

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

March 2025

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SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

TRANSFIGURATION

of the Lord



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PASTORAL THOUGHTS GROWING EDGE

I love to experience changing seasons. I love to see this change in nature, and I love to experience this change in the Church year. There is something compelling about the colors on the altar, pulpit, and lectern moving from blue (Advent) to white (Christmas) to green (Ordinary Time), to purple (Lent), back to white (Easter), and then to red for Pentecost before we return to green for the rest of the summer and fall.

We are entering the Lent season using purple, the color of royalty and majesty but also of suffering. The depth of color represented as purple, that unique combination of blue and red, matches Jesus' last days. Jesus experienced every emotion one could imagine during the last days of his life before the Resurrection.

We begin with Ash Wednesday (March 5,) a reminder of our physical vulnerability and of the God who reached into the earth to create beings who were to be in the image of the Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Armed with this reminder of who we are and whose we are, we journey through the rest of the 40 days reflecting, engaging in self-assessments, and finally committing ourselves to throwing away and casting anything that prevents us from being able to enter the life of freedom God has prepared for us.

At the end of the 40 days, there is the Resurrection! It is the annual time when we, like caterpillars, emerge from the cocoon as butterflies, no longer needing to crawl but able to take flight.

I invite you to join me during Lent for a midweek devotion in the Sanctuary followed by Fellowship (Wednesdays at 11:00 AM). It will help us identify places in our hearts where a spiritual spring cleaning might be needed. We will use elements of the earth (seeds, earth, water, sand, stone, and wood) as our focus.

I pray we will all take every opportunity to seek renewal during this season.

Pastor Yolanda



Lenten 2025 SCHEDULE



March 5th Ash Wednesday

11:00 a.m. at
Brooklyn United Methodist
Church
7200 Brooklyn Blvd,
Brooklyn Center.
also at
7:00 p.m.
Fridley United Methodist
Church

Wednesdays in Lent (March 12-April 16)

10:00 BIBLE SHAPING
11:00 LENTEN DEVOTION IN
SANCTUARY
11:30 FELLOWSHIP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Because of the recent illness of our contact with the Volunteer Lawyers Network both our volunteer training and the first Legal Aid Workshop have been postponed.

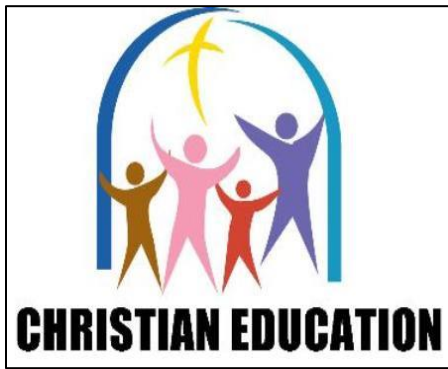
There are two other volunteer opportunities that we will take up during the month of March instead.

*On March 16th there will be a brief demonstration on how to cut up plastic bags to begin our weaving of sleeping mats for our homeless brothers and sisters. This will really only take 5 minutes and a handout will be send home with you. Hang on to the plastic bags from your favorite grocery stores and bring one with you to church.

*On March 23rd, will have engage in what the United Way calls "Speed Volunteering." Our project will be for our neighbors who attend Family Table. We will pack Adult Care Kits. There is nothing for you to purchase. Everything will be provided.

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

EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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.

BOOK GROUP

To All that Like to Read: The book groups next book retreat will be Saturday, March 8th, 2025, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the church. We will be reading The Berry Pickers, by Amanda Peters. Anyone that likes to read is welcome.

MISSIONS

LENTEN OFFERING – 2025

Dear Friends,

Our Lenten season is a beautiful and sacred time in the life of our church as we remember Jesus and his great sacrifice for us. This year the problems in our world may seem overwhelming. Our hearts go out to those who need food, shelter and support. Together we can offer rays of hope through Emma Norton, Minnesota Foodshare and The International Institute of Minnesota.



Emma Norton

Emma Norton – Their mission is to connect people to transformational housing, growth and possibility - realized through their own design – in support of their journey of recovery. They promote healing and recovery through a full array of exemplary housing and services. This was an exciting year for Emma Norton, with the completion of a beautiful new facility in St. Paul, Restoring Waters, designed especially to align with achieving their goals with a well-trained staff. They also operate Emma’s Place, a community for families, and a scattered site program.



Minnesota Foodshare – Is the largest grass roots food and fund drive in Minnesota, in existence for 44 years, sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. It brings together faith communities, businesses, organizations and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of 300 food shelves in our state. Increased food prices, growing inflation rates and slowing of wage growth have caused financial strain. It is estimated that over 500,000 Minnesotans are facing hunger. 34% are children. MN Foodshare accommodates 3.5 million food shelf visits annually!



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota

International Institute of Minnesota - This institute serves as a bridge between families, individuals and the greater Minnesota community. It was founded in 1919 and is located at Como Ave. in St. Paul. People who are helped come from 111 countries and staff support includes 28 languages. All immigrants who come are treated with patience and respect. Previously screened immigrants are guided on a path to full citizenship. Extensive English classes are offered as well as job development. There is an especially great need for support this year, as federal funding has been cut.

Let us continue to reflect God’s love through our prayers and gifts.
In God’s Love, Your Mission Outreach Team

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

REMINDER: Please bring your own coffee cup for fellowship time to help with the 3Rs of conservation: *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*. Thanks!

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Lois Vojtech upon the passing of her husband Bob.

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

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

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 March 14th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. We will be collecting for Prayer and Self Denial. Pat King will give the lesson and Jo Rezek will bring treats.

RUTH CIRCLE - will meet on March 18 at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Joan will do devotions, and Joyce will lead the program-Faith Experiences, and March is prayer and self-denial month. Kathy will be hostess, and Jean will be co-hostess.



Just a note of thanks to my church family who have remembered me with cards and gifts during my last 2 health issues. Your prayers and love have kept me going.

May God be with all of you.

Peggy Mahle

Souper Bowl

Thank you to all who attended and all who served at our Souper Bowl party. Monies raised were just short of \$1000. This will go toward missions but has not designated yet.

Thank you FUMC family!

Dawn Bushnell

Daylight Saving Time Begins

on March 9, turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night, March 8.

