

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

February 2025

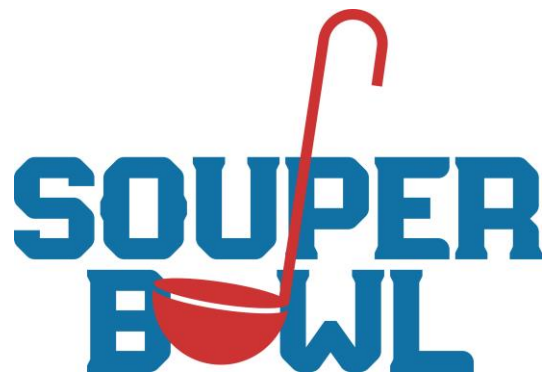
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February 2, 2025
Church Conference:
following Worship



February 9, 2025
Souper Bowl:
following Worship,
free-will offering.



February 14, 2025
Valentine's Day



Prayer Chain Information
*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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

PASTORAL NOTES

Dear friends,

Thank you all for the many cards, gifts, and well wishes during the Christmas season and on my birthday. Those gifts presented so much warmth and are still keeping me warm during this cold snap.

This is in direct opposition to feelings of being cold, unloved, and unprotected that is due to the recent executive orders and actions. These include the dismantling of federal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs, the deployment of military personnel to our southern border, the suspension of refugee resettlement and putting an end to birthright citizenship. The order that directly affects churches is the portion that removes the ability of cities and churches to serve as sanctuaries by attacking their funding. President Trump has further given Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) permission to arrest people in churches and schools.

There is a myriad of emotions that are expressed outright including fear, anger, hopelessness, and believe or not for some joy. You see a return to a time before protections people of color existed is not a return to greatness. It is a step back into darkness. To return to a time when people from some countries and not others are welcomed to our borders is to we forget our own beginnings as colonies filled with refugees fleeing tyranny and oppression. A return to this type of United States is in effect destroying any relationship to our country being a Christian or a Godly one.

The biblical prophets constantly faced Jewish regimes that no longer reflected the God whose named they were called. Regimes that no longer behaved as God's chosen people...the ones who were to be a blessing to all nations of the earth. Micah, I think in frustration reminded the people that God had already shown them what is acceptable. "He has shown you O mortal, what is good and what the Lord requires of you to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

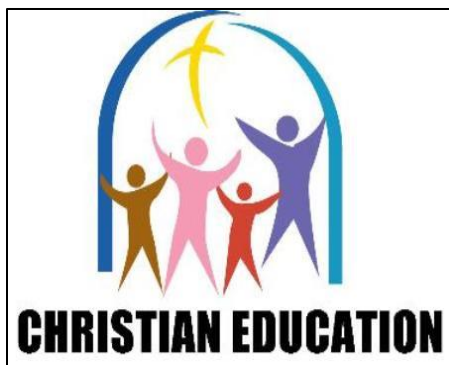
We as those adopted into the family of God have a serious task before us. We are called to walk humbly with God **and** to do justice **and** to love mercy. The good news is that these acts do not have to be big or profound.

Even more importantly as we supply the will to do, God does the rest. We are empowered and equipped by a powerful God. I leave you with this benediction from Hebrews 13. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus...equip you with every good thing to do his will. And may God accomplish in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.



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 at 11:30 AM. On Sundays. Come check us out.

CONFIRMATION for grades 7-12. All are welcome to join us on Sundays at 1:00 PM.

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



February Mission - **Hayes Elementary School, Fridley**

Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Our Mission focus for February is Hayes Elementary School. Schools are tasked with the job of teaching students the knowledge, skills and values important to our society. They offer a sense of belonging and shared experience that builds community.

Fridley Schools offer an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program which draws many students from other districts through open enrollment. In grades 1-4, the IB program focus helps students become more knowledgeable global citizens. They can develop abilities in communication, social skills and self-management through themes which help children engage with their community and the world around them. Because of its offering of an IB program, the Hayes Elementary student body represents a diversity not seen in most suburban schools. 77% of the Hayes student body lives in poverty. 74% are students of color and 2% are homeless.

To support our Fridley community, this neighborhood school located across the street from Fridley Methodist Church was selected to receive help in ways that can be impactful on staff and students.

Children of our community are challenged by mental health concerns as they face unrealistic social media expectations and school safety fears over which they have little control. A school counselor is available to work with students and provide referrals to appropriate community resources. Adult volunteers are needed to support students in their efforts to successfully meet specific learning skills. Our church is also an emergency resource in the event students need shelter while awaiting parental pickup during emergency school closings due to inclement weather, fire or gas leaks.

Hayes School provides all students with breakfast and lunch while in session, but some students still face food insecurity on the weekend. Teachers witness a growing anxiousness as the weekend approaches. Friday's learning is challenged as some students face the possibility of hunger during a weekend with limited food resources at home. The availability of a food shelf offering stable/child friendly foods requiring little or no preparation is useful in addressing these fears. Financial support for adding food supplied to backpacks is needed. The backpacks can hold food privately packed and carried home by the student without others being aware.

Another need is the ability for a child to access new books to either own or check out from their school library. Fridley Methodist church can be very helpful in providing funds specifically dedicated to the purchase of new reading materials. We know that children benefit from choosing their own books and feeling the joy of ownership when they take them home to read with a parent. Two bookfairs are held during the year. It would be helpful if we could give teachers the ability to offer small \$10 scholarships to select students who would otherwise be unable to participate in selecting a book due to lack of family funds.

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 and then select "Missions." You can also mail your donation to the church. Please write "February Missions" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your thoughtful support of our mission programs!

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:

New opportunities to minister:

1. Outreach Project (loom and plastic bags). I have a loom which was built for me on which we can, using plastic grocery store bags create sleeping mats for homeless. These mats provide insulation. On Sunday Feb. 9th as well as during monthly meetings of Circles, Caring Team, and UWF, I would like to have a brief opportunity to hand out instruction sheets for cutting up the bags.

I will have the loom in the Lounge area and offer to give quick lessons (that is really all you need) on how to weave the bags onto the loom. Whenever you are in the building and have some time, you can feel free to add bags to the loom.

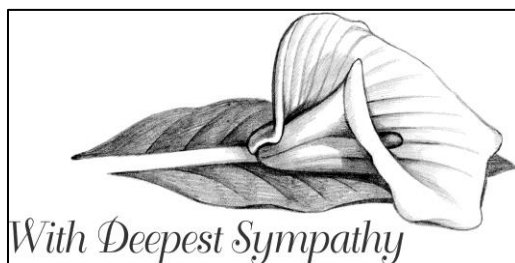
2. Pew Bibles. I would love to be able to have bibles in the pews for our Sunday readings. We can accomplish the purchase of these bibles with some funding from our budgets and memorials, but I want to offer you the opportunity to minister to the congregation by purchasing a bible or two as an additional offering. We can order these from the office, but you can also purchase them on your own with these specifications.
 - a. The translation should be CEB (Common English Bible). This is the most often used translation in our worship services and is also the translation used in our Confirmation class.
 - b. It should be large print (12 pt.). We are an aging congregation. Even if your vision is not being challenged, the larger print makes it easier to read and gives your eyes a break.

My recommendation is to order these from Christianbook.com (an online retailer of Christian books. The cost of the bibles goes down with bulk purchases. (25 or more for \$18.18 each. 100 or more for \$17.24 each)

If you decide to purchase one or more bibles, please notify the church office of the following information: how many bibles, the name(s) of those you would like honored on the inside cover bookplate, and your contact information.

-Pastor Yolanda

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of:

Bill Ambrose

Jim Rezek

Kathy Skogen, and Pat Brown upon their passing.

May we keep their families in our hearts.

“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” Matthew 5:4



We welcome into FUMC membership Uriel Dolo on his baptism on January 12, 2025. Many blessings to you Uriel!



Davidetta Natee

Uriel Wookpeh Dolo

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

SOUPER BOWL

Sunday, February 9 right after worship.

Please join us for soups, bread, appetizers and desserts.

Good-will offering.



KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday, February 14th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. February is Pledge Month. Please consider how much you can contribute to help UWF missions. We will also send Valentines to church shut-ins. Marilyn Hodgeman will bring treats.

RUTH CIRCLE - will meet on February 18 at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Reba will do devotions, Jean will be hostess and Diane will be co-hostess.

Fridley UWF,

Thank you for your on-going generous support for our students and families at Hayes School. We are so thankful for your big hearts.

Thank you,

Principal Iverson

Fridley UWF,

I speak for everyone here at Emma Norton when I say a heartfelt thank you for your recent gift of \$150.00 on 11/27/2024. Your generosity has a direct impact on our programs, and in supporting the over 300 individuals and children served annually at Emma Norton.

In gratitude,

Tony B., Executive Director



UPCOMING IN MARCH 2025

March 2: Transfiguration Sunday

March 5: Ash Wednesday

March 9: 1st Sunday in Lent



ASH

Wednesday

Two Worship Opportunities

March 5, 2025

11:00 am

Joint Service

Brooklyn United Methodist Church
(7200 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center)

Service hosted and led by the pastors of Brooklyn UMC,
Fridley UMC and Osseo UMC

Fridley Worship

7:00 p.m.

Both will offer a time of reflection, singing, praying,
and the imposition of ashes



A sincere thank you for sending a card or saying a prayer upon the passing of my husband Jim who passed on December 30, 2024.

Jo Rezek

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels the cold week of January 6 - 10.

Three Day Drivers: Tim and Janet Fossum.

Two Day Drivers: Ruth Hilliard and Pat King; Mike and Jody Lee; Dave and Judy Ryan.

One Day Drivers: Jeff and Janet Mondloh; and Jim and Diane Jachymowski.

The next week that Laura will be looking for FUMC help, will be March 3 - 7. If you want to reach out to her, she welcomes calls or texts at 763-300-2626.

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for your ongoing support of SACA. We're lucky to have your church in our community! Your donation of \$775.00 makes a big difference to the families we serve. *Sincerely, SACA Board & Staff*

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

