



# FIRST UNITED

## METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 2025

Office Hrs.: M-Th, 9AM-2PM

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### PASTOR'S PAUSE SUMMER 2025

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. — Proverbs 27:17*

When your kitchen knives get dull, chances are you have a handy tool in a drawer that allows you to re-sharpen the blade with a few simple strokes of the metal across the tool. Or perhaps you have a whetstone in your workshop that allows you to renew the blade on your tools.

But in the ancient world, the process of sharpening tools wasn't so easy. The process required persistent striking of metal on metal to achieve the desired shape and sharpness. Not only that, but the metal being used to sharpen had to be at least as strong as the object striking it, and it had to hold up to multiple blows and sometimes even great amounts of heat.

Sound like a familiar situation in your life?

In the same way, relationships require perseverance and resilience. With time your best relationships will help to sharpen, strengthen, and improve you. There are no shortcuts in this process, it takes time and can be arduous.

You can probably look back over your own life and identify one or two relationships you've had for many years and see how this concept has played out. And you can see how the end result is something strong and quite beautiful.

**God wants you to be in relationships with others who, like iron sharpening iron, will help transform you into an effective instrument of God's grace and love.**

**Prayer Challenge:** Ask God to show you areas in your life that need sharpening and ask God to help you persevere in the relationships God wants for you.

**Question for thought:** Who is one person you can count on to sharpen you?

Have a blessed Summer!

Peace in Christ, Pastor Jenny

THE CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS WILL  
BEGIN ON JUNE 2 AND WILL BE  
9 AM—2 PM THRU LABOR DAY  
*ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!*

## WOMEN OF FAITH

Our **June** meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th at 11:00am. Notice the time change for this gathering, please. Our hostesses Randi and Edda would like you to bring a favorite salad for this luncheon. We will be going to Randi Torgerson's home at 450 Broadway in Stillwater for this event. Bring your own lawn chair. Plates, cups, silverware, napkins and beverages will be provided. The theme for our meeting will be *Memories Old and New of our church gatherings* so begin thinking about the ones you would like to share. If it **RAINS** we will be at the church. All are WELCOME



## RECONCILING TASK FORCE Cynthia Frederick, Chair

It's June, which is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month! June officially became Pride Month in the US in 1999, when President Clinton declared it Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, commemorating the Stonewall Riots. The first Pride marches took place in 1970, it took 30 years for the month to be officially recognized at the federal level. Pride month is very important to the LGBTQIA+ community and it's allies. As our church leans in to being Reconciling and as a way to support both our LGBTQIA+ members and our parents of LGBTQIA+ members, the church will be decorated in Pride colors all month. The Fellowship Hall will have flags on the tables to represent the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community. Please take a moment each time you are in the hall to learn about a different flag.

The Reconciling Committee: Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann, Lizzie Bellman, Mike Ptacek, and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen. Consider joining the committee, as we seek to live into God's plan for us.

The next Reconciling Meeting, is Wednesday, June 11, 6:15pm, at Washington Square Park



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

The All Church Picnic will be held at Washington Square following worship on June 8. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided along with all the fixings, cold beverages and tableware. **Bring a dish to share to round out the meal—such as salad, fruit, veggies, chips or dessert.** The park has limited electric outlets, so cold items might be best. The cooks will begin cooking when the worship service is finished. Yard games such as Bocce Ball, Corn Hole Toss and Ladder Ball will be set out for use both before or after the meal. Remember to bring a lawn chair for the worship service and to pull up to a table as there are only 4 picnic tables at the park shelter.

**Directions to Washington Square:** from the church - travel south on Greeley Street towards the hospital. Washington Square is on your left between Abbot and Churchill St. Parking is allowed along the east side of Greeley and on Abbott St.



## SUMMER PICNICS

The Wednesday night prepared meals are over until September, but potluck picnics are held each week at Washington Square Park at 5:30. Bring a dish to share, enjoy the fellowship of friends. If you enjoy games stick around for a board game.

# ACT OF KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS AWARD

## Announcing our **JUNE Winner...BONNIE HAINES**



The SPRC team wishes to recognize BONNIE HAINES as the recipient of June's Act of Kindness and Thoughtfulness Award. Bonnie is a lifelong Methodist and a long-time member of FIRST UNITED. Her roles have been many. She is a long-time Trustee and has worked on many parts of the building and grounds, inside and out. She is always an avid leader of our annual spring clean-up. As an owner of BJ Haines Tree service, anytime there is a need to trim, prune, repair, or plant a tree, she is there to help. She is an integral member

of the Tech Team which is responsible for sharing the Sunday service with our on-line visitors. Additionally, she has been an important cook at many functions and for Wednesday Night Dinners. We are grateful!



## SCRIP IS AVAILABLE!

The Scrip Order Schedule is posted on the church website home-page <https://fumcstillwater.com/> under Announcements and on the church Information Center. The next order will be placed on **June 1**. 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 June 14 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.



## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet **June 6 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.



## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Lily Wright was confirmed on Sunday, May 4 and a cake and celebration were held after the service.
- The Youth distributed flowers to the women in the congregation following the service on Mother's Day.
- Freya Haugen will be honored on graduation Sunday, June 1 with an ice cream social.
- On Father's Day, June 14, the Youth will honor the Dads.
- A community service project and fun activity is planned for the youth this summer. Details to come.
- Beginning June 1, Vicki Stewart will become the new chair of the team.

## A MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY BY PATSY BELLMAN

It was back in 1874 that a wonderful pipe organ was purchased for the new Methodist Episcopal that had been built on Third Street in 1869. The pump organ was moved from the Third St. church to the Fourth Street church when the Methodist Episcopal and Swedish Methodist churches united in 1945 and it continued to be used. The education wing of the church was built at our present location during the fall of 1956 and ready for use in February of 1957. At the time of the move, the pump organ was sold and purchased by Elvera Conley, a member of our congregation, for her home. The pump organ had sentimental meaning for Elvera as she had served as organist for several years in the Third Street church playing this very organ! Older members will remember Elvera as a choir member as she sang at church for over 50 years. In 1984 Elvera gifted the pump organ back to the church. Recently the pump organ has rested in the sanctuary on the right hand side in what used to be the east choir loft. It has occasionally been used for a special event. Kathy Hartman gave her legs a workout playing it for the Glory Patri at the 175 Celebration. You will notice that the pump organ has once again found a "new home". It has been moved to a new place of honor in the Klaus Fellowship Hall where it was placed under the cross from the Swedish Methodist Church on Fourth Street. The cross and pump organ have now been reunited after a separation of 52 years. The organ is long past its prime, but it has value in its historic nature.



### JUNE

June 2 Sue Hibberd; June 7 Tom Ash; June 11 Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann; June 14 Dwayne Nelson; June 15 Cynthia Frederick; June 16 Grace Miller; June 17 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 Sjobeck; June 27 Josie Haugen;

## HIGHWAY PICK UP THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped with the highway pick up **on Saturday, May 3**. It's a great way to contribute to our community looking clean and beautiful!

With appreciation,

Bruce Lundeen



## MUSIC TEAM

The music team welcomes volunteers to provide special music during the summer services. Please contact Gregory Schroeder at [schroeder1954@yahoo.com](mailto:schroeder1954@yahoo.com) or call him at 407-973-8839.



## CARING MINISTRIES TEAM

The Caring Ministries Team offers support to people in our congregation who are in need of care in the form of Grief Support, Meals, Home Communion, Visits, Conversation, or Cards. If you know of anyone that you believe would benefit, please call the Church Office. We appreciate all of our volunteers, whether making a one-time meal or part of our on-going ministry. Our next meeting is **Thursday, June 26 at 10:30 AM**. All are welcome.





# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF—MAY 15

1. Joni Burns and Patricia McKisson from First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater discussed an event “Guns to Gardens” planned for October 4, 2025. People who wish to discard a household gun can present the weapon at the event. It will be disabled with a saw on site and later forged into a garden tool. Information on the event is available at <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence-prevention#guns-to-gardens>
2. The sanctuary altar area will be reconfigured with movement of the pulpit to the east side and relocation of the piano to the altar level. The pump organ will be moved to the Fellowship Hall.
3. FIRST UNITED will provide chairs for the New Heights Fine Arts Festival on May 20.
4. The Trustees are obtaining pricing for several projects: ADA Restroom, \$26,000 to \$30,000; Keypad Front Door Lock, \$6,000 to \$8,000; Rear Parking Lot Repair, \$480. (After the meeting: Tech Team Platform, \$26,483)
5. The new office computer is in service.
6. The Reconciling presentation scheduled for May 18 has been postponed due to a death in the presenter's family.
7. Worship & Potluck Picnic in Washington Square Park is June 8.
8. Annual Conference is June 11 - 13. Meggan Macomber and Greg Hartman plan to attend. Conference materials can be obtained through the church website.
9. Planning continues for participation with Sunny Hill in the Lumberjack Parade July 20.
10. FIRST UNITED will host a Red Cross Blood Drive July 21.

## FIRST ANNUAL NEW HEIGHTS ARTS FESTIVAL...



The first annual New Heights Arts Festival was held on May 20 from 2:30-3:15 pm. Students participating were in grades K-5. Faculty involved included Miss Claire, Miss Christie & Miss Abby and volunteers were Leesa Levy & Ann Haraldson.

Ann set up the children's art so that every student was represented and the parents had a chance to view their children's art. Some of the students read poetry and others read portions of stories they had written. Each grade sang two prepared songs and the 4-5 graders performed a drum line drill they had composed. The concert portions ended with everyone singing "This Land is Your Land". Refreshments provided by the church were enjoyed by all. The event was a

great success & plans are being made for the next school year.

Anyone wanting to be involved, please contact Pastor Jenny.