

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

December 2021

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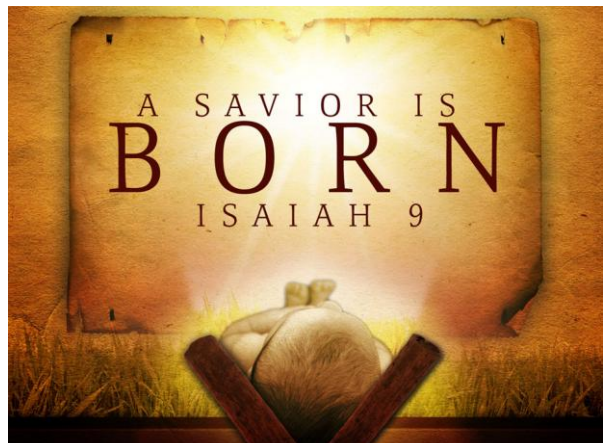
ADVENT



Worship With Us
Christmas Eve

December 24th at 7:00 PM join our church family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve with a Candlelight Service. With one service - let's pack our sanctuary with Praise, Prayer and Amazement. One incredible birth brings the possibility of new birth to all of creation!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! December 25.



The church will be closed on Monday,
December 27, 2021.



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

*National United Methodist
Prayer Chain:
1-800-251-2468*



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Christmas accolades and anticipations to the family and friends of Fridley UMC's family of faith.

A few personal observations concerning all the consecutive Christmases that have come my way. Certain words from Scripture and song seem to burrow into my consciousness and leave a deep mark of meaning for me.

One such Christmas carol is "O Holy Night." One of the phrases in the song, "Long lay the world in sin and error pining./Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth."

Tis the season of familiarity and fresh moments of deeper discovery. Known words and phrases suddenly shine forth with aching truth and meaning, the schmaltz and shallow sentimentality of the Christmas season replaced by splendid brilliance. "To save us all from Satan's power/when we were gone astray," is another line from another carol that reminds us of the sterile depictions of winter bleakness, that is balanced by our awareness of the love of our Savior who came into our darkness, and still must come for our sake.

During this Christmas season, may our many veils of illusion be lifted. May we discern who we are and who we are to be. May we project brilliant gratitude, that captives like us are in the process of transformational freedom that will include every molecule of the entire cosmos.

Trusting this Christmas will glisten with grace and glory in the midst of the winter's chill and darkness.

May our souls feel the worth of Christ, and the worth Christ bestows on us.

In Christ, nothing will ever be the same again; the old will be made new.

Pastor Wayne



Howie Chatfield is retiring.

Howie Chatfield, the church treasurer, is retiring at the end of December after over 3 decades of service.

Howie's dedication and knowledge of finances have been a great asset to FUMC over the years. FUMC

members have counted on Howie knowing that the financial well-being was being cared for. Since the pandemic started, Howie, as with many, has not been able to attend church. He has been missed!

To honor and recognize Howie's years of service, we are inviting members to write a message in a card or video a message for Howie. On the Sundays of December 5, 12, 19, there will be cards on the tables for friends and church members to write notes to Howie. The first 15 minutes after service each of these Sundays, Izak will video any member or group that wants to send a video message to Howie. Izak will compile a video with your messages.

A box will be on the counter for you to put your completed card. The cards and video will be presented to Howie at the end of December. You may take a card home and bring it back if that works better for you.

We want to recognize his legacy and bring cherished memories and appreciation for Howie. Please write a card and make a personalized video of your special memories, relationships and appreciation for Howie's hard work and friendships that he has had over the years.

Jennie Kratzer and Sheila Moenck are the new co treasurers. They have been learning the programs used by FUMC and Rainbow School and working with Howie. In the month of December, the new treasurers are taking over the responsibilities and Howie will continue to consult with them for a smooth transition. Effective January 1 Howie will be able to focus on his retirement and on his health and well-being.

EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 11:30 AM.

LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS. The book we will be using is *The Journey*. This class meets in the computer room.

SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY CLASS meets in the far corner of the Fellowship Hall. The lessons are based on the Common Lectionary, which often (but not always) correspond with the scripture for our worship service.

CLASS FOR WOMEN: Karin Gaertner is leading a new deepening faith class for women in the choir room.

PASTOR WAYNE will lead a class in the back of the sanctuary.

Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Children's supplies (children's coloring pages and crayons) can be found on the back sanctuary table.

ALSO (mid-week learning opportunity)

ZOOM MONDAY MORNING CONNECTED IN CHRIST! RENEW AND REVIEW at 9:30 AM, (online only.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING at 9:30 AM; zoom or come join us in the lounge.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at Keys Cafe on the east side of University Avenue NE in Spring Lake Park. All men are welcome. For more information contact Bill Ekstrum.

A GATHERING FOR GUYS

Grit & Spit meets every Friday at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee and courageous conversation and prayer. See you there.

MISSIONS

Please refer to the Advent Mission Offering letter in this Growing Edge. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our missions.

FAMILY TABLE

Thank you for your generous donations in September to keep Family Table running. The total was \$2,305. Donations from Mission of the Month are vital to keep this volunteer run ministry going as Family Table is not a part of the annual church budget. Thank you for your time, energy and financial giving to serving our hungry neighbors!

There will be NO meal in December. Fridley UMC next Family Table drive through meal is on January 22, 2022.

55+

55+ SINGLES BREAKFAST!

55+ folks, join us for breakfast at Perkins at 7520 University Ave in Fridley, every *first* Monday of each month at 9:30 AM. This is just a social time – come, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HOLIDAY POTLUCK

FUMW cordially invites you to our Holiday Potluck. Please use the signup sheet next to the UMW bulletin board to RSVP, list your guests and select what you will bring to share.

DATE: Monday, December 13th

TIME: 6:00 PM

WHERE: FUMC Fellowship Hall

We look forward to a night of great food, joyful congregation and jubilant holiday caroling!

UMW SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION

Get out your pen and paper, as it is time once again to be thinking of that person in our congregation that you think goes above and beyond to serve our church family. The United Methodist Women will be giving out Special Mission Recognition Awards at UMW Sunday. Please nominate someone that you feel deserves this award and tell us why you think they deserve, include a list of all the things that the person has done. We need these letters by Sunday, December 19th. Thanks for helping us to recognize our deserving members for their faith and service.

Dawn Bushnell-President of Fridley United Methodist Women

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

The knitting/crochet group will not be meeting in December, enjoy time with your family! See you on January 11th & 25th.

We are working on another HOPE, JOY AND GRATITUDE Booklet!

We are collecting writings from our members/friends that might include a meaningful personal story, a favorite verse or passage from the Bible, or something or someone for which/whom you are particularly thankful or grateful, and send to: Brenda.labarre@fridleyumc.org by November 30th for distribution in January. Thank you!



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW MISSIONS

Alexandra House Mission: Please see the article on Alexandra House's need for volunteers due to the pandemic generating more calls and fewer volunteers.

November Mission: Healing Flats: Healing Flats is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to help provide comfortable and affordable accommodations for out-of-town Mayo Clinic patients whose procedures require long-term stay. Many Mayo Clinic patients have unique needs that hotels cannot accommodate. Longer-term housing is expensive, and the locations that *do* provide low-cost options have shared facilities, which make comfort more difficult to achieve. Healing Flats provides low-cost, apartment-style living that offers privacy and comfort for patients and caregivers. We are THANKFUL we can help them to secure another unit through our contribution.

December Mission: The holiday season brings FUMW an opportunity to give to the Fridley Schools. **We invite our entire congregation to participate in these gifts.** Both Hayes and R.L. Stevenson Elementary schools need our help to achieve their mission of striving for excellence and believing in each and every child! With our help they can meet their goal to guide each young scholar to succeed both academically and socially. They hold high expectations for all and nurture their communities to be lifelong learners that contribute to the greater good. In this spirit, UMW is also donating memorial funds. FUMW will need to receive your donations no later than Sunday 12/19/21. Thank you for joining us in this mission.

NAOMI CIRCLE will not meet in December. Instead, you are invited to attend the UMW Christmas party on Monday December 13th at 6:00pm at the church. The party is a potluck to be held in the lounge. If you need a ride, contact Pat King.

In September UMW hosted Ellen Krug to talk about her “gender journey.” As a man she had everything anyone could want: a soulmate’s love, two beautiful daughters, a house in the best neighborhood, a successful trial lawyer’s career. But there was a problem. She was a woman born into a male body. If you missed her talk or want a more in depth discussion of her journey to discover her true self and the honesty it takes to make life changing decisions, read her book, “Getting to Ellen,” found in our library. It’s a glimpse into the life choices that all of us make - whether or not we are transgender.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following members and friends of FUMC delivered Meals on Wheels the week of October 18 - 22.

Two Day Drivers: Ron & Nancy Newport.

One Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni; Evie Skurich & Katherine Otten; Roger & Leone Olson; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Jan & Mary Wright; Jean Mills & Ruth Hilliard; Gary Boyer; Mike & Tammy Hay; and Tim & Janet Fossum.

Impact Services dropped to a three-day delivery week. Seven of the spots that I would have had to fill, were filled by weekly and/or bi monthly drivers. The next time that we drive will be the week of December 13 - 17. I never know how many spots they will assign me to fill, so new drivers are always welcome and needed.

Questions or to sign up, please call Janet Fossum.

A Christmas Prayer:

Dear God, please bless this Christmas season with peace, joy and love.

May the happiness (and humility) of Baby Jesus' coming be felt in every home.

