

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

## September 2023

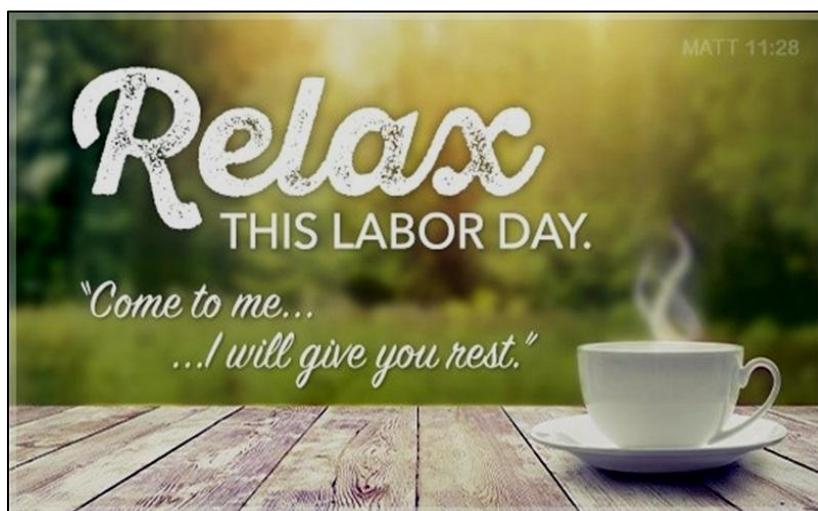
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### LABOR DAY

September 4

**We hope you have a blessed Labor Day!**



The church office will be closed.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### RALLY SUNDAY

September 10<sup>th</sup>



We will be serving ice cream sundaes.  
All are invited!



### 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

## **“SOW SEEDS OF FAITH ~ INVITE A FRIEND”**

As an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota I attended Grace University Lutheran Church. Why did I attend? One Sunday morning a friend at the dorm asked me to join her. I was invited.

Six months later I went downstairs for coffee hour. Why did I venture to the church basement? A young couple asked me to join them. I was invited.

A year later I volunteered at Loaves and Fishes once a month and occasionally read Scripture in the worship service. Why did I participate in these ministries? One lay leader asked me, and then another. I was invited.

In my late-twenties, I left Grace University Lutheran Church to return to my United Methodist roots. Yet this little church on the campus of the University of Minnesota still has a place in my heart. Those who invited me in the door, down the stairs, and out into the world influenced my faith journey (likely more than they will ever know). Their welcoming invitation was a free gift – grace in all its fullness.

This fall, consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to Fridley United Methodist Church. The invitation may influence another person’s faith journey. Also, consider striking up a conversation with a visitor or newer member. This is a joyous act of hospitality. Who knows, maybe someone is just waiting to be invited to serve at Family Table, read scripture, ring in the bell choir, participate in a class or activity, or join you in worship – or, better yet, add their creativity in ways we can’t yet imagine.

In the “Parable of the Sower” (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15), Jesus invites us to sow seeds of faith. One way to do so, is to invite others to experience God’s life-giving hope. Who knows, the seed may take root and grow.

Blessings,  
Donna

P.S. Grace University Lutheran Church has tripled in size since I attended as a college student. Never underestimate the power of a personal invitation.

## FRESH EXPRESSIONS: IMAGINE DAY

Join United Methodists from across Minnesota and the Dakotas for Imagine Day with Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, a United Methodist pastor and director of re-missioning for Fresh Expressions US. Bring a team to kick off a year-long journey focused on reaching new people in new places in new ways. Over the next year, you'll receive just-in-time resources, group coaching, and tools to create a fresh expression of church in a community venue or public space in your area.

(The only requirement is to **bring a team of at least three people from your church** so you have the support you need to be successful.) **Pastor Donna would love to have 3-5 people attending. Please let Pastor Donna know if you have signed up; or plan on attending.**

You'll leave Imagine Day with a renewed call and passion for reaching new people, a people map and some listening tools, and next steps to employ when you return home.

Imagine Day will take place at hub sites across the Dakotas and Minnesota. Choose the location that works best for you, and bring your team! Register today at <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/FEImagineDay>

### WHEN

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Central Standard Time

### Hub site locations for Minneapolis/St. Paul:

- Burnsville - River Hills UMC
  - Plymouth - Messiah UMC
- 



The Lord's Prayer, *by Adam Hamilton*  
The dates will be from September 17<sup>th</sup> – October 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
See you in worship!

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

## JOIN UMCOR IN SUPPORT FOR HAWAII

# SUPPORT FOR MAUI

An UMCOR grant is providing food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid, join us in prayer and support for the people of Maui in the aftermath of wildfires.

Support relief and recovery efforts  
by donating to UMCOR.



UMCOR awarded an emergency grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference, which includes the Hawaiian UMC, to provide shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings.

As first responders continue to provide initial aid, please join UMCOR in prayer and by making a gift to this and other disasters in the U.S.

### HOW TO GIVE

Make check out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line. Thank you!

## EDUCATION



**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>.**

**JOIN US!**

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 with Pastor Donna to discern the next offering.

**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)

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING** at 9:30 AM.

Come join us in the lounge, or join us by Zoom.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **BOOK GROUP**

The Book Group will be meeting on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to noon. The book we are discussing is The Illusion of the Perfect Profession, by Betsy Gall. This book will provide a very interesting conversation around the topic of suicide. It is a must read even if you can't come to discuss it. There are two copies available in the church library. Open to all men and women who like to read. Please join us. Contact Dawn Bushnell if you are interested. Phone 763-755-0845, e-mail [dawnieI@aol.com](mailto:dawnieI@aol.com).

## **MISSIONS**



### **September Mission: MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY**

In the fall of 2020, during the height of the pandemic, God led the people of Coon Rapids UMC to a new way to express their love for God and neighbor. They had been inspired years before by Spirit River in Isanti, Minnesota, by their Matthew 25 ministry, and longed to serve the

community in a more tangible way. With the hard work of dedicated volunteers, the monthly Matthew 25 drive-thru food distribution began in January of 2021.

Matthew 25 is a volunteer-based ministry intent on sharing the generosity in the community with people of all ages and backgrounds who are in need. With donations of resources, time and energy, they share food, supplies, and support with compassion, dignity and joy.

Food is obtained from grocery store overstock, Starbucks, Subway, and Olive Garden. They also purchase food in Isanti at a discount grocery store. The church has a commercial freezer for food they receive from Olive Garden.

Monetary donations are used to purchase food and supplies that are not otherwise donated from private donations, Spirit River Foundation, and Grants. Volunteers pack 425 bags of groceries each month in preparation for the Matthew 25 drive-thru on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from 12:00-2:00 PM. (Bob and Judy Schuldt, former FUMC members, were some of the original volunteers who helped pack the Matthew 25 grocery bags on Saturday.) Just prior to the drive-thru on Sunday fresh produce and other perishables are added to the bags. Families receive approximately 15-20# of food each month.

You can learn more about Matthew 25 on the Mission Bulletin Board in the hallway, or go to <https://www.coonrapidsumc.org/matthew-25> to learn more.

The Missions team encourages you to prayerfully consider generously supporting this Ministry at Coon Rapids UMC. As a team, we would like to honor Bob and Judy Schuldt through this mission.

Please use a pew envelope and identify Matthew 25 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 St NE Fridley 55432. Be sure to write Matthew 25 on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of this month's mission.

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## **FAMILY TABLE**

Our mission to serve meals and provide a time and space for people to connect with others continues every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month (except some holidays.) Most volunteers are at the church for less than 2 hours. Currently we are serving the sit-down meal from 11:30-12:30 and a drive-thru pick-up from when the last tables are served (about 12) until 12:30.

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

Thank you all for your generous donation of \$2,035 for backpacks and school supplies! This money went directly to Fridley schools to purchase school supplies in bulk. Many kids and classrooms will benefit from this gift! Thank you for loving our neighbors.

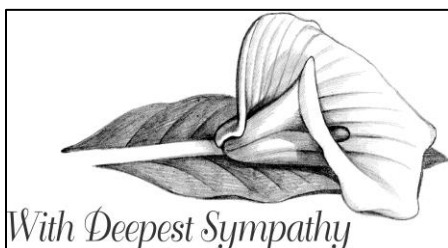
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**REMINDER:** Please bring your own coffee cup for fellowship time to help with the 3Rs of conservation: *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*. Thanks!

## CHURCH ALBUM



On August 20<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Ethan Light into FUMC membership, welcome Ethan!



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Steinmetz family upon the death of Virginia. Virginia's service will be on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 11:00 AM, visitation will be at 10:00 AM.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Dick Wen upon the death of Donna. Donna's Memorial Service will be on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, visitation will be 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.

# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> IS RALLY SUNDAY!

Come and join us to reconnect with one another, and to enjoy each other's fellowship. We will be serving ice cream Sundaes. See you then!



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## FUMC FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

January – July Financial Summary 2023

The Finance Committee would like to thank you for your financial support as we continue to work toward balancing our budget. At the beginning of the year, we projected a loss for this year of (\$30,000) using our best estimates. 2023 continues to present challenges for FUMC and all our members. Through the generosity of all of you and the efforts of our staff, Church Council, and program chairs we have lowered and are maintaining costs. We are reporting that our Year – To – Date results continue to be challenging.

**Below details year-to-date (YTD) income and expenses:**

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	203,406	217,483	(14,077)
Total Expenses	205,643	228,119	22,476
Surplus/Deficit	(2,237)	(10,636)	8,399

YTD – Total Income - 7% lower than budget.

YTD – Total Expenses - 10% lower than budget.

YTD – Surplus/(Deficit) - Forecasted continued less giving will result in a year end operating deficit.

We would like to thank you for your generosity to Fridley UMC.





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**TABITHA CIRCLE** is once again sponsoring a cake, frosting and candle collection during the month of September. Please bring in cake mixes, frosting and candles (get these at the dollar store). I have heard that the Food Shelves are in dire need of these items. You may also donate money and we will do the shopping for you. Please do NOT donate any expired items as the food shelf will not accept these. All Children deserve a birthday and this is one way to make that happen. Thanks from the Tabitha Circle!

**NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:** The organizational meeting of Naomi Circle for the new year will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. Pat King will provide treats. Come with ideas for our friendship group. New members are welcome.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Joyce Dahlberg will do the devotions and program, Joan Jagunich will be hostess and Diane Jachymowski will be co-hostess.

### **Jeanne Audrey Powers Award for Healing a Broken World**

This award honors persons who have made significant efforts to build the beloved community, in particular through collaborative partnerships and ecumenical efforts, working for justice and reconciliation for all persons.

This Award was given to the MN Conference United Women in Faith this past June. Check out the picture of the award in the UWF showcase in the hall. Here is a little about Jeanne Audrey Powers:

Rev. Powers was a pioneer ecumenist who represented The United Methodist Church as a respected teacher, workshop leader, writer, preacher, spokesperson, campus minister, and missions executive. Her best-known role was staffing the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns and therefore holding leadership roles in the World and National Councils of Churches.

Raised in Minnesota, she was a leader and active member of the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church. Always on the leading edge of historical shifts in culture, Rev. Powers was a global-level advocate for a more progressive, inclusive faith, focused on inclusive language, relevant liturgies, LGBTQ struggles, and opening leadership opportunities to women, young people, and people of many cultures.

She had an enormous and gracious capacity to befriend and mentor many future church leaders, including those whose ideas and experiences were different from hers. In 1958, she was ordained in Minnesota as a deacon in the Methodist Church. When ordained an elder in 1961, she was among the first women in the Methodist Church granted full clergy rights.

For a decade, Rev. Powers was the state director of the Minnesota Methodist Student Movement as well as the Wesley Foundation Campus Minister of the University of Minnesota, at both its St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses. In both cities, she created gathering spaces where students lived and worked together as she challenged them to risk unfamiliar territory and broaden their horizons. While in that role, she also staffed University United Methodist Church and the Minnesota Conference.

In 1996, Rev. Powers was the first recipient of the Jeanne Audrey Powers Award, established by the Minnesota Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. In 2014, Rev. Powers was again recognized at Minnesota's Annual Conference Session and presented with a plaque that read, "In recognition of your many years of visionary leadership and service to the Minnesota Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, and the people of God everywhere." In accepting her award, Powers said, "No matter where or what I have been doing, this annual conference has been my home. I am so grateful for it."

She said, "I have chosen to swim against the stream in many areas of controversy [in the church] because I truly believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, called to share its message of healing, reconciliation, and yes, salvation...I do not choose the Church simply because I want to belong, but because I believe in its transforming Spirit."

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Thank you to my FUMC family for thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls related to my recent knee replacement surgery. My recovery will be longer than I would like but knowing of loving people holding me in prayer is making it a little easier. Again, a warmest thank you.

*Judy Ryan*

A great thank you to all who helped with the memorial service for Amy Jo Ebert. Thank you to Ruth Hilliard who organized the ministry team. Everyone's help is so very much appreciated. For all your contributions, the Ebert family was so very pleased. Many hands make work easy. May each of you be blessed with the kindness you give and share with others.

*Jinny Erickson, and Funeral Reception Committee.*

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Fridley UMC,

Thank you for generously investing in GMCC (founded as Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.) This letter confirms your gift of \$1,850 was received and designated to Food (MFS.) Your generous act of caring is making an immeasurable difference during challenging times for so many of our neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Adrienne Dorn, Executive Director*

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