



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2026

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PASTOR'S PAUSE MAY 2026

Artwork - Springtime
by Claude Monet



"Sing to God a brand-new song, sing his praises all over the world! Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause, with all the far-flung islands joining in. Let the desert and its camps raise a tune, calling the Kedar nomads to join in. Let the villagers in Sela round up a choir and perform from the tops of the mountains. Make God's glory resound; echo his praises from coast to coast."

Isaiah 42:10 (MSG)

SPRING, SPRING, SPRING!

Can you smell the fresh breeze through your open window?
Ahhh!

I love the freshness of spring each year. I walk taller, feel healthier, enjoy more color in my face and a boost in my energy. Everything about spring breaths of life and newness. I love seeing green fields where wildflowers abound. Watching people riding their bikes as a family around the lake(s). Or seeing all the new ducklings and goslings at my favorite nature center.

I can't help but lift my face to thank God for the smile God gave me through God's wonderful creation of springtime.

I guess that's why I love Isaiah 42:10, which draws a picture of a world reveling in the joy of praising God. I can almost hear it. It's amazing how God—the Ancient of Days, the Omega, the One Who Was and Is and Is to Come—is Creator not only of our past, but also of our future. God is Lord of all that will be new as God makes it beautiful in God's time.

Imagine the newness experienced by people whose lives spanned the time before Jesus' birth until after His death.

The handful of His people who believed in Him back then felt not only the longing for the Messiah but also the new joy that He arrived at last!

If springlike praise has faded in your heart, ask Jesus to plant in you fresh seeds of joy. May it be so!

PRAYER: God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth. Thank you that things are coming awake in the world. This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real. But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter. Now we ask that you bring into reality all that belongs in this season. We ask that what belongs in this season would become reality in our practical lives. We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of Spring. Amen.

WOMEN OF FAITH, UNITED-Thursday, May 14

We will be celebrating a rewarding year for Women of Faith, United on May 14. It has been filled with friendship, fellowship, mission, caring and learning. Our group plans to travel to Scandia, Minnesota to tour the **Gammelgarden Museum** for a tour of some of the historic buildings learning about Swedish roots. We will **tour at 10:30** in the morning on the museum grounds and would like to caravan there so we would need to **leave the church at 9:15**. It would be appreciated to know who is planning to attend. **Please call Ann at 651-323-4513 or Vicki at 651-208-1740.**



For those interested in lunch we have a plan to visit the **Rustic Roots Winery by 12:15**. It is located on our travel back towards Stillwater and overlooks the beautiful valley we live in and appreciate. We welcome all and celebrate the love of friends we have in this wonderful group. Please join us to culminate our year of faith as women of First United Methodist Church of Stillwater. **Ann Haraldson and Vicki Anderson**

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 **May 3**. 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.



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 **May 9** 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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Bobbi Jo Valentine concert! It was a wonderful time for all – beautiful music, wonderful story telling and sharing and a very nice crowd. The offering for the evening raised \$470 to go toward our sound system.



On **June 20** our church will have a table at the Hudson Pride Event from **10am – 4pm**. It is a fun, family friendly event along the **Riverfront in Hudson**. We will have sign up sheets at the Information Board. Sign up for a 2 hour shift. We will need 2 people per shift. At the table, we will have something fun to hand out, plus a craft idea to share with children.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet **May 1 and June 5 at 12:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



WEDNESDAY DINNERS



Dinners will continue though the month. Come and enjoy the fellowship of other church members and guests from the community. Meals will be prepared for you for the first 3 weeks, then on **May 27** we will conclude our 2025-2026 school year season with a **POTLUCK** dinner.

CARING TEAM MINISTRIES

The Caring Ministry Team met on April 23 and discussed current needs of our church community. There are several members that are recovering from illness or surgery.

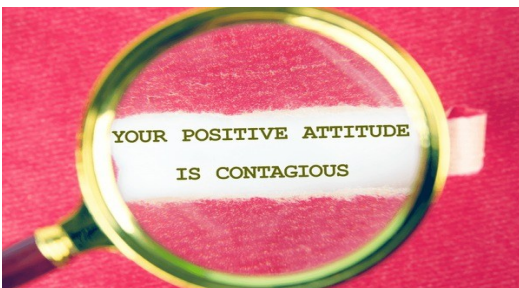
Their needs of meals, visits, and get-well cards were assessed and assigned. Our next meeting is planned for **Thursday, June 18 at 10:30am.**

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 our ministries and have **NO MEETINGS.** These include making meals to the homebound, providing a batch of soup for distribution, sending cards, and visiting with Home Communion. If interested, please contact the church office.



POSITIVITY AWARD



We gratefully acknowledge our music director **Gregory** for his dedication and love for church family. He selflessly shares his talent and enthusiasm every week and does so with such grace and love. He makes that organ sing!! Under his leadership, it is a joy to be a part of the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir, whether you are a participant/listener. Please tell him when you see him how much he is appreciated.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY - BY PATSY BELLMAN

1981 - 45 Years Ago: In May the Senior Choir put on a special production entitled "Showboat." Doreen Miller coordinated the event so you know it was a polished show. The money raised all went to the brand new red choir robes that would replace the 1960 turquoise robes

1986 - 40 Years Ago: A church van was purchased. Its first big trip would be in June to help facilitate transporting the youth group to Mountain T.O.P. in Tennessee

1991 - 35 Years Ago: At a special May Church Conference the vote was taken to proceed with an addition to the church. This brought a much larger narthex, new office space, a larger Wesley room, upstairs restrooms, a new nursery, a downstairs meeting room, and more storage. Preparations were made for an elevator, but limited funds put the actual installation on hold. The Education Commission voted that beginning in the fall the 4th Sunday mission offering from Sunday School would go to Heifer Project rather than supporting a different mission each month.

1996 - 30 Years Ago: As part of the 150th Year long celebration Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher was our guest preacher on a May Sunday.



NEW HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONCERT

FUMC hosted the New Heights Elementary School concert on Friday, April 17. The students gave a wonderful performance. We had about 70 people in attendance!



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

On Saturday morning **April 4** our church basement was filled with people celebrating some Easter excitement. Sunny Hill families and young families from our church family were invited to the pre Easter event. There were craft activities, games to play, real baby chickens to hold, Easter themed story books - We're Going on an Egg Hunt and of course an Easter Egg Hunt. 18 children showed up along with their parents. All 3 of our church youth Jackson and Lily Wright and Trin Gohl along with adults Cynthia Frederick, Ann and Mike Haraldson, Konnie and Shawn Helwig and Patsy Bellman were busy leading crafts, games, stories and supervising the egg hunt.

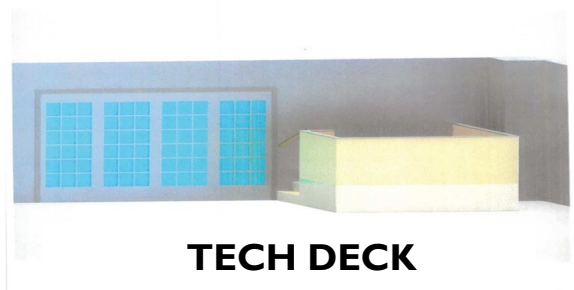
Sunday morning a second Easter Egg hunt was held following worship. Five children filled their bags finding the rest of the hidden Easter eggs.



We are celebrating Senior **Sunday on May 31**. We will honor Jackson Wright during the service and with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or would like to suggest a summer service project or join this ministry, please contact the Church office.

TECH DECK UPDATE

The remaining work on control wiring and movement of equipment is scheduled for **May 11** and the new deck should be in service soon thereafter. Donations toward the cost of the deck are still being accepted. Please list "Tech Deck" in the memo line of donation checks.



TECH DECK



MAY

May 3 Mark Ridgway; May 5 Larry Martell; May 11 Edda Ehret; May 14 Kurt Krinke; May 16 Krista Auer; May 21 Gerald Deaton; May 22 Arlene Higgs; May 25 Lori Roll; May 26 Gaye Fisher; May 31 Jax Frederick.

Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, June 6
9:00—10:30am

FUMC members! The United Methodist Men and the Sunny Hill Preschool Dads are holding a pancake breakfast on **Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 - 10:30** am in our fellowship hall. The price will be \$8.00 with children 5 years and under eating for free. The **proceeds** from this event will be used to **support the scholarship funds for both FUMC and Sunny Hill.** We hope that you will put it on your calendar, tell your friends and neighbors and come, eat!! If you have any time to help with the preparations or clean up, please check in with Ben Jackson.

MISSION TEAM

Hopefully many of you have already heard about Bonnie Haines' upcoming mission trip to Tanzania. There is a basket in the fellowship hall which we would like to fill a couple times over with sewing notions for her to take with her. The team she is on will be teaching young ladies to sew so that they can earn a living and help support their families. You also have an opportunity to support a girl's education by donating to a scholarship fund for them. The details are available at the church on the information board and in the main office.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 6, 9:00—10:30am. See above information for more details.

Pancake
Breakfast



THINK SPRING!!!

