



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023

phone: 651.439.1880

Hours: M-Thr 9-3p, F 9-1pm

office@fumcstillwater.com

813 W. Myrtle Steet

Stillwater, MN 55082

Pastor's pause...



More than eight hundred years ago, Francis of Assisi prayed,:

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy”

Sometimes when we hear the latest tragic story of violence or hardship in the world, the idea of being instruments of peace can seem overwhelming. But small acts of kindness remind us that in the face of fear, injury, and hatred, good does exist.

Hear's a fun example: Recently after my workout, one of the gals in my drum group and I got to chatting about life and the challenges of how Covid had (and still has) altered our lives. We were grateful we got to work out again as a group etc., then I commented to her that I needed to get some new kicks and commented how much I love the ones she wears in each week, always new and in the latest styles and colors.

As we exited the building and headed to our cars, she yelled after me and said, “Hey Jen, I see you like these and we wear the same size, so let me give these to you.” I was taken a back. I said thank you and sat in my car for at least 5 minutes saying to myself, wow! That was cool. What a lovely surprise!

Now, it doesn't mean you have to gift someone the latest Nikes. It could simply be opening the door for someone or just providing a kind word to someone in need. But imagine if we ALL did these random acts of kindness, what a world we would live in! The 24-hour news cycle may not promote it, but good does still exist in the world. It exists in my workout buddies, my neighbors, the hands of volunteers who help build houses after natural disasters, in the sacrifices of military personnel fighting for someone elses safety, and in the simple ways we choose to serve others at work, at home, and in the community.

As Francis concluded, “It is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life”. Acting kindly means dying to self, so that the needs of others might be met. And when we live out God's kindness in ordinary ways, even moments of despair can become opportunities for hope.

Prayer: Creator God, in a broken, troubled world, remind me of the peace I can offer others through practicing simple acts of kindness. In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.



THIS MONTH IN MISSION

Mission Giving

Thank you everyone for donating gift cards and money for Family Means. Over \$500 in money was raised this past Christmas for the Family Means Scholarship Program.

Now we have a new "Mission." We are collecting money for the Lily Lake school lunch program. We don't want kids to go without lunch

because they are behind on their payments. This Mission goes through January and February. Thank you.

UMM

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on February 11th will be at the Lowell Inn at 8:00 am. Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the UMM mailing.



BRIDGE GROUP



The Bridge Group will meet February 3rd at noon in the Fellowship Hall! Beginners are welcome and there is no lack of helpful advice (if you desire it). Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.

GAYME NIGHT

Dixie Scruggs announced that Youth game night will be offered on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday nights of the month from 6:00-9:00. All ages are invited. Games, snacks and fellowship will be offered. Adults attending are asked to take the Safe Gathering Training that is available on line.

WINNER CIRCLE



Our circle will meet on Thursday, February 9th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall! Come join us for a time of conversation and a short program on Gratitude. We will be making tie blankets (no sewing involved) for Emma Norton, so please bring your favorite pair of scissors. Please call Kathleen Ramsay at 651.762.5370 or 612.219.0951 to RSVP. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

FEBRUARY IS "ADOPT A CHILD" MONTH

Check out the back wall in the sanctuary for the names of all the youth who are a part of our church faming. Choose one to seek out and recognize by 1. Praying for them. 2. Send them a valentine. 3. Greeting them any tine you see them. To "adopt" a youth remove the heart from the wall and take it with you. You will find their address on the back side of the heart.



FEBRUARY

Feb. 3 Samantha Hauser, Laura Mayaka; Feb. 4 Frankie Reyna; Feb. 6 Erik Eitzman; Feb. 8 Janet Morgen; Feb. 11 Jasmine Zenner; Feb. 15 Virginia Miller; Feb. 17 Christina Leines; Feb. 18 Renita Deaton, Dorene Hauser, Rachel Hannah, Linden Terwilliger; Feb. 20 Sylvia Dalzell.



BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir will be taking a break from rehearsals in February. See you all back in March!
Thanks, Kathy

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE!

Scrip is available! The program yielded a total of \$1,363 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!



THE STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPRC plays a very important role in maintaining a strong positive relationship between staff and congregation so that together we can continue to wrap all people in God's love. Our committee has selected the following committee members to serve as liaisons with the staff:

- Vicki Anderson and the Pastor
 - Nancy Nelson and the Office Admin
 - Sandy Ridgway and the Organist
 - Arlene Higgs and the Director of Music
 - Linda Ash and the Youth & Outreach Ministries
 - Bruce Clark and the Custodial Staff
- We look forward to a successful year!

CONVERSATION PARTNERS

Are you wondering about how you might carry the love of Jesus to others? The Caring Ministry Team has a new ministry that offers you a way to do just that.

First United has about 10-15 members who are homebound members of our congregation to call or visit. But there is a greater need. The Caring Ministry Team is inviting you to step out in faith to become partners with another member of the congregation to become a "conversation partner" or part of a two member team who would together visit our isolated members on a more regular basis. The idea would be for you, as a member of a two person partnership, to visit a homebound person or persons and then agree to continue visits on a more regular basis as agreed to by the people involved.

The Caring Ministry Team is looking for volunteers who are willing to make the gift of their presence available to other members of the body of Christ to build up that body through a bond of faith and caring. Please contact Linda Ash at lindaash1@comcast.net to let the Caring Ministry Team know you are interested and available

A MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH HISTORY

In 1878, 150 years ago, Rev. David Tice was appointed to Stillwater. Finances of the church continued to be tight and after 6 months only \$267.87 had been paid towards the ministers salary. Rev. Tice reported that he was "virtually compelled" at his own expense 'to build a barn at the rear end of the parsonage and church property."

AD COUNCIL MINUTES IN REVIEW

January 17, 2023 meeting

The meeting was called to order by Ben Jackson with fifteen people attending.

Jim Nelson, Finance Chair reviewed our current pledges as compared to last year. At this point we are down in pledges and money pledged. Various fund raisers are hoped for. At this point all bills are paid. Jim also volunteered to be the Liaison to Sunny Hill Preschool. He has been in touch with Janna Sanderson and things continue to go well for the school. It is a well-respected institution in this community having been in this church for well over 50 years.

The playground for Sunny Hill is in need of work to meet code. The Trustees are working on a plan to accomplish what needs to be done. The Trustees are also looking into ways to provide a handicapped bathroom upstairs that will meet today's code.

There is a new look in the tech area in the sanctuary. This is to accommodate the people who run all the tech equipment every Sunday for those attending church as well as tuning in to FaceBook Live. Thanks to those who worked on this project and Brad Gustafson for supplying the new chairs for that area.

The Caring Team is looking into a new program for people willing to visit people who can no longer get to church. It is the hope that people might enjoy going out in pairs, thus calling it "Conversation Partners". Linda Ash would be happy to hear from you if you are interested in hearing more about it. It is also hoped to have some training for people who would take communion to our shut-ins.

Dixie Scruggs announced that game night will be offered on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday nights of the month from 6:00-9:00. All ages are invited. Games, snacks and fellowship will be offered. Adults attending are asked to take the Safe Gathering Training that is available on line.

For full minutes there will be a copy in the office.

Mary Harcey,

WHAT ARE OUR YOUNG ADULTS UP TO TODAY?

This month features Abby Helwig

Abby graduated from Hudson HS in 2019 and moved to Laramie WY to study criminal justice at the University of Wyoming. During her time there she helped found a new sorority on campus and held many positions like event planner and secretary. Abby's also busy playing rugby and working part time at a hotel.

She graduated from college a year early in the spring of 2022., then decided to take this year to stay in Laramie deciding where she wanted to go next. Abby saved enough money to buy herself a truck since she loves traveling, camping, and taking it off-roading. She is now assistant manager at the hotel in Laramie, and plays rugby on a women's recreational league. She spends free time at the gym working out and has a passion for weight lifting.

Future plans include moving to Cheyenne Wyoming this spring and starting her career in law enforcement working as a police officer. In the long run she wants to go back to law school to become a judge in a small jurisdiction. She wants to make a change within the criminal justice system, even if it is just in a small town.

FEBRUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner	2	3 12:00 pm Bridge Group 6:00 pm Gayme night	4 8:00 am AA meeting
5 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live	6	7 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	8 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	9 10:00 am Winner Circle	10	11 8:00 am AA meeting 8:00 am UMM breakfast
12 9:30 am worship & Facebook Live	13	14 Valentines day 9:30 am Bible 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	15 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Choir	16	17 11:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Gayme night	18 8:00 am AA meeting
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