

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

February 2023

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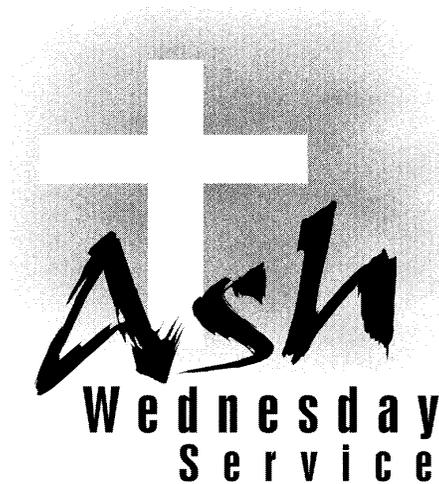
February 14, 2023

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

February 22, 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

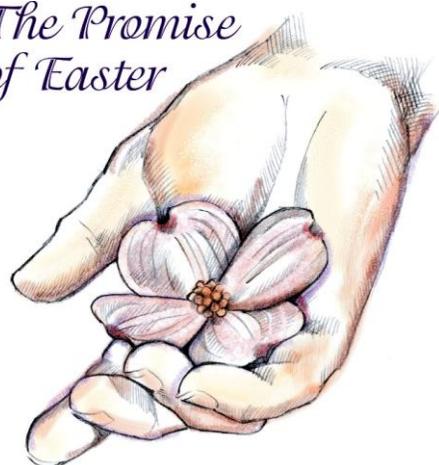
**IMPOSITION OF ASHES SERVICE
AT 7:00 PM**



February, 26, 2023

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

*The Promise
of Easter*



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,

I've always benefited greatly from John Bunyan's great spiritual classic, "The Pilgrim's Progress." It tells the story of Mr. Pilgrim's journey towards Jesus and onward to the Celestial City.

Along the way, Pilgrim encounters many distractions, dead ends and diversions that seek to stall his journey towards Jesus and Jesus' family.

Thank God, that on the way, Pilgrim also encounters many "**Encouragers**;" people that help him participate with positive teammates, to demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit, that draws them together as the Family of God.

As teammates together in Christ, they grow stronger in believing and belonging to the new Family Vision that Jesus delivers as the Gospel of Good News!

As Fridley UMC goes forward in Apostolic Faith, may we be teammates that encourage one another to grow beyond Cultural faith to Convicted faith: Cultural faith has shown itself to have little traction to assist the coming generations to participate in Jesus' understanding of what Church Teammates are to be and do, to bring Glory to God.

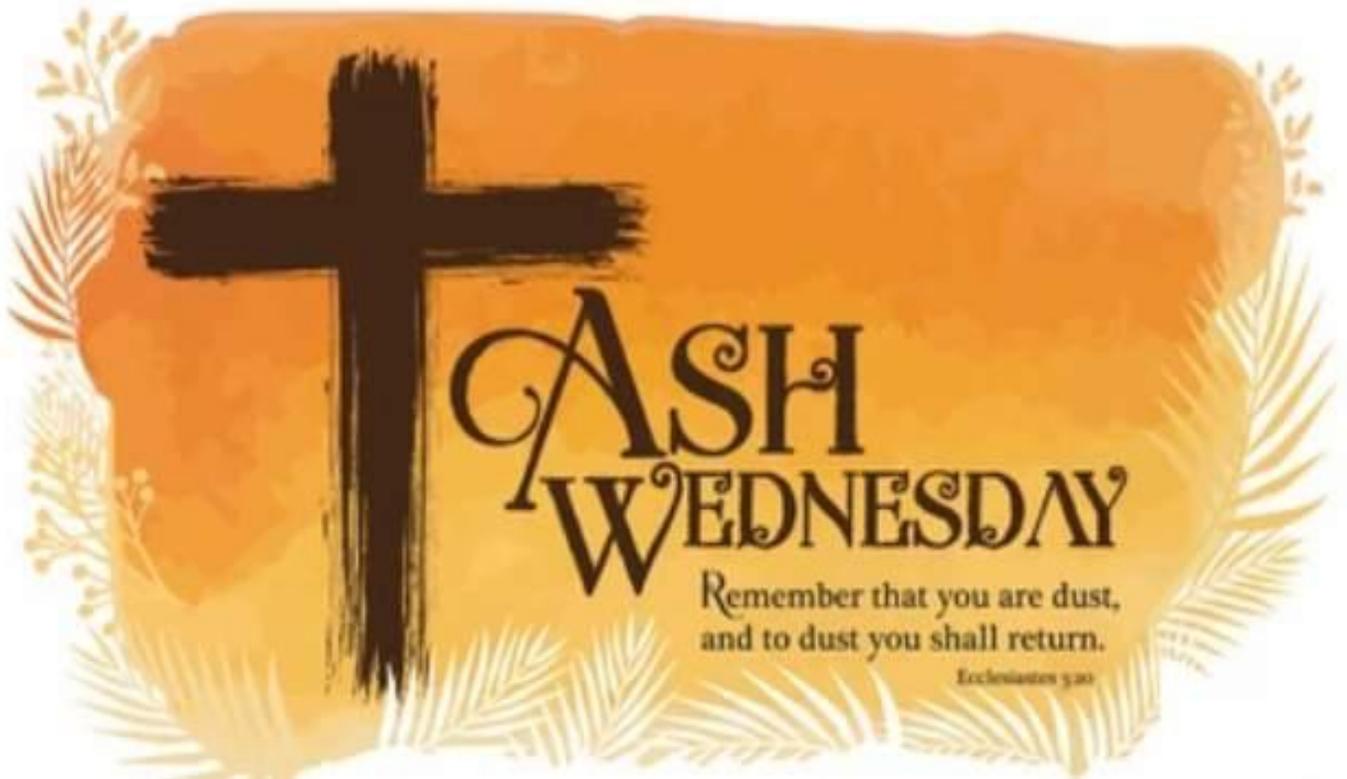
May the Holy Spirit assist us to better prepare the way for believers to move closer to Jesus; to move closer to each other; to be more impactful and influential to those who do not yet understand the New Kingdom Family, that we receive with child like trust and wonder. That's how we all get on the TEAM of GRACE!

Salute to the **Encouragers**!

God Bless You All. Pastor Wayne



**JOIN US FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON
FEBRUARY 22ND AT 7:00 PM. ALL ARE INVITED!**



LENT BEGINS.

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.

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.

2023 FUMC STEWARDSHIP UPDATE & THANK YOU!

A thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2023 Stewardship Pledge Drive. Our income goal was \$300,000. Unfortunately, as of December 31, we did not achieve our goal. The total pledged amount is \$255,600, a 15% decrease of our goal. The Finance Committee will now be tasked to review and then operate under a reduced expense budget.

We would like to thank all givers and those who were able to increase their pledges. However, it is not too late – you can still pledge by filling out a pledge form, which can be found at the back of the church sanctuary, and returning it to the church office, or contacting Jennie Kratzer, Church Finance Secretary.

We all walk our individual journeys of generosity and we thank you for being part of FUMC during these challenging times. Please pray for our work together as we continue to answer God's call to share the good news!

The Finance Committee

MISSIONS

HOPE 4 YOUTH SPECIAL MISSION – FEBRUARY



It may be shocking to realize that on any given night in Minnesota, 6,000 young people are without a home. They are sleeping in cars, couch-hopping or struggling to survive in the streets. Hope 4 Youth is a non-profit organization in Anoka County that helps young people, ages 16-24, who are homeless.

The Mission of Hope 4 Youth is to end youth homelessness. Here is their vision: *All youth will feel safe, valued and supported while reaching their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them roots to thrive.*

Hope 4 Youth opened a drop-in center in 2013 located at 2665-4th Ave. N. in Anoka. The center focused mainly on basic needs. Judy Ryan became our church representative, and FUMC became involved by bringing in some meals. In addition, Hope Place, a transitional housing facility for homeless people aged 18-24 in need of a place to stay while rebuilding their lives, was opened in late 2016. It is located at 10250 Foley Blvd. NW. in Coon Rapids. Hope 4 Youth assists young people with counseling, education and employment opportunities that create career pathways. In the past year there has been a 40% increase of visitors to the drop-in center. Hope Place is continually at full capacity.

There are several reasons for youth homelessness—many are from families that are dysfunctional or in financial crisis. Some are no longer accepted at home for various reasons. Hope 4 Youth meets them where they are, giving them trauma informed care, strengths-based mindset and harm reduction approaches. A kind and caring staff provide good food to eat, clean clothes, counseling and parenting classes when needed. Many receive help in filling out applications, finding employment and a permanent place to live.

The gift of hope is powerful! It is overcoming challenging situations, finding a pathway and learning to thrive. Let us help give God's precious gift of hope to those youth who are in desperate need of it.

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!

**FUMC 2022 MISSION GIVING
(December 2021-November 2022)**

MONTHLY MISSIONS		
J Park-Missionary	December 2021	1,300.00
Habitat for Humanity	December 2021	1,300.00
Division of Indian Works	January 2022	935.00
WASH-UMCOR	February	745.00
MN Foodshare	March/April	1,792.50
Impact Services	March/April	1,792.50
Emma Norton	March/April	600.00
MN Conference Love Offering	May	880.00
Solar Ovens	June	1,100.00
Feed My Starving Children	July	950.00
Burgstahlers	August	1,493.00
Family Table	September	2,265.00
SACA	October	1,215.00
UMCOR-US Disaster Response	November	1,345.00
SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS		
Human Relations	February	20.00
Native American Ministries	May	125.00
Peace With Justice	June	20.00
Ukraine	June	5,980.00
World Communion Sunday	October	55.00
TOTAL MONETARY GIVING		\$23,913.00

Thank you for your generous donations to these missions. This outreach has helped children, families, and individuals locally, throughout Minnesota, and around the world.

Your Mission Commission

FAMILY TABLE

From when we started to the end of 2022, we have served 18,782 meals! It's amazing that many guests and volunteers have come together to be a blessing to each other and our neighborhood. We are looking forward to this new year of food and fellowship.

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of: Jan Redman upon her passing, for Delores Hendrick upon the loss of her grandson and for Sandy Locker upon the death of her brother.

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

FUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED:

CHARGE CONFERENCE

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2023
11:30 AM



FUMC MEALS ON WHEELS IS LOOKING FOR A NEW COORDINATOR. Janet Fossum will be retiring from this position in May. If you are interested or if you have questions, please talk to Janet. (See the full article in the *Thank You* section under Meals on Wheels.)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Hey all you avid readers, we are having a Book Discussion on Saturday, March 11th, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and would like you to join us! We are reading Before We Were Yours, by Lisa Wingate. The book is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals, in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. I hope that I have piqued your interest and that you will join us for a lively discussion.

Both men and women are invited.

This is not a UMW/UWF event, but for all UMW/UWF members, this is a book that counts toward our reading program (see Pat King with questions). Contact Dawn Bushnell if you are interested.

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 February 14, 2023. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet February 10th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. February is Pledge Month; pledges will be collected from members. We will send valentines to church member shut-ins. Marilyn Forsberg will provide treats.

RUTH CIRCLE will be gathering on February 21st at 1:00 PM in the Lounge. Co-hostess: Joan Jagunich and Reba Moreau. Jean Mills will offer devotions and Evie Skurich will do the program.

A helping hand can change the heart forever!

It was such a wonderful and heartwarming surprise to receive a check from Fridley United Women of Faith. Please know we will certainly put this money to good use for our school. It will help many of our Stevenson

families in need; help fund field trips and hands on experiences for our scholars; learning tools for our STEAM lab and so much more!

On behalf of Stevenson staff, we just want to say, Thank You!

With our sincere gratitude,

Veronica Mathison (Stevenson Principal)

Thank you to UWF for your kind and generous donation to our school. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Special people like you help our tower stand tall.

Love,

Hayes School staff

Dear Friends,

Everyone deserves a life free from violence. And while every community struggles with domestic and sexual violence, Alexandra House provides a community of support, and a safe space.

Thank you for supporting the vital work we do. Your contribution of \$150.00 makes a profound concrete difference in our community. We are so grateful for you, taking a stand against violence in your community.

With gratitude,

Connie Moore, Executive Director



Sylvia	Heath	2	Michael	Dove	11
Melissa	Binns Sawaneh Jr.	3	Max	Bushnell	13
Diane	McAfee	3	Brian	Heath	17
Sheila	Moenck	5	Marcus	Piseno	17
Sandra	Locker	8	Todd	Quarry	17
Ashlee	Sharpe	9	Lafayette	Dolo	21
Karen	Youngren	9	Mary	Young	21



THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels, January 9th -13th.

Three Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni, Mike & Jody Lee.

Two Day Drivers: Al & Sue Madison, Tim & Janet Fossum.

One day Drivers: Bob & Sandy Locker; Gary Boyer; Jeff & Janet Mondloh; Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Chuck & Bonnie Ames.

I am planning on finding drivers for the week of March 6 - 10, and May 1 - 5, and then retire as FUMC's Meals on Wheels Coordinator, after 28 years. My story began in May of 1995. The telephone rang late in the afternoon, on a Sunday. It was Pastor Clem Nagel, saying he had a huge favor to ask of me. He had just found out that it was FUMC's week to deliver meals and the church coordinator left on vacation forgetting to find drivers. I remember his words, "If I bring a list of names and phone numbers over to your house, would you have time to make phone calls this evening? It would just be this one time, as the coordinator will be back for the next week that we drive". I have never minded making the calls which became easier with emails and texts, and it even led to a job for me. I got a call one Friday afternoon asking if I wanted a job. My answer was "No, I have a job as a full-time mom". The MOW Director went on to say, "Just come in on Monday and spend the day with me, and then decide." So I did, and I retired from Meals on Wheels in June of 2021, after 25 1/2 years.

If anyone likes making phone calls, please call me and I will tell you all about being a MOW church coordinator. There are coordinators who make calls, but never drive. If our church does not come up with anyone to take over, the MOW office will take over our week, because they cannot afford to lose drivers. I will continue to be a volunteer driver. Just a reminder, this program started in 1973 and FUMC Pastor James McChesney was the one who originated a meeting with other clergy and public officials, to put his plan into action. Even though that was before my time here, I have always been proud that this local program was born in, my church.

Snowbird drivers will still be gone in March, so your help will be needed. Thanks everyone, "You Are Appreciated!"

Janet Fossum

Thank you for the get well cards that were full of concern and prayers. I hope to be back worshipping with you soon. It's at times like this when we really appreciate our faith, family, and our friends.

Love,
Pat Synan

**FUMC WANTS TO THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS.
KNOW YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



dear
friend
YOU
are
loved