



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2024

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 March 2024

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!". And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!". I Corinthians 12:21



The Poet Carl Sandburg was asked what he thought was the ugliest word he had ever encountered. He said, "the ugliest word is exclusive".

Most people don't think that exclusive is ugly. In fact, many of us like exclusive neighborhoods, exclusive cars, and exclusive clothing. We like being with our "own kind", separated from the people who are different and "undesirable".

The pharisees hated Jesus' inclusiveness. They did not affirm his idea of equity for all God's children. There are rules and regulations one must adhere to. Yet, Jesus believed that worshipping the one true God and loving one's neighbor was the most important tenet of one's faith journey. Which meant being *inclusive*.

Sadly, even in our churches, we are not always as open to sharing as we need to be. Church is changing. We no longer should work off a model that insists it's the building that matters and only we few inside. For the church to thrive we must be inclusive which means sharing with others outside of what we know and understand. Yes, that can seem scary, but we do not follow a God who leads with fear. We follow a Savior who loves unconditionally, enacts mercy and justice and wants us to do the same.

Just as the hand needs the foot, we need to acknowledge that every part has a purpose, that each of God's children have worth and we all need each other if we are to further the Gospel of grace and love.

PRAYER: *Creator God, I pray that I respect the diversity of humankind and embrace that we are all one. Out of your glorious creation you made every nation of humankind live on all the earth with inclusion. You did this because You are a God of no partiality and You do not regard a person's nationality, color, gender, or orientation, but desire that we seek You, so that we may be saved. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Take a break from cooking - enjoy supper and fellowship each Wednesday evening at 5:30. Three teams of cooks take turns cooking the first 3 weeks of the month and March 27 is a potluck



WOMEN'S CIRCLE FYI...

On Thursday, March 14th, all women of the church are invited to attend our fellowship meeting at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We always have great food, insightful conversations and Christian fellowship- it's a winning combination for us all!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY March 10th



On March 10 our congregation will be honoring the **Stillwater Fire Department** as part of our on-going project to help us connect with our community. We hope you will plan to attend that day to hear words from Stuart Glaser, our Fire Chief for the past 20 years. He will also be available during the Fellowship time after the service to speak with you.

As a thank you we will be collecting "treats" for those who work at the Fire Station. A basket has been placed in the Gathering Space for you to add a treat the employees will enjoy. The basket will be presented to them on March 10.

THANK YOU FROM A SPECIAL MEMBER

Thank you to all the thoughtful members of the church who sent me Birthday cards for my 95th Birthday.

Ellen Campbell



THANK YOU FROM OUR NEW ORGANIST

To all of you at FIRST UNITED Methodist Church who have been so welcoming to me as your new organist! The "welcoming party" complete with cake and a beautiful bouquet was such a surprise, but a delightful one at that. Thank you all so very much! I feel very grateful to be at Stillwater FUMC and I'll do my very best to provide quality & interesting music for you!



Thanks again!

Ruthann



ACT OF KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS AWARD

Announcing our March Winner...

PATSY BELLMAN

Patsy is a **TOP TEN “Mover and Shaker”** at **FIRST UNITED** and has donated her time and talents for a life-time. Her dedication is truly markable! Patsy has done so much over the years with her “can do” attitude and selfless giving. Her contributions are too numerous to list! Here are a few examples of what Patsy has done recently. She is one of our top Wednesday supper chefs and you will often see her in the kitchen creating a delicious meal. She is also our church historian and educates our congregation with interesting tidbits from the past. Always focused on the well-being of our children, Patsy spearheads our children’s education programs, plans spiritual curriculum and coordinates volunteers to make sure all children know and feel God’s loving arms. The next time you see Patsy, please let her know how much she is appreciated and loved.



RECONCILING COMMITTEE Cynthia Frederick, Chair

The Reconciling Committee has recommended that the congregation vote to adopt the Reconciling Statement at a Charge Conference on April 21st, after church. This meeting will be presided over by the District Superintendent. Only church members, present on that day, will be able to vote.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of the Reconciling Committee: Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann, Lizzie Bellman, Mike Ptacek and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen. The statement can be found on the website and will be posted in the April Newsletter.

Cynthia Frederick, Chair



MARCH HISTORY MOMENT BY PATSY

Twenty-five years ago a Palm Sunday Tenebrae Service was held as part of the Lenten offerings. Anita Carter cooked a Pancake Breakfast on Camping Sunday with the contributions going to camperships. Over \$700. was given.

Ten years ago the Missions Committee encouraged the congregation to fill the back pew with food contributions for Valley Outreach during March. \$660, and 204 pounds of food were collected.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet March 1 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



Discover FIRST UNITED Methodist Church

Our loving, welcoming, Christ centered community of faith wants ALL people to know they are wrapped in God's love. You are invited to know and experience God's love through worship, music, prayer, fellowship, small groups, and community outreach.

Wrapping ALL people in God's Love is the mission of the FIRST UNITED Methodist Church. We embrace the following statement included in the global United Methodist Church Book of Discipline: "We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic right of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection."



If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact our Administrator, Denice Kroening, to get your new member packet. 651-439-1880. Please specify if you want it emailed or snail mailed. We are planning to have a new members class Wednesday, April 3, 2024, from 6-7pm and would love to have you join us for the meal prior at 5:30pm. A Sunday TBD will be set for the reception of new members.

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE!

The Scrip Order Schedule is posted on the church website homepage under Announcements. The next order is scheduled on March 3. Orders can be placed after Sunday worship services, Wednesday dinners, or anytime by email to the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com. Order blanks are available at the church Information Center. Payment for email orders can be dropped off at the church during office hours.



CARING MINISTRIES

The Caring Ministries Team supports those in our church community that are in need. We do this with:



- Grief Ministry for those that have lost loved-ones
- Card Ministry for those that are ill, grieving, or alone
- Soup Ministry for those that are ill, homebound or otherwise in need of food
- Meal Train for those that are ill, homebound, or unable to purchase or cook their own food
- Home Communion for those that are homebound and desire to share in monthly Communion
- Conversation Partners for those that are homebound, ill, depressed, or otherwise in need of a friend

If you know of someone that would benefit from this ministry, please contact the church office and ask that a message be sent to the Caring Ministries Team. We appreciate all volunteers who would like to do a one-time outreach or be part of the ongoing team. If interested, please let us know. Next meeting is Thursday, March 21 at 10:30 in the Wesley Room

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our Branding Team is on the move again! We are planning to purchase a new table for the Narthex that will match the two high tops already there. It will really tie the room together!

The table and chairs will be funded by donations with the target amount of \$800. Please support this worthy initiative - indicate on your check "Narthex Table".

Sincerely,

Nancy Nelson SPRC Co-Chair

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

- PLEASE mark your calendars.
Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm following 5:30pm meal.
- March 24, Palm Sunday, 10am (worship here).
- Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday, 5:30pm soup supper with communion, brief service to follow in sanctuary at 6:30pm.
- Friday, March 29, Good Friday noon meditative service.
- **Sunday, March 31, 7am sunrise service, 10am traditional service.**



MARCH

Mar. 3 Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen; Mar. 4 Angela Schmid; Mar. 5 Nancy Clark; Mar. 8 James White, Patrick White; Mar. 12 Jesse Hartley, Kassie Krinke; Mar. 14 Janna Meline Mar. 16 Randy Darling, Kim Salmela; Mar. 17 Lisa Bevans; Mar. 18 Marie Bauer; Mar. 24 Philip Eitzman, Mar. 26 Larry Ehret, Mar. 27 Sally Chrystal, Matt Leifeld; Mar. 30 Kelsey Niethammer; Mar. 31 Adam Anderson, Kevin Leines.

YOUTH COUNCIL

In January, our Youth got together and baked cookies for our former youth who have graduated in the last four years. We then sent the treats with our good wishes to them. Plans for a monthly service project and a fun activity are in process. The Youth Council welcomes anyone that would like to be part of this ministry to join either as a **member** of the Youth Council, a **mentor** for one of our youth, or a one-time **supporter** of an activity. Our next meeting will be in early March.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, discussion, and fellowship. The meeting on March 9 will be at the Lowell Inn at 8 a.m. Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the UMM mailing list.



