

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

## April 2024

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### **HOLY WEEK: ALL ARE INVITED!**

#### **Maundy Thursday Service**

March 28 at 7:00 PM

#### **Good Friday Service**

March 29 at 7:00 PM

March 31, **Easter Sunday**, join us!

Worship Celebration at 10:00 AM



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR JUNE 9, 2024 – YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT! CHOCOLATE WILL BE PRESENT!

On June 9, 2024, following our regular church service we will be honoring and thanking Pastor Donna for her interim service to our congregation over the past year. It's hard to believe the year is almost over. Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall following church to show your appreciation to Pastor Donna.



### **Prayer Chain Information**

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

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



## ***DESPAIR TO HOPE; FEAR TO COURAGE***

*Six Word Wonders* is the latest collection of stories, poems, memoirs, and jokes told only in 6 words. It follows on from the success of *Six Word Memoirs* and *Six Word Stories*. These are bit-sized nuggets of lived experience. Some are clever, some are poignant, others are tragic. It was first made popular by the classic: “*For Sale: Baby shoes. Never worn.*”

Since then, the art form has developed in all sorts of direction, and has spawned books such as, *Not Quite What I Was Planning*. It’s an apt title for Holy Week and Easter. The events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were not quite what the disciples were planning. I anticipate that they could have written six-word memoirs about what they experienced:

*Take eat, take drink, remember me.*

*Inscription overhead: “King of the Jews.”*

*Darkness came over the whole land.*

Sometimes in our spiritual journeys, we find ourselves in situations where all we can say, if we can say anything at all, is, “*Not quite what I was planning.*”

This does not mean that we do not have faith; faith does not grant us immunity from the disappointments and heartaches of life: a diagnosis of cancer; a foreclosure; a pink slip; a friend who said he’d always have your back, yet nowhere to be found. Rather we have a faith that grant us hope in the face of hopelessness, courage in the face of fear.

Reflect for a moment on our Easter story. It was early on the first day of the week, still dark outside, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. When she arrived, six words: “*Not quite what I was planning.*” The stone was rolled away; the linen burial cloth was on the floor. She mistook Jesus for the gardener, until she heard his voice: “*Do not hold on to me.*” She then went and announced to the disciples, “*I have seen the Lord! Alleluia!*”

The Easter story takes a six-word memoir of death and re-writes it as new life. The mystery of the empty tomb proclaims that it is possible to move from despair to hope, from fear to courage.

You are invited to join me on Easter Sunday, as we whisper and then shout these six words, “***The Lord has risen. Risen indeed!***”

Happy Easter,  
Donna

## **NEW PASTOR REVEREND DR. YOLANDA WILLIAMS**

(Abbreviation of March Growing Edge article.)

SPRC is very excited to announce our new Pastor, Reverend Dr. Yolanda Williams.

Her passion is ministry which has taken her on various adventures that has shaped her into the person that she is today. Her dedication to God, the Bible, building disciples, building relationships, and resolving conflicts will not go unnoticed. Her ministry is being a pastor of all people.

Her background includes pastoring a church that she helped develop from several churches and helping them become united in Christ. She has an extensive background in music including vocal, piano, violin, and drums. She is a leader, has been a professor, worked in nonprofits, and worked in a church that houses a child care program. She has an extensive background in a variety of ways to reach people. She shared an idea of how to nurture and reach young children that are enrolled in Rainbow.

The person we met has an enormous amount of knowledge working with people from various backgrounds and is dedicated to her ministry, bringing people closer to God and developing strong relationships with one another. She has worked and been involved in various programs that reach out into the community.

We look forward to working with Reverend Dr. Yolanda Williams.

**June 9** there will be a celebration of appreciation for Pastor Donna, and this will be her last Sunday preaching.

**June 30** will be Reverend Dr. Yolanda Williams first Sunday.

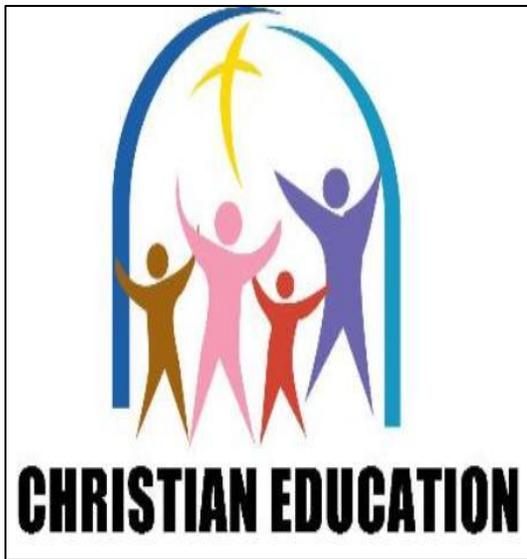
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## **PRAYER CHAIN INVITATION**

One of the greatest blessings of being part of a church family is knowing that we walk together through life with God's love always surrounding us. In prayer we rejoice together in our joys and bear each other's burdens. Prayer is a beautiful part of God's grace. As we pray for others, we often feel change in ourselves. You are invited to join our Prayer Chain. We have a list of prayers sent out through e-mail every Sunday, and more urgent prayers are sent out during the week. If you would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain, please contact Diane Jachymowski. And always know you can request a prayer at any time through e-mail or a phone call.

**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.

**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.

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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



**Lenten Offering March and April** - We are so grateful and appreciate your continued ministry to the missions of FUMC. Giving is easy using the "Give Online" button on the FUMC website under Lenten Offering. You can also mail your donation to the church. Please write "Lenten Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

## FAMILY TABLE

Family Table Volunteer opportunity: Do you use American Sign Language? We would love to have a table host or server with some ASL experience, particularly restaurant vocabulary, to help serve our guests.

Do you have gently used kids' books tucked away? Our book table is currently light on kids' books. Our guests often take books to have at home for their kids or grandkids or even for themselves if they don't read at an adult level. Picture books, chapter books, and young adult levels appreciated!

## 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

### Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack at Cross Winds UMC

Help pack 100,000 meals with Feed My Starving Children at Cross Winds United Methodist Church in Maple Grove (April 19-20th). Volunteers ages 5+ are welcome to volunteer with meal packing. Registration for childcare (ages 4 and under) is available on Saturday for meal packing volunteers. Volunteer opportunities for prayer partners of all ages are also welcomed as part of our 100,000 Prayers Challenge. Learn more online at [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)

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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 April 9. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> in the choir room at church at 1:00 PM. Marilyn Forsberg will bring treats and Pat King will have the lesson. Come join us.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on April 16 at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Reba will do the devotions and Joyce will do the program, Evie will be hostess and Joan will be co-hostess.

Fridley UMW,

We are so grateful for your gift of \$150.00 to Home + Healing: The Campaign for Restoring Waters on 1/25/2024.

Your generosity has a direct impact on creating a truly transformational and restorative residence for 60+ individuals and small families in the Highland Bridge area of Saint Paul.

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Fridley UMC,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$1,000 on 2/15/2024 to Simpson Housing Services. Generous support like yours is the reason we're able to support people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness. Your generosity empowers us to provide safe, dignified shelter and supportive housing to nearly 2,000 individuals in the Twin Cities.

With gratitude,

*Elizabeth Loeffler, Director of Advancement and Communications*

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of clients, volunteers, and staff of Open Arms of Minnesota, thank you for your generous gift of \$710.00. We want to emphasize how much we appreciate your support to continue our legacy of preparing and delivering nutritious meals to Minnesotans living with life-threatening illnesses. Thanks to you and the dedication of more than 6,000 annual volunteers, we have kept up with the unprecedented uptick in requests for our meal services while ensuring none of our 2,000+ clients miss a delivery.

Sincerely, *Leah Hebert Welles, Chief Executive Officer*

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Dear FUMC,

Thank you for helping us feed our neighbors. Your generous donation of \$55.00 provides nutritious food for families facing food insecurity in our community. Every dollar you donate to SACA makes an impact.

A sincere thank you. *SACA Board & Staff*