

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

September 2022

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**HAVE A BLESSED
LABOR DAY!**

The church office will be closed on
Monday, September 5th.

**SUNDAY EDUCATION CLASSES
WILL BEGIN ON**

**September 11, 2022
at 11:30 AM**



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

The great Lutheran church composer Johann Sebastian Bach wrote endless anthems, chorals, and cantatas for church worship. My favorite is “Jesu, Joy of Man’s desiring.”

In all of his musical creations Bach would inscribe the Latin initials for *Jesu Juva* “JESUS HELP ME” at the beginning of the manuscript. At the bottom he would write *Solo Deo Gloria*, “GLORY TO GOD ALONE.”

Wouldn’t those phrases be spectacular declarations when we arise every morning and retire at the end of the day? Wouldn’t those announcements set a wonderful texture and tone when Fridley UMC folk meet and minister in our missions and purpose as Christians? (Some even contemplate the possibility of Latin tattoos on their left and right arms.)

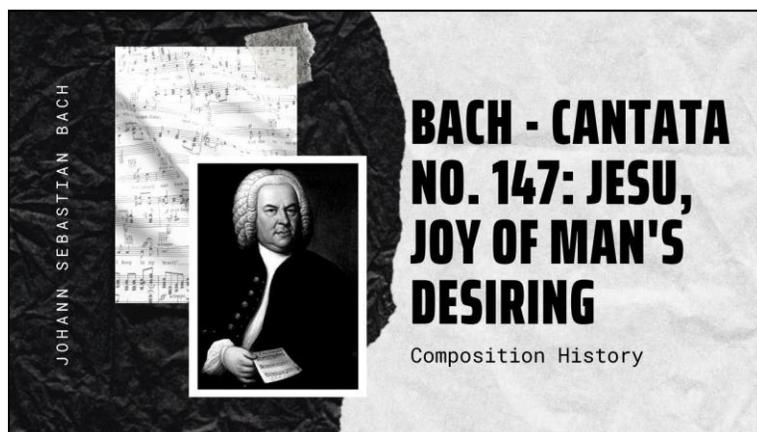
God’s greatest glory comes from God’s greatest work, and God’s greatest work is the salvation of sinners, you and me! In the creation of the universe God shows intricate design and glorious splendor. Even more breathtaking and piercing, is the creation narrative of the Lord’s ultimate creation, **us!** This Greatest Story involves our participation in the Trinity’s design of creation, fall, redemption, adoption, and glorification.

Even when the world and our stubborn egos persist to seek and declare our own measly MUD PIE GLORY; the magnificence of our Maker; the dynamic creative energy; the brilliant intelligence of God’s character, invites us to participate in the Gospel’s alternative to mud and splatter!

“The heavens declare God’s glory and the earth proclaims God’s handiwork.” Psalm 19:1

Jesus, help us to bring glory to God alone!

In Christ, Pastor Wayne





EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 11!

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 discipleship class for women in the choir room. You're invited.

PASTOR WAYNE'S CURRENT EVENT CLASS: "Signs of the times" education opportunity will be in the back of the sanctuary following fellowship time. Join us.

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

Offered in person in the lounge, or join us by Zoom. Come check it out!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at the Sunset Grill in Blaine. We eat breakfast; take turns leading that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture, story and discussion. We share prayer concerns. 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.

THE BOOK GROUP is reading The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, by Kim Michele Richardson, and will be meeting to discuss this on Saturday, October 8th, from 9:00 AM to Noon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dawn Bushnell or Diane Jachymowski.

MISSIONS



The Mission committee has graciously designated Family Table as the September Mission of the Month.

There is great need in our community as we've seen in both our drive thru and sit-down meals. We are back to sit down meals inside with some social distancing and volunteers wearing masks as long as there is no COVID surge. We've retooled the 3-course meal to be served on individual plates instead of family style with a salad bar for safety and the guests are enjoying it! Family Table is not part of the congregational budget and is funded solely by **Mission** donations. Currently, the average cost per month is \$250, so our goal to fund next year's meals is **\$3000**. Family Table is truly a volunteer ministry where many hearts, minds, and hands work together to reach our neighbors in need. As we get going with the indoor meal again we will need an increase in volunteers too. Please join us as we continue to respond to John Wesley's challenge to "Do all the good you can."

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 “September Missions” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

SEPTEMBER FAMILY TABLE ARTICLE

Our Family Table guests are never shy about telling us how the food tastes and what they like to eat best, and though they may share some things about their lives, we certainly don’t know all they are going through. One of our volunteers wrote to us about an experience her friend had at our meal. The guest has been suffering from leukemia for many years and receives weekly treatments to keep her alive and she cannot work. “Their insurance covers very little of her treatment and she has to pay for some of her very expensive meds out of pocket. Having come to FUMC for a first-time free meal was a tearful joy. She called me after they got home and couldn’t stop talking about not only the delicious meal, but the friendliness and kindness, respect and many smiles shared by all of you. I know that the meal she received from Family table was one they and their handicapped daughter enjoyed and hopefully didn’t have to save half for their next meal. I just felt you all needed to know how a warm friendly meal can warm a heart and nourish a soul.”

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARDS

On United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) Sunday, July 31, Special Mission Recognition Awards were given to people who have gone above and beyond in their service as members of Fridley United Methodist Church. After evaluating many fine recommendations, the following people were honored: Judy Lange, Dawn Bushnell and Karen Smith. We are grateful for the many ways these women have served on our behalf.

Judy Lange has given a tremendous amount of time, talent and gifts as she serves our church and reaches out to many people outside of our church. She founded and heads Family Table, providing a healthy monthly meal to hungry people in our community, working with 50 volunteers to make sure it operates smoothly each month. She has led the effort to provide school supplies to local schools. In addition, she serves on the Mission Commission helping to highlight our special missions in a variety of ways and handles the disbursement of donations.

She has sung in the church choir for many years and provided special music with her flute. She has attended many church classes and the book club. She is an active member of United Women of Faith. Perhaps her most challenging role has been serving as Chairperson of the Church Council for several years, planning and leading meetings as well as actively supporting the leaders of the church. She strives to move us into harmony with our Christian Faith. Judy received the special honor of the Sapphire Award.

Dawn Bushnell has led our UMW (now United Women in Faith) for the past ten years. These years have included arranging events featuring outstanding speakers on a variety of important issues to keep us informed. She also has done much organizing and planning for our UMW Sundays, Salad Luncheons and Harvest Dinners. This loving, caring woman leads us on our mission to holistically care for women and children locally and worldwide, while also giving heartfelt support to our own church members. She attends educational conferences and shares information with us. She has faced many tragedies and challenges these past two years but has never lost her love, vision and devotion as a leader.

Karen Smith has devoted countless hours to fulfilling her important role as Chairperson of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, which serves as the human resources area of our church. Among her many duties, Karen has updated policies and job descriptions. She has worked tirelessly to support church staff and help them learn their jobs. She has also been helpful to the Director of Rainbow School to make sure we are providing them what is needed to help them maintain their accreditation. She is described as being honest and direct. Our church has been greatly blessed by her skill, respect and devotion to her duties.

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

The United Women in Faith will be hosting a brunch, on Sunday, October 9th, right after the church service. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship. As you know, we are a group that raises funds for Mission and for the last couple of years have not been able to do so, due to the COVID pandemic. We are testing the waters, so to say, to see how many people are interested in gathering. We will be putting out a basket for a free will offering (to continue our mission work), but please don't let that deter you if you are unable to contribute. We want to focus on getting together as a family while enjoying good food. We hope to see you there.



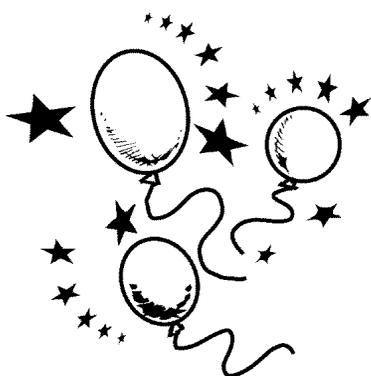
WANT TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS ONE SUNDAY A MONTH?

We have openings for bell ringers! (We play on the 3rd Sunday of the month.)

Chancel Ringers will begin rehearsals on September 1st at 7:00 PM. Questions? Contact Sharon White for more information. Come join us!

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

Our Knitting Group has decided to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the church lounge beginning September 13th. We want to continue, though our group is small, so that Prayer Shawls will always be available when needed. We would hope a few available knitters/crocheters will join our group. We continue our projects at home but we will get you started. There is yarn available as there have been donations. Come join us!! Questions?? Call Evie Skurich.



Dave Ryan will be celebrating a decade birthday on Sunday, September 11th with his family hosting an open house at the Fridley Community Center from 2:30-5:00 PM. Please join us for a treat and some conversation! Cards only, please!

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Counters and Depositors needed

1. Sort and open envelopes for deposits
2. Making tapes of checks
3. Make tapes for categories (current, missions, etc.)
4. Prepare Deposit Report for Financial Secretary
5. Prepare deposits and drop off at NE Bank

Financial Secretary

1. Secure weekly offering on Sunday morning
2. Prepare counters/depositors with current information
3. Receive envelopes and Deposit Reports from counters
4. Enter deposit into Breeze (online database)
5. Supply information for Treasurer's report
6. Prepare and distribute statements to members

Please contact Jennie Kratzer or a Finance Committee member if interested.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - will meet Friday, September 9th at 1:00 PM in the Church choir room. This will be a planning meeting; bring your ideas. Pat King will bring treats and provide a short devotional message. All ladies are welcome!

RUTH CIRCLE - will meet in the Church Lounge on Tuesday, September 20th at 1:00 PM. Co-Hostesses will be Jean Mills and Evie Skurich. Joyce Dahlberg, new Circle Co-Chair will lead us in Devotions and "Reflections" as we remember some of our past members and past experiences with our dear Circle Friends. Along with Reba Moreau, our other Co-Chair, we also will do our Program planning for the coming year. Hope you can all attend and invite new women to join these new Circle Leaders, as we plan a new year together.



Save the Date!

TABITHA CIRCLE will be working at Feed My Starving Children on Tuesday, October 11th from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. The time has changed from our previous visits, so note the new time frame. For

those who would like, we will meet at church to car pool at 6:30 PM.

Following our time at FMSC, we often stop for dessert and conversation at a nearby restaurant! If you would like to participate in this worthwhile service project, please contact Judy Ryan.



Thank you!

A grateful thank you to all who helped with what was needed for the Memorial Service for Lois Christie. Thank you for your help with set-up, clean-up, 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 VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following people from FUMC delivered Meals On Wheels the week of July 25 - 29.

Three Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni.

Two Day Drivers: Ron & Nancy Newport.

One Day Drivers: Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Karen & Ian Aalund; Cheryl Skluzacek & Karen Dove; Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Perry & Carol Johs; Mike & Jody Lee; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Jan & Mary Wright; and Al & Sue Madison.

I had it easy this time, as the MOW office had 11 spots filled for me, leaving me only 14 to fill. We drive again the week of September 19 - 23. Karen and Cheryl will be back to work, so your help will be needed and appreciated as always.

Janet Fossum, FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator.

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift of \$2,515.00 to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!* Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need.

Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

Dear Friends,

I speak for everyone here at Emma Norton when I say a heartfelt thank you for your recent gift of \$600. Your generosity has a direct impact on our programs, and in supporting the over 400 individuals and children served annually. We are working hard to protect the health of the individuals and families we serve, while continuing to provide holistic care in a safe manner. Thanks to donations from people like you, we can continue to keep our clients safe and healthy, and ensure that all have the stable housing and support they need to achieve their goals.

In gratitude, *Tonya Brownlow, Executive Director*

FUMC,

Thank you for generously investing in GMCC (founded as Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.) We received your gift of \$1,792.50 on 07/12/2022 designated to Minnesota FoodShare. With your help we continue the legacy of working with partners in and outside of faith communities in the areas of food justice and access; youth and family services, equity; and well being. This is only a snapshot of the impact your support provides and a remarkable testament to our mission “uniting people of faith, serving people in need.”

Sincerely, *Adrienne Dorn, Executive Director*

