

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

June/July 2022

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June 5, 2022: Pentecost Sunday



June 12, 2022: Trinity Sunday



June 19, 2022: Happy Father's Day!



July 4, 2022: Independence Day



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

From the 15th word written in our printed Bible we see a loitering chaos and disorder bent on destroying anything that reflects the beauty and majesty of the CREATOR. Soon thereafter, the crafty Accuser whispered into the woman's ear- the slithery promise of autonomous freedom.

This is a most destructive LIE through the history of humankind. We long for universal liberty and freedom to do what we want to do. The question that takes center stage later in Genesis 3 is not whether freedom is to be desired, but how freedom is to be defined?

What does true freedom consist of? Does it mean the freedom to do whatever we want (remember the fig leaf fiasco when Adam and Eve pointed fingers of shame and blame at each other, at God, and at the serpent?) That is not freedom, no matter how long is the shouting and shrieking; it's anarchy!

Truly we are a culture drunk on the beguiling notion of fetterless freedom. We grasp at the low-hanging fruit of low expectations, only to discover the rottenness that accompanies relationships that cast off all restraints, just like Adam and Eve. Sadly, the deceiving promise of autonomy always ends up east of Eden, never in true freedom.

Let us remember Jesus' experience in the Tempter's wilderness promise to avoid suffering and humiliation. Jesus was not bewitched to avoid the condemnation of the cross. Christ chose the route of redemption called the (*Via Dolorosa*.)

In such a time as this, may we have the courage to choose *freedom to be responsible* rather than *freedom from responsibility*. Just like the heroes of faith, who like Rahab and Ruth cast their lot by walking in faith with the promises of God, regardless of what our current culture describes as real freedom.

For Christ and His Kingdom,
Pastor Wayne

**ALL ARE INVITED FOR COMMUNION SUNDAY, EVERY 1ST
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.**

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND WORSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILY. Children's coloring pages and crayons can be found on the back sanctuary table.

EDUCATION

ZOOM MONDAY MORNING CONNECTED IN CHRIST!

RENEW AND REVIEW at 9:30 AM, (online only.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING at 9:30 AM - offered in person in the lounge, or join us by Zoom.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at the Sunset Grill in Blaine. 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



JUNE MISSION – SOLAR OVEN PARTNERS: A powerful tool for poverty reduction and well being. A speaker will be with us on Sunday, June 12!

For a third of humanity, a hot meal means cooking over an open fire. Solar ovens eliminate the resulting air pollution and reduce cases of respiratory and eye disease, and also burns among women and children who tend to cooking over fires. It also benefits the bodies of people who would normally be bent over a fire.

Cooking with a solar oven enables a family to eat more nutritious, safe and flavorful food. Gordon and Ardell Graner, our former covenant missionaries, have been key leaders in this ministry, and we have generously supported solar ovens in the past. A solar oven is a means of concentrating direct energy of the sun for the purpose of cooking food.

Solar Oven Partners, based in Brookings South Dakota, makes a model that consists of an insulated box with a clear, thermal pane lid and a set of reflectors that sit on top of the box to direct greater amount of sunlight into the box, creating temperatures from 250 to 350 degrees F. Each solar oven costs \$150 to build and delivered to a trained solar cook. Families can receive them for a small donation. Training is given during this time.

This ministry has been operation for 20 years, and 11,356 ovens have been delivered to 3 countries: The Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone and the Navajo Nation.

Solar cooking is a boon for the environment, as it reduces deforestation and is emission free. Diabetic recipients rave about how delicious their solar-cooked, diabetic-friendly foods are, as the cooking process requires much less fat than traditional pots do.

This ministry is inspired by and rooted in Jesus, and those who are involved seek to deepen awareness of Jesus Christ. Solar Oven Partners forms partnerships across dividers that humans have created: nationalities, economic status and race. As volunteers in mission, we care as much about how we do things as what we do. We are not simply delivering ovens, we are living into the Kingdom of God! Through these partnerships, we do, indeed, get the tasks of oven assembly and distribution done, but most importantly we spend time with God's beloved people in the Dominican Republic, the Navajo Nation or Sierra Leone.

We hope you can be present to hear more about Solar Ovens on June 12th and will again generously support this ministry with your gifts and prayers.

Your FUMC Mission Commission

FAMILY TABLE SUMMER NEWS

Thank you for continuing to support Family Table as we provide meals to our neighbors and responding to our volunteer surveys. Based on what we heard back, Family Table will have a drive through meal in June and sit down meals upstairs in July and August. The leadership team continues to review how we can best serve our neighbors in need with the gifts of the volunteers we have.

School supplies

We know the children in our community need our support now as ever, and we continue our practice of providing funds for school supplies. In June and July, we will be collecting monetary donations to go directly to Fridley school district for supplies (donations due by July 17.) They will then buy the supplies they need in bulk and give them away at the end of August. Please note "Fridley School Supplies" on your donations.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

On June 12th we have the opportunity to give a special offering. Gifts on *Peace With Justice Sunday* fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. You can leave your donation on Sunday, June 12, or mail it to the church and write "Peace with Justice offering" on the memo line. Thank you!

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jan Kienholz and family and upon the passing of Harvey.

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

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 and enjoy the company of FUMC friends.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women/UMW, under the direction of Tabitha Circle will be hosting a **HOTDOG STAND** on the front steps of our church on Thursday, June 16th beginning at 5:00 PM coinciding with **Fridley 49er Days**. The menu includes hotdogs and condiments, chips, soft drinks, water and popcorn. After a 2 year COVID hiatus, we are once again undertaking this project to raise funds for local mission, yet to be determined. We hope you will join us for fun and parade food!

Thank you!

A grateful thank you to all who helped with what was needed for the Memorial Service of Harvey Kienholz. Thank you for your help with setting up, cleaning of tables and chairs and laundering table cloths, 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

Thank you all for your cards and prayers for my knee surgery. I am on the mend and doing well. I can't tell you how much it means to have such a caring extended family.

God bless all of you!

Dawn Bushnell

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” - *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

On behalf of the Division of Indian Work and the community we serve, I thank you for your most generous donation of \$935 which we received on April 14, 2022. In the past few years the world has faced incredible adversity, from the pandemic to civil unrest to violence in our streets. Certainly no community has been spared this chain of events. And yet, in our little corner of the world, we remain thankful for the support of people like you who continue to help us put little bits of good together so that our American Indian people can work toward a better life for themselves and their families.

To say that you make a difference in the world is an understatement. More appropriate, perhaps, is to say your kind spirit and generosity *overwhelms* our little community-and we are grateful.

Migwech / Pidamay / Pinagigi/ Thank You!

Louise Matson, Executive Director

Thank you!

Through your financial support with Global Ministries (UMCOR), you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationship, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need. Your gift of \$745.00 is supporting: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programs.



(The Church office will be closed on July 4th.)