



FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

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

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PASTOR'S PAUSE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026



GOD, my God, how great you are!
Beautifully, gloriously robed dressed up
in sunshine, and all heaven stretched
out for your tent. Psalm 104:1-2
(The Message)

What is it about fall that makes you want to jump in the car and drive north where there is a nip in the air and the leaves are turning to beautiful hues of red, gold, and orange? Whether you are energized by the fall, or it makes you a little melancholy, you can't stop the seasons from changing. Seasons change; you choose how you move through them.

Life is a continuance of seasons, change after change, followed by another change. Some are glorious, others more challenging. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 is a beautiful reminder that God is in control. Take comfort in the fact that God is unchanging and has appointed a time for every event under the sun. As you face each new season, don't let it come upon you without reflection. Set aside some "adjustment" time—even if it's just a morning.

Turn off the phone, lock the door and curl up with a good cup of coffee or tea and reflect on what's happening in your life. Pray. Reflect. Journal. What are the challenges you face in this season of change? How has God been faithful in other seasons? Ask God to show you what is in your power to change and what is not. Concentrate on the things you can change; trust Him with the rest. If you allow God, God will stretch, grow, and mold you through every season into the vessel God designed.

PRAYER: We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest. And we bless each other, that the beauty of this world. and the love that created it might be expressed though our lives and be a blessing to others, now and always, Amen.

WOMEN OF FAITH UNITED

WOMEN OF FAITH INVITES ALL PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT
THE LIFE IN TANZANIA



October is just around the corner and our Women of Faith, United begins on **Thursday, October 8th**, at **10:00am**. A cultural experience is planned with Bonnie Haines sharing information on the casual portion of her trip as she traveled, met new people, experienced different ways people survive, eat and enjoy their life. Come and enjoy a new culture. All are WELCOME!

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 regular **October 10 meeting** will be at the **Lowell Inn at 8 am**. Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the UMM mailing list.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet **October 2 at 12:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome! Contact the church office at fumcstillwater@gmail.com to join the Bridge Group mailing list.



SCRIP ORDER OCTOBER 4

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 **October 4**. 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.



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

WEDNESDAY SUPPERS RETURN!

Wednesday Suppers began on September 9. Suppers start at **5:30 each Wednesday**. **Adam Frederick**, and **Patsy Bellman** will continue being head cooks once or twice a month, and **Bonnie Haines** will be the head cook a couple times this year. Kitchen helpers are needed each week. To volunteer, talk to Adam or Patsy. Desserts are brought in by volunteers. Please sign up and take a turn bringing in a sweet treat every now and then.

The last Wednesday of each month will continue to be a potluck supper. The suggested donation for the prepared meals is **\$7.00 - \$10.00**. This amount allows us to serve a quality meal and also keep the kitchen stocked with the many items that continually need replacing - paper towels, dish soap, foil, plastic wrap, paper napkins, plates and cups etc. On the **Potluck Nights (September 30 and October 28)** bring a dish to share - main dish, salad, fruit, veggies, bread or dessert.



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:

- 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 meet every 4-6 weeks to plan, review, and determine steps necessary to fulfill our multiple ministries OR
- Participate in one or more of the above ministries and have NO MEETINGS.

Next meeting of the Caring Ministries Team is **November 19th at 10:30** in the Wesley Room or via Zoom.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY - BY PATSY BELLMAN

1996 - 30 years ago: As part of the 150th Celebration **Rev. Reese Linnell** (a.k.a. Ralph Linnell) was invited to be our guest preacher on September 22. Ralph and his parents Lorraine and J.B. Duncan and siblings Aaron and Tiffany were part of our church family in the 80s. Ralph later became a pastor and lives in North Carolina. **Rev. Leslie Drake** was our guest pastor on October 27. He was our pastor for 6 years beginning just 7 months after the congregation moved into the new sanctuary for worship.

2011 - 15 years ago: At an Administrative Council planning retreat it was decided to choose a theme for the school year and plan several special activities around that theme. **Jesus the Life Changer** was the chosen theme, with the kick off on rally day. Avis Gilbert saved a bookmark and other material during the year, making them into a collage and framing it. The collage still hangs in the women's restroom to this day, reminding us that Jesus can and does change lives.



SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5 Debbie Krinke; Sept. 9 Lillian Wright,
Sept. 11 Chris Nelson; Sept. 12 Sarah Anderson;
Sept. 15 Shawn Helwig; Sept. 21 Bridget Haugen;
Sept. 23 Sharon Dockstader Sept. 24 Bonnie
Haines, Sept. 25 Kathy Jones

OCTOBER

Oct. 6 Allison Cossetta, Konnie Helwig, Oct. 7
Ted Gilbert; ; Oct 10 Denice Kroening; Oct. 12
Luke Niethammer; Oct. 13 Pat Greupner, Oct.
15 Adam Frederick; Oct. 19 Linda Ash; Oct. 21
Michelle Clark; Oct. 27 Meggan Macomber; Oct.
29 Beverly Palumbo;

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

The Social Justice Ministry Team invites you to join in with a four-week series entitled Vital Conversations on Race, Culture and Justice. This program, designed by The General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church (GCORR) is offered as a way to begin a dialogue, face our misconceptions and fears, and move deliberately to spiritual, community, and social transformation.

Through TED-style talk videos of scholars in this field, the class is designed to help participants learn about systemic racism, begin to develop tools and techniques to compassionately address racism, and seek ways for the church to be more involved in speaking out against racism and injustice.

The classes will be held after the worship service, with two sessions remaining on **October 4 & 11**. The classes are co-led by Pastor Jenny and Cynthia Frederick.

TRUNK OR TREAT

We will be hosting a TRUNK or TREAT event in the front parking lot of the church on **Sunday, October 25, 4 - 6 pm**. This event will help us be visible in the community and provide a safe Trick or Treating event for children. There are 3 different ways you may choose to participate. Take part in all 3 or choose the ones that work for you.



1. Decorate the trunk of your vehicle in a fun Halloween / Fall theme. Arrive at the front parking lot by 3:45 and stay until 6:00, passing out candy to the children. Dressing up is not required, but it certainly adds to the fun of the afternoon. Please sign up so we have a count of the number of vehicles participating.

2. Donate Wrapped Halloween Candy that will be handed out to the children. Please, no suckers this year. We have an abundance of DumDums, Tootsie Roll Pops and other misc. Suckers left over from the Lumberjack Days parade that we will also be using. There will be a box in the office from **September 27 - October 25** to collect the donations.

3. Help spread the word. Tell your children to bring the grandkids. Tell your neighbors and friends. Share or "Like" the church's Face Book announcement when it comes out in October.

CHILI COOK-OFF and COUNTRY STORE & BOUTIQUE



Save the date! This is a reminder that FIRST UNITED's 5th annual Chili Cook-Off and Country Store Boutique is on **Thursday November 12, 4-7 PM** - please join us for a fantastic meal & fellowship in a festive & fun atmosphere. And please invite your family, friends and colleagues – this is our best method of advertising!

The Country Store and Boutique is back too. Time to start making your home-made, baked, canned, and handcrafted items to sell at the store (For questions, contact Nancy Nelson).

Chili Cook-Off flyers are available in the office – please pick up some and pass them on to your friends and neighbors. For questions, contact Jim Nelson, Ben Jackson, or Bonnie Haines.



Thanks and we hope to see you there!

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Fall, Winter, Spring Music Rehearsal Schedules for 2026/2027

Open Circle Rehearsals will continue leading our Sunday morning service on the **second Sunday of each month**.

I'm very excited and truly looking forward to this Season of Music for FIRST UNITED Methodist of Stillwater. With addition of our new Boston Grand Piano and the new Sound and Media Platform, I am confident that we now have the ability to expand our music ministry in some new and exciting horizons, including a possible concert series, special music offerings and events!

I invite you to become part of this vibrant ministry, whether it be running sound and media, ringing handbells, singing in the choir, small groups, solos, duets or playing an instrument!

If have any questions please contact me at (407) 973-8839, musicdirector@fumcstillwater.com OR schroeder1954@yahoo.com. I would love to speak with you about the possibilities!

Making A Difference in God's Kingdom as we Wrap All People in God's Love!

Gregory Schroeder
Director of Music Ministries



MARTHA GROUP LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Martha Group meets **every Tuesday morning at 10:30**. We are responsible for keeping the sanctuary ready for Sunday mornings along with seasonal decorating in the rest of the church and Fellowship Hall. We always look forward to our time to chat and continued friendships. Over time our numbers have gotten smaller and we would be happy to welcome a couple more people. Please talk with Mary Harcey if you are interested in join-



A NOTE FROM THE FIRST UNITED TECH TEAM

Thank you for your patience as we do our best to provide you with on-line worship services and in-church audio-visual every week. Please understand that at FIRST UNITED these services, especially the on-line worship, are an add-on luxury that is not reliably available every week. We are an all-volunteer team with varying levels of expertise working with a challenging computer and audio-visual system. The Facebook platform is complicated and changes often without notice, but it is free. We continue to research better alternatives but have not found one that fits our needs while being affordable. In the meantime, please be patient and contact one of us if you have any questions.

Thanks for your understanding.

The Technology Team

Jim & Nancy Nelson, Kelsey Rustin, Jennifer Sherwin, Bonnie Haines, Pam Hartley, Sue Niethammer, Lori Bock,



MISSIONS TEAM

The Mission Team has put together a calendar of events and activities for the 2026-27 season. We have kicked everything off this year with a return of our "Trim the Turkey" drive for Valley Outreach. We started early collecting any type of food or food prep items that you feel would assist with preparing a family holiday meal. The drive will be over the last week of October. If remembering to add couple items to your grocery cart while out shopping for the food drive is an issue, we will gratefully accept checks (made out to Valley Outreach), or money cards from Cub Foods or Walmart.



In November, the Mission Team is hosting a drive for the Community Thread Christmas program. We had so much fun last year with "Stuff the Stocking" that we decided to have another team competition this year! Stay alert for more news next month with regard to team selection and strategy!

Members of the Mission Team also want to thank Bonnie Haines for her impressive review of her participation in the mission trip to Tanzania in July. We encourage all members of FUMC to talk with Bonnie about her experience and how we can continue to support the efforts of the organization she traveled with. Let's make a difference!!

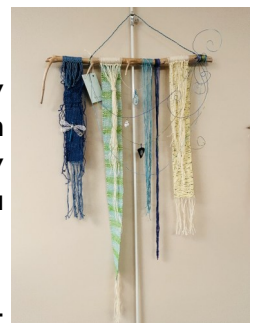
Leesa Levy

WHAT ARE OUR YOUNG ADULTS DOING THESE DAYS? JOSIE HAUGEN

Josie came to our church as a preschooler along with her older sister Cleo and parents, Jason and Bridget Haugen. It wasn't long before sister, Freya, joined the family. Since that time we, as a church family, have had the privilege of watching Josie grow and mature. May of 2026 was an exciting month for Josie, not only did she graduate from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with a degree in Music Education, but she interviewed and landed an elementary school music teaching position in Alexandria, Minnesota! Today she is busy teaching K-5 music at Woodland Elementary in Alexandria. In her free time, Josie loves to learn about different cultures. She reads a lot of poetry and philosophy writings. Hiking is another favorite activity, so since moving to Alex this summer, Josie has been seeking out places in the area to hike and explore. At home Josie spends her free time watching a lot of movies from the 80s, crocheting, and playing solitaire. When Josie is back in Stillwater visiting her parents and church, make a point of asking her about her new job and life in Alexandria.

MEET THE ARTIST

The current art display in our church office gallery has been created & provided by Amy Almendinger. Amy lives with her husband, Jim, in Stillwater and they have a home on Madeline Island named Eagle Moon. Amy's fiber creations are for sale. She has generously offered to donate 25% of the proceeds to our Church. Amy also takes commissions if you have a specific spot in mind for your home, office, or cabin.



Description of Amy's art: "I am primarily a fiber artist, specializing in weaving and knitting. I produce knitted hats of all sizes, infant to adult, in a variety of styles and fiber content. My weaving focus began in scarves where I use a lot of recycled silk, bamboo, and cotton. One of my scarf trademarks is a planned warp using variegated yarn that forms a diagonal pattern. I have expanded my weaving work to include wall hangings that are a sort of collage of woven pieces, knotted strings, wire, and stones. For these wall hangings, I gather driftwood, beach glass, rocks, and other natural items from the beaches of Madeline Island."

Amy is a good friend of Sue Niethammer's. She has one of Amy's woven pieces in her home. It is a conversation piece and provides just the right amount of color, texture & joy to her house. Talk to Sue if you would like Amy's contact information.

USHERING OPPORTUNITY



At this time, we are looking for congregational members who may be interested in ushering. In the Bible the importance of doing small tasks is celebrated, if in the situation with Martha (serving) and Mary (sitting), you kind of side with Martha, then you have the makings of an usher!

Ushers do the little things that keep the service going smoothly, that help Pastor Jenny and our talented musicians deliver the message of the Gospel. What is the commitment? Normally it requires only one Sunday a month. The ushering schedule is built around your availability to usher. Having to switch with another usher has never been an issue when the unforeseen happens.

Ushering is not a lifetime commitment, if things change or you decide this isn't working, then you can withdraw from the program, we have several "ex ushers" in the congregation who decided to withdraw.

Ushering is a convenient way to service the church. There are no monthly meetings or reports, you work with a congenial team who are helpful and supportive. If this sounds like something you would consider, please speak with an usher for more information, or call Bruce Lundeen @ [651 472 1369](tel:6514721369).

