



# FIRST UNITED

## METHODIST CHURCH

**MAY 2023**

phone: 651.439.1880

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

office@fumcstillwater.com

813 W. Myrtle Steet

Stillwater, MN 55082



### Pastor's Pause, May, 2023

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." - Matthew 5:9*

Some days I struggle with that concept. Somedays, I want to lash out.

The Bible tells us that we are to love our enemies and to do good to those who even try to harm us. This is the type of radical forgiveness expected of Christians. Therefore, no matter what political position you have, or whatever religious belief you espouse to, believers in Jesus are to treat everyone the same.

Every human being is created in the image of God. Consequently, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. In fact, believers should regard others more important than even themselves. We are to serve our community and love others unconditionally.

God calls us to be peacemakers. For those who do their best to establish peace, whether in society, in their homes, or in the heart, they will be called children of God. Whenever Jesus

would enter or leave a city, He would always say, "Peace be with you." This makes sense because Almighty God is called the Prince of Peace!

According to the dictionary, peace is defined as "freedom from disturbance or tranquility." It can also mean a state or period of time in which there is no war. But I don't think this definition is adequate enough.

Peace is more than just freedom from disturbance. It is not just the negation of something bad like war or violence. It also implies the importance of treating others with grace and kindness. Peace is an action that expresses positive attributes like gentleness and respect for every human being.

If you call yourself a Christian, you are to be at peace with everyone. If you are a follower of Jesus, no matter how much someone disagrees with you, treat them with kindness. This is because you are to be a peacemaker. There should be no anger or bitterness in your heart. This can be difficult to do, but when you pray and ask God to give you the strength, it is possible. For God says that all things are possible through Him.

So, will you be a peacemaker? Will you treat your fellow humans with respect? Please do. It is the right thing. We need more peacemakers in this world. Let's pray and ask God to help us do this today.

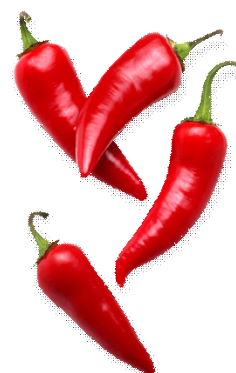
**PRAYER:** *Dear heavenly Creator, help us to be peacemakers. There is so much violence and hatred in our world today. Give us the courage and strength to set a positive trajectory now and for future generations. You are the Prince of Peace. Reign in our hearts today. In Jesus name. Amen.*



**FIRST UNITED**  
METHODIST CHURCH

*Wrapping All People in God's Love*

# Chili Cook-Off



**Saturday, May 6, 4-7:00pm**  
**(\*\*While supplies last\*\*)**

**Chili flights available too!**

***Bowl or 4 Chili Flight - \$12***

***Join us to:***

- **Eat-in or takeout!**
- **Vote for the best tasting chili!**



**We're at the corner of  
Myrtle & Greeley St., Stillwater, MN  
Call or email before May 6 to reserve your Chili!!**

**651-439-1880**

**Email: [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com)**

***\*\*Cash or check to First UMC\*\****





## RECONCILING COMMITTEE

Cynthia Frederick, [cynthfred@gmail.com](mailto:cynthfred@gmail.com)



We are learning that members of our church are unsure why we have to keep talking about being welcoming to the LGBTQA+ community. I thought I would share a few reasons.

1. Membership in our church (and many mainline churches) is declining. We need to welcome younger members into our church. For many young people this topic is a deal breaker for where they go to church. It is actually a reason some of our young adults leave the church and don't come back.
2. The UMC welcomes everyone, but denies some areas of participation in the church to the LGBTQA+ community. This is the only group that is denied, thus the reason we need to talk about this community.
3. The other mainline protestant churches in Stillwater have a more accepting stance on the LGBTQA+ community. They have already become open and welcoming to the LGBTQA+ community. At FUMC, we are behind the other churches in this area.
4. In 2024 – next year – the UMC General Conference WILL be meeting AND voting on the topic of how we will stand regarding the LGBTQA+ community. Will it split the church? When that vote happens at General Conference, our church will have to decide what we want to do. The Reconciling Committee hopes we can help keep the church informed. Within our church there are many different thoughts on this topic. During the next few months, the Reconciling Committee plans to continue our one-on-one visits, so we can talk with more people in the congregation and learn about their views and thoughts. We will hold the book study and panel to the fall.

Pastor Jenny is new to our congregation, and she is hearing from those who have concerns about this conversation. I appreciated that we have a difference of opinions. I would just ask those members who feel strongly about becoming Reconciling also make a point to let Pastor Jenny know this, through a comment, call, note or email. One of the reasons Pastor Jenny was appointed here by the Bishop, was because in our church description and HCI report, we requested someone who is open to being with us as we learn more about becoming Reconciling. She needs to hear from both sides.



## CARING MINISTRY TEAM

The Caring Ministries Team provides support to those in need in the form of meals, soup, grief support, greeting cards and flowers at Easter and Christmas. New last month is a program called Conversation Partners. This is designed to connect with those at home or a care facility that are isolated and in need of social interaction. Being a “conversation partner” means that you will be willing to visit or call one of the 13 folks on the list. If you are interested to serve in this way, please contact Linda Ash or the church office. There are NO MEETINGS INVOLVED.

Coming in May, at-home communion will be brought to those at home or in a care facility wishing to receive it. Please call the church office if you are interested.

## WINNER'S CIRCLE FOR MAY

Our monthly circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 11th at 10:00. We will have a fellowship time, short business meeting and a program entitled “ Smart Tips for Gardening, “presented by Pam Hartley. Come and enjoy this wonderful group



## SUPPORT OUR GRADUATES!

# 2023

First United has 4 youth graduating from high school this year!

**Alex Frederick**

**Katelynn Wright**

**Adam Helwig**

**Jasmine Zenner**



First United offers \$500 Grace Scholarships to graduates that continue their education next year. They have to apply in order to get the scholarship and you can contact Patsy Bellman for background details about Grace Scholarships requirements, etc.

**Right now the Grace Scholarship fund balance is only about \$1500 so if you are able to make a donation to help bolster the fund, it would be much appreciated.**

Please contact me for details and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Jim Nelson, Finance Chair

## HIGHWAY PICKUP

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM. We will meet in the fellowship Hall and proceed to CO. Rd 12 The process takes about 90 minutes.

Any questions please call Bruce Lundeen @ 651-439-9602.



## TRUSTEES YARD CLEANUP-OUTDOORS AND INDOORS

The Trustee's will conduct the yard cleanup on May 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM. Please come and enjoy a delightful morning outside in the sunshine as we clean up the church lawn and inside areas, if you would like to do that.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

### URGENT Need for Tech Help with Sunday Services

The Tech Team has lost several members in the last couple of months and is now running with a minimum crew of 2 people. We typically have 3 people running the equipment each worship service. If one person is not able to assist with a worship service, we may not be able to send our worship service out to Facebook Live. The 35 to 40 people who tune into Facebook Live every week would not be able to view our worship service. Ideally, the Tech Team should be made up of 8 to 10 people. These 8 to 10 people will be trained on each of the 3 pieces of equipment used during a worship service. Once trained, they will be added to the rotation to cover 1 of the pieces of equipment on Sunday morning or during one of our special services. Our goal is to have enough Tech Team people to cover every piece of equipment once or twice a month. 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, or Bonnie Haines. Thank you for considering being a member of the Tech Team.



## SCRIP IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Orders can be placed at Sunday worship services, Wednesday dinners, or anytime by email to [benj.w.jackson@comcast.net](mailto: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 BELL CHOIR

The bell choir is rehearsing on Wednesdays at 6pm. Talk to Kathy Hartman if you'd like to join.

**BRIDGE GROUP** The Bridge Group will meet May 5 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com) to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



# MAY

**MAY 3 MARK RIDGWAY; MAY 5 LARRY MARTELL; MAY 6 MYLES SCHWERZLER; MAY 7 JACK WALMAR; MAY 11 EDDA EHRET; MAY 14 KURT KRINKE; MAY 15 BRAD GUSTAFSON, MAY 16 KRISTA AUER; MAY 19 AMANDA HOLST; MAY 21 GERALD DEATON; MAY 22 ARLENE HIGGS; MAY 25 LORI ROLL; MAY 26 GAYE FISHER; MAY 31 JAX FREDERICK.**

## THIS MONTH IN GIVING

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief-UMCOR- assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who have been affected by natural or human caused disasters- famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire and other events- to ease suffering and serve as a source of help and hope. During May and June, we will be collecting monetary donations for UMCOR. Every dollar goes toward relief.



## UMM

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on May 13 will be at the Lowell Inn at 8 a.m. Contact the church office at [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com) to join the UMM mailing list..



## WHAT ARE OUR YOUNG ADULTS UP TO TODAY?

This month features **Eli Roll**

Eli graduated from Stillwater Area High School in 2019 and just 3 ½ years later, in December of 2022, he graduated from college. The Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO is where Eli headed to further his education, graduating with a BS in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering.

During college he completed a 7-month co-op (June to December, 2021) with Sierra Space in Madison, WI where he worked on the Dream Chaser spaceplane with the materials and processes engineering team. He also spent the summer of 2022 in Clearfield, UT (just north of Salt Lake City) at a 3-month internship with Northrup Grumman working in their composites research and development group.

In between studies and work projects, Eli found some time to enjoy other interests. While in Colorado and Utah he stayed active and got outdoors frequently, often mountain biking or hiking. He was fortunate enough to be able to explore a number of National Parks including Rocky Mountain, Zion, Arches, Capitol Reef, and Bryce. Mountain climbing is also one of Eli's passions, as he has climbed plenty of 14,000 ft peaks in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

Since his graduation from Mines, he has moved to the Portland, OR metro area where he is settling in. Eli is currently interviewing with a few companies, and is excited to begin working as an engineer!

## A MOMENT IN HISTORY - 25 YEARS AGO

The 1993 Annual Report gives us some snapshots of things that were going on 30 years ago. New members who are still here are: Frank & Vicki Anderson, Scott & Toni Harvey, Karla Keller, and Mark & Diana Miller. The new contemporary music group voted to have their group named "Open Circle." Here is a list of some of our members who were in leadership positions: Judy Schiel (now Trimbo) Chair of Administrative Council, Bruce Clark as Vice Chair of Administrative Council, Janet Wettergren (now Morgan) as Lay Leader, Linnea Shinn as Education Committee Chair and Jim & Nancy Nelson as Membership & Evangelism Committee Chairs.

# MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pastor J @ DS 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir “	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12pm Bridge Group	<b>6</b> 8:00 am AA meeting 4 pm Chili cook-off
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	<b>10</b> 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir “	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Winners Circle	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 am UMM Breakfast 8:00 am AA meeting 9 am Trustees Yard Cleanup
<b>14</b> 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live UMCOR SUNDAY Happy Mother's Day!	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 6:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Ad Council 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	<b>17</b> 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Centering prayer 5:30 pm Dinner 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Quilting	<b>20</b> 8:00 am AA meeting 9:00 am Highway Pickup
<b>21</b> 8:45 am Chancel Choir 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 am AA meeting
<b>28</b> 8:45 am Chancel rehearsal Susanna room 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Open Cir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Group 7pm Zoom Craft	10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 pm Centering 5:30 pm Fellowship Pot Luck			