



# GRACE COURIER

[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

## June Mission Focus is MN Adult and Teen Challenge

### From their website:

"For over 30 years, MN Adult and Teen Challenge has been restoring hope to people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. In addition to our effective and affordable shorter-term programs, Life Renewal, and our distinctive long-term faith-based recovery program, we have extensive prevention and transitional/aftercare services.

We offer a full range of services including:

- Intensive licensed Rule 31 treatment programs: both residential and outpatient
- Long-term faith-based recovery programs
- Extensive aftercare programs for graduates
- Prevention programs for middle and high school students

These offerings allow us to effectively serve individuals with a broad spectrum of addiction issues; from those seeking treatment for the first time, to those who have been struggling with addiction for many years."

The Choir will be with us Sunday, June 23 to share song and testimonies.

**Mission Envelopes:** Mission Envelopes can be found in each pew rack. You are welcome to give to our monthly Mission Offering throughout the month using the designated envelope. Please make your check out to FUMC, marking "Missions" in the memo.

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### Dates to remember:

June 6	Scholarship Deadline
June 18-20	MN Annual Conference
June 23	MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir
June 30	Scholarship Presentation/ All Church Picnic

## All Church Picnic

Join us for an All Church Picnic - Sunday, June 30th - after church at the pavilion.

Grab your favorite lawn chair and beverage and join your church family for an outdoor picnic!

Food will be provided.



## Monday Community Dinner

Thank you to all the volunteers that served at the dinner, baked goodies, bought pink lemonade or donated cash for the meal when our church served May 13.

We'll have another date to serve in the near future.

Meanwhile there are Monday nights when no group has signed up. When this happens each community church sends 2-3 volunteers and 2-3 desserts. I coordinate this for our church and I'd appreciate knowing if you'd like to help.

**Dorothy Lecy**  
651-260-3048

## From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

A “go-to” book of mine on a bookshelf in my office is entitled, *“Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop ‘Doing Church’ and Start BEING The Church Again”* by Albert L. Winseman.

I love this book for many reasons as it helps me understand how to help you, as members of this congregation, to become more engaged, rather than just involved. There’s a big difference between being *engaged* in a congregation and being *involved* in a congregation. Mostly that *engagement* makes one’s contributions feel important, needed, and appreciated. A result of congregational engagement is a feeling of deep joy and satisfaction. If one does not feel that their contributions are making a difference, and that no joy or satisfaction is felt, they are likely involved, and not engaged. A whole other newsletter article could be written about this!

I also love this book for the many direct questions it suggest we ask ourselves in order to determine our level of engagement within the congregation. Some of the questions, in relation to the congregation, include: *Why do/don’t people join our church? Why do/don’t they stay? Why do/don’t they serve? What do I get? What do I give? How can we grow? If time and money were no object, what would I do for God?*

These are questions I would love to hear your responses to sometime. Shoot me an email or call me.

However, while those are great questions, the two most thought-provoking questions the book asks, in my opinion, are, *“What do I believe?”* and *“Do I belong?”*

*Believing* and *Belonging*. Both impact our daily lives in ways we might not realize but should consider.

In the wake of the UMC’s decision to continue banning LGBT marriages and ordinations, our congregation is only one of hundreds of UMC congregations that are struggling, in a new and unfamiliar way, with these two basic needs - *Believing* and *Belonging*.

The UMC, many congregations within it, and many individual members of those congregations (including our own) are trying to figure out what the future of our denomination and congregation will look like. This is unsettling, I know. I also know, for certain, there are many individuals, couples, and families within our congregation who are now seriously asking themselves, *“What do I believe?”* and based on their answers to that question, then begin to wonder, *“Do I belong?”*

If you are among those asking such questions I want to assure you, it’s okay. You are not alone. You are in good company. Biblically, the disciples would often ask such questions. Perhaps the greatest example is Thomas (John 20), who needed to see in order to believe in his resurrected Lord. As Thomas questioned his own belief, it surely led to a question of his belonging. Thankfully, as I pointed out in a recent sermon, the other disciples - and Jesus - never questioned his belonging. They continued to love, accept, and welcome Thomas among them - despite his beliefs - as one who belonged among them.

A preacher I recently heard - Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore - quoted another pastor of a congregation who stated publicly to his congregation, *“It doesn’t matter to me what you believe here. What matters to me is that you belong here.”*

Those words resonated within me as Pastor Mary preached them, because I realized I would echo them exactly. For me, it has always been more important that you feel like you *belong* within in a community of faith. *Belonging* will lead to *believing*.

You might be surprised to learn that within the congregation of First United Methodist Church in Lindstrom, many of you believe very differently regarding your interpretation of Scripture. The wide spectrum of theology is covered within this congregation, as is a wide variety of worship and spiritual expression. While sometimes challenging for me, as your pastor, this is part of what I love about you - and I embrace it.

What I want to assure you of, however, is that there is room for all of you as you explore your beliefs. *Without exception, you belong here.* God loves you. So do I. So do we!

My hope, prayer, and expectation for FUMC in Lindstrom is that you will, with me, embrace the diverse theological spectrum, varying Biblical interpretations, and different spiritual and worship expressions of faith as part of what makes us who we are as a community *where all belong*. There can be unity in the midst of diversity - as is evident in all the ways we fellowship, celebrate, support, and have fun together. This is what church is all about - and despite what you may believe - you will always belong!

God’s peace be with you,

Pr. Dale

## In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;  
Brian Elshaug; Rusty Johnson; George Hultman;  
Olga Determan; Steve Graves; Lois Anderson;  
Greg Oien; Delores Stockel

## Thank you!

Thank you to those who came out to clean "our" road  
for Adopt-a-Highway:

**Mark & Wendy Vanderwerf**  
**Marv Hultquist**  
**Gary Gerke**

## Pastoral Care

Hospitals no longer telephone churches, because of  
the privacy act, to let us know that one of our mem-  
bers have been admitted.

Please notify the church office, 257-4306, if you  
desire pastoral care for illness, hospitalizations, or  
surgeries.

## Purchased something for the church?

To get an accurate count of giving to the church,  
please let us know if you have purchased something  
for the church but have not asked for reimbursement.  
We will list that purchase on your giving statement as  
a "gift-in-kind" so it will show on your contribution  
statement and the church knows how much is being  
given.

If you have any questions, please contact **Linda  
Ploog** 651-257-3323.

## Nursery

During the summer months, there is no Nursery  
Attendant, but you are welcome to use the  
room, if needed.

Children are always welcome in the worship  
service.

## Birthdays!



Jon Pearson.....June 1  
Irve Lecy.....June 3  
Luke Leadholm.....June 5  
Connie Buelow.....June 6  
Cheryl Hultquist-Auchterlonie.....June 9  
Ellie Stegmeir.....June 14  
Pam Bates.....June 21  
Sarah Clark.....June 25

## Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships

- ♦ Funded by the First United Methodist Church of  
Lindstrom Foundation
- ♦ All are eligible if a member or regular worshiper  
at the First United Methodist Church of Lindstrom,  
a relative of a church attendee, or a youth regu-  
larly involved in activities associated with the  
church
- ♦ Applications can be obtained through the church  
office, on the information table in the back of the  
church, or electronically on our website
- ♦ Applications will be evaluated by the Foundation  
team members and awarded on need and merit.  
A detailed, thoughtful application will influence  
the final evaluation and selection. Please be as  
specific as possible.

### Dates to remember:

**June 6:** All applications must be received

**Mid June:** Recipients will be notified

**June 30:** Scholarships awarded

Scholarships may be obtained  
by contacting: **Carol Schmidt**  
(office hours 8-2:30 M-F), Administrative Secretary  
[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)  
651-257-4306

Or, you can find applications on the table in the  
foyer, or on our website.

## Unidos en Cristo weekends Experience New Testament Christianity

Unidos en Cristo (formally Cursillo) is a 3-day learning, sharing and inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. During the three days of a week-end, a person experiences authentic Christian fellowship and the joy of being part of a genuine Christian community.

### 2019

Our next weekend will be October 31-Nov. 3. It's our first Co-ed Weekend and will be held at Faith Presbyterian. Our Rectora is Cathy Johnson Colman. This weekend is Co-ed, with men's tables and women's tables. It is not a couples weekend but couples are welcome. The experience will focus on the individual and their walk with the Lord. Sleeping rooms will also be by gender. This is also a Co-ed team. We are leveraging experienced leadership for this first Co-ed weekend.

If you would like to participate in an Unidos en Cristo weekend or would like more information, please contact **Scott or Cheryl Lecy**, 651-462-5725.

**Prison Ministry**...if you're interested in Charis Prison Ministry, please contact **Jim or Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024.

## Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2019 is \$192,053, which becomes \$16,004 per month.

General Fund giving for April was \$12,440.49.

*Thank you for your support of our ministries!*

## Worship Attendance in May

May 5—84

May 12—88

May 19—87

May 26—120



## THIS 'N' THAT By Juanita Morgan

**SPRC**---Have you ever wondered who or what this is? These are the initials for a committee whose mission is to build a strong positive relationship between our church staff and the congregation.

*Staff Parish Relations Committee duties include:* encouraging, supporting, and respecting the pastor, staff and their families; recommending needed staff positions, job descriptions, and compensation, etc.; conferring and clarifying concerns about personnel conditions; bringing personnel policy and procedures to the church council for adoption; and preparing annual updates of clergy evaluations and our church profile for the District Superintendent.

**SPRC** is expected to meet regularly, and in closed session with the Pastor and all discussion is confidential. **SPRC** is expected to communicate information and decisions with the congregation, at least quarterly, as well. Five to nine members serve on a 3-year-rotation, 1-2 terms at a time. If you wish to communicate with **SPRC** please speak to any one of the following members: Lois Anderson, Donn Arnold, Gerry Gaudette, Peter Leadholm, Wendy Vanderwerf, and/or Juanita Morgan.

"So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us." Hebrews 12:1

This is the "race" laid out for the **SPRC** committee:

**Relationships,  
Accountability  
Communication  
Encouragement**

Pray that we can demonstrate three simple rules that Methodist founder John Wesley lived by:  
**Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God.**

Let it be so.



## Church Council Minutes

May 21, 2019

Pastor Dale, Terry Keesee, Lloyd Jones, Cheryl Lecy, Donn Arnold, Erin Thorvaldson

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Getting a bid from Olson's for concrete work, **Russell Oehme** is donating the prep work on the concrete. Getting bids to replace boarder on playground. Doors have not been getting locked on Sunday's after church; considering having one of the counters check/lock, or possible signup. Moving forward with carpet for the fellowship hall. Will not be meeting again until August.

**FOUNDATION:** Rev. Blackford scholarships due June 6. Recipients will be awarded on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Working on developing a new mission statement.

**MISSIONS:** **Adrienne Stegmeir** has taken over as Chair of this committee. **Pr. Dale, Carol Schmidt**, and she will re-evaluate list of monthly mission opportunities and begin promoting in September.

**PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA:** **Erin and Pr. Dale** are continuing to promote events as they take place.

**LAY LEADER:** N/A

**FINANCE:** All is currently going well. We are thankful for member's ongoing financial offerings.

**STAFF PARISH:** **Juanita Morgan** has agreed to temporarily Chair this committee. They meet on May 30 and will begin to review the role of the committee.

**PASTOR:** Will be attending the Annual conference in St. Cloud. **Kay Oien** will not be serving as Lay Delegate this year. If a member is interested in serving in this way or finding out more about the opportunity, please contact **Pr. Dale** ASAP. Continuing to visit with several members about the UMC's decision to continue ban on same-sex marriage and LGBT ordination. Our congregation is really split on this issue and all are encouraged to continue to pray for unity amidst diversity. Ongoing home and office visits, sermon prep, and Denver mission trip planning.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE:** **Greg Oien** stepped down from leading this task force; no one has stepped up to lead it. Council discussed if this task force is really needed at this time. If so, we may need to revisit and clarify its purpose.

**WORSHIP DESIGN:** **Kay Oien and Cindy Kopp** continue to bless us with their visual arts. **Beth Lunsford** and the Praise Team continue to bless us with their worship leading. We are thankful for all who work hard to provide worship at our church.

**CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, AND FAMILY:** Sunday school is over for the year – looking to have a wrap-up meeting. Planning an event this summer. Ladies Tea that **Sarah Clark** organized was fantastic.

**TEEN CHALLENGE:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>

**CHURCH PICNIC:** June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Pavilion

**DENVER MISSION TRIP:** July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup> – Participating: **Pr. Dale, Ashlee Nelson, Kaitlyn Nelson, and Jordan Anderson**, along with youth and adults from Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church in Center City and Glen Cary Lutheran Church in Ham Lake. 33 total!

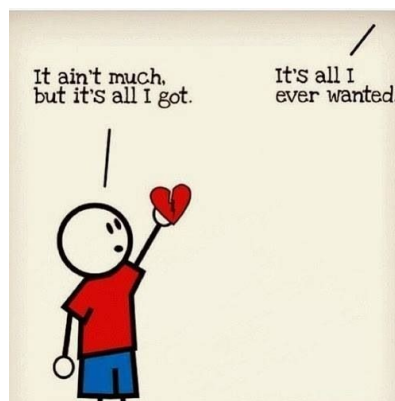
**COUNCIL WILL NOT MEET** in June or July. Will resume in August.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** with Pr. Dale leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Erin Thorvaldson**

## Pastor Dale Attending MN Annual Conference

Pastor Dale will be attending the MN Annual Conference June 18—20. Please call the church office if you need pastoral care.





## Meals on Wheels Deliverers

June 3—Marvin Hultquist

June 4—Ron & Juanita Morgan

June 5—Gary Gerke

June 6—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

June 7—Greg McCarthy

June 10—Michelle Gillespie

June 11—Cindy Kopp

June 12—Larry & Shirley Knopf

June 13—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

June 14—Bonnie Vasatka

June 17—Phil & Joan DeMunck

June 18—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

June 19—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

June 20—Jon Glader

June 21—Jim & Joyce Stafki

June 24—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

June 25—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

June 26—Bonnie Bielicki

June 27—Fred Prindle

June 28—Harold & Jan Lovaas

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

**Juanita Morgan**, 257-9268

## Tech Ministries Schedule

June 2 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Kay Oien

June 9 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

June 16 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

June 23 – Sound: NEEDED

Accompanist: MN Teen Challenge

June 30 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Kay Oien

## Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will NOT be meeting in June.



## Prayer Chain

If you would like a request for prayer to go out on our Prayer Chain, please call **Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024, or **Lois Anderson**, 651-213-1036, or the church office, 257-4306.

Would you like to be a part of the Prayer Chain? Please call the church office for more information.

## Can we be of help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday,

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Pastor Dale** is available to help you with your spiritual journey and the door is open most mornings. Please give us a call at 257-4306 if we can be of help to you in any way.

Church email address:

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

**Pastor Dale's** email address:

[dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

## Sunday Messages available online




Pastor Dale's Sunday messages are posted to our website: [www.lindstrommethodist.org](http://www.lindstrommethodist.org) the week following the service.

Pastor Dale writes a blog on the website and posts it on Tuesdays.



# JUNE 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7p Choir	<b>6</b> Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarship Deadline	<b>7</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>1</b> <hr/> <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship <b>Pentecost</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 2p Foundation NO Trustees	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> NO Hope Circle	<b>14</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>15</b> Fellowship Hall Used
<b>16</b> 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship <b>Father's Day!</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7p Finance NO Church Council <b>Newsletter deadline</b> ***MN	<b>19</b> Annual	<b>20</b> Conference***	<b>21</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00a Worship / MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir 10:15a Fellowship <b>Mission Sunday~ MN Adult &amp; Teen Challenge</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00a Worship All-Church Picnic Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships Presentation		Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p				

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First United Methodist Church  
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[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

Address Service Requested  
Contains dated material

*Sent with a prayer to:*

June 2019



## First United Methodist Church Pastor Dale Stiles

### Practicing Grace Until We Are Perfected In Love

The *Grace Courier* is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church.

**Deadline: the third Tuesday of each month for inclusion in the next month's publication.**

Articles received after this date will not be printed. Place articles in the secretary's mailbox, on the desk in the office or email them to the church. The editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

We welcome you to worship with us!

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

#### Our Ministry Team:

Pastor...  
Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...  
Children's Coordinator...  
Choir Director...  
Church Council Chairperson...  
Custodian...  
Finance Chairperson...  
Financial Secretary...  
Foundation Chairperson...  
Lay Leader...  
Lay Member to Annual Conference...  
Mission Chairperson...  
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...  
Trustees Chairperson...  
Worship Team Leader...  
Youth Coordinator...

Dale Stiles  
Carol Schmidt  
Erin Thorvaldson  
Kay Oien  
Terry Keesee  
Cheryl Hultquist  
Scott Lecy  
Linda Ploog  
Donn Arnold  
Craig Stockel

Adrienne Stegmeir  
Juanita Morgan  
Lloyd Jones  
Beth Lunsford  
Erin Thorvaldson

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Pastor's email: [dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

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