

The Growing Edge

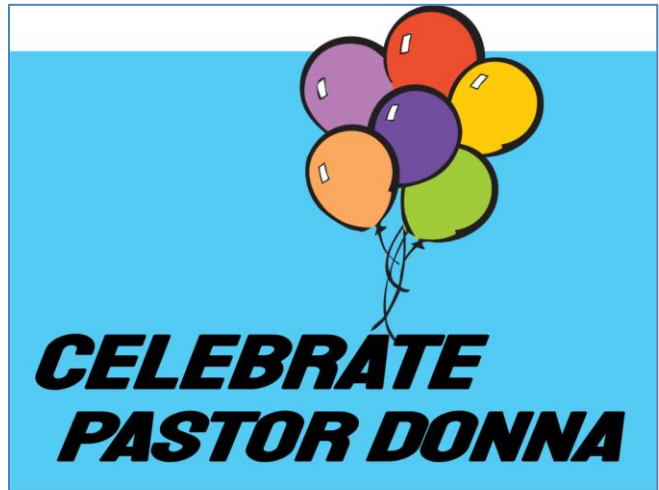
(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

June 2024

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June 9, 2024

Celebration for Pastor Donna.

THANK YOU,
dads

June 16

Father's Day

June 23

UWF Sunday



June 30, 2024

**Rev. Yolanda Williams first Sunday
preaching.**



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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

Dear Friends:

Wow! This year has gone by so incredibly fast. It feels like I just said *hello*, and now I am saying *goodbye*. My time with Fridley United Methodist Church has been life-giving, albeit brief, as my interim appointment was intentionally set for one year. My last Sunday at Fridley UMC will be June 9, and my first Sunday at Northfield UMC, my next appointment, will be June 30. In between, I will be exhaling and inhaling, with a relaxing vacation in Vancouver, followed by packing and moving boxes of books and belongings.

As I prepare to depart, I am filled with gratitude for the time we've had together. The mystic Meister Eckhardt once said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is *thank you*, it will be enough." So, I'd like to say *thank you*.

Thank you for loving God and each other. When I look over the congregation on Sunday mornings, the beauty of the Spirit shines in your faces.

Thank you for reading scripture, serving communion, delivering mission moments, operating the sound system, singing hymns, playing bells, greeting one another, and ushering. Your presence and participation are prerequisites to meaningful worship.

Thank you for your gift of laughter. I hear it every Sunday around the tables as we share coffee and conversation with one another.

Thank you for caring for our communities near and far. Minnesota Food Share. Emma Norton Services. Meals on Wheels. Tamarisk. Habitat for Humanity. Common Hope. Together we can do much more than we can individually.

Thank you for caring for one another. You call, send cards, and ensure that every person feels seen and heard. You offer heart-felt hospitality.

Thank you for serving a community meal every month, family style. You not only nourish our bodies, but also our souls. The time around the table is life-giving for all.

Thank you for supporting our global connection. We contribute to the ministries and mission of the wider church, expanding our reach around the globe.

Thank you for pausing to reflect upon what has been and what might be. Your responses to our Appreciative Inquiry conversations indicate a great love for our church family, along with actionable steps for the next season (such as enhancing our music program, and, by the way, you're in good hands).

Thank you for your love and care of our church buildings. I have seen volunteers gardening, polishing pews, and updating bulletin boards (with creativity and color).

Thank you for your wonderful mission called Rainbow School and Child care Center. There is an energetic buzz down the hallway throughout the week. We are stronger together.

Thank you for the many ways you support the congregation and community in ways unseen.

And lastly, thank you for welcoming me in as your interim pastor for a season.

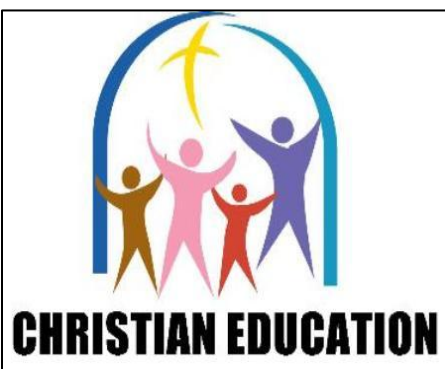
With love,
Donna

PASTOR DONNA'S LAST DAY WITH US WILL BE SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH.

Please plan to stay after worship on June 9th, 2024 and join us in celebrating the year she has been our interim pastor and the things she has accomplished during that time. We will have coffee, punch and some of her favorites and other treats to eat. Come and wish her well in her next assignment at Northfield United Methodist Church.

(If you are able and willing to help set up for the festivities, we will be meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 8th to get the Fellowship Hall ready for our celebration. Please contact Cindy Doerr or just show up. We will have something for everyone to do – mainly get tables and chairs set up, thank you!)

EDUCATION



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.

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



COMMON HOPE: Special Mission – June

We are supporting an outstanding mission for the month of June, “Common Hope.” Jody Lee and Pastor Donna have both served in this exceptional mission, established in 1986, working with underserved families and children in Guatemala, which is based in St. Paul. Common Hope promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala by partnering with children, families and communities who want to participate in a process of development to improve their lives through education, healthcare, housing and family development. This mission provides the necessary tools, resources and support to ensure success both academically and within the family unit.

Life in Guatemala contains socio-economic challenge. Many struggle to secure gainful employment sufficient to sustain themselves or their families. The average daily income for families is less than \$4, and 26% of the population live on \$2 per day. Common Hope graduates tend to earn higher incomes, secure better employment, experience an elevated standard of living, maintain better health, and exhibit a more positive outlook on the future.

Common Hope has ambitious goals, which take a multitalented group of people. The “Common Hope Familias de Esperanza Team” is a vibrant fusion of over 100 skilled professionals from Guatemala complimented by a dedicated contingent of a dozen others from St. Paul, MN. Each member contributes their unique expertise and passion. They strive to hold up values of hope, empathy, responsibility, teamwork, proactivity and curiosity. Since 1986, over 2500 students affiliated with Common Hope have successfully obtained their H.S. diplomas. The efforts of those who are working in Guatemala are enhanced by letters and visits from sponsors, encouraging and supporting them. Jody Lee and members of her family recently had the joy of witnessing the graduation of a student they had sponsored.

Your prayers and gifts to Common Hope will be used to shine the light of God’s love in the lives God’s children in Guatemala and will be greatly appreciated!

Giving is easy using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC website and then select “Missions,” or mail your donation to the church. Please write “June Missions” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

FAMILY TABLE

Total Meals Provided as of April 2024: 19,895

Total Guest Meals in April 2024 itself (sit down & drive thru): 102

Backpacks and School Supplies for the Fridley Back to School Resource Fair

We are beginning the school supplies fundraiser in June this year as the donations need to be to the church office by the end of July. We present our donations to the resource fair organization and they do the shopping! They can get great deals by buying in bulk. They serve over 400 families at the resource fair in August. Please consider donating so our neighbor kids have the school supplies they need. Thank you!

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty Harris and family upon the death of her daughter Kathy Harris. Kathy's service will be on June 1st: Visitation at 10:00 AM, Service at 11:00 AM, with a luncheon to follow.

Update: Jerry Robb's Memorial Service will be on July 13th at 11:00 AM, with a luncheon to follow.

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.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Fridley United Women in Faith,

On behalf of all of us at HOPE 4 Youth, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your recent donation on \$150.00 received on May 9, 2024. Your generosity is truly making a significant impact on the lives of youth experiencing homelessness.

With heartfelt thanks, Nikki Calvin, Director of Advancement

LOCATION CHANGE TO LADIES DAY OUT – June 15, 2024;

Please Take Note!!!!

The venue for our Ladies Day out on **Saturday, June 15, 2024** has changed. Our new venue is **Sarna's Restaurant – located at 3939 University Avenue NE**, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. Our reservation is at 12:00 noon. We will have a dining room out of the regular traffic of the restaurant from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. For a large group Sarna's will also add a 22% gratuity to your bill which will go directly to the servers. We will order off the menu – so come hungry – they have a variety of wonderful food. We will still carpool from church if you would like. Please call Cindy Doerr at 763-458-1856 and let her know you will be attending and if you plan to carpool from church or drive yourself. Carpool will leave at 11:45. Weather permitting, we may be able to sit on their patio if they have space available when we arrive. They don't take reservations for the patio. This is not very far from home, but a good time is sure to be had by ALL!



On behalf of Mary Young's family, thank you to all the people who came out to support us at our mom's celebration of life! There were so many people (funeral committee+) who spent countless hours making sure everything was as special as our mom. We heard many positive comments about Donna's message and how it resonated with people. The musicians that shared their talents and fulfilled our mom's wishes, were extremely appreciated. Jinny and her committee worked hard to welcome everyone and get everyone fed. Tim and crew were there to do whatever was needed to make our life easier. We couldn't have asked for anything more. Our mom would've been proud!

With our sincerest appreciation, we thank you!

Karen Aalund and Julie Sinner

Thank you to all who have sent prayers and good wishes my way. I still am waiting for a kidney transplant, but everything is getting in order for that to happen. I have just a few more hoops to go through before it goes forward. In the meantime, I'm feeling well. I am grateful to have the support of so many of you at FUMC. *Bill Ekstrum*

The trustees want to thank all who participated in our May 18th cleanup day! The outside was raked, mowed and swept while the gardens were weeded and planted both in the front and in the back. The woodwork in the sanctuary was cleaned and polished. The kitchen received some deep cleaning with more on the horizon! It was a most productive work day as well as an opportunity to be with some of the nicest people on the planet!!

The trustees have purchased a small bench for those awaiting a ride home from Church. It's difficult to see the parking lot from our foyer, so this resolves the need of having to continually open the door and checking. Thank you, Diane Jachymowski, for calling this need to our attention.

Thank you.

Your partnership with Twin Cities Habitat gives the best gift anyone could want; the firm foundation of a home. Your gift means a local family can buy a home they love with a mortgage they can afford. The impact of Habitat is generational. It's been 20 long years, but you have left a forever long-lasting impact on our lives. Thank you for your gift of \$560.00 on 4/15/2024.

With gratitude,

Chris Coleman, President & CEO