

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

October 2022

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Trunk or Treat



You are invited to Rainbow School's **TRUNK OR TREAT** on Friday, October 28th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

This is a free event.

If you would like to help out, please contact Amanda, the new Rainbow School Director at 763-571-7521.



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

Diane Jachymowski

763-571-7572

dejladybug@gmail.com

(Please call before 9:00 PM.)

or

Marsha Painter

763-572-9753

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468





PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Precious People of Fridley UMC,

Greetings to you in the name of the One who makes all things NEW!

When we find ourselves in times of transition and change, it is good to remember that which does not change. What are those realities that endure across centuries and civilizations? What are the forever definitions of what is THE GOOD, THE BEAUTIFUL, and THE TRUE?

In Holy Scripture, we discover the answer to that question. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

We are not to be carried away and cling to superficial, shallow, and silly foundations. They easily wash away when storms brew and batter us internally and externally. (Matthew 24:27)

Without the person of Jesus Christ being our reality/reference point, our personal and institutional building projects are increasingly susceptible to crumbling and collapse.

Like John the Baptist, we point and proclaim that Jesus Christ is both the Perfect Lamb of Sacrifice. Jesus Christ is the Heroic Sacrificial Good Shepherd. Jesus Christ is the Resurrected- Returning- Righteous- Cosmic-Carpenter King. Jesus Christ is building His Church Family that will prevail against imposters and counterfeits in every age, including our present time. Let us be like the early curious disciples of Jesus, who responded to Jesus’ challenge, “come and see.”

May our curiosity and response at Fridley UMC keep the Lord’s Kingdom momentum going “for such a time as this.”

Fear not little flock, remember who our Good Shepherd is!

In Christ, our hope and glory.

Pastor Wayne

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 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.
Come join us in the lounge, or join us by Zoom.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: 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. 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.

NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

“I’m Still Here - Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness” by Austin Channing Brown. In a time when nearly all institutions claim to value diversity, this book is an account of how and why our actions often fall short of our words. Book donated by Ruth Hilliard.

MISSIONS



October Mission - SACA FOOD SHELF IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Our Mission focus for October is the Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA) Food Shelf, founded in 1976 to help meet the food insecurity needs of residents in Columbia Heights, Hill Top, Fridley and Spring Lake Park. Dave Rudolph, Food Shelf Co-Coordinator has been directing this organizations program efforts for the past 12 years. He reports an ever-increasing demand for the food shelf. In 2015 the program served 24,000 people; that number grew in 2021, to over 50,000 persons served. During his tenure, the program has changed from past clients receiving groceries pre-packed by staff while today's clients self-select food that fits their individual family tastes. SACA operates on food and financial donations from the community. They use monetary donations to buy food through Second Harvest where each \$1 can purchase over 10 pounds of food.

SACA provides healthy food for our community members in need, with the goal of supporting a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency. The food shelf also provides for food delivery through a program called SACA Delivers. The service focuses on clients who find it hard to travel and pick up food at the food shelf. They receive a monthly delivery of food to their home or apartment. 10 local schools and several Senior Centers/Senior Apartments also receive food deliveries for those in need of food assistance.

SACA's 1976 origin story features the good works of a single Columbia Heights resident who saw a need and began giving food out of the trunk of her car. Increased need and an expanding organization required a new home for SACA's program. They were now a growing program operating out of a home with small rooms, skinny hallways and food deliveries being stored in the basement by passing down a refashioned coal chute.

The program moved to its current Columbia Heights facility in 1995. The Food Shelf is again outgrowing today's facility. A Building fund has been established in anticipation of their lease expiring in May of 2029.

Who are clients of the food shelf?: Large families, single parent families, individual adults, students, and Seniors are served by the food shelf.

What life circumstances bring people to seek food assistance? Clients often speak of seeking assistance when they are going through a rough patch lasting 1 – 3 months.

Big bills, lost jobs, retirement that doesn't cover their needs and prescriptions outstripping their budget bring clients to seek help.

Most recently, inflation has made it difficult for people to meet their food needs. They simply run out of money after the rent, utilities and transportation costs are paid.

SACA also runs a Thrift Store that is open to the public. All essential items are affordably priced. Thrift store items are donated by the community and the store is maintained and staffed by volunteers. All (yes, 100%) of revenue from the sales is used to purchase food. All donations to the SACA Thrift Store are tax deductible.

Currently 3 FUMC members volunteer their time with SACA. Jody Lee, Gary Boyer, and Jeff Mondloh volunteer for 4 hour shifts each week. We assist clients with food selection or work in the warehouse. SACA can always use additional volunteers. Speak with one of us if you would like to learn about the opportunities available.

The food needs for our community are great. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Giving is easy by using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC website. Select “Missions” or mail your donation to 680 Mississippi St NE Fridley, MN 55432. Write October Mission on the memo line. We are so grateful for the congregation's continued support to missions. Thank you for your thoughtful support of this valued local community non-profit!

FAMILY TABLE: As of August 2022, Family Table has served 18, 605 meals! A great big “Thank You” for giving \$1352 to the Fridley schools supply drive. The school district then purchased their most needed supplies in bulk to provide for their students and classrooms. Crayons, pencils, notebooks, tissues, and many more items are on the shopping lists that parents receive, and this donation helps kids, parents, and teachers.

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Evie Skurich upon the loss of her sister Gerry, and to Nancy Nehring upon the loss of her son Brian.

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

BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

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.

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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.

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet October 14th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. Marilyn Forsberg will be responsible for the program and Leone Olson will bring treats. If you are looking for a friendship group, please join us on the 14th.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, October 18th at 1:00 PM. For more information, contact Joyce Dahlberg or Reba Moreau.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following members and friends of FUMC delivered Meals On Wheels the week of September 19 - 23.

Two Day Drivers: Fred Severni; Mike & Jody Lee; Ron & Nancy Newport; and Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Al & Sue Madison; Roger & Leone Olson; Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Jean Mills and Evie Skurich; Perry & Carol Johs; Jeff & Janet Mondloh; and Mike & Tammy Hay.

I am always looking for new drivers. The meals are picked up at Unity Hospital. You can choose a Fridley or a Spring Lake Park route. It will take you one hour or less to complete the route.

If you can help, please call Janet Fossum. Thank you.

There are plenty of nice people in the world.
If you can't find one, **BE ONE!**