



# FIRST UNITED

## METHODIST CHURCH

**MARCH, 2025**  
**Office Hrs.: M-Th, 9AM-4PM**  
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### PASTOR'S PAUSE MARCH 2025



What is Lent? The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lengten” which simply means “lengthen or spring” - when the days lengthen and new life springs forth.

It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. It is, to borrow a phrase from C. S. Lewis, a season of a kind of “happiness and wonder that makes you serious.”

It is my prayer that as you journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you would be reminded of the reality of our broken humanity, but as days grow brighter, you would experience with greater abundance the reality of God’s redeeming grace.

And so, just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, perhaps a graduation or an anniversary, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus’ death and resurrection first and foremost.

In as such, the Lenten scriptures that follow have been chosen to help us reflect during this special time of repentance and reflection. (\*All scriptures are taken from the NIV translation)

- **Isaiah 58:6** Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
- **I Peter 5:6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that God may lift you up in due time.

**Matthew 6:16-18** When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Creator, who is unseen; and your God, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- **Romans 12:12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Daily meditation:** *Let this day, (especially Ash Wednesday), be a day for fewer words all day long. Let it be a day for some stillness, for paying quiet attention to mystery, to beauty, to the sacred. In the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, Amen.*

## RECONCILING TASK FORCE Cynthia Frederick, Chair

The Committee is seeking feedback from all of you. **Please fill out the survey you will find in this newsletter on page 5.** We will also have the surveys available at the back of the church during the last 4 Sundays of March. Return the survey to the office (in person, via mail or email).

Also, we have Matt Lewellyn-Otten, (he/him, they/them) Associate Director of Religious Organizing at Out-Front Minnesota, scheduled for a final class of the Spring on Sunday, May 18 th , in the Fellowship Hall, right after church.

Reconciling Committee: Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann, Lizzie Bellman, Mike Ptacek, and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen.



## WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith United will meet on Thursday March 13th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Our hostesses will be Kathy Rundquist and Diane Jackson. Please join us for fellowship and a surprise program. All are welcome.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (April 16 to April 20)

Wednesday, 4/16 Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 pm

Thursday, 4/17 Maundy Thursday Communion 6:30 pm

Friday, 4/18 Tenebrae Service 7 pm

Sunday, 4/20 Easter Sunrise Service and 10 am Service



# HOLY WEEK

HAPPY EASTER!



## EASTER FLOWER OPPORTUNITIES

Again this year we are asking our congregation to help make our sanctuary beautiful on Easter.

On Sundays (the 9th through the 30th) you will have the opportunity to fill out a form and contribute to flowers and/or music. There is also the opportunity to dedicate your gift of money in honor or memory of loved ones.

Contribution forms will be available at the table in the gathering space on each of those Sundays along with a box to drop your contribution and form in-to. They will also be available at the ushers table and can be dropped into the collection plate.

## SCRIP IS AVAILABLE!

The Scrip Order Schedule is posted on the church website homepage <https://fumcstillwater.com/> under Announcements and on the church Information Center. The next order will be placed on March 9. Orders can be placed after Sunday worship services or anytime by email to the church office at [fumcstillwater@gmail.com](mailto:fumcstillwater@gmail.com). Order blanks are available at the church Information Center or in the office. Payment for email orders can be dropped off at the church during office hours.



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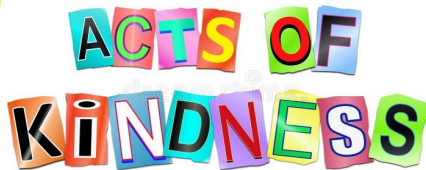
## UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, free range discussion, and fellowship. The March 8 meeting 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.



## ACT OF KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS AWARD

### Announcing our **MARCH Winner...CYNTHIA FREDERICK**



*Cynthia has been part of our congregation since 2000. She came here from Hamline Church, which was a Reconciling Congregation. She has loved the spirit of FIRST UNITED since the beginning and came here during the tenure of Rev. Mary Ellen Nielsen. Her husband is Adam Frederick and her children are Alex and Jax. She has been active in multiple ways in the last 25 years, beginning being part of Open Circle as soon she arrived in 2000.*

*Cynthia's heart has always been to support Reconciling Ministries. She was active during our Healthy Church Initiative project under the tenure of Rev. Dan Bader when a direction to become a Reconciling Community was agreed upon. She was the Youth Director for 3-4 years and Interim Director before that. More recently, FIRST UNITED voted to become a Reconciling Congregation in April of 2024 under the tenure of Rev. Jenny Larsen. In anticipation of that vote and since then, Cynthia has led the Reconciling Task Force, made up of a very committed group of our congregation, dedicated to implement a series of next steps that fully embrace our future of acceptance across all nationalities, genders, ethnicities, and all other perceived differences between people. She also is hosting monthly informational events for OutFront Minnesota. Thank YOU Cynthia for supporting ALL of us!*

## A LOOK BACK IN OUR HISTORY By Patsy Bellman

**1975 - 50 Years Ago,** The worship committee reports that they re-designed the choir's participation in the worship service enabling choir members to join family and friends in the congregation after the anthem.

**1990 - 35 Years Ago,** The Last Supper Drama was presented for the second time with choirs and liturgical dance. A two octave set of chimes was purchased with memorial funds for the sum of \$798. to supplement the bells and to be used by the children's chime choir.

**2000 - 25 Years Ago,** The UMW, (United Methodist Women,) report that Anita Carter was in charge of the kitchen for the Fall Harvest Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, and 4 Luncheons served to Tour Groups along with the regular Wednesday Night Suppers.

## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet March 7 at 12:30 p.m. 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.



## YOUTH COUNCIL

Here are plans for youth and children's programs through May.

- Early March youth will have a make your own pizza and movie night Friday, March 21.
- Early April, probably Saturday, April 12th - event for young church and Sunny Hill families to include crafts, story, and an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> for children in the congregation.
- Early May youth and Youth Council to create Mother's Day flower gifts for congregation and distribute on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Late spring or summer youth will volunteer for a shift at Feed My Starving Children- date tbd.

## WEDNESDAY DINNERS

All are welcome to the meal served each Wednesday in the Klaus Fellowship Hall at 5:30. The first three weeks are prepared by teams of cooks and a donation of \$7.00 per person is suggested to cover expenses. The final Wednesday of each month is a POTLUCK dinner, so each family is asked to bring a dish to share. This month the potluck will be on March 26.



## COMMUNITY DINNER

On Friday, March 28 our church will be hosting the "Fourth Friday Community Meal". Adam Frederick is heading up this endeavor and is looking for people interested in helping. The church is asked to serve the meal and provide a fellowship activity from 5:30 - 7:30.



### 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 Sanderson, Mar. 16 Randy Darling, Kim Salmela; 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.**

# SURVEY FROM THE RECONCILING COMMITTEE

The Reconciling Committee is seeking feedback from the Church on ways to better support our church members and the LGBTQIA+ community. The things the Committee has done so far includes:

- \*Celebrated Pride month.
- \*Hung a Progressive Pride Flag outside our building.
- \*Had 3 classes, led by Matt Llewelyn-Otten, from OutFront MN, on understanding how to be a more open and welcoming church to the LGBTQIA+ community.

We are looking to find out what people are interested in continuing, along with new ideas. Please complete the survey below. (You are welcome to mark all the ideas you are interested in the church doing.) Return the surveys to the office.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly group for parents/siblings/family member of someone LGBTQIA+
- \_\_\_\_\_ More classes to help us understand language, terms & how to be welcoming
- \_\_\_\_\_ More classes that look at the Bible
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guest preachers from the LGBTQIA+ community
- \_\_\_\_\_ More classes from Matt (from OutFront Minnesota)
- \_\_\_\_\_ More classes led by someone new
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly small group to talk or do things around the issue of Reconciling:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have the church participate in Pride events in the metro or locally by:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Having a group walk in the parade
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Be part of the Reconciling Congregations Booth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have a Speaker series

Other ideas:

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