

# *The Growing Edge*

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

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

## *January 2024*

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**January 1, 2024  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**January 7: EPIPHANY SUNDAY**



**THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM.**

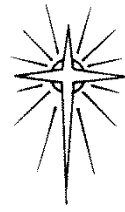


### **Prayer Chain Information**

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

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

## EPHIPHANY



### The Wise Man's Journey

There will be no camels;  
we are going on horseback,  
at least for some of the way.

And we won't arrive there  
a few hours after everyone else.  
It will be weeks, perhaps-  
or months.

We are not in a hurry.  
That is not the way we work;  
we are not Europeans.

We will discuss the phenomenon-  
the star-  
and if it does not go away,  
and if we still feel curious,  
we will travel.

We will look in the wrong place.  
Yes, I admit that,  
because wise men, potentates,  
intellectuals-  
call us what you will-  
are not fallible.

We expect a new power  
to emerge from the side of the  
old one.

We expect the destination we seek  
to resemble what our common  
sense deduces.

We will be upset, angry even,  
to find that Herod is ignorant  
and that his residence is not the  
birthplace.

We will find it hard  
and intellectually demeaning  
to bow the knee to the son of  
refugees.

And all this . . .  
all this upset will be compounded  
when it comes to journeying back  
and we discover  
we have to go home by an  
alternate route.

That is the trouble with God.  
God does not let you leave as  
You came.  
God sends you back,  
Stripped of your presumptions,  
Making for home by an alternate  
route.

(From *Cloth for the Cradle*  
by Iona Community Wild Goose  
Worship Group)



May we, like the wise ones of old, be open to God's intentions for us –  
both personally and as a church community. And may we continue to be  
faithful to God's hopes and dreams, even when they catch us by surprise  
and cause us to make changes in our plans. May God's wisdom always  
guide us.

**UPCOMING IN JANUARY:**

January 2, 2024      6:30 PM (*zoom*) will be our last Appreciative Inquiry  
January 7, 2024      Epiphany Sunday  
January 14, 2024    Guest Preacher: Pastor Paul Baudhuin

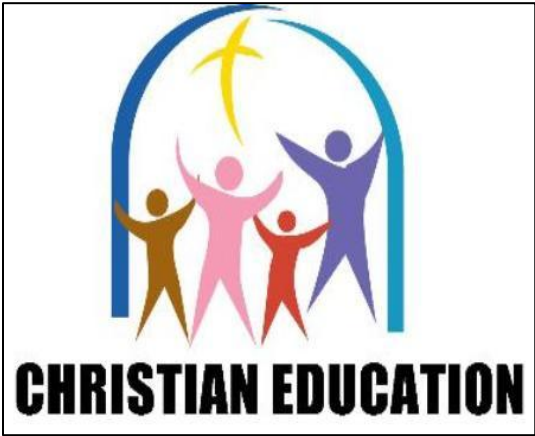
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**COMMITTEE LEADERS** please remember to send your agenda and meeting minutes to Brenda in the office for our permanent church files. Thank you!

**EDUCATION**



**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**  
Sunday School starts 11:30 AM.

**LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS** meets 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.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

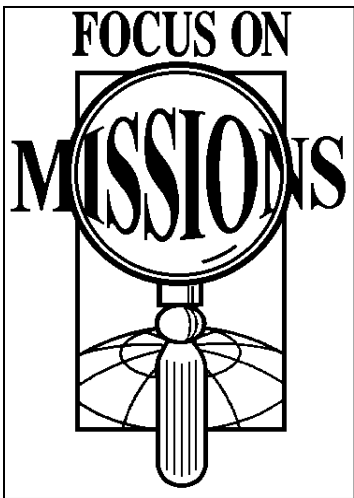
A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at the Sunset Grill in Blaine. We eat breakfast; take turns leading that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture, story and discussion. We share prayer concerns. All men are welcome. For more information contact Bill Ekstrum.

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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.

**MISSIONS**



**OPEN ARMS – JANUARY SPECIAL MISSION**

Open Arms is an exciting new mission for Fridley UMC, but it has been in existence for 30 years! Open Arms’ unique program is to prepare and deliver medically tailored meals to Minnesota residents and their families impacted by life-threatening illness. Unlike food pantries, income is not a qualifier for their services. Their made-from scratch, preservative-free meals that clients choose from are crafted for specific illnesses. All food is cooked and prepared directly in their state-of-the art kitchen, utilizing fresh, organic produce harvested from Open Farms program whenever possible. Meals are delivered once a week by volunteer delivery drivers. Dave Ryan from our church is one of these drivers. Additional meals are provided for caregivers and dependent children if requested.

We learned about Open Arms when we heard that long-time members of our church, Cindy and Jerry Robb, were receiving meals. Open Arms began as a single act of kindness in 1986 when Bill Rowe, the founder, began cooking food in his apartment and delivering it to a handful of neighbors living with AIDS who had had become too sick to cook for themselves. From there it moved into a church. Three decades later their operation has grown into an organization with state-of-the-art facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Meals are now delivered to people with many illnesses such as cancer, MS, ALS and COPD. 6,000 meals are delivered each year. The purpose of Open Arms is to create an inclusive and joyful community to provide high-quality medically tailored meals, nutrition education and hope to their clients. Open Arms is a great blessing to many people—let us do our best to support this outstanding mission with our gifts and prayers!



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

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**HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY, January 14, 2024**

Six Special Sunday Offerings are received from United Methodist churches each year. Human Relations Sunday is a special offering which helps church-based community developers’ work in racial and ethnic minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. The offering also ensures a second chance for youth offenders. We celebrate this offering on the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. You can leave your donation on Sunday, January 16, or mail it to the church and write “Human Relations Day offering” on the memo line. Thank you!

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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!

**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**

**APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY**

As part of our interim journey together, and in preparation for the next Lead Pastor at Fridley United Methodist Church, we will engage in our last Appreciate Inquiry conversation on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 PM Via Zoom; led by Pastor Donna. 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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UWF is planning on hosting a “Souper Bowl” party lunch on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024, join us! Details to come at a later date.

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### 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 January 9, 2024.

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## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** will meet Friday January 12th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. Pat King will bring treats and Marilynn Forsberg will present the lesson.

**RUTH CIRCLE** - will meet on January 16 at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Jean Mills will be the hostess, and Kathy Bednar the co-hostess. Evie Skurich will do devotions; Joyce Dahlberg will present the program on Journey in and through Christ. All are invited to join us!

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### THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels for FUMC, the week of December 11 - 15.

Three Day Drivers: Mike & Jody Lee and Fred & Barb Severni.

Two Day Drivers: Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; Perry & Carol Johs; Dave & Judy Ryan; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Al & Sue Madison; and Jan & Mary Wright.

There are some changes taking place at Impact Services (MOW) that will take us all awhile to get used to. If you delivered this week, you saw a notice that the route books with the nice maps, are being replaced with a paper list of names, addresses and written directions. If you are a GPS user, this will work out fine for you. If you do not use GPS, this will not go over very well with you.

Also, Elaine from the Impact office who took over calling for FUMC volunteers when I quit in May, is retiring at the end of the year. I promised you all that you would enjoy working with Elaine, and you did. Now, I am in the same boat as you. I have no idea who the office person is who will be calling or emailing us. We will have to wait and see how this goes. The next week we drive is, February 5 - 9.

Janet Fossum

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FUMC,  
Thank you very much for your donation of \$577.00 and for your support!  
We are blessed! *Tamarisk*  
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