

# *The Growing Edge*

*(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)*

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

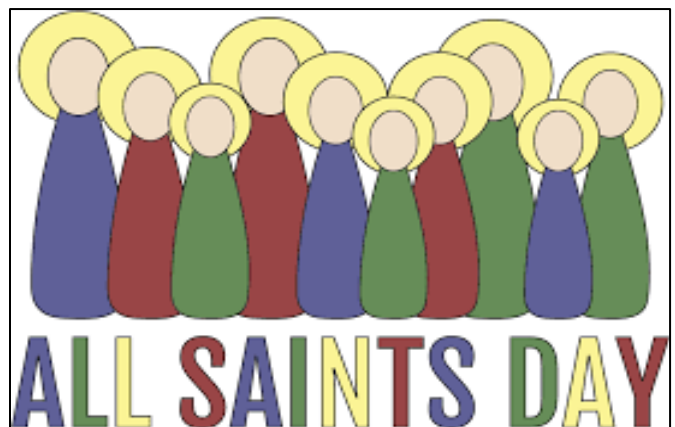
## *November 2023*

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2023:**

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**



### **Prayer Chain Information**

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

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

**FRIDLEY ALUMNI CHOIR CONCERT**

**Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 PM**

**All are invited!**



Fridley  
**Alumni**  
Choir  
**Concert**

# Thank You

*“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.” -Meister Eckhardt*

As we enter the month of November, I would like to say “Thank You!” “Thank you” for welcoming me into the Fridley UMC family as your interim pastor, and for sharing your lives with me.

More specifically, here are some things for which I say “thank you.”

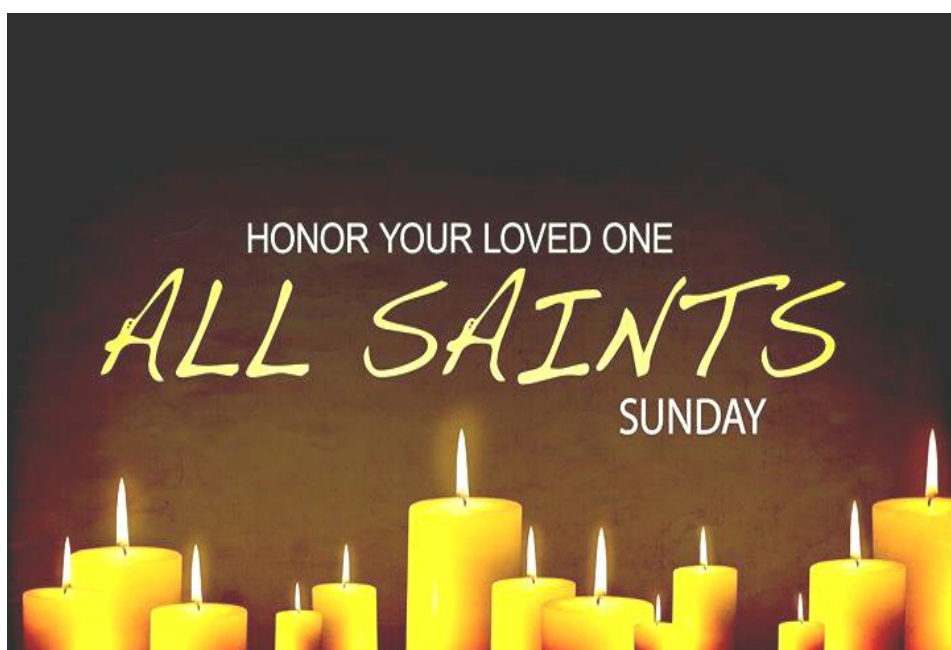
- Thank you for loving God, each other, and your neighbors in need. When I look over the congregation on Sunday mornings, the beauty of the Spirit shines in your faces.
- Thank you for caring for one another by sending cards, visiting the homebound, and holding each other in prayer. Your care for one another is heartwarming.
- Thank you for sharing your gifts of technology. It takes a team to share the way of Jesus.
- Thank you for growing in faith and supporting each other (from Bible Shaping to Grit & Spit to Women in Faith to the Men’s Breakfast Bible Study to the Knitting Group – and the list goes on.)
- Thank you for providing a family style meal to our neighbors each month, and for supporting our community (from our local schools to immigration services to food ministries.)
- Thank you for collaborating with me and working cooperatively with each other.

I am thankful for the ways you live your faith, and share your time, talents, and treasures with Fridley UMC.

Blessings, Donna

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**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023**



## November Sermons



## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERMONS

Nov. 5: All Saints

Nov. 12: Guest Preacher, Cynthia Williams

Nov. 19: Journey of Generosity

Nov. 26: Coming Home

### Guest Preacher on November 12, 2023

Rev. Cynthia Williams, Twin Cities District Superintendant, will be preaching at Fridley UMC on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Cynthia is a gifted, dynamic preacher. You will not want to miss this service.

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## ADVENT WORSHIP SERMONS

Dec. 3: Meanwhile

Dec. 10: Surprised

Dec. 17: Light

Dec. 24: Rejoice

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 PM –

**All are invited!**

In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out, get ready, God is on the way.

# 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. 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.

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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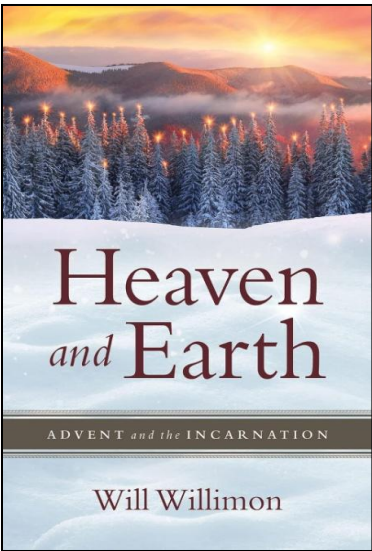
## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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.

**A GATHERING FOR GUYS:** *Grit & Spit* meets every Saturday at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee, conversation and prayer.

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**LENTEN STUDY:**  
**WATCH OUT. GET READY. GOD IS ON THE WAY.**



It’s not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we’re to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck for a four-session Advent Study via Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning November 28. The schedule is:

- **Nov. 28**, 7-8:15 p.m. Chapter 1: Meanwhile (Mark 12:24-37), pg. 1-36.
- **Dec. 5**, 7-8:15 p.m. Chapter 2: Surprised (Mark 1:1-8), pg. 37-70.
- **Dec. 12**, 7-8:15 p.m. Chapter 3: Light (John 1:6-8, 19-28), pg. 71-94.
- **Dec. 19**, 7-8:15 p.m. Chapter 4: Rejoice (Luke 1:26-55), pg. 95-140.

**YOU CAN REGISTER** at: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2023-advent-study-heaven-and-earth>

Order your book through Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Heaven-Earth-Incarnation-William-Willimon/dp/1791029035/>

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**APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY**

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.

Pastor Donna will be inviting all small groups to hold an Appreciative Conversation. Additionally, she’s inviting everyone in the congregation to participate on one of these dates/times:

- November 19, (after worship, 11:00 am)
- November 21, (Zoom, 10:00 am)
- December 10, (after worship; 11:00 am)
- December 12, (Zoom, 6:30 pm)

If you’d prefer to provide to write your answers and submit them, you’re welcome to do so. Please see insert for a brief overview of Appreciative Inquiry, along with the questions.

# MISSIONS



## UMCOR – Special Mission Undesignated Support

*“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless.” Matthew 9:36*

**The United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR**, was founded in 1940. Since then, this truly outstanding organization has responded with

great compassion to countless disasters in the US and around the world. UMCOR is the humanitarian and development arm of the United Methodist church. UMCOR acts on our behalf to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters such as famine, hurricanes, war, fires and earthquakes to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery when events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own.

UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster, recovery and long-term health development.

UMCOR gives hope nationally and globally!

Recent responses include help for people in the Ukraine, earthquake victims in Afghanistan and Morocco, Hurricane Idalia in Florida, and wildfires in Hawaii. Our gifts provide food, clean water, shelter, safety, medical care, rebuilding and dignity. This undesignated offering enables UMCOR to be prepared and equipped to respond immediately when there is a disaster. Let us give generously from our hearts in demonstrating hope and peace at a time when the world needs it desperately.

*Your Mission Commission*

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

**FAMILY TABLE**

The Family Table ministry works because of the many volunteers in different roles. After the hot summer months, we are grateful for the dishwasher volunteers who clean the pots, pans, and plates in the hot humid dishwashing area. They also know where everything goes in the kitchen and get it back to where it belongs. Our regulars are Tim White, Wanda Boyer, Gary Boyer, Carrol Rahn though other clean-up crew and kitchen team members pitch in as well.

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

**UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY** is November 26, 2023.

This is one of the six special Sundays during the year that we have the opportunity to help with various ministries. Monetary gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. Special offering envelopes will be supplied on that Sunday.

**A CHARGE CONFERENCE** is scheduled for Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM for pastoral compensation.

# CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of FUMC members: Edna Garrison and Harriet Stubbs, the heavens are saying: *Well done, good and faithful servants!*

*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.

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the lounge. The next time we will get together is November 14.



### YOU ARE INVITED!!

Judy Owen & Lee Wallace invite you to witness the exchange of their wedding vows on Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 11:30 AM in the Church Sanctuary.

Brunch following in Church Hall.

**Please RSVP by November 11, 2023** to Judy.)

### ADVENT CHOIR

An Advent choir is being formed to sing on December 10<sup>th</sup> during our worship service. A sign-up sheet will be on the choir room door. Rehearsals will be Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Come join us. Questions?? Call Sharon White or see her at church.



## **FUMC is looking for a part-time, qualified Maintenance Worker.**

Duties include general upkeep and maintenance of the building, Rainbow School, and grounds. He/she should be able to interact cooperatively with the pastor, staff, volunteers, and congregation. Contact the church office for a job description and application.

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## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



The church office will be closed on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Mark your calendars!**

#### **ADVENT DECORATING:**

Your help is needed to adorn our sanctuary and other parts of our church for the Advent Season. We will decorate on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM. *There will be a sign up sheet in the hallway starting November 19<sup>th</sup>.* Many hands will make the decorating go fast!

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## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** will meet Friday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the choir room at church. Pat King will present a short lesson on the World Thank Offering and a collection will be taken. Our project for the month is to send Thanksgiving cards to the shut-ins. Marilyn Forsberg will bring treats.



**BOARD MEETING** on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, we'll have small group discussions for the appreciative inquiry.

**RUTH CIRCLE** - will meet on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Diane Jachymowski will do the devotions. The program is the World Thank Offering. Reba Moreau will be hostess and Kathy Bednar will be co-hostess.

Mark Your Calendars!  
All Member Christmas Potluck on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Banfill Crossing Apartments.

Fridley United Methodist Women,  
Thank you for being part of the Terebinth Refuge community. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to help women rebuild their lives with hope and dignity after surviving years of abuse and exploitation. We received your very generous donation in the amount of \$150.00. We appreciate your partnership and compassion for the women we serve. With deepest gratitude,  
*Cynthia Terlouw-Kvistad, Founder and Executive Director Terebinth Refuge*

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Dear Friends,  
I speak for everyone here at Emma Norton when I say a heartfelt thank you for your recent gift of \$600. Your generosity has a direct impact on our programs and in supporting the over 300 individuals and children served annually at Emma Norton. As we continue to work to provide stable housing and support for all our current clients, we're also taking great strides towards the future with the development of our new building, Restoring Waters. Thanks to people like you, we can continue our important work serving our current clients and expanding our services as well.  
*Tonya Brownlow, Executive Director*

Fridley UMC,

Thank you for your support of the mission of Family Promise in Anoka County. Your donation of \$1050 is greatly appreciated as we serve more families, in more unique and individual ways, throughout our community.

Sincerely,

*David Frei, Executive Director*

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## **THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

The following people from FUMC delivered Meals on Wheels the week of October 16 - 20.

Three Day Drivers: Tim & Janet Fossum.

Two Day Drivers: Fred & Barb Severni.

One Day Drivers: Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Mike & Jody Lee; Jeff & Janet Mondloh; Mike & Tammy Hay; Al & Sue Madison; Dave & Judy Ryan and Jan & Mary Wright.

Janet Fossum is still writing the Growing Edge Thank You's, and **I am going to make a plea for more help. Elaine from Meals on Wheels is coming up short every week that FUMC delivers meals. She is very grateful for the help she does receive and never complains, but I am hoping we can do better.** Delivering meals is very easy. The maps are great; the time commitment short, maybe an hour starting at 11:00; and the experience is very rewarding. FUMC does Fridley and Spring Lake Park routes only. Two people working together is nice. Maybe you can't be the runner but you are able to be the driver, or vice versa, find a friend, neighbor, relative to help you. Lunch out after would make it a special day.

You can always talk to me at church, or I am willing to answer questions if you want to call. The next week that FUMC delivers is December 11 - 15.

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