



# GRACE COURIER

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

## February Mission Focus is Love Offering for UMC Conference

### 40% will be given to Simpson Housing

Simpson Housing Services began as an emergency overnight shelter in the basement of Simpson United Methodist Church in 1982. Simpson has since become a leading nonprofit providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness.

### 40% will be given to Emma Norton

Emma Norton Services partners with women, children and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. Without having to worry about the basic need of a safe, secure place to live, women and children can utilize and focus on supportive programs, life skills, services and opportunities available to accomplish their goals.

### 10% will be given to Joyce Food Shelf

"The mission of the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf is to distribute food to those in need, with respect and dignity, as an expression of the love of God." The Food Shelf gives clients a three-day supply of nutritionally balanced food once a month. It will also make referrals to other agencies for additional services.

### 10% will be given to VIM Scholarships

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission movement arose through the local church, as United Methodist felt called to express their faith through hands-on mission. The UVMIM motto, "Christian Love in Action," is taken from 1 John 3:18, in which Christians are asked the love "not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

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### Dates to remember:

Feb. 2	Youth Souper Bowl Sunday
Feb. 3-17	Carol Schmidt on vacation
Feb. 16	Mission Sunday
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday

## Youth-Led Souper Bowl Sunday Service

The Youth would love to see you at this year's "Soup"er Bowl Sunday service. Bring your spare change for a noisy offering (proceeds go to the Food Shelf), and wear your favorite sport's related attire!"

Join us afterwards for soup in the fellowship hall.



## CHILDREN'S NEWS

The youth have been busy working on the Souper Bowl Sunday service, as they continue to grow in faith the more excited they are to plan and be part of the service. We have some pretty talented kids in our church.

Stay tuned for details on a Youth and Family meeting coming up.

Also working out details for a family outdoor event in late February or early March.

## ***From the pastor...***

### **"Comings and Goings"**

Dear Friends,

Our lives are full of Comings and Goings, it seems.

Children and grandchildren are born and bless us with their lives of energy, enthusiasm, joy, and interests. Those same children and grandchildren then grow up and leave home with that same energy, enthusiasm, and joy in order to pursue many of those same interests. Such Comings and Goings happen throughout our lives and at different stages of our lives. People come and people go. Jobs come and jobs go. Opportunities come and opportunities go.

Congregations are not immune from the Comings and Goings of life, either. Members, friends, and pastors come and go. This is often hard because of the change that accompanies such Comings and Goings.

So with that said, on behalf of our Staff Parish Relations Committee I am excited and saddened to share two specific Comings and Goings within our congregation.

*First, a Coming.* Our friend and member, **Tom Ervasti**, has offered to serve as our congregation's Choir Director. If you know Tom, you'll appreciate the gifts of joy, humor, enthusiasm and voice that he will bring to the position. Tom also has experience singing in and directing vocal groups. Our choir and our congregation will be blessed under his leadership. His position will begin February 1st. Welcome, Tom!

*Second, a Going.* Our dear friend and confidant to many, and secretary, **Carol Schmidt**, has submitted her official letter of retirement after serving our church and God for the past twenty-five years. Carol began her ministry with us on July 26, 1995 and will complete it on July 31 of this year. It goes without saying that God has blessed our congregation with Carol - her kindness, her compassion, her listening ear, and her competency and skill of managing a church office. Many community members, church members, and pastors have been blessed by Carol's presence throughout her years of service. I am grateful for my own, what will be two years of serving, with Carol in our church office. She has helped me learn the ropes of this congregation and the larger UMC system of governance and reporting. We should all be grateful for the amount of notice Carol has

given us so that, not only will it allow us plenty of time to express our appreciation, but also will allow our elected leadership to plan accordingly in regard to filling the position. Carol's full letter of retirement is included in this newsletter. Thank you, Carol!

While Comings and Goings can be both joyful and sad, it is important to remember how they are founded in Scripture. Specifically, in the first chapter of John's gospel we hear the invitation to "Come and see/Come with me/Come and see" (John 1:39, 43, 46). In Luke's gospel, at the conclusion of the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:37), we are commanded to "Go and do likewise. Go and do the same." Also at the conclusion of Matthew's gospel we are commanded by Jesus to "Go, therefore, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Comings and Goings. We are always being called and sent in and out of ministry on behalf of the gospel of Jesus. For us at First UMC Lindstrom, Tom and Carol are being Called and Sent as they Come and Go. Please join me in welcoming and thanking them both, as we remember and trust in this promise from Scripture: "The Lord will bless your coming and going out from this day forth and forevermore." -Psalm 121:8

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dale

**Comings.....and.....  
goings.....**

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***Thank you!***

Thank you to **Jeff & Sue Meinholz** and their daughter, **Laura Tomczak**, for all their hard work in painting the fellowship hall and the kitchen + cabinets! Be sure to thank them when you see them!

Go check it out! Looks awesome!

## In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;  
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Nate Clark; Baby  
Lilly; Lois Anderson

## Our deepest sympathy to...

**Shirley Oswald** and her family on the passing of **Ed**  
January 16. A Memorial Service will be held Satur-  
day, Feb. 1, 12:00p with visitation beginning at  
10:30a at the church.

## 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 **Lloyd  
Jones**, 651-213-3110..

## Monthly Giving update

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

General Fund giving for December was \$14,588.74.

*Thank you for your support of our ministries!*

## Nursery

We are pleased to be able to provide  
a Nursery during the worship service. It is  
designed for infants through 2 years.

Children are always welcome in the  
worship service.

## Birthdays!



Gerry Gaudette.....February 1  
Terry Kopp.....February 3  
Joshua Anderson.....February 8  
Bruce Larsen.....February 10  
Josh Salaba.....February 12  
Katie Leadholm.....February 14  
Erin Thorvaldson.....February 15  
Jeff Meinholz.....February 21  
Steve Oehme.....February 21  
Christine Von Lange.....February 23  
Marie Keefe.....February 28  
Paula Oehme.....February 28



# Happy Birthday!

## Unidos en Cristo weekends Experience New Testament Christianity

Unidos en Cristo (formally Cursillo) is a 3-day learn-  
ing, 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.

### 2020

#299 Men: February 20-23

#300 Women: February 27-March 1

Held at Main Street Church, North Branch

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 **Scott Lecy**, 612-805-2524.

## Worship Attendance in January

January 5—66

January 12—69

January 19—68

January 26—88

# Church Council Minutes

January 21, 2020

Council Members Present: Pastor Dale, Andy Wilkerson, Wendy Vanderwerf, Lloyd Jones, Adrienne Stegmeir, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Tom Ervasti

Opened with a devotion from **Wendy** focused on James 1:2-4 (Trials and Temptations)

## **Visions for 2020: Pastor Dale, Andy Wilkerson, Wendy Vanderwerf**

Working on ideas for monthly fellowship events or service projects, need ideas for community outreach, volunteers. Will be seeking ideas from the congregation in the upcoming months, watch for communications. National Narrative: We can't control the news media or the national narrative, but we can control how we are viewed in the community. We are small but we are mighty, and the community depends on us.

**Trustees:** No meeting in January. Work (painting) started in fellowship hall. Thank you to **Jeff and Sue Meinholz and their daughter, Laura Tomczak** for all their hard work! Bids in for flooring.

**Foundation:** No report

**Missions:** December Gideons mission collection was lower than previous years, but still thankful for generous donations. Very generous response for Angel Tree. January's mission is CHARIS, there's a drop box for toiletries and other items in the hallway. Still working on finalizing missions committee (list of interested people assembled). February will be the Love Offering for the MN Annual Conference.

**Publicity & Social Media:** **Matt Silver** of the Chisago County Press did an awesome job with the Living Nativity writeup and continues to be a big supporter.

**Barb Prindle's** Facebook posts are continuing to generate good responses. Suggestion made to use Facebook for polls or suggestions; google docs was presented as an alternate suggestion.

**Lay Leader:** Memorial Day Service is hitting a big milestone - 25th year. Invites are going out to this year's service to dignitaries and past pastors and members.

**Staff/Parish Relations Committee:** Met on January 19th.

**Finance:** Year end checking account ended almost exactly where it did the previous year - only a \$65 difference over 12 months. **Council voted on 2020 budget. Motion to approve by Wendy, second by Andy. Budget passed.**

**Children, Youth and Family:** Another planning meeting coming up, watch for communications. Have been combining both classes, kids have been actively involved. Potential ideas for upcoming events include sledding or an ice fishing contest.

**Upcoming events:** Super Bowl Sunday Youth Service (February 2). Bring your change for the noisy offering! Easter Carnival (April 4). Easter breakfast (April 12). Rapid City Mission Trip (information TBD) will be intergenerational.

**Hope Circle/Hospitality:** No Hope Circle report. Hospitality scheduled out for the year. Barb Pringle coordinating Communion volunteers.

## **Pastor Dale's Report:**

Thankful for good Advent and Christmas worship services and to all involved in leading them. Especially thankful for the praise band, the bell choir, and the vocal choir that was pulled together without a director. Well done to all!

**Tom Ervasti** has offered to fill Choir Director position for us! Pending the SPRC approval of this hire, Tom will begin as Choir Director on February 1 for \$100/month. Thank you Tom!

Completed weekly Bible Study on Ephesians. Currently in midst of two-week study of Philemon.

Met with SPRC on January 19 to set schedule and goals for 2020.

Continuing to meet with church members individually to discuss broader UMC matters and how they might affect our congregation. I continue to urge all our members to be patient as they seek to understand differing theological and Biblical views and/or perspectives within our congregation. Let's continue to embrace and celebrate the diversity among us and not let us divide. Following the UMC General Conference in Mpls in May and the MN Annual Conference gather in June we will update the congregation on the next steps and possible timeline as received by the Annual Conference.

Received official letter of retirement from secretary, **Carol Schmidt**, on 1/21, effective 7/31/2020. SPRC will accept the letter and begin to make plans regarding a timeline for preparing for Carol's successor.

Continuing to provide on-going pastoral care and counseling to members. I am thankful for these opportunities.

Looking forward to another Youth Sunday on February 2. **Tina Forcier and Emily Honerbrink** are coordinating.

Worship planning meeting scheduled for Jan. 26. Will look ahead to Ash Wednesday (February 26), Lent, Holy Week and Easter (April 12) services.

Respectfully submitted, **Emily Honerbrink**

Carol Schmidt  
9807 Julep Trail North  
Scandia MN 55073  
651-319-2477

January 21, 2020

First United Methodist Church  
30828 Irene Ave., PO Box 688  
Lindstrom MN 55045

Dear Pastor Dale and the Staff/Parish Relations Committee:

It has been my privilege and blessing to work at First United Methodist Church for 24 years! July 26, 2020 will be my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ministry I have had at the church.

It is my intention to officially retire from my position as Administrative Secretary of First UMC. My last day will be Friday, July 31, 2020. I wanted to give notice this early so the Treasurer position could be filled and that person trained in.

I was hired by Pastor Adrian Ledermann and the SPRC in July 1995. I was trained in by the former secretary one day and then began my ministry July 26.

I have served God at First UMC under these pastors:

Pastor Adrian Ledermann  
Pastor Mike Graham  
Pastor Andrea Roles  
Pastor Greg Iverson  
Pastor Dan Doughty  
Pastor Dale Stiles

I have never considered this position a "job". It has always been my intention to bring my faith into the workplace and represent, not only First UMC, but Jesus Christ to all who I come in contact with.

I know it's difficult to follow someone who has been in a position for this amount of time and I would like to offer my assistance in the transition to the next secretary.

I'd like to thank all for everything. I will treasure the experiences and the relationships I've had at First UMC through the years. This position has allowed me to grow and express myself and I cherish the years I have spent here. First UMC will always have a place in my heart.

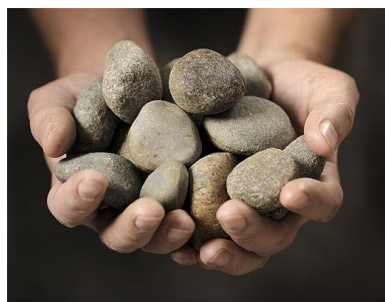
Thank you and may God bless First UMC.

In Christ's service 'til He comes or I go,

Carol Schmidt



# Lent 2020 – A Journey of Stones



Our Lenten journey at First UMC Lindstrom this year will draw from the rich imagery and symbolism of rocks and stones found throughout Scripture. These powerful images of stones (and our tendency to throw them) are painfully representative of our sins.

As you worship with us throughout this season of Lent you will be invited to bring with you, each week, a rock or a stone (of any size or shape), representing the sin in your life, to be placed at the foot of our large wooden cross that will be displayed in our sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday morning, this collection of stones and rocks will “be moved”, as the stones sealing Jesus’ tomb “were moved”, serving as a powerful and vivid illustration of how Jesus removes our stones of sin.

Our Wednesday evening adult Bible studies will be a time of further reflection and conversation about the stones (sin) in our lives as we consider each week’s assigned scripture reading. As Easter Sunday arrives, we will give thanks that what we could not do ourselves (move our stones), someone else (Jesus) has done for us!

## Weekly Themes will include:

Ash Wednesday, February 26 – **Written In Stone** – Exodus 32:1-24

Sunday, March 1 – **Rejected Stones** – Psalm 118; Mark 12:1-2

Sunday, March 8 – **Sticks and Stones** – John 8:1-12

Sunday, March 15 – **Hearts of Stone** – Luke 11:37-52

Sunday, March 22 – **Upon This Rock** – Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, March 29 – **Crying Stones** – Luke 19:29-40

Palm Sunday, April 5 – **The Final Stone** – Matthew 27:60

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – **Stones To Bread** – Matthew 4:1-11

Easter Sunday, April 12 – **The White Stone** – John 20:1-18; Revelation 2:17



**Online Bill Pay...**do you use your computer to pay your bills on-line? If you do, you may want to send your church offering/pledge through the same on-line bill pay service. You can set up an automatic payment plan or a one time contribution. It's easy:

- \* First, login to your bill pay account
- \* Select *Add a Bill*
- \* Select *Create an account without an account number*

(use the address and phone number below)

First United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 688

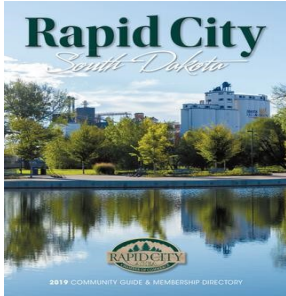
Lindstrom, MN 55045

651-257-4306

Please see **Scott Lecy** if you have any questions.

Unless your check or envelope designates an account, we assume it is for the General Fund. For bank-issued checks, if your contribution is for something other than General Fund, please enter in the "memo" line the account you wish your gift be recorded.

A Service and Learning Opportunity for All Ages



## Intergenerational Mission Trip Rapid City, South Dakota

**Saturday, June 27 - Thursday, July 3**  
*(option for families to return July 2 if desired)*



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**Where?** Rapid City, South Dakota is settled into the Black Hills and in the shadow of Mount Rushmore. It also shares a border with the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

**Why?** Faced with nearly impossible economic circumstances, many of the Lakota have moved to Rapid City in search of work. And while some have found a glimmer of hope, they are still in dire need of shelter and other basic resources. In Rapid City, many local missionaries and Christian ministries have answered the call. They have helped to paint and repair homes, and perhaps more importantly, they have worked to build relationships with adults and children alike. This mission trip will provide the opportunity to support this effort that many have already begun as together, we strive to bring light and hope to these struggling communities.

**What Will We Do?** We will be spending three days learning about and serving alongside people who make the Rapid City and Lakota communities their home. Particularly we will have the opportunity to visit with and learn from local elderly residents of these communities, learn about the need for low-income housing improvements, and partner with other local ministries and non-profit organizations, yet to be determined. Some learning sites may include the Red Cloud Indian School, Wounded Knee, Lakota College, a Pow Wow, and a buffalo ranch to feed buffalo and learn and hear the story of the White Buffalo Calf Woman.

**Other Local Attractions To Be Seen** - Throughout our three days of service and learning we will end each evening with a group activity and closing worship and devotion. Activities will include visits to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park, and other local fun activities.

**Transportation and Housing** - Families will travel in their own vehicles. Two church vans will also be available for youth in grades 6 or older who plan to participate without their families. We will be staying at a church in Rapid City in designated spaces for families and separate genders. Air mattresses, cots, and/or sleeping pads will be needed. As needed, depending on physical needs of some participants, local hotels are also an option.

**Cost** - \$125/participant or \$400 max/family. An additional \$150/participant if using church van transportation. Please contact Pr. Dale to find out more or if you have questions. 763-245-4006 | [dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

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### Participating Churches

*First United Methodist, Lindstrom | Chisago Lakes Lutheran, Center City | Glen Cary Lutheran, Ham Lake  
(While these congregations are planning and coordinating the trip, anyone interested is welcome to participate.)*



## Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Feb. 3—Marvin Hultquist

Feb. 4—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Feb. 5—Gary Gerke

Feb. 6—Greg McCarthy

Feb. 7—Greg McCarthy

Feb. 10—Michelle Gillespie

Feb. 11—Cindy Kopp

Feb. 12—Larry & Shirley Knopf

Feb. 13—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

Feb. 14—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Feb. 17—Phil & Joan DeMunck

Feb. 18—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Feb. 19—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

Feb. 20—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Feb. 21—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Feb. 24—Jon Glader

Feb. 25—Wendy Braski

Feb. 26—Bonnie Bielicki

Feb. 27—Fred Prindle

Feb. 28—Fred Prindle

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

**Juanita Morgan, 257-9268**

## Tech Ministries Schedule

Feb. 2 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Youth

Feb. 9 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Feb. 16 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Feb. 23 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

## Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, Feb. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Hostesses: Shirley Knopf and Patsy Berglund.

All women of the church are invited!



## Prayer Chain

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

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. 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

**Pastor Dale's** email address:

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.



# February 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p			1 10:30a Visitation  12p Memorial Service for Ed Oswald
2 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship  Youth Souper Bowl Sunday	3 6p Bell Choir  ***Carol	4   Schmidt	5 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team  on vacation	6   Feb. 3-14	7 Pastor's Day Off  ***	8
9 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	10 6p Bell Choir  ***Carol	11 6:30p Trustees  Schmidt	12 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team  on vacation	13 9:30a Hope Circle  Feb. 3-14	14 Pastor's Day Off Valentine's Day  ***	15
16 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship  <b>Mission Sunday~ MN Annual Conference Love Offering</b>	17 Presidents' Day~ Office Closed  6p Bell Choir	18 7p Finance 7p Church Council  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	19 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	24 6p Bell Choir	25	26 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7p Worship Service  	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	29 Leap Day!

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First United Methodist Church  
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(651) 257\*4306  
Fax (651) 257\*8039

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

Address Service Requested  
Contains dated material

*Sent with a prayer to:*

February 2020



## 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.  
Children leave for Sunday School during Worship  
Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday Evening Activities:**

6:00p Adult Bible Study  
7:00p Confirmation

#### **Our Ministry Team:**

Pastor...	Dale Stiles
Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...	Carol Schmidt
Children's Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson
Choir Director...	
Church Council Chairperson...	Wendy Vanderwerf
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist
Finance Chairperson...	Scott Lecy
Financial Secretary...	Lloyd Jones
Foundation Chairperson...	Donn Arnold
Lay Leader...	Andy Wilkerson
Lay Member to Annual Conference...	
Mission Chairperson...	Adrienne Stegmeir
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...	Juanita Morgan
Trustees Chairperson...	Lloyd Jones
Worship Team Leader...	Beth Lunsford
Youth Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson

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

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