



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2026

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PASTOR'S PAUSE APRIL 2026



“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6)

Let me encourage you to not let go of the Resurrection Celebration so quickly. I know Easter has passed; we are back to work; and maybe the kids or grandkids are back in school. Things will now go back to “normal” (whatever that is :-). Yet those of us who have surrendered to the saving work and lordship of Jesus Christ have been changed forever.

We do not live by resurrection power only on one day of the year. We are encouraged to go forward with boldness and the power of resurrection every day of our lives. Yes, it is easy to fall into the mundane routine of things and to forget all of the benefits of what God has done for us.

But friends, we have so much to be thankful for! Almost sounds like a cliché, and yet it is true. We have spiritual comfort in this life; and we have great promises for the age to come. The very same Spirit who rose Jesus from the dead now dwells in us to give us life (Rom 8:11); to change us from the inside-out

(Rom 8:13); to pour the love of God into our hearts (Rom 5:5); and to tell us that we are God’s children (Rom 8:16). Move forward in the Spirit! Christ was not in that tomb on the Third Day. He is risen. Likewise, we are no longer in the tomb. We are not in the pit of despair. We have been united with Him through baptism that just as He died and rose again, we, too, have been brought from death to life.

Now, let us “Go and tell” the good news! Wherever you go—go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and tell others (whenever the opportunity arises) that they can experience the very same blessings. Christ lives! Christ is risen! Christ is reason indeed!

PRAYER: Beloved Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, make us faithful followers of the spirit of Your Resurrection. Grant that we may be inwardly renewed, dying to ourselves in order that You may live in us. May our lives serve as signs of the transforming power of Your love. This we ask in the name of the living and reigning Savior, Jesus the Christ, Amen

BOBBY JO VALENTINE



HEART-OPENING, AWARD-WINNING FOLK/POP

The Social Justice Ministry Team and FUMC Music Ministry Team is excited to be hosting singer, songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine for a concert here at **FIRST UMC Wednesday, April 15, at 7pm** following our community meal.

Growing up and emerging out of a Baptist Church of strict lines and sharp edges, Bobby Jo Valentine has emerged into a larger, kinder, more welcoming faith...one that is excited to learn, open to growth, and focused on love.

Bobby Jo Valentine's music exists outside the lines of any genre, but the music's thoughtful, spirit-focused lyrics and catchy melodies reach listeners across all walks of life. The poetic nature and spiritual focus of his stories and songs have resulted in notable awards and a growing, loyal following around the country. He's found a voice with original, hopeful songs about the gentle everyday spiritual awakenings of an openhearted life.

Please feel free to share this information with your friends and family. It is sure to be a joy-filled, life-giving event!



WOMEN OF FAITH, UNITED

Linda Ash and I will be hosting the Women of Faith on **Thursday, April 9 at 10:00am** at church. There will be a program on Brother Lawrence — “Practicing the Presence Of God. Snacks and fellowship included without charge; all women invited and we hope to see you there!

Yours in Christ,
Linda and Chris



SCRIP ORDER APRIL 12

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 **April 12**. Orders can be placed after Sunday worship services or anytime by email to the church office at 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. We are continuing our study of *Unafraid* by Rev Adam Hamilton. The **April 11** meeting will be at the Lowell Inn at **8am**. Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the UMM mailing list.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Join us, Wednesday, April 15, 7 pm, right after dinner. We will have a special concert by Bobby Jo Valentine. He is a faith-rooted singer songwriter. The cost will be a free will offering.



Social Justice Ministry Team is growing. New members are Jeff Levy, Meggan Macomber and Jenny Sherwin along with Cynthia Frederick, Patsy Bellman, Sharry Swann, Mike Ptacek, Lizzie Bellman and Pastor Jenny Lind Larsen. Please consider joining our next meeting, Sunday, April 12 at 11:15.

Also, hold the date for Hudson Pride, June 20th, 10 am – 4 pm. The event will be held at the Lakefront Park in Hudson, WI. Stillwater First UMC will have a table at this event and we will be looking for members to help out at the table. It is a very fun, family friendly event. We will have sign up sheets in May.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet **April 10 at 12:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting is one week later than usual due to Good Friday observance. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list



WEDNESDAY DINNERS



Each Wednesday a meal is served in the Klaus Fellowship Hall at **5:30pm**. Volunteer cooks prepare a meal on most Wednesdays, and the final Wednesday of the month is a potluck. A suggested donation of \$7.00 covers the cost of the food and all the miscellaneous supplies needed to stock the kitchen.

On the final Wednesday, your donation is the gift of food that you prepare to share at the potluck. This month the **potluck** will be on **April 29**. Come and enjoy the fellowship over the shared meals.

EMERGENCY CONTACT REGISTRY

All members of groups that meet at the church are encouraged to provide cell phone contact information for their preferred emergency contact to the Office Administrator or the Pastor. The Registry is voluntary and will not be shared outside the church office. Leaders of church groups will be notified of the location of the list in the office. The purpose of the Registry is to allow expeditious notification in the event of a medical emergency in the church building.

CARING TEAM MINISTRIES

The Caring Ministries Team is focused on the care and support of friends and members of our congregation. This is done in the form of a:

- Grief Ministry for those that have lost loved-ones
- Card Ministry for those that are ill, grieving, or are 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

New team members are welcome.

We would love you to join our team if you would like to participate either:

- As a member of the team who meets every 4-6 weeks to plan, review, and determine steps necessary to fulfill our multiple ministries
- Participate in one or more of the above ministries and have NO MEETINGS. Please contact the church office.

Next meeting is planned for **Thursday, April 23rd at 10:30am** in person or via Zoom. All are welcome. Please contact the church office for details.



WHO NEEDS A PRAYER SHAWL?



Maybe you. Maybe someone you know. Anyone who might be grieving, healing, or just in need of some extra care and comfort. A supply of prayer shawls is knit and blessed by a group of women who want to meet those needs. Shawls are available without charge through the church office. When you ask for one, we request the you make note of it so we avoid duplication. The Prayer Shawl Group

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 - 11:15am** 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



1981 - 45 Years Ago The choir held a Bake Sale to raise money for new choir robes.

1996 - 30 Years Ago As part of the 150th Year of Celebration, Rev, Arthur Hill, the pastor with the longest tenure (13 years), returned for a Sunday in April as guest pastor.

TECH DECK PROJECT UPDATE

Tech Deck construction has progressed rapidly during March. The frame was completed, electrical power wiring along with conduit for low voltage control wire was installed and the frame inspection was completed. Floor, drywall and carpet have been installed. Remaining activities as of March 31 include: painting the drywall and installing a wood cap on the wall; receiving a new desk for equipment storage; and moving the existing desk and equipment onto the Deck. A contractor is scheduled to complete the LV control wiring, desk and equipment relocation, installation of new sanctuary microphones and system checkout on May 11. The last activity will be installation of railings on the steps to the deck.



Contributions to cover the cost of this project are still being accepted. The total cost has increased to about \$16,700 due to increased cost of deck material and additions to the scope of work on both the electrical and LV control contracts. Mark donations with the notation "Tech Deck".

CHURCH CONFERENCE APRIL 26

A Church Conference will be held on **Sunday, April 26** following the worship service. An update and revision of the Endowment Fund Bylaws will be offered for approval at the Conference, along with a membership review. The revised Bylaws will clearly define the procedures for access and disposition of money in the Endowment Fund. The proposed Bylaws, hardcopy or electronic, are available from the church office and should be reviewed by the Congregation prior to the Church Conference. The provisions of the revised Bylaws include:

- a. Definitions, responsibilities, gift types, fund management, bylaws amendment process, and provisions for disposition or transfer of the fund.
- b. Capital appreciation is added as an income category that may be withdrawn with approval of the Administrative Council.
- c. Rules are established for withdrawal of the principal in a financial emergency.



LIGHTING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Xcel Energy and the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) have a Building Energy Efficiency Program that changes all of the fluorescent lighting and screw-in bulbs to LED. Xcel covers 100% of the cost of fixtures, installation and LED bulbs. The church interior lighting has been inspected and the estimated cost for materials and installation is \$10,175, which is covered by the Program. Estimated annual electrical savings are \$4,642 due to the lower power consumption of LED bulbs. FIRST UNITED has signed up for this program. Selection of an electrical contractor and establishing a schedule for the work are the next steps for this cost saving effort.



APRIL

Apr. 1 Sharon Speich; Apr. 4 Diana Florey, Sandy Garvin; Apr. 5 Katie Leifeld; Apr. 6 Spencer Roll; April 11 Geanne Jepsen; Olivia Meline; Apr. 21 Katelynn Wright; Apr. 23 Vicki Anderson, Alexander Eitzman, Jessica Higgles; Apr. 25 Keith Wright

Special thanks to all who gave the gift of money toward flowers or to the music program at Easter this year. All were given in loving memory or in honor of loved ones.

If you contributed to the flowers, please feel free to take something home after Easter to enjoy.



Tom & Linda Ash – In memory of loved ones we have lost

Pat Greupner – In memory Jerry Greupner & Chuck Rundquist

Bonnie Haines – In memory of Joe Haines

Ann & Mike Haralson – In memory of Stan & Myrtle Stirrat, Henry & Audrey Haraldson, & in honor Sam, Torie, Mae, Scott, Laura, Ella, Cora, Lili, Seb Haraldson

Rene Hoversten – In memory of Jim Hoversten

Ben & Diane Jackson – Gift

Leesa & Jeff Levy – In memory of Dick & Nancy Levy, & Peter Puterbaugh, and in honor of Joanne Puterbaugh

Nancy & Jim Nelson – In memory of Kay & Jim Anderson (Nancy's parents who passed this year)

Myrtle Potter – In honor of my family

Mike Ptacek – In memory of Judy Ptacek

Sandy Ridgway – In memory of Greg Blair (Sandy's brother)

Kathy Rundquist – In memory of Chuck Rundquist

Roger Ryan – In memory of Wesley Hammer

Charlotte Sitzer - In memory of David Sitzer

Sharon & Tom Speich –In memory of Chuck Rundquist

Lorraine Weber –In memory of Gordon Weber and Peter Salas



*Palm Sunday March 29,
10am worship
Good Friday April 3,
5pm service
Easter Sunday April 5,
10am worship
11am Easter Egg Hunt*



UNITED METHODIST CAMP By Patsy Bellman

A week of church camp is a great gift that a grandparent can give to a grandchild. However Camp isn't just for kids. there are a handful of camps that are open to families of all ages and some are just for adults. I highly recommend Autumn Gathering which is a camp for people 55+. Your accommodations can be as plush as a hotel style room to as rustic as a single bed with a restroom just down the hall. The first year I attended I was the youngest camper present. I think the oldest camper is in his early 90s. Walking can be limited as the dining hall is out one door, across a road, in a door and an elevator ride down a level. Or you are welcome to hike the trails through the woods, ride a pontoon around the lake, and enjoy the lovely outdoor setting. Programming is geared towards senior adults. Take a look at the camp brochures at the Information Center.

MISSION TEAM

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 after Sunday service** if you'd like to join us!