



# FIRST UNITED

## METHODIST CHURCH

**MARCH 2026**

**Office Hrs.: M-Th, 9AM-4PM**

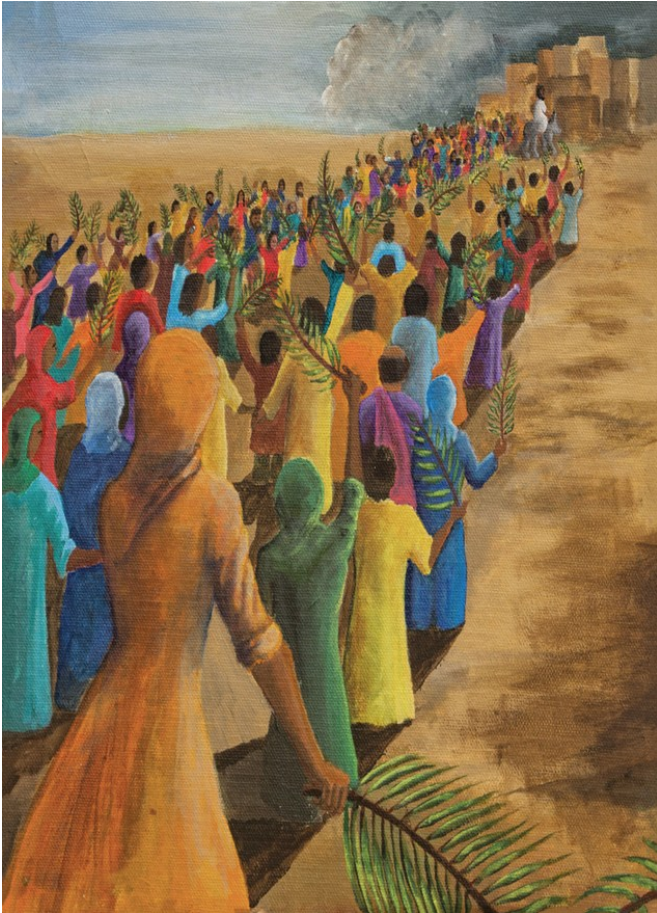
**phone: 651.439.1880**

**fumcstillwater@gmail.com**

**813 W. Myrtle Steet**

**Stillwater, MN 55082**

### **PASTOR'S PAUSE - MARCH 2026 (Artist unknown)**



Jesus said to [Mary Magdalene], “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher) ...’Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”  
*John 20: 15-16, 18*

Jesus’ interactions with women surprised those around him. He talked to, befriended, ate and celebrated with, and healed women. Jesus was revolutionarily different than others in his society in the way he saw women. These connections, as told through Gospel stories of unnamed women, are not only still relevant to our current climate, but they are essential to understanding the good news.

In the story of Mary Magdalene, she and Jesus had a special connection. And for Mary Magdalene, this is the best part...one encounter with the Savior was so powerful it captivates, redirects, and propels her into a new life.

Similarly, she is the first to see Jesus outside the empty tomb on Easter Morning. And because she was the first she was commissioned by Jesus to tell others and is later

referred to as *Apostola Apostolorum*. Meaning “apostle to the apostles” and becoming his key evangelizer. Powerful!

Especially in this Lenten season, we have the same opportunity. Accepting the love of God launches you into a new life. Like Mary Magdelene, a chance to share the Gospel.

Now, following Jesus does not mean your fear, discouragement, disappointment, and pain disappear. Part of living is encountering and overcoming difficulty, but you **choose** whether you face problems surrendered with God by your side .... problems surrendered with God by your side ...or alone.

Mary Magdelene and the disciples chose to be evangelists for Christ. Will you?

**PRAYER:** *Creator God, as I live into this Lenten journey, fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace. Help me to quiet the noise, surrender my burdens, and walk intentionally toward your glory. May I see your goodness, feel your love, and reflect your heart in all I do. Amen.*

# WOMEN OF FAITH, UNITED

Our March meeting will be held on **March 12** at **10 o'clock** in the Fellowship Hall at church. The program will be on the “**Power of Prayer and Getting to Know One Another Better.**”



We have two wishes for our meeting. First, we are asking each member to bring a daily prayer that is part of their life’s journey, or a devotional resource that we may enjoy learning about as well. We hope to compile these prayers and use them on the prayer board in the Narthex.

Secondly, we will be holding a circle activity during our meeting. The hope is that each person brings a card that has three statements that share information about themselves. Using this information, we hope the sharing with our new members and others will allow us all to get to know one another better.

**We look forward to wrapping all of us in God’s Love.**

## SCRIP ORDER MARCH 1



# RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

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 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.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

Join the United Methodist Men for a monthly devotion, breakfast, free range discussion, and fellowship. We are continuing our study of Unafraid by Rev Adam Hamilton. The **March 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 **March 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.



## WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Everyone is welcome to join in the meal served each **Wednesday** evening in the Klaus Fellowship Hall at **5:30**. The first three weeks are prepared by volunteers 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 25**.



A month ago we started sharing food leftovers from our meals with some families that have been “sheltering at home.” The plan is to continue sharing in this ministry for as long as there is a need.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Save the date! **Wednesday, April 14**, right after dinner we will have a special concert by Bobby Jo Valentine. He is a faith-rooted singer songwriter. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Social Justice Ministry Team: Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann, Mike Ptacek, Lizzie Bellman and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen



**Social Justice**  
/soh-shuhl juhs-tis / noun

Social Justice refers to the view that everyone deserves equal rights, opportunities, and treatment regardless of their race, economic status, sexuality, or gender identity.

Photo Credit: Unsplash Tim Mosholder



## MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER

To my Church family,  
Thank you everyone for your thoughts, your prayers and cards during my recovery.  
Bonnie Haines

# COMMUNITY MEAL

On **Friday, March 27** our church will be hosting the “Fourth Friday Community Meal”. Adam Frederick will be heading up this endeavor and will be looking for volunteers to help him cook and serve the meal. Volunteers will also be needed to make dessert items.



# CYF PRE-EASTER EVENT

The Children Youth and Family Ministry Team is hosting an event for Families with Young Children from both Sunny Hill and our own Church Families. On Saturday morning, **April 4 from 10:00 - 11:15** there will be games, art projects, a story and an Easter Egg Hunt. Bring the grandchildren and / or share the invitation with young families you know.



# A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY - BY PATSY BELLMAN

Leroy Larson served as Head Usher in 1976. He instituted a new practice of inviting ladies to serve as ushers. He also reported that 115 different people served as ushers during 1976. In March of 1981 the decision

was made to raise money to purchase new Senior Choir robes and the brainstorming began on how to raise the funds.



Rev. Perry Hultin returned one Sunday in March of 1996 as our guest preacher during the year of celebrating the church's 150th year. The worship service was held in the fellowship hall as that is where worship services were held before the sanctuary was built and Rev. Perry Hultin was our pastor at that time: 1957 - 1961.

## CARE TEAM MINISTRIES

This team provides care and support for friends and members of FIRST UNITED that are ill, alone, grieving, or otherwise in need. A grief ministry, card ministry, meal train, soup ministry or visits provide this support.



Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **April 16 at 10:30am**. Please feel free to join us in person or via zoom. Please contact the church office for more information.

## TECH DECK PROJECT KICKOFF

The Audio-Visual Tech Team has been patiently campaigning for a platform that will allow them a better view of the altar area, particularly when the congregation is standing. Their patience is now going to be rewarded. The Trustees have assembled a project consisting of an 8' x 9' platform, 21" above the floor, located in the southwest corner of the sanctuary. The project includes an additional desk for equipment storage, additional microphone coverage in the Sanctuary along with movement of the existing gear and electrical service onto the new Tech Deck. We anticipate a 6 to 8 week construction duration which principally depends on the delivery date of the equipment desk.

The estimated cost of this effort is \$13,000; an initial donation covering about 30% has been received. The Trustees and Finance Committee request "extra mile" donations to help cover the cost of this effort. Show the Tech Team some Love! Mark donations with the notation "Tech Deck".

## EASTER FLOWERS/PLANTS/MUSIC donation



Our Easter season is upon us early this year. Once again we are giving people the opportunity to contribute for Easter flowers/plants and/or to the music program. Forms can be filled out and returned by putting in the collection plate, the office, or in the box in the gathering space. Please have order forms and money turned in by Sunday, March 22.

If you contribute, please feel free to take something home after Easter service. Thanks so much. Martha Group.



### MARCH

Mar. 3 Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen; Mar. 4 Angela Schmid; Mar. 5 Nancy Clark; Mar. 8 James White, Patrick White; Mar. 11 Vicki Stewart, Mar. 12 Jesse Hartley, Kassie Krinke; Mar. 14 Janna Sanderson, Mar. 16 Randy Darling, Mar. 18 Marie Bauer; Mar. 24 Philip Eitzman, Tom Florey, Mar. 26 Larry Ehret, Mar. 27 Matt Leifeld; Mar. 30 Kelsey Niethammer; Mar. 31 Adam Anderson, Kevin Leines.

# MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team gives a huge round of applause to Ann Haralson and the Women of Faith AND United Methodist Men (UMM) for their Heifer International Project efforts. Eight goats were purchased to empower self sufficient farming. What a great success!



The Mission Team is continuing to collect items for two elementary schools, two high schools and Valley Outreach during this troubled time. Each school has supplied us with a list of desired items. These lists are available at the information desk in the church narthex and on our web site. Many of the items remain similar from school to school, although Harding High School is asking for Bagged fresh produce, and Bruce Vento is also looking for card games, art/craft supplies and books suitable for elementary school children. We will keep this drive going through March. We ask that when you are getting groceries or shopping for your children/grand children please think of picking up an additional item or two to donate to the mission shelves.

Bonnie Haines is going to Tanzania!!! Wow, what a mission trip! To aid her success in this endeavor, Bonnie is looking for sewing notions to take with her. Thread, sewing needles, sewing machine needles for foot-powered sewing machines, buttons, hook-and-eyes, snaps, bias binding, small sewing scissors, etc. – anything but material (it's too heavy to take with her on the airplane). Questions? Please talk to Bonnie and she'll fill you in!

The Mission Team is planning more events through June. Our next meeting is April 12 if you'd like to join us!



*Palm Sunday March 29,  
10am worship  
Good Friday April 3,  
5pm service  
Easter Sunday April 5,  
10am worship*

\*\*\*\*\*

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR SAT-  
URDAY EVENING 3/7 OR EARLY  
SUNDAY MORNING SO  
YOU'RE NOT LATE FOR  
CHURCH!**

\*\*\*\*\*

