

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

December 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

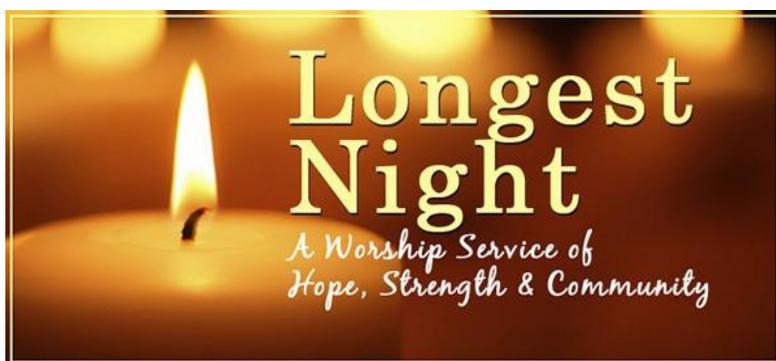
From the Pastor	2
Church Album	4
Education	3
Events & Opportunities	4
Missions	4
UWF News	5
55+ Breakfast	4

ADVENT



Longest Night Service

December 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM



Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2022, at 7:00 PM



All are invited to join us!

December 25, 2022



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Dear FUMC Family and Friends,

It is said that thankful people are happier and live longer on this earth. Neuroscience shows that we have grateful attitudes because we first choose to engage in gratitude practices. Neurons that “fire together seem to wire together.”

For most of us who let the Bible examine our motives, grumbling and complaining are to be avoided. We are very quick to offer hasty judgments and lack the wisdom to discern the better big picture. “*Better is the end of a thing than the beginning: And the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*” Ecclesiastes 7:8.

As we grow up, we learn we can't always trust our initial assessment about things.

For most, becoming a thankful person has no shortcut; it's like losing weight or getting in shape. The wisdom of gratitude changes our perception of our world. We will encounter hard things in this life. Hard things require humility and depth of vision to see and supplement our ability to know things and grow through our adversities.

Complaints, however, are shallow and myopic. They only see the inconvenience and have no imagination to discern the fuller picture of reality.

Perhaps that is why the apostle Paul exhorts us to “give thanks in all circumstances” that we might have eyes to perceive and see the fire of God's Glory and the wired togetherness of the Body of Christ, the CHURCH FAMILY.

Love to all in Jesus Christ. Pastor Wayne

YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US!



On December 24th at 7:00 PM please 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!

COMMITTEE LEADERS please remember to send your agenda and meeting minutes to Brenda in the office for our permanent church files.

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

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.

MISSIONS

ADVENT MISSION OFFERING

The Advent Mission Offering will be designated to supporting **Habitat for Humanity and AgGrad Project**. Please refer to the Advent Mission Offering letter included in this Growing Edge. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our missions.

FAMILY TABLE:

There will be no Family Table meal in December since it falls on Christmas Eve. We will see our guests again on Saturday January 28, 2023! Thank you for volunteering and supporting this ministry to serve our neighbors! Thank you for donating \$1960 to Family Table for the Mission of the Month! Combined with the memorials graciously designated by the family of Cindy Robb, we will continue our ministry through 2023!

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dan Steiskal and family upon the loss of his brother Dave, and for Sandy Locker on the loss of her sister Patty.

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, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



CALLING ALL SINGERS

(Short term commitment only.)

A choir is being formed to sing on Sunday, December 18th during the worship service. We will sing an Advent anthem that is familiar to previous choir members and easy for others to pick up. We will rehearse on

Wednesday December 7th and Wednesday December 14th at 7:00 PM and a run-through before the service on the 18th. All voices are welcome but especially needed are tenors and basses. A signup sheet will be posted on the choir room door. Join us in singing during advent. Any questions, please call Sharon White.

**THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

God will be here for you, for me, for us all!



On this Longest Night Service, we center on connecting with the Peace and Hope of God. This is appropriate since we experience the most darkness and the least daylight on that day of any day of the year. It is a time to remember that which we have lost, the sorrows that we carry, the mistakes we have made and the

difficult changes in our lives, and to look for the light of hope and peace shining from Bethlehem to infinity and beyond.

Join us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to hear songs that acknowledge God's presence. No amount of darkness and despair can extinguish the Light that is Christ!

Ask someone you know who might need assurance of God's love to come with you. **Everyone is welcome.**

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the lounge. The next time we will get together is December 13th.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



INVITING ALL WOMEN of the church to the UWF (formerly UMW) December Holiday Potluck that will be on **Tuesday, December 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM** at Banfill Crossing Apartments at 8310 University Avenue, Fridley, MN 55432. We will be carpooling from church – planning to leave the parking lot

at 5:45 PM. If someone wants to carpool,

they should contact Cindy Doerr. Bring a dish to share and come ready to celebrate the reason for the season! There will be music and fun!

RUTH CIRCLE will not be meeting in December. Instead we invite everyone to come to the Women's Christmas Party and Potluck on December 13th. Questions call Reba Moreau.

NAOMI CIRCLE will not meet in December. Instead we are invited to the Christmas Potluck on December 13th. Circle members are to contact Pat King if you want to carpool.

Dear UWF,

I am so grateful to you for your generous gift of \$150 on November 10, 2022 to Vision Loss Resources. We provide services for individuals with vision loss to increase their independence as older adults, or return to work or school, and lead active and fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your support. *Kate Grathwol, President/CEO*



Dear Church Family,

My heartfelt thanks for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits as I recover from my broken arm. I am overwhelmed and so very grateful! My healing is slow but sure. I feel so blessed to have you all in my life.

In God's Love, Diane Jachymowski

I want to thank everyone who extended their concerns, prayers, cards, and support during my recent knee replacement surgery. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated. *Terry Reyes*

Thank you to all persons who participated in FUMC's annual fall cleanup on October 29th. A special thank you to those persons who provided refreshments and snacks for this hard-working crew. 26 volunteer workers, in 2-1/2 hours, raked up 85 bags of leaves, branches, and yard debris, truly an amazing accomplishment.

On behalf of the FUMC Trustees, your efforts, fellowship, and willingness to help are greatly appreciated. *Terry Reyes, FUMC Trustees*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels the week of November 14 - 18.

Four Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni.

Three Day Drivers: Mike & Jody Lee.

Two Day Drivers: Chuck & Bonnie Ames and Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Pat King & Ruth Hilliard; Jean Mills & Evie Skurich; Jan & Mary Wright; Gary Boyer, and Ron & Nancy Newport.

The next week we drive will be January 9 - 13. **I already know that it will be a hard week to fill, because some of my regular drivers are snow birds. If you can help out, it would be most appreciated by myself and the Meals on Wheels office.**

Janet Fossum, FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

