

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

February 2022

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February 14, 2022
VALENTINE'S DAY



February 27, 2022
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



March 2, 2022
ASH WEDNESDAY



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

I was a few months away from my golden birthday when Martin Luther King was murdered. I have vivid memories of the man, his methods and his message. These were brutal chapters in our American experiment; a test to see if the noble ideas of our Founders would be the birthright enjoyed by all Americans.

The cadence and trajectory of this courageous preacher, who came from a long line of preachers, mesmerized me. King was so different than the droning lectures from the pulpit I was accustomed to.

He said from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that he envisioned our nation where people will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

This dream of King that all Americans are to unite around our shared and noble humanity; that gathers all brothers and sisters, fashioned in the image of God. With this unity from God, we create family, communities, societies, and countries.

Sadly, the undoing of pernicious segregation, that King was willing to confront at the cost of his own life, is now morphing into re-racializing our country. It appears that incidental physical characteristics are now being weaponized to divide, disqualify and demonize us from one another. This growing trend is the antitheses of King's dream!

Personally, I dream what appears to be more and more the Impossible Dream. I believe our only basis for unity is to champion our common sense of our common humanity of our Creator who made us in God's image. It is here, in God's image where we find our intrinsic value and dignity. There is nothing else adequate to unite us, and there is nothing else adequate to protect this experiment in the wilderness called America.

Live not by lies.

Pastor Wayne

Spotlight: Civil Rights by Martin Luther King Jr.

“Our method will be that of persuasion, not coercion. We will only say to the people: ‘Let your conscience be your guide.’ Our actions must be guided by the deepest principles of our Christian faith. Love must be our regulating ideal. Once again we must hear the words of Jesus echoing across the centuries: ‘Love your enemies; bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.’ If we fail to do this our protest will end up as a meaningless drama on the stage of history, and its memory will be shrouded with the ugly garments of shame. In spite of mistreatment that we have confronted, we must not become bitter and end up hating our

white brothers. As Booker T. Washington said: ‘Let no man pull you down so low as to make you hate him.’ If you will protest courageously and yet with dignity and Christian love, when the history books are written in future generations the historians will have to pause and say, ‘There lived a great people-a black people-who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization.’ That is our challenge and our overwhelming responsibility.”

EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 11:30 AM.

LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS meets in the computer room. Come check us out.

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

CLASS FOR WOMEN: Karin Gaertner is leading a deepening faith class for women in the choir room. You're invited.

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

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall, 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM beginning February 27th - April 3rd.

“Faithful and Inclusive” The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church

Our denomination has for the past decade been in discussion regarding the ordination of gay clergy and the uniting in marriage of gay couples. August of 2020 was to have been a worldwide conference in Minneapolis to make decisions around these difficult but culturally important issues but due to COVID, was postponed to August of 2022. Fridley United Methodist Church will have a voice in how we, FUMC, function in the future. The current thinking is each parish will have two choices. The Traditional model would continue as in the past, being welcoming and open to members of the LGBTQ community to worship, join and serve, with the paid clergy being heterosexual and marrying heterosexual couples. The other choice would be willing to have a gay clergy serve and have gay marriages performed.

Beyond this change, other aspects of FUMC would remain unchanged.

The video material that will be used for this class was prepared by our denomination. It is Bible based and thoughtfully presented. Each of the 6 sessions allows time for discussion in groups of 2-3. We are all genetically and life-experience unique individuals and will want to express our beliefs/emotions/thinking knowing there are no 'wrong' answers. Topics are: How United Methodists Interpret Scripture; Old Testament Passages; The Influence of Culture on How We Read the Bible; New Testament Passages; The Jesus Ethic: What did Christ say?; Where does the United Methodist Church go from here?

Due to the importance of this matter, Education is asking all interested church members as well as members of all on-going classes to participate so we are enabled to make an informed choice when we are asked by our denomination. If you have questions, please talk with Judy Ryan, Judy Lange, Bill Ekstrum, Margaret Ekstrum, Jennie Kratzer, Stephanie Sandvik, Dave Ryan, Pastor Wayne Swanson.

Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. 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

They meet every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at Sunset Grill in Blaine. We eat breakfast, and discuss a weekly lesson through scripture & story. We share prayer concerns. For more info. 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. Don't forget your mask, and social distancing are highly recommended. See you there.

FAMILY TABLE

Like many of you, Family Table has been digging deep into our freezer and pantry over the past year. Not only are we keen to feed our neighbors, but also wasting as little food as possible. We stock our freezer and pantry primarily through Loaves and Fishes' the Hub, who distributes overstock and almost expired foodstuffs to food shelves and free meals.

When the pandemic hit, we were well supplied, and planned our meals by looking at what meat, rice or pasta, and vegetables we had on hand. Many thanks to our chefs Mike and Dennis who come up with delicious meals, and our leadership team who choose the sides and desserts.

MISSIONS



February Mission – UMCOR - WASH Program

Our mission focus for February is UMCOR’s Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program. WASH empowers families and communities around the world to identify their water, sanitation and hygiene behavior goals and decide solutions that will ensure continued access to clean water and healthy disposal of waste.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene are essential for good health and well-being. Water is used not only for drinking, but also for bathing, cooking, cleaning, waste disposal, and agriculture. Yet, 668 million people around the world do not have reliable access to clean drinking water and even more people lack access to water for agriculture and other household tasks. What's more, 1.8 billion lack adequate toilets.

It's hard for me to imagine living where I might have to walk miles to find a clean water source for washing or cooking or to not be able to flush a toilet. We take such conveniences for granted but many around the world do not have that luxury.

UMCOR and its partners are working on long-term solutions. UMCOR and its partner’s help communities gain better access to clean water by working with them to locate and develop safe water sources, educate communities on key hygiene behaviors, and improve appropriate and simple sanitation solutions. This work is carried out in a holistic manner that addresses the fact that all aspects of life are interrelated and so solutions and approaches must also be integrated too. Your support for UMCOR-WASH supports this critical work!

Please consider donating to this worthy cause. We are so grateful and appreciate your continued ministry to the missions of FUMC. Remember that giving is easy using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC website and then select “Missions.” You can also mail your donation to the church’s office at 680 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. Please write “February Missions” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Vern Moore's Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2022. The Memorial Service and Visitation will be later in the afternoon, time yet to be determined. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Clarice Polzin's family and friends upon her death: To Evie Skurich upon the death of her brother: and to Reba Moreau upon the death of her first husband, the father of her children.

55+

55+ 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

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the lounge. The next dates we will get together are February 11th & 25th. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday February 11th at the church in the choir room at 1:00 PM. Marilynn Forsberg will provide the program and Edna Garrison will bring refreshments.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, February 15th at 1:00 PM in the church lounge. Co hosts: Diane Jachymowski and Kathy Bednar. Co Program: Joan Jagunich and Joyce Dahlberg. Devotions: Jean Mills. We are continuing on the environment – what can we do to save our planet earth!



Thank you!

A grateful thank you to all who helped with what was needed for the funeral service of Clarice Polzin.

Thank you for your help with setting up, cleaning of tables and chairs, and most of all, your welcoming of guests with warm hearts and open minds.

All of you are so appreciated. May God always bless you with the kindness you show others.

Jinny Erickson and the Funeral Reception Committee

Dear Fridley UMC,

We appreciate the help from the bottom of our hearts, you are saving lives each day. Your thoughtful gift of \$730.00 on 1/1/22 is helping people like Angel and David, who are doing everything they can to provide for their four children. However, the pandemic has made it difficult to secure a steady job. Thanks to you they have been able to receive enough meals to feed themselves and their children while they continue their employment search. Thank you for caring.

With sincere gratitude,
Cathy Maes, Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes

Fridley United Methodist Church

680 Mississippi St. NE.

Fridley, MN 55432

763-571-1526

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Worship Service:

10:00 a.m., In-Sanctuary Worship Service & Online

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

11:30 a.m. Education

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

Rev. Wayne V. Swanson, Pastor

Brenda LaBarre, Administrative Assistant

Kelly Olson, Director Rainbow School

E-mail: FUMCoffice@fridleyumc.org

Web Page: www.fridleyumc.org

We reserve the right to edit for space and content.

All articles must have the name of the committee or person issuing or authoring the material submitted.

February 2022