

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

May 2023

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MOTHERS DAY

May 14



ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 21



PENTECOST

May 28



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

Diane Jachymowski

763-571-7572

dejladybug@gmail.com

(Please call before 9:00 PM.)

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Greetings to family and friends within the orbit of Fridley UMC.

I've been thinking about why do we think the way we do and why should we care? What determines our gut level response that guides our thoughts, words, and actions? What people believe to be true and real, for example, determines what will be bestowed on the generations to follow.

Cultures need a core set of values upon which the society shares general agreement. Without some broad consensus on what is the Good, the Beautiful and the True, a society will disintegrate.

Before Christianity touched Rome, human life was exploitable and expandable. The economy was driven by slave labor, revolts to gain freedom were brutally crushed and gladiatorial death matches made for public entertainment.

Then came Jesus Christ, and then came the followers of Jesus Christ. Christians brought the creation account of Genesis into this Roman Empire of death and decadence. Gradually, over centuries, the awareness that humankind had been created and bear the image of God, brought dignity and bore fruit and flourishing that changed society's laws. Transformed practices followed with the rise of Christianity. Many of the greatest achievements of Western civilization grew out of the biblical roots of Judeo-Christian foundations.

I see compelling evidence in the West, where Christianity is increasingly marginalized and its influence waning, that we are returning to the old Roman gods of hyper-sexualization, pagan spirituality, situational ethics, a disregard for human life, and the elevation of tolerance as the sole absolute virtue.

It is unsettling and uncomfortable to see the undermining of the Judeo-Christian foundation of human dignity. We are acting more and more like the Romans of old.

Thank God, we have the promise that Jesus will continue to build his Family (church) that the gates of hell cannot withstand. (Matthew 16:18)

To God be the Glory as Fridley UMC goes forward "in the faith once delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

In Christ, Pastor Wayne

Dear FUMC family,
Holly and I would like to thank you for the thoughts, prayers, and flowers given to us upon the death of Holly's mother, Viola.
Pastor Wayne and Holly



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Spring has finally come and the transition from Pastor Wayne to our Intentional Interim Rev. Donna Dempewolf. It will be a time of change that includes grief, sadness, hope, and challenges. The more communication and support that we can give one another will help FUMC continue to move forward as a church of Christ Jesus.

Sunday, June 4 - there will be a celebration (luncheon) and recognition of Pastor Wayne's years of service at FUMC. He has been very dedicated to the teaching and preaching of the Bible bringing in history to make it relevant in today's world.



If you have any ideas or suggestions for the celebration of Pastor Wayne on June 4, please let SPRC know. You may contact: Dave Ryan, Terry Reyes, Kathy Skogen, Glen Synan, or Karen Smith. If you are interested in making a contribution toward a gift for Pastor Wayne, please send it to FUMC by Thursday, May 25 and mark it Pastor Wayne gift. Brenda will be collecting the contributions.



Sunday, June 18 - will be Pastor Wayne's last day preaching/teaching at FUMC. He has invited many people that he has connected with over the years while serving Jesus Christ at FUMC.

Sunday, June 25 - there will be a guest speaker.

Sunday, July 2 - Rev. Donna Dempewolf will be preaching her first service at FUMC. A formal welcome will be set later in July.

We invite and welcome everyone to be involved in these activities.
Thank you SPRC.

WHAT IS AN INTENTIONAL INTERIM?

An Intentional interim is a purposeful bridge between the current pastor and a new pastor.

An Intentional Interim is not assigned just to fill a position. There are specific areas of focus that the Intentional Interim will work on. The key focus is to bring the congregation together in preparation to welcome a new pastor. It is to help our congregation move forward. It is to prevent a new pastor from walking into the issues that have challenged a congregation.

The Intentional Interim will help resolve and create a bridge where a new pastor can “hit the ground” in a positive atmosphere and move forward. Rev. Donna Dempewolf is an Intentional Interim and that is her personal goal going forward in her calling. Her experience and education have prepared her for this role. We look forward to working with her.

Karen Smith, SPRC Chairperson
Judy Lange Church Council Chairperson

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 (has changed to Saturdays)
Grit & Spit meets every Saturday at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee and courageous conversation and prayer. See you there.

MISSIONS



May Missions: 2023 LOVE OFFERING

(Please see the insert.)

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, please write “Love Offering” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

A GIFT TO RAINBOW SCHOOL

Dear Church Family,

Our Mission Commission became aware that Rainbow School has need of some equipment for their daycare rooms. These items are needed to comply with the extensive regulations of the Minnesota Dept. of Health. Some examples of these items are toys that provide learning in manipulating and creating. Items are also needed for general well-being such as infant seats and playpens. Rainbow School occupies ten rooms of our church on weekdays. It is wonderful to have happy, active children learning and growing in our church building! Mission had some undesignated funds available, and a decision was made to give a gift of \$500 to Rainbow School on behalf of our church. We give this gift in love and gratitude for the outstanding care given each child of God who is part of Rainbow School.

Your Mission Commission

FAMILY TABLE NEWS

In February, our guests received a small “Winter Survival Bag.” It included pocket sized tissues, lip balm, mints, a packet of cocoa, tea bag, and energy bar. Our guests appreciated this little bag of goodies immensely, and we hope to provide a similar sack of goodies in the autumn.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: On Saturday May 20th, a small crew is needed to deep clean and organize the kitchen from 9:00 AM to 12 noon. Volunteers don’t need to be there for the whole time and can arrive when able. Please let Judy Lange know if you plan to help!

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Holly and Wayne Swanson and family upon the death of Holly’s mother Viola.

Update: Duane Widmark’s Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 6: visitation at 10:00 AM, and the service will be at 11:00 AM.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Dee Watts upon her death. Dee’s Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 10: visitation at 10:00 AM, and the service will be at 11:00 AM.

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LADIES' DAY OUT
ON SUNDAY, MAY 21ST.



The UWF invite all women of the church to join in the festivities on a Stillwater River Boat tour for fun, fellowship and food. The Dixieland Jazz Quartet will greet us as we board and serenade us throughout the tour up and down the St. Croix River.

The 2-hour boat tour will **start boarding at 1:00 p.m. – departing the dock at 1:30 p.m.** out of the Stillwater docks. We will carpool – leaving the church at 12:15 p.m. Please contact Cindy Doerr if you are interested in carpooling or if you are able to drive and how many your vehicle will hold.

The cost is \$38.95/person (does not include beverages). You can order your tickets by calling 651-430-1234 and telling them you are joining the **Fridley Women's Group** reservation, or you can go online to www.stillwaterriverboats.com/public-cruises and click on Book Now or Purchase Tickets. **BE SURE WHEN PURCHASING YOUR TICKET YOU LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE PART OF THE FRIDLEY WOMEN'S GROUP RESERVATION.**

You will not be issued a ticket. You will check in at the door of the boat when boarding under your last name and reservation of Fridley Women's Group. Please let Cindy Doerr know you have made your reservation and are planning on attending so she can get a count for carpooling.

Things happen so if you need to cancel your reservation, cancellations can be made up to 48 hours prior to the day of departure. The boat is handicapped accessible. The boat also runs rain or shine so dress

appropriately for the weather. Pray for great weather because it is a beautiful sight to sit up top and watch the river go by.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARD

It is that time of year again to be thinking of that "Special" person who you feel goes above and beyond.

The United Women of Faith are hoping that you will write a letter and nominate someone for a Special Mission Recognition Award. Last year we received a lot of letters and we know there are more deserving people out there. Please send, or bring in, your nominations, and place them in our UWF box in the office. You can also hand them to a UWF member if you would like. Please list as many things as you can think of, that the person has done. We would like these letters of nomination by May 30th.

Dawn Bushnell-UWF President

A TIME TO HONOR JANET FOSSUM – MAY 7

We are happy to pay tribute to an extraordinary friend in Christ, Janet Fossum! Janet has served as our Church Coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program for 28 years! Many of us have had the privilege of being a volunteer driver. Janet always made sure our routes were covered. She made it her business to know when our favorite times and routes were, and she related all the important information about the people we served. She always served with joy!

Janet not only dedicated herself as our coordinator, but Meals on Wheels became her full-time job. She was Assistant Director for 17 years and Director for her last 8½ years. Some examples of the job duties entailed: Intake of new clients, making maps of client's homes, billing, collection and banking, filling in drivers, screening community volunteers who were not part of a church, writing quarterly reports, purchasing supplies, helping pack meals, in person publicity, dealing with insurance, selecting menu choices and serving amounts, attending many meetings, dealing with complaints and receiving thank you's. Also, sending out an enormous amount of thank you's!

Janet always made sure volunteers felt appreciated!

Meals on Wheels not only provided a healthy meal 5 days a week, but also had the added benefit of a wellness check on clients.

On May 7, 2023 we will honor Janet in worship and also with a special cake during Fellowship time. There will be an opportunity to say thanks to Janet and give her a hug or pat on the back for her many years of outstanding, dedicated work, which has greatly blessed a countless number of people in so many ways!

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us at 1:30 PM in the lounge on May 9. (We will be taking the summer off and will resume again in the fall.)



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet on May 12th offsite at Applewood Pointe New Brighton. We will carpool at 12:30 PM from the church parking lot. A light lunch will be served.

RUTH CIRCLE will not be meeting on May 16th at church, we will go on the May 21st River Boat cruise instead. See you there!

Dear Fridley United Methodist Women,

You made a difference today for a neighbor facing food insecurity. You gave a parent peace of mind that they can provide food for their children. Because of you a senior will not need to choose between food or much needed medication. Your donation of \$150 to SACA has made an impact. *With sincere thanks, Dave Rudolph, Elaine Walker, SACA Co-Directors.*



Dear Church,

During my health set back I received many beautiful cards, concerning phone calls, and well wishes. My strength is slowly returning, still not very active, working on it. Have missed church very much. Hope to return soon. Thank you so much for your thoughts.

In God's love, *Nancy Nehring*



Dear Brothers & Sister in Christ at Fridley UMC,

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of \$500 to the ministry of Midwest Mission. Your donation may help someone who needs basic hygiene resources to keep them clean and safe from disease, or a newborn who needs the warmth of a blanket and a mother who needs the handmade diapers and washcloths to help care for her infant, or it might provide Home Care Kits to a community in the aftermath of a hurricane, tornado, or fire. Your donation extends our outreach and makes a tremendous impact on so many lives. With your gift, we continue to send hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner. Your prayers and financial support matter.

In gratitude, *Chantel Corrie, Executive Director of Midwest Mission*
Lisa Rigoni, Development Manager of Midwest Mission

Dear Fridley UMC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,365.00 on April 12, 2023 which allows us to say “yes” to one more youth who walks through our doors in need. For 10 years, HOPE 4 Youth has been providing the gift of HOPE in our community, and providing pathways to end youth homelessness. After young people receive age-appropriate resources like clothes, a meal, or hygiene items from our Drop-In center, they are shown pathways to help them move toward housing stability. These resources may include employment support, onsite tutors, parenting classes, goal-setting via case management, or transitional housing.

Thank you for ensuring young people experiencing homelessness in our community feel safe, valued and supported.

With gratitude, *Nikki Calvin, Director of Advancement*

Dear Fridley UMC,

Thank you for your gift of cleaning supplies! Your generosity will bring hope to people who have been affected by flooding or hurricanes.

In His Service, *Midwest Mission Team*

May 28, PENTECOST SUNDAY, please wear red.
Come Holy Spirit!



MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 29, 2023



The church office will be closed Friday, May 26 and Monday, May 29.