YOU HELP THE CARING MINISTRIES TEAM ?

The Caring Ministries Team began 10 years ago with a focus on Grief Ministry. As time went by, the needs of our congregation is larger than supporting only those that are grieving. Subsequently, a Meal Ministry, a Soup Ministry, and a Card Ministry began. They serve our friends who are ill, recovering from surgery, isolated, sad or in need of support in other ways. Our groups make soup and freeze for future use, a meal-making crew of 12 generous cooks, and a team of people that send cards for support. We would love **YOU** to provide your support as a team member and help to live out Christ's direction to serve others in any of the above ways. If you are interested, please contact the church office, Pastor Jenny, or Linda Ash.



NOVEMOBER

Nov. 2 Mike Haraldson, Gene Ramsay; Nov. 3 Avis Gilbert, Jim Higgs; Nov. 4 Bruce Lundeen; Nov. 5 Freya Haugen; Nov. 9 Elizabeth Fontaine, Jim Nelson; Nov. 11 Phyllis Green; Nov. 12 Mike Cossetta; Nov. 19 Cathy Schewe, Nov. 21 Cari Myhra, Guia Payayno; Nov. 22 Cleo Haugen, Wilma Terwilliger; Nov. 26 Zach Feinberg, Kelsey Nelson; Nov. 27 Frank Anderson; Nov. 30 Barb Roberts.



SCRIP is available! The program has yielded just over \$1,000 to date for the General Fund in 2022. Orders can be placed at Sunday worship services, Wednesday dinners, or anytime by email to benj.w.jackson@comcast.net. Payment for email orders can be dropped off at the church during office hours. Scrip doesn't cost, it pays!

UMM

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on November 12th will be at the Lowell Inn at 8:00 am. Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the UMM mailing



WINNERS CIRCLE

Our November circle meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10th at 10:00am at church. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship and fun! All are welcome! Vicky & Ann

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group is back in session on the first Friday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall! Beginners are welcome and there is no lack of instructive advice (if you desire it). Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS CONTINUE - 5:30PM

We are off to a good start for gathering on Wednesday nights for a meal together with good food and much conversation. Thanks to all the people who help the lead cooks and who lend a hand for clean up. Also thanks to those who are contributing desserts. A sign up sheet is on the Information Center to bring a dessert and people who would like to bring a dessert and it is appreciated if you write what you are bringing so others will know. **New This Year:** The fifth Wednesday of a month will be a **POT LUCK dinner**. November 30th will be our first Pot Luck of the year with another in April. You are invited to bring your favorite dish to share; main course, salad, or dessert. All utensils are provided. Dinner will begin at 5:30 as usual.

What are the Young Adults in our Church Family up to Today?

We have two new Eagle Scouts in our midst. This month features Alex Frederick. Alex received his Eagle Scout Award in September. He started as a Cub Scout as part of Pack 125 meeting at our church. His Eagle Scout project was building an enclosure around a porta potty in Otto Berg Park adjacent to the Historic Town Hall building of Stillwater Township. The enclosure is made of white fence panels with French gothic post tops that match the Town Hall building. Alex is a Senior at Stillwater Area High School. He is a member of the Pep Band and performs in the Percussion Ensemble.



Adventure Avenue

We had a great time with Adventure Avenue on October 12th after Wednesday night dinner! However, Adventure Avenue is going to take the rest of fall and winter off. We hope to see you all in the Spring!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES IN REVIEW October 27, 2022

Submitted by Mary Harcey– next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 29th at 7pm

*The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chair, Ben Jackson. Seventeen members were present. As a devotion Ben shared a song by Willie Nelson call Maria. It was a very somber, sad song and reminded us that winter is coming and homelessness is a big issue in our country.

Outreach: Bonnie Haines presented a drawing from Abrahamson Nursery of a possible plan for the hill on the north side of the Sunny Hill playground area. Further information will be gathered. The outreach project of Trunk or Treat takes place on October 30th. The big pine tree will have more lights and all the way to the top this year. Personal donations are hoped for to help cover the cost.

Missions: November and December's focus will be on Mental Health. We will be helping support a program at Family Means that works with the Stillwater Schools. There will also be an opportunity to buy Script Cards from Walmart or Target to distribute to parents for their children.

Finance: September income was more income then spending. The proposed budget for 2023 was presented.

Staff-Parish Relations: Amy Gustafson reported that staff openings for Director of Music and Youth Director are happening soon. The District Superintendent will be meeting with the committee on November 4. On November 6 all are encouraged and welcomed to attend a Rule Of Christ Training session at 11:00 following worship. The total training is 3 hours and SPRC members and all staff are expected to attend. All others can attend for just the first hour.

On behalf of Caring and tYouth Council Linda Ash reported that both committees are in need of new members. It is the hope that some members not already on committees will be willing to serve on a committee. Welcome to Dianna Miller who has agreed to serve on the Youth Council. There was a discussion about the Nursery being staffed and ready to care for young children when needed. Patsy Bellman reminded the group that this has always come under Education. At the present time there is a small group of volunteers willing to staff the nursery when needed. The list will be given to the Welcome table as well as the ushers.

Branding: Nancy Nelson reminded the Council that she and Kevin Leines are "Branding Managers" who appreciate the communications that go out be passed by them before publishing. This will help keep our communications consistent with color and style.

Worship: Gaye Fisher announced the Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 pm this year. No late service will be offered.

A MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Rev. Weeks helped start the St. Croix School of Religion, serving as dean for 3 years, while he was the pastor at Stillwater. Our history book includes a quote from the Hudson Methodist Church history written in 1951. "Beginning with the fall of 1940, a Teacher College for Sunday School teachers has been conducted in this vicinity. It is known as the St. Croix School of Religion and has met once a week for a six-week term each year. Denominations cooperating have been the Methodists, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist, Evangelical, Federated, Episcopal and Reformed from the following towns: Baldwin, Stillwater, Hudson, River Falls, New Richmond, Bayport, Afton and Roberts. The school has usually met in Hudson or Stillwater."

NOVEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group	2 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 Centering prayer 5:30 Dinner 7:00 pm Choir	3	4 12:00 pm Bridge Group	5 8:00 am AA meeting
6 All Saints Day 9:30 am Worship & Fb Live 10:30 Rule Christ workshop	7	8 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group	9 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 Centering prayer 5:30 Dinner 7:00 pm open circle	10	11	12 8:00 am AA meeting 8:00 am UMM breakfast
13 Commitment Sunday 9:30 am Worship & Fb Live Country Store	14	15 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group	16 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 Centering prayer 5:30 Dinner 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	17	18 Quilting 11:00 am	19 8:00 am AA meeting
20 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live	21	22 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group	23 No programs	24 Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	25 Office closed	26 8:00 am AA meeting
27 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live	28	29 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Ad Council	30 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 Centering prayer 5:30 Dinner 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal			