

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

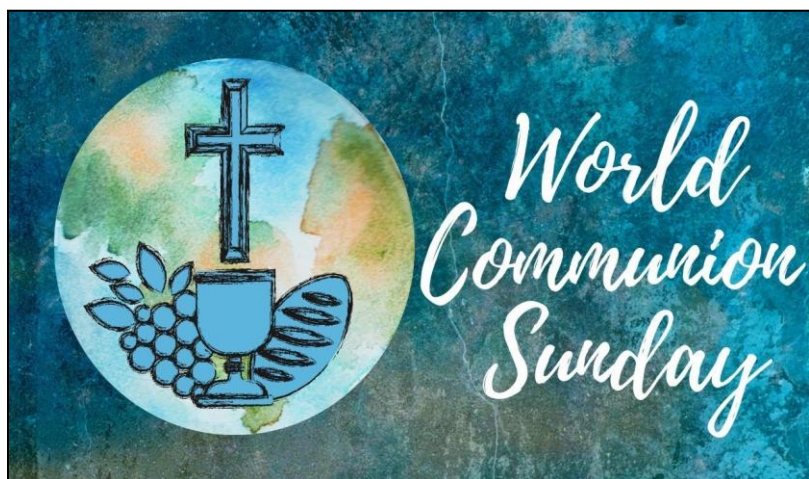
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

October 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor	2
Education	4
Events & Opportunities	6
Missions	4
UWF News	6
55+ Breakfast	6

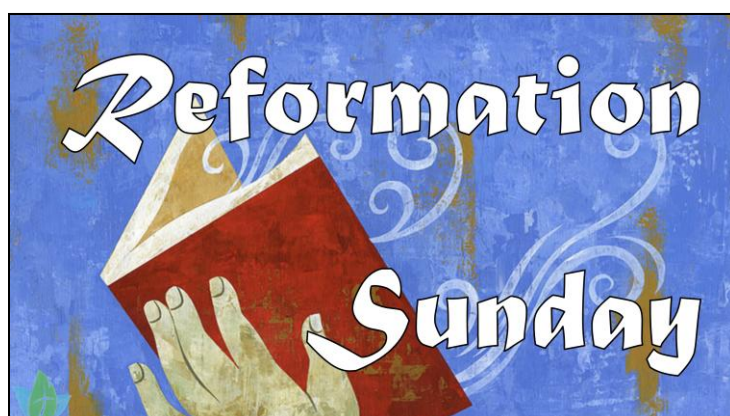
World Communion Sunday
October 1st



Pastor Appreciation Month



Reformation Sunday
October 29



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

GROW TOWARD THE LIGHT

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.”
(John 1:5)

Last week, I visited the Andover Sunflower Field. It was a beautiful sea of yellows and greens, with blue sky overhead. Looking around, I notice the sunflower faces tracking the sun. It’s a quality known as heliotropism, which is the tendency to grow toward the light.

Appreciative Inquiry is a model of conversation designed to move our faces toward what gives life. Or said differently, to accentuate the positive, rather than eliminate the negative. Why? Because, like plants, we tend to grow toward the light.

When we look at problems, we get defensive. We blame others, we are reluctant to share, and we find it difficult to learn and grow. When we look at what gives us life, we are more likely to be engaged and excited. We are more likely to discover what works and what gives life to a community.

This fall, as part of our interim journey together, and in preparation for the next Lead Pastor at Fridley United Methodist Church, we will engage in Appreciate Inquiry conversations. We will interview people, in groups or individually, to discover their most life-giving experiences, along with their hopes for the future of FUMC. We’ll ask questions, such as:

- Reflect on your entire experience at Fridley United Methodist Church, and recall a time when you felt the most engaged, alive, and motivated.
- How has your life been affected by being part of FUMC?
- How does FUMC help you grow spiritually?
- What are the gifts you bring to FUMC, and the local community?
- Make three wishes for the future of Fridley United Methodist Church.

One of the things I appreciate most about Appreciate Inquiry conversations is the invitation for all voices to be heard. Everyone’s story is important. Through our shared conversation we’ll catch a glimpse of what makes FUMC unique as followers of Jesus, the Light of the World.

I look forward to providing more information, including dates and times for the conversations (which will take place in small groups of 5 to 6 people). For now, begin to reflect upon how this community of faith has enriched your life, and how we might let our light shine.

Blessings,

Donna Dempewolf, Interim Pastor

AUTUMN LEAVES by Gene Koll

-Oh- how beautiful are autumn leaves
That gently sway in the summer breeze
They're all green and still around
For a while before they turn brown
Let's go back to early spring
When God starts growing all kinds of things
The leaves all grew from little buds
Even before those nasty bugs
They grew on bush trees big and tall
Then stopped growing later on in fall
They had no choice what color to be
God made them all just pretty to see
This is bad news for leaves turned brown
They're not even worth few pennies a pound
But really good news for all the leaves
They'll never be taken away by thieves
There's many colors from different trees
These autumn leaves are great to see
People come in from all around
To see the leaves before turning brown
These people believed what others said
God turned some yellow some orange some red
The time has come when leaves fall down
Some fall on farms and streets in town
They land on bridges and roads below
In gentle streams where water flows
They land on meadows and fields of hay
Also on churches where people pray
All the leaves they try their best
To land on top so they'll be blessed
Some fly inside through open doors
They land in pews some on the floor
Every leaf is glad they blew in
So they could hear good news and hymns
When saying good-bye some leaves were told
God's favorite color those turned gold
Now winter is here leaf season is done
For autumn leaves
Thank
God and Son

EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 11:30 AM.

LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS and **SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY CLASS** will meet in the computer room. We will be studying The Lord's Prayer by Adam Hamilton. Come check us out.

Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Children's coloring pages and crayons can be found on the back sanctuary table.

(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 welcome!

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



October Mission: International Institute of Minnesota

The International Institute of Minnesota is an organization whose history stretches back to 1917 with the goal of helping New Americans achieve self-sufficiency and full membership in American life. Last year (2022), the Institute assisted 3,238 New Americans from 100 countries who entered America legally. Over 2,000 of those refugees, asylees, and immigrants were helped with: Citizenship, Lawful permanent residency, Replacement of documents and other immigration-related issues, Language learning and job training, Citizenship classes and

refugee resettlement. The Institute offers New Americans a pathway to start a new life in our community. This year, work has included refugees from Afghanistan and the Ukraine.

Community Orientation Workshops offer English language introductions and orientation to many aspects of American life, including transportation, housing, community resources, financial literacy and banking, navigating healthcare, schools and education, finding work and pathways to permanent residency and citizenship. Most program participants are a median age between late 20s and early 30s; many are young parents with children. Countries of origin span the globe — Iraq, Afghanistan, Thailand, Liberia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda and more.

Several students have secured jobs since finishing the workshops; others are studying for their GED or continuing to work on their English. Internet access can be a barrier to many students' goals, as can factors like housing instability and the processing of immigration paperwork.

Nour, a Lebanese immigrant, enrolled in the IIM Nursing Assistant Training and Medical Career Advancement programs, working her way from being an unemployed teen immigrant in an abusive, forced marriage to having a career as a registered nurse (RN).

Nour spoke little English, had no family or friends and no exposure to life outside the house. Once she and her children moved into a domestic violence shelter, the possibilities of life began to reveal themselves, and during this time she learned about the Institute's Nursing Assistant training.

"I was a single parent with five kids. I was very overwhelmed at the beginning. I didn't know if I could do it," Nour said. "Then I started, and I was in love with the staff and the materials I was diving into. I learned about budgeting. I improved my English. I learned a lot." "For the first time in my life, I had a career. It felt amazing. Accomplished, confident, strong. I was proud to have a job," Nour said.

She credits an Institute teacher for encouraging her – a memory she still thinks about, almost a decade later. "She would whisper in my ear, 'You can do it.' I believed her," Nour said. "I still hear her voice whisper in my ear." *"I get to choose my dreams. I get to live them."*

Immigration has been unfairly represented as bringing untrained, low skilled people who require a lot of government support. This is not necessarily supported by a lot of data. Many immigrant arrivals are well educated and can add a lot to our labor force. A substantial number of new arrivals have college or post college degrees. They require time to retrain and complete job skill tests Minnesota employers require.

An organization like the International Institute of Minnesota provides the support new arrivals require to get their footing in a new community. Minnesota needs these New Americans. 95% of immigrants to Minnesota come to join family members living here.

We hope that our church family can support this organization financially and support our New Americans through our friendship and good will. Please use a pew envelope and identify as IIM for October mission gift, or through FUMC website choose "Give Online" then select "Missions," or mail a check marked "October Missions" directly to FUMC Church Office. Thank you for your generous support of this month's mission.

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. Come, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK GROUP: Will meet on Saturday, October 14th, from 9:00 AM to noon. The book we are discussing is The Illusion of the Perfect Profession, by Betsy Gall. There are two copies available in the church library. Open to all men and women. Join us! Contact Dawn Bushnell if you are interested.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday October 13th in the church choir room. Leone Olson will bring treats and Pat King will be leading the program.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 1:00 PM in the Choir Room for a hymn sing. Peggy Mahle will do the devotions and program.

Thank-you to everyone that donated caked mix, frosting and candles to support the Tabitha Circle mission to provide children with birthdays. Special thank-you to Gary Boyer for delivering them to the food shelf for us. Per Gary, the food shelf was really happy to receive them. What a wonderful family we have at FUMC to care so much.

From, Max and the Tabitha Circle Members



FUMC,

We want to thank all of you for your help and support during such a difficult time! God Bless.

Dee Watt's Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for having joined Donn, me and our family; son Jimmy, granddaughters Madison and Caitlin, in celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary on August 27, 2023. Your cards, well wishes and emails are so greatly appreciated. We are so blessed in having each of you in our family. Thank you for being with us in celebrating our special day.

Lovingly,

Donn, Jinny and Family

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Thank you to the following people who helped deliver Meals on Wheels the week of August 21.

Two Day Drivers: Fred Severni; Jan & Mary Wright; Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Perry & Carol Johs; Cheryl Skluzacek; Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Al & Sue Madison; Mike & Jody Lee.

The next week that FUMC delivers is October 16 - 20. If you can help, call Impact Services at 763-236-8718, and ask for Elaine. Thank you.