



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2023

phone: 651.439.1880

Hours: M-F 9am-1pm thru 3/10, then

M-Th 9am-3pm & F 9am-1pm

office@fumcstillwater.com

813 W. Myrtle Street

Stillwater, MN 55082

Pastor's Pause March 2023



Lenten Labyrinth by Mike Moyers

Philippians 2:1-8 (NRSV) *Imitating Christ's Humility*

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Sometimes I thought my kids disagreed just to cause me anxiety. I needed to stop asking them open-ended questions like, “What would you like to do tonight?” because they inevitably expressed opposing views and I was left holding the can of worms I opened. Any parent can relate to such tension filled moments and to the corresponding longing for a like-minded family.

Like any family, churches can be ripe environments for disagreements. In addition, there never seems to be the perfect time when trying to present something new. Some may say, “too fast” others “too slow”.

But also like any other family, there must be a spirit of like-mindedness for the church to function smoothly. Paul says it would make his joy complete for the Philippians to be like-minded. Jesus, as he faces his final hours on earth, prays for his followers, “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one” (John 17:20-21 NIV).

The Church is a large family with a diversity of gifts and plenty of big personalities. As we journey through Lent, let us remember that Jesus faced the cross with us on his mind, not only as individuals, but as a united body of believers, the Body of Christ. Can we make his joy complete this season by creating unity in his Body?!

PRAYER: Creator God, may I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I continue the necessary work to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen.



FIRST UNITED Church Life METHODIST CHURCH



UMM

Join the **United Methodist Men** for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on **March 11** will be at the Lowell Inn at 8 a.m. Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the UMM mailing list.

BRIDGE GROUP

The **Bridge Group** will meet **March 3** at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at office@fumcstillwater.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



WINNER CIRCLE

On Thursday, **March 9th** at **10:00** we invite all women to attend the Circle meeting. The program will be entitled ***Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone***, based on Brene Brown's book.



BELL CHOIR



Bell Choir rehearsals will start on Wednesday **March 8** at **6:00 PM**. Anyone interested in playing in Rivertown Ringers, please contact Kathy Hartman at 651-430-2096. See you soon!

CHOIR



Chancel Choir rehearsals **every Wednesday 7:00 -8:15 p.m.**

Open Circle rehearsals are on the **first and last Sundays** of every month following worship, **10:45-11:15 a.m.**



Happy Birthday

**Mar. 3 Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen; Mar. 4 Angela Schmid; Mar. 5 Nancy Clark;
Mar. 8 James White, Patrick White; Mar. 9 Dave Swanson;
Mar. 12 Jesse Haerley, Kassie Krinke; Mar. 14 Janna Sanderson;
Mar. 16 Randy Darling, Kim Salmela; Mar. 17 Lisa Bevens, Ed Flom; Mar. 18
Marie Bauer; Mar. 24 Philip Eitzman; Mar. 26 Larry Ehret; Mar. 27 Matt Leifeld;
Mar. 30 Kelsey Niethammer; Mar. 31 Adam Anderson, Kevin Leines**



5th Wednesday Potluck Dinner

March is a month where the Wednesdays number 5, so **March 29** is a night off for the regular Wednesday cooks.

Bring a dish to share, so all will get fed -a salad, a hot dish, some fruit or a dessert will do. Plan to have it on the serving tables by 5:28, as dinner begins promptly at 5:30.



Chili Dinner, **May 5**, 2023

Plan now to bring family and friends to a community dinner. Enjoy heartwarming chili in the Fellowship Hall or take some home. Stay tuned for event details.

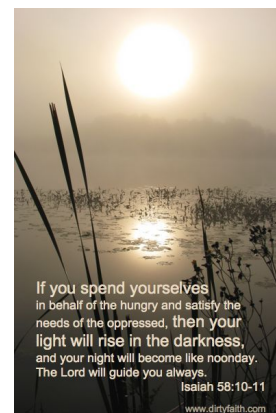
SCRIP IS AVAILABLE!

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!



CARING MINISTRIES

The Caring Ministries Team provides support to people inside and outside of our congregation needing it. This can be in the form of care in multiple forms for those that are grieving, ill, sad, alone, or impoverished. We have several ministries: A Meal Train, a Soup Ministry, Grief support – personal and resources, a Card Ministry, and Conversation Partners. We welcome all that would like to participate in any of these resources for friends in need---
NO MEETINGS REQUIRED. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Linda Ash or the church office.





Help Needed with Sunday Services

The Tech Team has a need for people to help with the Sunday services. We need people who are interested in learning and operating our cameras, computer, and/or sound board. We currently have 4 people to cover the 3 pieces of equipment. We need to grow the Tech Team to 8 to 10 people for ease of scheduling and to allow team member(s) to have multiple Sundays off in a row for vacation. With summer fast approaching and people wanting to go on vacation, we may not have enough people to operate all our equipment and we may

need to suspend our Facebook Live service.

We are looking for men, women, and teenagers to help fill out our tech team.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to assist with our worship service, please contact Bruce Clark (651-439-8518).

Thank you for considering being a member of the Tech Team.



MEETINGS



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



**Church
Council
Meeting**

Administrative Council will meet in the **Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. on March 21.**

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend this meeting of the church Committee Chairs.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is very pleased to welcome Dixie Scruggs as our new Youth Director. She has had impressive experience with a youth focus. We are excited as we look at our plans going forward with programs for our youth and programs that reach out to youth in our community. All are welcome to join our team, we meet once per month. If you would prefer to participate in activities and not a formal meeting, that is welcome as well. Please contact Dixie Scruggs via the church office if you are interested.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 5th at 10:45 in the Wesley Room.





FIRST UNITED Youth Ministry



Youth Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14

At FIRST UNITED Methodist Church we strive to do exactly what Jesus said. Through our actions, programs, and words of support and love, we show God's youth the way to Christ without question or prejudice. All of God's children welcome in Jesus' embrace are welcome in Ours.

Book Club: *Growing Young*



The Youth Council has included a **book club** element in our meetings. We are reading, *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to help young people discover and love your church*, by Kara Powell, Jake Muller, and Brad Griffen. The book builds off of extensive research in order to explore ministry practices for youth in today's world.

A strong **theme** of Chapter 1 was that in order to Grow Young we need to let go of our traditional ministry practices and reorient our ministries to what youth need today.

Reflection questions from our book *for everyone reading this newsletter*:

- How have young people added vitality to your life?
- How have young people added vitality to your church?

Gayme Night

The youth council is incredibly excited to have launched "Gayme Night"! We've played a variety of games where the youth not only had fun but got to get to know other LGBTQ+ & allied youth from across the metro.

What is it? A drop-in game night hosted at UNITED Methodist Church in partnership with Queer Quest Twin Cities

What is an ally? An ally is someone who supports the LGBTQ+ community. If you say, "Hey, I believe you are a child of God and I'm going to treat you like one" and your actions match your words, then you are an ally.

What is Queer Quest Twin Cities: Queer Quest Twin Cities (QQTC) is a developing group who's purpose to affirm LGBTQ+ teens on this crazy journey called life. There are opportunities for this community to simply have fun and be affirmed for who they are. QQTC partners with organizations to provide this safe space and support. To learn more contact check out their website queerquesttc.com.

What games do you play? We play a wide variety of table top games; board games, card games, etc. Some of us also play role playing games such Dungeons and Dragons, Critical Core, and A Familiar Problem.

Why role playing games? Role playing games have been proven to develop skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem solving while the players just think they're having fun! Sometimes this gives players opportunities to work on personality traits in a safe setting. The adults running the game strive to make sure the games are a safe space purely for fun and potential personal growth.

How can I get involved? All volunteers who wish to assist in-person with youth programming need to go through a background check and training course. We also accept food and game donations. For more information contact Dixie at fumcyandf@gmail.com.

Future Programming

We look forward to future programming in addition to Gayme Night and would like feedback as to what that should look like!

Youth, where do you want to go? What do you want to do? What should we learn more about and how? Let Dixie know either in person or by email at fumcyandf@gmail.com.

Are you an **adult** who would be interested in helping with our youth? Mentors, prayer leaders, trip volunteers, youth group leaders - anything you're interested in is invaluable to our ministry! Contact Dixie either in person or at fumcyandf@gmail.com.

GOOD TO KNOW

Time for Contemplation



For the Lenten Season, as we attempt to simplify and center, the Worship Team would like to try something different. We invite all church attendees to join in a time of quiet contemplation in the 5 minutes prior to Sunday worship. Lights will dim, at which time, we ask those in the sanctuary to progress into an attitude of silence and contemplative meditation as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

January Finance Summary



FIRST UNITED 2023 Annual Budget: \$271,850 (\$22,654/month)

January pledged and non-pledged contributions were excellent and February contributions look to be very good as well. General Fund is at 149% of monthly target and Capital at 101%. Thank you for your generosity.

We have \$87,607 in the checking account and Apportionments are paid in full. Finance feels that 2023 budget is attainable, but recommends that spending be closely watched and the budget altered mid-year if necessary. Additional fund-raising activities will be needed – please present your ideas to Finance committee or Ad Council members.


Jim Nelson
Finance Chair



Reconciling Committee

Cynthia Frederick, cynthfred@gmail.com

The Reconciling Committee meets monthly. Our purpose is to help our congregation look at how we can become more of a welcome place for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We see this as a way to live out our mission of “Wrapping All People in God’s Love.” We have begun having One-to-One visits with members of the church. Our hope, during these visits, is to listen and get to know people and find out what is important to you about our church.

<p>RECONCILING INFORMATION SESSION</p> <p>MARCH 12TH 10:45-11:15 A.M.</p> <p><small>https://www.minnesotaumc.org/resources-for-moving-forward and https://rmnetwork.org/become-a-reconciling-ministry/</small></p> 	<p>Information Session - Sunday, March 12th, from 10:45 – 11:15, in the Fellowship Hall</p> <p>The Reconciling Committee wants to introduce ourselves and answer your questions.</p> <p>Also, look for the Question & Answer box in the narthex. Feel free to leave your question in the box. We will answer the questions here in the newsletter.</p>
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Reminder: The Reconciling Committee was formed due to a recommendation from the members of the Healthy Church Initiative and it was approved by the Administrative Council. The committee first met 7/12/2021 and was brought together by Pastor Dan Bader. The current committee members are Cynthia Frederick (chair), Patsy Bellman, Frank Anderson, Sharry Swann, Jess Higgles, Alex Frederick, Lizzie Bellman, Freya Haugen, and Bonnie Haines, along with staff, Dixie Scruggs and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen. Some United Methodist resources to help you learn more:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/resources-for-moving-forward> and
<https://rmnetwork.org/become-a-reconciling-ministry/>



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that we have hired a new office administrator, Denice Kroening. Her kindness and willingness to learn shone through during her interview and we were impressed with her accounting background and experience organizing and updating information. She is a long-time member of The Grove Methodist church in Woodbury so she has a solid understanding of the philosophy of the Methodist Church. Welcome!



Super Bowl Party

Thanks to the people who attended the Super Bowl at the Nelsons – along with lots of fun and fellowship, we raised \$246 for the Lily Lake School Lunch Program!



Winner Circle

Our Winner Circle sends a thank you to all who helped. We had a wonderful meeting focusing on gratitude and also a mission of giving to others less fortunate than us in February. We had purchased



4 fleece tie blankets using some of our funds generated from the bake sale in December. These were then cut and prepared to be tied at the February meeting. All went well and then the beauty of this fellowship time and in a giving spirit they were taken to Emma Norton, a Methodist Christian home for displaced women in St. Paul. These blankets and hats and mittens collected by our

mission ministry were delivered and so graciously accepted and expressions of thankfulness were expressed by several of the residents and staff at the facility.

It gave Vicki Anderson and Ann Haraldson such a wonderful gift of appreciation for the task well done by our circle of friends. We reaped the benefits of giving from our hearts to others. We needed to share this news and the gratitude all around for our talents so willingly given by our congregation and circle members.



Missions

Thank you all for the monetary donations for the Lily Lake School lunch program.

For March and April we will be collecting money and paper products for Emma Norton.



A MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH HISTORY 30 Years Ago

The 1993 Annual Church Reports states that at the March United Methodist Women's Meeting Randi and Byron Torgerson presented a talk with slides telling of their Mission Trip to Honduras over Christmas vacation. They took boxes of clothing that had been collected for the mission school and did work there. (Maybe some of you were present at that program!)

WHAT ARE OUR YOUNG ADULTS UP TO TODAY?

This month features **Mason Schwerzler**



CREATED BY VECTORPORTAL.COM

Mason graduated from Stillwater high school in 2018. He attended NDSU focusing his academic studies in criminal justice and had the opportunity to play on the football team freshman year. During his sophomore year he followed his aspiration to serve in the military by joining the ROTC program. Mason graduated with a criminal justice degree and minor in Emergency Management: Homeland Security in the spring of 2022. At the same time he was commissioned into the North Dakota Army National Guard as an officer in the Military Police. Mason is currently in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri completing a 17 week training as an officer. This training will give him an opportunity to become a platoon leader in charge of 41 soldiers.

On his civilian side, Mason is seeking employment in law enforcement. He realistically sees this possible within the next year or so. This past summer he was busy working for a pavement marking company installing pavement markings all across the metro and state on major highways and city streets. It was very labor intensive, but rewarding. Mason is an avid weightlifter and trains in the gym everyday for fun. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends every chance he can get. He loves watching professional and collegiate sporting events such as MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL, and the NCAA games. Mason continues to further his faith and puts his trust in the Lord that God will guide him down his pathway.



Easter Flowers and Music Donations - 2023

If you would like to donate for flowers to be used at Easter or for the Music Program, please fill out the form below. Thanks for your support. Any remaining money for flowers will be used in the future for fresh flowers or plants. Your form and donation can be turned into the church office or, during the month of March (by March 26th), forms will also be available in the gathering space each Sunday.

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Name: _____

Amount for Flowers: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Amount for Music: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

MARCH 2023

Sun	M	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Noon Centering Prayer 5:15 PM Supper 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 11:00 AM Lenten Study	3 12: 00 Noon Bridge Group	4 8:00 AM AA Meeting
5 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9: 30 AM Sunday Worship & Facebook Live 10:45 AM Open Circle Rehearsal 10:45 AM Youth Council Meeting	6	7 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Martha Group 6:30 PM SPRC Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom Crafting	8 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Noon Centering Prayer 5:30 PM Supper 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Reconciling Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 10: 00 AM Winner Circle 11:00 AM Lenten Study	10 6:00 PM Youth Gayme Night	11 8:00 AM AA Meeting 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast at Lowell Inn

12 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday Worship & Facebook Live 10:45 AM Reconciling Informational Session	13	14 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Martha Group	15 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Noon Centering Prayer 5:30 PM Supper 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 11:00 AM Lenten Study	17 11:00 AM Quilting	18 8:00 AM AA Meeting
19 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday Worship & Facebook Live	20	21 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Martha Group 7:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting	22 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Noon Centering Prayer 5:30 PM Supper 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 11:00 AM Lenten Study	24	25 8:00 AM AA Meeting
26 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday Worship & Facebook Live 10:45 AM Open Circle Rehearsal Please have Easter Flower orders in by today	27	28 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Martha Group 7:00 PM Zoom Crafting	29 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Noon Centering Prayer 5:30 PM Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 11:00 AM Lenten Study	31	

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