



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 2023

phone: 651.439.1880

Hours: M-F 9-1pm Summer

office@fumcstillwater.com

813 W. Myrtle Steet

Stillwater, MN 55082



Pastor's Pause June 2023

I hate goodbyes. I really do. I rarely say them, even when face to face with someone I may not see for months, or even longer.

Goodbyes generally mark endings, not beginnings. So, in as such, I try to hold onto the hope that God gave the Israelites as they were held captive in Babylon.

Isaiah 43:18-19. (NIV) God said, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

The verses that immediately precede these verses are reminders. God reminds Israel that God brought them up out of Egypt and rescued them in one of the most amazing miracles told in the Bible – the parting of the Red Sea.

I love these verses – especially the ones about how God rescues and redeems God's people. I love them because they instill hope – they remind us that God is with us and will go before and behind us.

When God places a new path before me that God calls me to travel, the words that follow remind me that there is hope, and it is not all sorrow. May-

be we hold onto the here and now because that less clear-cut path that God is calling us to take is scary. The known is easier. Goodbyes are scarier.

Plus, it's harder when the goodbye is from something good, God has already given us. Something we pursued because God put it before us. Those are the harder goodbyes. But God's word reminds us that a new beginning is God's way. God allows goodbyes so that God can give us even more hope. Until Jesus left, God's Holy Spirit would not come to live within all believers. Until Jesus said goodbye to the ways of the world, we were bound by the law instead of grace and mercy.

Goodbyes, open doors to new beginnings. The Gospel message was a new beginning – a new covenant between God and all mankind. It also marked a new way of coming before God – directly rather than through a man. Jesus's teachings were also a new way to see the law; to understand the Old Testament teachings. He didn't necessarily say goodbye to the law as much as hello to a new way of living it out – in love. *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."* – John 13:34-35 (NIV)

There is peace in knowing God's plan is a new one – that God doesn't expect us to say goodbye, but rather to remember God's faithfulness and trust that whatever path God has put us on is good. That is hope. Hope in the future God calls us to – the path that may seem less certain – or maybe just less clear-cut.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". – Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

There is peace in knowing that goodbyes are necessary. They are necessary to following the path God has for us – for new beginnings to begin and for us to grow by walking the path we can barely see before us.

PRAYER: Creator God, may the love that is in our hearts be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we may be. May the power of your presence bless this moment of our leave-taking and guide our steps to renewed energy and hope. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.



Summer Office Hours

June 1—August 31

9:00 am—1:00 pm



Administrative Council in Review, May 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Ben Jackson at 7:00 PM. There were nine members present.

The chili Cook-Off made a profit of about \$1,000, that for the first try, it is felt it was a success. Many community members participated. It is hoped to offer it again in the fall.

The Missions money for the months of May and June will be going to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, (UMCOR) where all of the money we contribute goes directly to flood and disaster relief.

Finance reported that apportionments are paid and the balance is stable.

For several years the congregation has offered a \$500. scholarship to graduating high school seniors who apply. There are four seniors this year and the fund is in need of about \$800. more if all apply. Donations are encouraged.

The church's responsibility to up grade the area by the Sunny Hill playground has come in with a \$15,000 bid. A motion passed to send this back to the Trustees to proceed. This will be done in August when Sunny Hill is not in session.

A new email system will be put in soon which will enable several staff members to have their own email address so not everything will have to go through the main church line.

Because of security concerns Sunny Hill and the church want to pursue the idea of installing a Ring system, which provides a camera, and with an app on the phone a person will be able to see who is at the door. The cost is minimal and will be divided between Sunny Hill for downstairs coverage and the church for upstairs coverage.

Staff Parish Relations: Sue Neithammer reported that the committee has upgraded the staff policy manual that was last done in 2013. They are also working on communicating with the congregation to help everybody understand the role of SPRC within the church. This will include Defining roles, SPRC Education for committee members, Congregation Education and Improve Positivity and Fellowship among the Church Community.

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00pm

Submitted by Mary Harcey

SUMMER POTLUCK PICNICS

Wednesday Potluck Picnics will begin on June 7 at Washington Square Park and continue throughout the summer. If the day is rainy, storms are forecast, or another large group takes over the picnic area, you will find the picnic indoors at the church. (This has only happened once or twice in the past; look for your church friends at the picnic shelter.) The park is 5 blocks south of the church on Greeley Street between Churchill and Abbott Streets. Parking is on Abbott.

Wednesdays 6:00pm Washington Square

Provided - Hot dogs, Plates, Utensils, Drinks

Bring - A dish to share, (salad, dessert, veggies, etc.)

Enjoy fellowship, good food and a game if you so choose.



HISTORY MEMORIES by Patsy Bellman

Fellowship time has long been important to this congregation. As a child, I remember the Sunday School Picnic held each year as the school year ended and summer approached. There was always food - a potluck meal, followed by games for the children. Church members who had large spaces for cars and outdoor games, and lots of people would host. Some years it was at Herb and Louise Johnson's (Sharon Dockstader's parents) home out on Stonebridge Trail, other years it was at Bill and Jean Lundquist's home in rural Lake Elmo. Both couples were long time members and those who have been around more than 20 years will remember one or more of them. Later on, the picnics were held at parks. I have vivid memories of a Sunday School picnic held at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo and more recently the Sunday School picnics were at Pioneer Park here in Stillwater. We no longer have a bunch of children for a Sunday School picnic, but fellowship time can be found at the summer picnics.

WINNER CIRCLE FOR JUNE 15th (note date change)

WHAT: WINNER CIRCLE JUNE MEETING Potluck Luncheon

WHERE: Chris Nelson's home

1513 Meadowlark Drive

Stillwater, MN



WHEN: **Thursday, June 15th at 10:00am**

"Hurray For Summer" is our theme this month. Bring ideas for next year's meetings as to program wishes so we can incorporate them into the schedule. Questions, call Vicki Anderson or Ann Haraldson.

PLEASE JOIN US AS, ALL ARE WELCOME.

CARING MINISTRIES TEAM

The Caring Ministries Team supports friends in need in the form of meals, soups, visits, greeting cards, grief support, and flowers at Easter and at Christmas. The team has recently developed two new ministries to support our friends in need. In the beginning of May, we began bringing communion to those of our congregation that are homebound or in a care facility. In April we began a program to serve those hungry for contacts and conversations via phone calls and notes. We meet monthly to review the programs and make adjustments that are needed. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 1st at 10:30 AM. Please feel free to come and join us. If you prefer NO MEETINGS but would like to participate in one of the ministries mentioned here, please contact Linda Ash at lindaash1@comcast.net.



HIGHWAY PICKUP... THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the following members who participated in the Highway Pickup on May 20th. You not only demonstrated the church's commitment to the community and the environment, but your own as well, Thanks very much! Guia Parayno, Ben Jackson, Paul Skoug, Mike Ptacek. Bruce Lundeen.



ACT OF KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS AWARD



We have an exceptional church family with many gifts and talents given generously on a daily basis. Each month, we will highlight someone who has shown an exceptional act of kindness, thoughtfulness, perseverance, and positive attitude. These acts can be big or small. Please help us out and submit the name of the person you wish to be recognized for this award and the reason you are suggesting this person and email to at Nancykatherinenelson@gmail.com. . or write a short note and put it in the SPRC mail slot in the office. The first +++ award to be shared in the July Newsletter. The Award Recipient gets a Snicker bar!

TRUSTEES

Trustees will be interviewing an additional contractor to install the retaining wall that is in the playground used by Sunny Hill. The City of Stillwater is requiring the current wall be replaced due to safety concerns. We plan to make a decision on the contractor and design in June and have the work done in August when Sunny Hill is on summer break and no little ones are present. Any questions, please call Bonnie Haines or Tom Ash.

YOUTH COUNCIL

On Friday night, May 19th, there was an Escape Room (Tactical Escape 101) at Maplewood mall. This is an exciting and fun event. On Sunday, May 21st we honored our graduating seniors, Alex Frederick, Adam Helwig, Jasmine Zenner, and Katelyn Wright during the church service. They had an opportunity to share their plans for their future and received a prayer shawl made for them by the Prayer Shawl knitting team. A reception followed to celebrate them and wish them well. The next meeting of the Youth Council is Monday, June 5th at 7pm. Please feel free to come and join us if you would like to help move our youth programs forward and seek new outreach opportunities for our youth, 6th grade and above.

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!

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!



THE BELL CHOIR

The Rivertown Ringers will be practicing at 6:00 on Wednesday June 7 and 14, to prepare to play on Sunday June 18. We will then have a break until September.
Kathy Hartman

BRIDGE GROUP The Bridge Group will meet June 2 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



JUNE

June 2 Sue Hibberd; June 7 Tom Ash; June 9 Rhaya Bastyr; June 11 Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann; June 14 Raewynn Bye, Dwayne Nelson; June 15 Cynthia Frederick; June 16 Grace Miller, June 17 Blake Holst, Paul Skoug; June 19 Paige Carter; June 20 John Henke, Melissa Wright; June 21 Chuck Leifeld, Sandy Ridgway; June 22 Ross Nelson; June 23 Tori Meline June 25 Carol Johnson; June 26 Myra Sjoberck; June 27 Josie Haugen; June 28 Tito Reyna

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 June 10 will be at the Lowell Inn at 8 a.m. Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the UMM mailing list.



APRIL FINANCE SUMMARY

May 16, 2023

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

April pledged and non-pledged contributions to the General Fund are on target so far. Capital fund contributions continue lag behind. Member statements are scheduled to be sent on June 30 as usual.

All church funds are in good shape. We have \$68,109 in the checking account, and Apportionments are paid in full. Grace Scholarship balance is \$1225 and we would like to see it grow to \$2000 soon as we have 4 graduating seniors this year who may be applying for a one-time \$500 Grace Scholarship. Please spread the word about this need.

The Chili Cook-Off was a success in creating community awareness and member bonding. We estimated about 70% of attendees were non-members. Gross proceeds were \$1720 and after expenses will be about \$1100, less than we hoped for, but okay for an inaugural event. The Cook-off was easier to do than Festa di Pasta so we will likely do the Cook-off again in the fall when the weather is cooler. Overhead costs for the next event will be less so profits should be better. Thank you to all members who helped make it possible!

If you purchase something for the church, Treasurer Mark Ridgway is happy to reimburse you, but please provide him a receipt with totals and a detailed description of how the money was spent so he can designate it to correct Budget line-item. New Finance Secretary volunteer is still needed. Please contact Jim Nelson if you want to learn more.

Jim Nelson, Finance Chair

JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 12pm Bridge Group	3 8:00 am AA meeting
4 8:45 am Chancel choir practice 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live 10:45 am Open Cir practice	5	6 11am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	7 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12:00 Centering prayer 6pm Potluck picnic 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 pm Finance Comm Meeting	9	10 8:00 am UMM Breakfast 8:00 am AA meeting
11 8:30 am Open Circle Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live	12	13 11am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	14 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12: 00 Centering prayer 6pm Potluck picnic 6pm Bell Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15 10:00 am Winners Circle (See page 3 for details)	16 10:00 am? Quilting	17 8:00 am AA meeting
18 8:45 am Rivertown R Reh 9:30 am Worship, Rivertown Ringers & Facebook Live <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	19	20 11am Martha Group 7:00 pm Zoom Craft	21 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 pm Centering Prayer 6pm Potluck picnic 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 PJ on vac 6/23-7/11	24 8:00 am AA meeting
25 8:45 am Chancel choir 9:30 am Worship & Facebook Live 10:45 am Open Cir practice	26	27 11am Martha Group 7pm Zoom Craft	28 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 12 pm Centering Prayer 6pm Potluck picnic	29	30	