



# FIRST UNITED

## METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023  
phone: 651.439.1880  
Hours: M-TH, 9AM-3PM  
FRIDAY, 9AM-1PM  
fumcstillwater@gmail.com  
813 W. Myrtle Steet  
Stillwater, MN 55082

### *Pastor's Pause October, 2023*



*<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith, let it be done to you."— Matthew 9:29 (NRSV)*

When Samuel Morse was requesting Congressional support for a telegraph line from Baltimore to Washington, he endured the press' sustained criticism for more than eleven years.

In 1842, when Adam Thompson set up the first bathtub in America, the newspapers said his vision—now a staple of convenient cleanliness in every home—was “*going to spoil the democratic simplicity of the republic.*” Oh, my, am I glad Mr. Thompson stuck to his guns for all kinds of reasons.

And when Cyrus Field was attempting to lay the first cable across the Atlantic, he was denounced as “*a mad freak of stubborn ignorance.*”

Sometimes a wise and well-placed word of caution is just what we need, but not always. Many times, God sees our growing edges and asks us to step out in faith **EVEN** when it makes no sense and the “critics” may say, “are you nuts?”

Too often the criticism people heap upon the new or the uncommon is motivated by fear. Having the discernment to know the difference is crucial to knowing when to rethink and when to press on. And as Samuel Morse, Adam Thompson, and Cyrus Field demonstrate; God honors people of vision who take steps of faith.

**PRAYER:** *Creator God, guide my feet as I step out in faith and follow your will. When the world may not understand or support the change, may your peace envelope me as I go. Amen!*



**Regular Office Hours  
As of September 5,  
M–Th 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am –1 pm**

**September Finance Summary – IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ:**

**Good News:** Our 2023 General Fund Budget is \$271,850, yet our projected expenditures for 2023 are only

\$250,000. And September receipts are excellent so far. September 30 is the end of the third quarter so we will be able to do more accurate projections in early October and send another update.

**Bad news:** Still our projected 2023 deficit could reach \$40,000.

What can WE do: The Finance Committee has created a list of ideas to address the deficit and has put several ideas into action. Some are working already.

**What can YOU do:** Please keep your current pledge up to date and prayerfully consider an additional contribution, if you are able. And we welcome ideas from you too - feel free to contact any Finance committee member with your ideas.

**Save the date** for Fall Chili Cook-Off and Country Store – Saturday, November 4, 4-7:00 PM. This is a great chance to work together and show the community that FIRST UNITED is wrapping all people in God's love while making a little money too. We hope you will volunteer to help.

**Please know:** We still have ample money in the bank to operate the church for the time being.

Thanks in advance for your generosity and please contact me with questions.

**Please note that when sending an email to the church office,  
use the following email address: [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com)**

**Thanks, Denise**



# WINNER CIRCLE

**Come one come all to a party Celebrating our Resilience and the Beginning of a New Year of Fellowship!**

When: Thursday, October 12, at 10:00AM

Where: FUMC Fellowship Hall

What: Celebrating together with a focus on Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6 and 9-12

How: With apple treats, games and fellowship



We will be celebrating our friendship over the last year. We will learn about our Mission Team's effort to support the Heifer project and the upcoming purchase to supply gift cards for Valley Outreach. Please plan ahead to order via the SCRIP program that Ben Jackson chairs. Order blanks will be available.

We also will be recognizing one of our members who will be rejoining us after a long health journey with a small gift. If you have a get well, a thank you, or a thinking of you card please bring it along. We will donate these to our Care Team. Masks will be available for use, if you are willing. We look forward to hearing from each of you especially if there are others who have need of our prayers. It will be great to reconnect and celebrate our friendship. The program will have scripture, a story to hear, a game to play with four questions to ponder as shown below.

What does it mean to hear the Bible read to you? What are you praising God for? Are you mourning or grieving some of the traumas we have experienced in our lives, in our church, in our community? What joys are you expressing today?

All women are welcome and so please join us. Ann Haraldson and Vicki Anderson

## O CHRISTMAS TREE!

*Donations needed to Light up our beautiful 40-foot evergreen on Greeley Street.*

*Please write Christmas Tree in the memo line of your check.*



**UMM**

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on October 14, will be at the Lowell Inn at 8AM. Contact the church office at [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com) to join the UMM mailing list.

## OCTOBER HAPPENINGS OF YEARS GONE BY

### Historical Happenings from 1993 - 30 Years Ago

Worldwide Communion Sunday - As a symbol of communion being celebrated across the globe, Anita Carter brought different types of breads overflowing a basket for display on the altar table. Jon Shriver completed his Eagle Scout project with the help of others - a railing along our front sidewalk and steps from Myrtle Street to the flat concrete entryway. At the memorial dedication, a library table was dedicated in memory of Robert Schiel with the workmanship of the table being a gift from Jim Harvieux. Four upholstered chairs were purchased to go with the table also in memory of Robert Schiel. Robert, usually called Bob, was Judy Trimbo's previous husband. The table and chairs now reside in our narthex/gathering space.

# CARING MINISTRIES TEAM



## Would you like to be a Caring Minister?

You can be one by visiting someone that is homebound, making a meal, bringing Communion, sitting with someone who is grieving or ill, making soup, make a phone call, or send a card. These are all ministries that the Caring Ministry team oversees. Come join us!

**AND/OR**

## Would you like to be a member of the Caring Ministries Team?

This group coordinates the caring ministries that support our church congregation. The team meets every one to two months for an hour or so and reviews the needs, initiatives, and steps we can take to support and care for those in our congregation in need. We would love to have you!

If you are interested in either or both of these invitations, please contact the church office or Linda Ash.



To Konnie and Shawn Helwig who continue to turn in cans that turn into cash which in turn is put into the Youth Fund.

## ACT OF KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS AWARD Announcing OCTOBER Winners!

### Nancy and Bruce Clark

As you arrive at church on a Sunday morning, Nancy Clark greets you as she opens the door for you. As you enter the Sanctuary, you will find Bruce Clark sitting at the chair in front of the computer in the technology area straight ahead. Bruce has played such a big part in the development of our technology capabilities as we went “on air” during COVID and has continued to train others to help. He is often the “go to” man when action is needed. Both of the Clarks are long-time members who have contributed to this church in so many ways. They are the kind who just pitch in to get the job done. You might find them in the kitchen some Wednesday nights, or a Saturday morning weed-ing around the church- not because they were asked, but because they saw the need. On Wednesdays, you can find Nancy with the knitters making prayer shawls for others. They are supportive people who love this church and give of themselves in so many ways.



**Thank you Bruce and Nancy!!!**

## FALL BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to attend our Fall bible study as we continue our study of 1st Corinthians. We began on **Tuesday, September 19 at 9:30 AM and will continue weekly throughout the season.** We meet in the Wesley Room. Please contact our office if you wish to order a study guide. This will be a virtual event as well so please join us online as we look deeply into Paul's amazing letter. Questions? See, or contact, Jeff Levy at: [jlevy@susumc.org](mailto:jlevy@susumc.org).





## 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 two people. We typically have three 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 eight to ten people. These eight to ten people will be trained on each of the three pieces of equipment used during a worship service.

Once trained, they will be added to the rotation to cover one 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](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

Practice has already started, but the Rivertown Ringers are still looking for more bell ringers! Have you played in the past and would like to join our fun group? We'd love to have you! Contact Kathy Hartman 651-430-2096.

## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet October 6 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.



## FAITH FORMATION

A plan is in place to offer Faith Formation on any given Sunday that children are present in worship. Following Christ's Kids time, the children and teachers will be invited to leave for their own class time downstairs for the remainder of the worship service. **It is important that people who volunteer at the Welcoming Table are aware of this, as they may well be the first to welcome a visiting family.** Those of you who bring your grandchildren to church will also want to know of this option for children.

As of now, three teachers are willing to leave worship to minister to the children. If you would be willing to be included in this list, please talk to Patsy Bellman. We may not have any young families in our congregation at the present time, but if we have something to offer for the children, it may encourage a visiting family to return.

## MISSIONS Christmas giving via Heifer International

FIRST UMC has lots of "Heifer History." Remember the Ark? Remember those amazing animal cookies? During October, Missions Team will highlight several ways to support Heifer International in 2023.

- On October 1 and October 8, take home THE **MOST IMPORTANT** GIFT CATALOG IN THE WORLD available in the lobby display. Do your Christmas shopping early. Thanks to YOUR order through the catalog, family members, business associates or friends may "give" an animal in THEIR name to a family through Heifer Project.
- On October 15, make your own donation to Heifer as you enjoy delicious decorated cookies during coffee time. Plunk your cash in the decorated box. You can also give in the offering plate with cash envelope or check to First UMC marked "Heifer."

Throughout October, learn about the work of Heifer International and THE **MOST IMPORTANT** GIFT CATALOG IN THE WORLD at <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/>.



## Thanks for your generous support of UMCOR

\$590 for three weeks in September. Because natural and man-made disasters keep coming, we keep giving. Here are three ways you can still give:

1. Write 'UMCOR' on your envelope or on the memo line of your check for the offering plate.
2. Designate a regular gift to UMCOR on our church website.
3. Give directly to UMCOR at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)



### OCTOBER

Oct. 3 Dorothy Reeves; Oct. 6 Allison Cossetta, Konnie Helwig, Jeremy Krentz; Oct. 7 Ted Gilbert; Oct. 10 Denice Kroening; Oct. 11 Emily Mayaka; Oct. 12 Luke Niethammer; Oct. 13 Pat Greupner, Nicole Larson; Oct. 15 Adam Frederick, Korinne Smith; Oct. 19 Linda Ash; Oct. 20 Scott Harvey; Oct. 21 Michelle Clark; Oct. 22 Kelli Auer, Oct. 23 Kathy Holst; Oct. 26 Julie Paukert; Oct. 29 Beverly Palumbo; Oct. 30 Jodi Larson.

# YOUTH COUNCIL

The plan for our youth is to have a service project and a fun event every month. To learn more, contact Linda Ash, 651-472-3548, or Cynthia Frederick, 651-214-9323

- September - A group of our youth participated in an event called CLUED on Saturday, September 22. Fun was had by all.
- October - Service: We plan to join a group from our congregation to host a "Trunk or Treat" community event on Sunday, October 29 4-6 PM.  
Fun: October 21 we plan to join a Haunted Hayride or travel to a Haunted House
- November - Service: Raking or outside help for those needing assistance  
Fun: TBD
- December - Service: Holiday Hope --- Adopt a family for Christmas gifts  
Fun: TBD

**Confirmation Class** has started. Contact Pastor Larsen for more information.

## TRUNK or TREAT

We will be hosting a TRUNK or TREAT in the front parking lot of the church on Sunday, October 29, from 4-6 PM. This event will help us be visible in the community and provide a safe Trick or Treating event for children. There are three different ways you may choose to participate. Take part in all three or choose the ones that work for you.



1. Decorate the trunk of your vehicle in a fun Halloween/Fall theme. Arrive at the front parking lot by 3:45 and stay until 6:00 PM, passing out candy to the children. Dressing up is not required, but it would add to the fun of the afternoon. Please sign up so we have a count of the number of vehicles participating. (Last year we had 10 - 12 cars; it would be great to have even more this year.)

2. Donate Wrapped Halloween Candy that will be handed out to the children. This can be left in a box in the office anytime prior to the event.

3. Help spread the word. Tell your children to bring the grandkids. Tell your neighbors and friends. Share or "Like" the church's Facebook announcement when you see it so more people hear about the event.

**THANK YOU!** A huge thank you to the following who participated in the Highway Pick Up on Saturday, September 23. They demonstrated not only their commitment to the environment, but the church's as well! Guia Parayno, Ben Jackson, Mike Ptacek, Leesa Levy, Jeff Levy, and Bruce Lundeen.

## COUNTRY STORE OFFERED AT THE CHILI COOK-OFF

November 4 is fast approaching and let's make our Country Store look great as people enter for their chili. All kinds of home-made items are always good sellers. Baked goods, candies, canned goods, holiday items, (Thanksgiving and Christmas) gift baskets, cards, jewelry, bittersweet and other Fall decorative items are welcome. Use your imagination and be thinking about your contributions to make this another success. Contributions can be brought to the office any time, but please have all contributions to the church on Friday, November 3, if possible.



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL IN REVIEW – September, 2023

The Administrative Council met on September 19 with 14 members present. Ben Jackson opened the meeting with devotions and a short video about Re-claiming our Administrative Councils. The video was provided by the conference.

The Worship Committee will be honoring local organizations on the fourth Sunday of every other month to bring awareness of the community to us and us to them. The first one was on September 24 and Sunny Hill was honored. A short presentation was included in the service and a framed letter of appreciation was presented as well as time to visit after the service.

Mary Harcey reported that the Martha Group is creating an Advent Calendar and each day will include a recommended Scripture to read, a “Good Deed” suggestion, and a Food Item for Valley Outreach. They partnered with Missions who will have Valley Outreach as their December emphasis.

Jim Nelson and Mark Ridgway reported that our projected income for this year will probably be short and that everyone is asked to consider their pledges. The church was awarded a grant from the United Methodist Builders to help with the building of the retaining wall on the east side of the church.

Ben Jackson and Jim Nelson are again co-chairing the Chili Cook-off and plans are underway. A Country Store is being offered this time and we are hoping for a worthy display for our customers. All of our members are encouraged to contribute and to ask friends and family to attend.

There is a hold on the Youth Director position and the Youth Council has planned several activities for our youth and will need our congregation to help by volunteering.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is advertising for the Organist, pianist and accompanist to replace Kathy Hartman who will be retiring from that position after 40 years of serving this church.

Bruce Clark will be training a few new people to be on the technology team so they will be able to serve on a rotating basis. Many thanks.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28th at 7pm. Mary Harcey—Recording Secretary

## RECOGNITION SUNDAY - September 24, 2023



Sunny Hill Preschool, in Stillwater, MN is beginning its 63<sup>rd</sup> year of operation and on September 24 the faculty and staff received a special letter of appreciation from the congregation of First United Methodist Church, Stillwater. The presentation was in recognition of the years of outstanding service that Sunny Hill has provided the families and children of the greater Stillwater area. The dedication of Sunny Hill's faculty to the physical, mental, emotional and educational growth of the children in their care continues to strengthen the community. The pre-school started as "Evans Nursery School" with Virginia Evans as lead teacher in 1960. Mary Harcey took over the directorship in 1975 and was joined by Mary Beth Leifeld in 1980. In 2006, the current co-directors, Janna (Leifeld) Sanderson and Mary Morelli took over. Additional faculty at this time include: Tori Meline, Nikki Kellogg, Cassie Swanson and Anya Roettger. Picture includes: In picture standing left to right: Mary Harcey, Janna Sanderson, Tori Meline, Cassie Swanson, Pastor Jenny Larsen.



## RECONCILING COMMITTEE

The book study *Rainbow In the Word* will continue after church (11:15 - noon) for four Sundays of October, led by Dick Fisher and ending on Oct 22.

Once a month we are inviting members to share with the congregation why becoming Reconciling is important to them. Mike Ptacek beautifully shared in September. We have others we have asked, but if you have a story you would like to share, please check in with a member of the Reconciling Committee.

Sunday, Oct. 29 - The Reconciling Committee is inviting members from other United Methodist Reconciling Churches to be on a panel discussion after church. This will be our chance to learn what happens when a church becomes Reconciling. The panel members will share about their church and it will be a time for us to bring our questions.

We are trying to provide this information to our congregation, because on a Sunday in November, we will hold a straw poll on the subject of becoming Reconciling. (A straw poll is an unofficial ballot conducted as a test of opinion.) This will not be the final decision, but a way to help the Committee better understand the view of the congregation on this topic. The date will be determined and published in the November newsletter. So, please take advantage of these learning opportunities.

Cynthia Frederick — Next meeting will be Oct 11 at 6:15 PM

## STRATEGY WORKSHOP FOR AD COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

"Join us October 21 at 10 AM for a leadership retreat at FIRST UMC Stillwater. We'll spend some time reviewing our mission, vision, and values, dream of what a better future may look like, and set some concrete strategic goals to get there. The retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Katie Matson-Daley. Katie has a Master of Arts in Community Ministry Leadership, and a Master of Divinity with a concentration in United Methodist Studies. Since 2004, Katie has worked for urban, suburban and small town churches across the Minnesota Annual Conference and currently serves as Pastor at Path of Grace UMC in Maplewood."



## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, November 4, 4-7 PM**

**Chili Cook-off & Country Store**

**Tell your neighbors, family & friends!!!**



