

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

## June 2023

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor	2
Church Album	8
Education	5
Events & Opportunities	8
Missions	5
UWF News	9
55+ Breakfast	8

June 4, 2023  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**



**CELEBRATION AND  
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON  
FOR PASTOR WAYNE.**



**Prayer Chain Information**  
*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

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

June 18, 2023  
**FATHER'S DAY**



**PASTOR WAYNE'S LAST DAY OF  
PREACHING.**



## ***PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD***

Pastor Wayne's World, That God So Loved . . .

“I am not my own, but belong with body and souls both in life and death, to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.”

I have found and find nest and rest in the scandalous grace and sufficiency of our Triune God. In this Divine Delight, I am made, I am redeemed, I am sustained by the Great “I Am.”

While being knit together in my Mother's womb, I was the recipient of Hannah's prayer for her son, Samuel. I was dedicated to the service of the Lord's Heavenly Armies.

**(THANK YOU MOTHER MAVIS)**

While being dealt a bad hand, brimming with difficulties and danger, my father modeled the sacrificial gritty grace of protecting and providing for his Family.

**(THANK YOU PAPA VERN)**

While spending summers on a hard scrabble farm, my Grandmother with a strong, simple faith, repeatedly let me know how much she treasured Jesus and treasured me.

**(THANK YOU GRANDMA CLARA)**

While going through the turbulence of a typical sixteen year old adolescence, an anointed witness came my way. The Gospel combination of welcome, warmth and warning penetrated to my very marrow, bringing animation and integrity to my following in the footsteps of Jesus.

**(THANK YOU SPARKY)**

While coming into covenant with the “wife of my youth,” I am profoundly indebted for Susan Heiber taking a chance on me. Gratitude for the splendid doors you opened and the life and lives we made together. Now, as part of the “great clouds of witnesses” you continue to minister and encourage us on our journey of consummation.

**(THANK YOU SUSAN)**

While attempting again, the second time around, to fashion and form another covenantal family configuration; I am amazed and humbled by what our Carpenter Christ and the Holy Spirit can accomplish in restoring us “Humpty Dumpties” after our downward adventures.

Gratitude to my wife Holly, who brings professional tailoring expertise, to make useable and beautiful again, the fabric which has been torn and frayed. The Lord's knitting is still in progress!

**(THANK YOU HOLLY AND OUR CLAN OF CHILDREN, BY CONCEPTION AND BY CHOICE)**

While engaging and responding to the Lord's call to be a "minister of reconciliation," to equip the people of God to be the Church, the Family of God, I have co mingled and participated in beloved forever family, of friends and foes.

**(THANK YOU TRIUNE GOD, WHO LIVES IN FAMILY AND CREATES, REDEEMS AND SUSTAINS US IN GOD'S IMAGE TO DO THE SAME.)**

While serving this past decade with you at Fridley UMC, I am increasingly aware of the abiding of the Holy Spirit in the lives of so many people being touched by God's Grace and Goodness.

**THANK YOU FRIDLEY FAMILY FOR ALL THOSE GOING FORTH IN THE KINGDOM OF JESUS.**

We Listen, Learn, Love and Live out "Welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed us, for the Glory of God." *Romans 15:7.*

Continue to remember that only Christ can build the church family that can overcome the agenda of the Abyss. *Matthew 16:8*

*In Christ, Wayne V. Swanson*

---

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Summer 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.

**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.

**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. Thank you!

## EDUCATION

(Mid-week learning opportunity)

**ZOOM MONDAY MORNING CONNECTED IN CHRIST!**  
RENEW AND REVIEW at 9:30 AM. (online only.)

**Our last gathering will be on June 12, 2023.**

---

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING** at 9:30 AM.  
Come join us in the lounge, or join us by Zoom.

**Our last class will be on June 14, 2023.**

---

### **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 **Saturday** at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee and courageous conversation and prayer. See you there.

## MISSIONS



Dear Church Family,

Our mission for the month of June is **FAMILY PROMISE**. We have supported this mission for struggling families for many years and have even provided meals in the past. Please read the following update of the exciting new things that are happening with this outstanding mission!

*Your Mission Commission*

## **The Family Promise Campus—Our New Shelter Model**

3/29/2023 by Gwen Campbell

March 24<sup>th</sup> was a momentous day for Family Promise—it marks a huge step forward in our future plans. Since 2010, Family Promise has provided temporary shelter and case management for over 250 families in partnership with local faith communities that open their buildings to family stays on a weekly rotation schedule. This past spring, Family Promise began transitioning into a new trauma-informed way to shelter and serve families experiencing homelessness with the opening of the first phase of the Family Promise Campus.

Family Promise seized an opportunity created by Covid disruptions to make this change, which provides more stability for families and children. And with a permanent home of our own, we continue to respond to the needs of our guests and families experiencing housing instability.

The Family Promise Campus is more centrally located and accessible to the families we serve, partnering organizations that assist them, and other resources families need. The campus has two properties. One property is commercially zoned with a building for our offices and service center and space for future expansion. The second property is residentially zoned with a house that will soon shelter one family at a time and land for future micro-sized apartments to shelter additional families. The two properties are in southern Coon Rapids just off Coon Rapids Boulevard and Highway 610. The property that will become office space is at 363 Coon Rapids Boulevard and the residential property where the shelter space will exist is at 340 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, right on a public transit bus line, increasing accessibility for families without their own transportation.

Our goal is moving families from homelessness to permanent housing. We strive to provide highly individualized, person-centered, trauma-informed care and case management services to help families address barriers and set achievable goals for housing stability. We do this with homelessness prevention and housing stabilization services as well as temporary shelter. The new campus unites these services in a central location, reducing accessibility barriers for the families we serve. Faith community partners and volunteers continue to be essential partners in our work, although their contributions may look different.

Building micro-apartments is the next phase of campus development. The goal is for all families accessing shelter to have their own private living space, more like their post-shelter home than a hotel or communal space. This fosters independence and avoids potential stigma for families and children. “Our hope is that, when a young child looks back at their family’s time in our program, they won’t even realize they were in a

shelter,” says Executive Director David Frei.

The properties were purchased from Rock Solid Companies, a Maple Grove-based real estate brokerage and property management company. Ron Touchette, CEO and Broker said, “Our family is so grateful that we could play a role with such an impactful organization's mission and action initiatives benefitting families right where and when they need it most. We are very excited to witness the substantial opportunities that will be able to be achieved at and through this new permanent home for Family Promise in Anoka County.”

We hope you will share our Family Promise Campus vision and help us raise by the end of this year our goal of \$260,000. These funds are dedicated to renovate our new spaces to serve families and children experiencing homelessness and building plans for phase two. Take a virtual tour of the new Family Service Center in this [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57MXP\\_7wS\\_M&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57MXP_7wS_M&feature=youtu.be) created by CTN Coon Rapids.

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

---

## **FAMILY TABLE**

Family Table is excited to announce adding drive thru meals to complement our indoor dining. The indoor meal continues to start at 11:30 AM, and the drive thru line will open at 12:00 after our rush. Please note that the enter/exit route in the parking lot will be altered to support this service. Our team intentionally picks compostable packaging and cutlery to make this environmentally friendly. We hope to see and feed more people who are uncomfortable with the dine-in option.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

*Table hosts:* sit and chat with our guests while enjoying the meal!

*ASL user for table host or server:* Repeat guests are ASL users and though we communicate with them through writing notes, this skill would be a gift.

Please contact Judy Lange to volunteer.

(Total meals served as of April: 18,962)

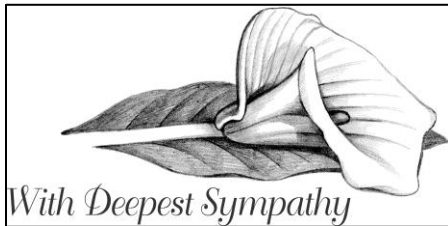
---

**REMINDER:** Please bring your own coffee cup for fellowship time to help with the 3Rs of conservation: *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*. Thanks!

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

On June 4<sup>th</sup> we have the opportunity to give a special offering. Gifts on *Peace With Justice Sunday* fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. You can leave your donation on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, or mail it to the church and write "Peace with Justice offering" on the memo line. Thank you!

## CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to John and Leona Menyonger upon the passing of John's mother Yarboma. The Menyonger family will be traveling to Liberia in July – may we keep them in our prayers.

*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



We welcome Rev. Donna Dempewolf.

Her first Sunday preaching will be on July 2<sup>nd</sup> - let us welcome her warmly! (A formal welcome will be set later in July.)





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**UWF SUNDAY: JUNE 25, 2023.**

Thank you,

The kindness of others is a genuine reflection of the kindness of God. Thank you so much for your contribution of \$150.00 to the Thomas Scholarship Fund through the Camphor Memorial UMC. Your gift will be used to support one of our wonderful awardees.

*Rhonda Jones-Webb*

---



Thank you so much to the Mission Committee for honoring me at a nice party, as I retired as our church Meals on Wheels Coordinator. Thank you to all of you who gave me a card, took the time to sign the cute car poster, for the hugs and pats on the back, and for all the kind words. The Meals on Wheels cake with the three cars, was awesome! It was a great morning at church and I really appreciated everything.

I decided to try and come up with the number of FUMC members and friends who volunteered for me the last 28 years. I got out my lists, and came up with 204 people. That is amazing! No wonder I continued coordinating for so long.

Thanks again my wonderful church family.

With Sincere Gratitude,

*Janet Fossum*

---

### **THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels the week of May 1-5.

Three Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni.

Two Day Drivers: Mike & Tammy Hay; Dave & Judy Ryan; Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Al & Sue Madison; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Perry & Carol Johs; Jan & Mary Wright.

**Going forward, Elaine from the Meals on Wheels office will be calling for drivers when it is FUMC's week to deliver meals. If you want to contact her, you can do so by calling Impact Services Meals on Wheels at 763-236-8718, and ask for Elaine.** I hired Elaine as my Assistant Director, but we were friends for many years before we started working together. You will enjoy your interactions with her.

One thing Elaine will not be doing, is putting Thank-You's in the Growing Edge. I will continue to do that, without my name mentioned, and announce the next week that we deliver meals. For now, you can put June 26 - 30 on your calendars.

I appreciate everyone who drove for me, at any point, the past 28 years. I would never have lasted so long as FUMC's Church Coordinator, if it were not for the many faithful, loyal drivers that I had through the years.

*From the bottom of my heart, thank you my friends.*

*Janet Fossum*

---

Dear Fridley UMC,

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve. I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$510.00 to Heifer International. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,

*Christy Moore, Senior Vice President of Marketing*

---

