

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

August 2023

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Rally Sunday will be on September 10.
All are invited!



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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



Thank you so much to those who are weeding - you are keeping our landscaping looking so nice!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Itinerant Journey

In the United Methodist Church pastors are itinerant. This means that they are willing to uproot themselves and go where sent on a moment's notice (or a month's notice or possibly two or three.) And they are willing to do so, to journey forth, whether an itinerary exists or not.

When writing about "The Itinerant Journey" African American scholar and Methodist preacher Renita Weems has this to say:

"Normally, someone who just takes off on a journey with no earthly idea where she is going is called a vagabond, a bum, a Gypsy. But I am called a Reverend."

I, too, am called a Reverend, though I prefer to be called Pastor Donna or simply Donna. After many twists and turns, my itinerant journey has led me to Fridley United Methodist Church as an interim pastor – my second such appointment. I've also served as an associate pastor, an executive pastor, and a senior pastor.

So what is my itinerary as an interim pastor?

In my first sermon (you can watch it on YouTube if you missed it,) I mentioned a three-fold pathway:

1. Learn your names and hear your stories.
2. Discern where God's Spirit is already at work in your midst.
3. Collaborate with you to follow God's leading in this time and place.

How am I to do this? How am I to follow this itinerary? For the first one, I enjoy coffee, lemonade, ice cream, lunch, conversations at the church, conversations in your home. Said differently, I enjoy visiting. My life is enriched when I gather around the table with another. Please call or email if you'd like to get together to share stories and to get know each other by name.

For the second and third, our District Superintendent has outlined an itinerary that states:

1. Bring continuity to the ministries of Fridley and nurture health and vitality during the season of transition.
2. Plan, coordinate, and lead Sunday worship that invites congregational engagement in assisting in the services.
3. Lead and supervise staff.
4. Collaborate and guide Fridley through a discernment process around clarifying their missional identity and ministry vitality.

5. Help clarify the role of pastor and the appropriate governing structure for Fridley's present size.

We have a pathway forward, yet, I am aware that it is not my itinerary – or even our District Superintendent's – that we follow. It is God's, and God takes us in directions we may never imagine.

I look forward to being with you this year, and experiencing the journey God has in store.

Blessings,
Pastor Donna

P.S. I can be reached at donna.dempewolf@fridelyumc.org.
I look forward to getting to know you by name.



PLEASE JOIN IN PRAYER.

O God, give us guidance and a helping hand with finding someone with the right skill set to be a Trustee of the church and its needs. Give us guidance and direction in finding the right people who will help oversee the care of our building as a team. May we also reach outside to others that have an interest in being a steward of our building. Amen.



Brenda will be getting some rest and renewal the week of August 14 – 18.
The church office will be closed.

Pastor Donna will be in the office on and off throughout the week.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER!

Mid-week learning opportunity-

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING at 9:30 AM.

Come join us in the lounge, or join us by Zoom. All are invited!

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



TAMARISK – AUGUST SPECIAL MISSION

Tamarisk, located in Anoka, is a non-profit organization that provides support for families caring for a family member facing a progressive or terminal health diagnosis. In 1983, founder Gretchen Hanson came to realize how unprepared she and her family were to handle the emotional issues and the end-of-life care of her father.

Tamarisk came into being in 1993. Its mission is to create a caring presence and a safe haven for the thoughts, feelings, and concerns of people, and their families, faced with the end stages of terminal illness. Volunteers are trained to focus on a family member's non-medical needs, while simultaneously providing much-needed respite to caregivers.

The name "Tamarisk" comes from the Bible story of Abraham offering comfort to strangers crossing the desert. He gave them water and offered rest under the shade of the Tamarisk tree.

In 2022, the Tamarisk program supported 21 active volunteers who donated 1,100 companion volunteer hours through 300 volunteer visits with the

families they serve. Since Tamarisk began collecting data, they have amassed 58,000 companion volunteer hours and served 1,580 families.

Our Fridley United Methodist Church congregation is living in an aging community. Adult children and relatives may not have anticipated the physical, emotional and financial toll this care will have on their family. Caregivers also need support to take care of their own health and life's demands. Tamarisk volunteers help meet that need.

Members of our church have personally volunteered for Tamarisk and have been recipients of the supportive services of a Tamarisk volunteer. Jeff Mondloh was referred to Tamarisk to help support his mother whose Parkinson's disease had brought her into hospice end stage care. Tamarisk volunteer Jean inspired confidence that his mother would be well cared for during the three hours she was there each week. They developed a close friendship which blossomed with conversations about interests they shared. Jean continued to visit even during the short time Jeff's mother was in the nursing home, just before her death.

Tamarisk's trained volunteers are available to provide a supportive presence through conversation, reading, playing cards or just being there so the family member can have a few hours to themselves. Some Tamarisk volunteers have even been matched with individuals who were able to go into the community for shopping or a trip to a favorite restaurant.

The emotional support and physical care this organization's volunteers provide are in high demand. Please take time to learn more about Tamarisk through examining the informative bulletin board in our church hall. Perhaps you know someone who could benefit from their services. Your referral may bring wonderful support to a family in your neighborhood.

The Missions team asks you to generously support the work of Tamarisk. Please use a pew envelope and identify Tamarisk for this month's mission gift. You can also visit the FUMC website and select the Missions tab for an online gift. Or mail your donation to the church office at 680 Mississippi Street Fridley 55432. Be sure to write "August Mission" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of this month's mission.

FAMILY TABLE

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? Family Table has several openings!

- Table runner who carries trays of plates to the seated guests
- ASL American Sign Language user for table host or drink server
- Table hosts to converse and eat with guests
- Reset/clean-up crew

Our mission to serve meals and provide a time and space for people to connect with others continues every 4th Saturday of the month (except some holidays). Most volunteers are at the church for less than 2 hours, and every volunteer also gets fed if they choose. Currently we are serving the sit-down meal from 11:30-12:30 and a drive-thru pick-up from 12-12:30. As of June 2023: 19,101 meals served.

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Family and friends of Amy Jo Ebert upon her death. Amy Jo's Memorial Service will be on Saturday, August 19. Service will be at 11:00 AM, visitation at 10:00 AM.

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.





THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following people from FUMC delivered Meals on Wheels the week of June 26.

Two Day Drivers: Fred Severni with Barb's help on one day; Dave & Judy Ryan; and Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Jeff & Janet Mondloh; Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Mike & Jody Lee; Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Perry & Carol Johs.

This particular week, 11 spots were filled with weekly or summer helpers. More FUMC help may be needed the next week we drive, which will be August 21 - 25. If you want to help, call Impact Services at 763-236-8718 and ask for Elaine. Thank you.

Dear Fridley UMC,

For over 50 years, Impact Services has worked hard to provide Meals on Wheels to our neighbors in need so that they may live independently in their homes. We have recently received your generous gift of \$1850. With that contribution we are able to provide free meals to those who are unable to afford a meal. Here at Impact Services, we cannot thank you enough. Because of you 450 neighbors get a daily well check, hot meal, and a dose of kindness & joy.

Warmest regards with much gratitude,

Donna Hemmer, Executive Director / Impact Services

