



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Our Cemetery—Crescent Beach Cemetery—is Mission Focus

From *Emigrants at Worship: 125 Years of Chisago Lake Methodism* by Robert Porter

“By 1870, the congregation of Methodist Episcopal Church in Center City had grown large enough so that the members wanted a burial ground of their own. Up to this time burials were made at the Swedish Lutheran Cemetery just east of the Center City Lutheran Church and at Glader Cemetery, south of the lake. “John Dedon and S.M. Linman, acting as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Chisago Lake, purchased 82/100 of an acre from Andrew & Catharina Swenson for the nominal sum of \$1.00 on November 1, 1870. This land was located in Center City just south of present Highway

8 and was to be used for cemetery purposes. Later, the cemetery was named Crescent Beach, as it is situated atop a pleasant knoll, once a peninsula extending into the lake. An Indian burial ground is nearby.”

Our cemetery is in need of funds to maintain the grounds—mowing, flowers, etc. If you would like to donate towards the maintenance of our cemetery, please make your check out to First UMC, marking “cemetery” in the memo. There are also maintenance opportunities such as picking up sticks and debris, weeding landscaping, etc. that would be perfect for individuals, couples, or families. Contact **Mark Vanderwerf** or **Lloyd Jones** to coordinate a time to serve. Thank you!

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Updated COVID-19 Response Announcement

Our Church Council met again on Tuesday, April 21 and agreed to continue our suspension of in-person worship at least through the remainder of the state’s current stay-at-home restrictions through May 4.

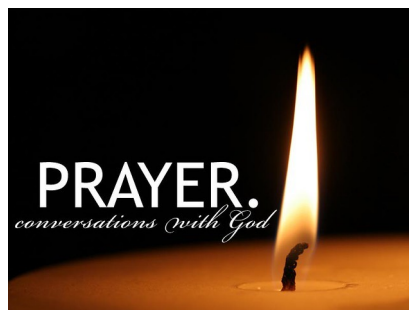
It is likely the restrictions will be extended at that time, if not sooner. If so, we’ll meet to evaluate again.

If/when stay-at-home restrictions are lifted or relaxed, to allow places of worship to resume in-person worship again, we discussed necessary changes that will need to be made for that to happen.

The MN Annual Conference of the UMC has already provided resources for us to consider once in-person worship does resume.

We will regularly update you based on what we hear from the state, federal, and CDC guidelines and will make decisions that honor those and that are consistent with other local communities of faith.

Please contact a Church Council member or **Pastor Dale** directly if you have questions.



Dates to remember:

May 7
National Day of Prayer

May 10
Mother’s Day

May 24
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up

May 25
Memorial Day—
Office Closed

May 31
Pentecost

From the pastor...

I used to think I was a worrier.

When I was growing up, it seemed like I worried a lot. Would I pass the test? Would I get picked for the team? Would I get invited to the party? Would the girl say “yes”? As an adult, I realized that these were a normal part of childhood and adolescence and are necessary to help prepare us for mature adulthood.

It turns out, I was an amateur at worrying - until our children were born. Then I worried constantly about them; about their health, their friendships, their self-esteem, and their overall safety. When they started school and were out of my sight and my protection, I worried even more. I'm sure you can imagine how I was when they started driving.

Thankfully, the Apostle Paul's encouraging words to the Philippians have crept into my worrisome thoughts and reassured me. *“Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything, and be thankful. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will be yours.” (4:6-7)*

Over the years, these often timely words have been an important reminder to me. They've reminded me that I, and all of us as children of the Heavenly Father, have a resource at our disposal that is often underutilized - prayer. When we pray - those concerns, those worries, those fears, those uncertainties that are consuming us - don't belong to us anymore. They belong to God. Think of it as getting a note from Jesus, saying, “I got this!” and then trust that he does. Our friends in addiction recovery understand this well. At Alcoholics Anonymous meetings or twelve-step recovery retreats, the expression “Let go, let God” is often used. These four important words make up the core spirituality of A.A. and other similar recovery programs. “Let go, let God” is an invitation to surrender one's unmanageable life to God. It is a gentle reminder which assists in both admitting the addiction and handing it over to God. The long form of the prayer would be something like “Let go of alcohol (or whatever the specific substance or non substance addiction might be) and let the hand and grace of God guide my life.”

Other encouraging words that have helped me in my own worry have been these: “Yesterday is the past. Tomorrow is not yet here. Today is a gift: That's why it's called “The Present.”

When I dwell on things I have done (or not done) in the past (not letting go), or fear what might happen in the future, I miss out on what is going on around me today. I become blind to the gift of “the present.” There are special moments, insights, conversations, and views that, if not paying attention, I will miss.

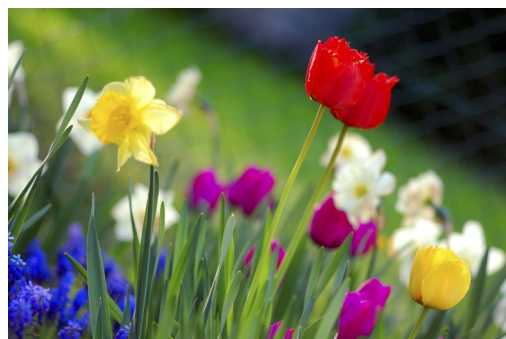
These days of uncertainty about the Covid-19 virus have caused me, and others, to once again, worry. We worry about ourselves and about those we love, that we or they might be vulnerable. We worry about our nation, the world, our economy, and our churches. Other than social distancing and other strategic virus mitigation procedures, there doesn't seem like much we can do to affect the outcome. We might feel helpless. We're not helpless. We can do one more thing: we can pray that this crisis is in the hands of the One who *can affect the outcome*.

I pray for that. I also pray that we can all “Let go, let God” as we invite the hand and grace of God to protect us, those close to us, and all our brothers and sisters, united in love and compassion, around the world. I also invite you to trust Paul's blessing (that has often blessed me over the years) - that the Peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe.

Pastor Dale Stiles

Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships

The Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships are “on hold” at this time. Please watch the newsletter for details.



In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Babe Anderson;
Tari Eng (heart surgery); Family of Duane Jones
(Lloyd Jones' brother)

Online Attendance Update

Online worship has certainly been interesting for us – and for me, as your pastor! It's a whole new way of being community and worshipping together, isn't it?

The MN Annual Conference has encouraged us to continue tracking attendance for online worship. In order to track online worship it's important to assume that more than one person is in front of the screen while worship is viewed. Correctly assuming this, we can take the number views of the video (which we can find online) and multiply by 2.5.

Using this formula, here are our (assumed) attendance numbers since we've begun online worship.

March 22 - 155
March 29 - 222
April 5 (Palm Sunday) - 120
April 9 (Maundy Thursday) - 160
April 12 (Easter) - 165
April 19 – 95
April 26 - 75

Pastoral Care

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

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

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!



Tari Eng.....May 2
Sandy Danielson.....May 4
MaryAnn Jindra.....May 11
Marvin Hultquist.....May 15
Luke Anderson.....May 16
Andrew Tracy.....May 18
Karen Bruss.....May 21
Reece Jones.....May 22
Kendrick Jones.....May 22
Terry Keese.....May 23
Tami Rehbein.....May 23
Angel RempelEwert.....May 25
Nate Clark.....May 28
Craig Stockel.....May 28



Happy Birthday!!!

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..

Highway Clean—up

We are officially part of the Adopt-A-Highway project. Our cleaning day has been set for Sunday, May 24.



Meet at church at 1:00 p.m. to get official vests and bags, which we *must* use.

Our portion of the highway is Cnty Road 19, from Cnty 14 to Karmel – 2 miles.

Thanks to all who are willing to come out to help make our community clean and pleasant.

Questions? Call Lois Anderson, 257-5547.

Church Council Meeting April 21, 2020

Council Members Present: Pastor Dale, Wendy Vanderwerf, Donn Arnold, Adrienne Stegmeir, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Tom Ervasti, Juanita Morgan. Other attendees: Mark Vanderwerf

Opened with a prayer led by **Pastor Dale**.

The April meeting was conducted via Zoom, to comply with social distancing and stay-at-home guidelines.

Evaluate in-person worship suspension timeline based on latest State/Federal restrictions:

The Council agreed that in-person worship would remain suspended until at least May 4, based on the stay-at-home orders in Minnesota. The Council will remain in close communication and will continue to monitor the situation; we all want to ensure that when we are able to return that we are able to do so in a way that will keep the congregation safe.

Evaluate video recorded worship services:

The Council was very positive about the recorded worship services. A few key highlights from the group include praise for the way **Pastor Dale** has been using different backgrounds and locations, such as the Cemetery, and having **Carrie** step in for the Children's worship. Pastor Dale has been learning new ways to record audio and video, as well as ways to incorporate captions during songs. **If you have any suggestions or ideas for future services you are encouraged to send them in!** Also, if anyone would like to record and send video of you or your family singing songs or reading the dismissal **Pastor Dale** would welcome the additions.

It was brought up that some members of the congregation have not had access to the recorded sessions. A recommendation was made to provide a transcript to those who are unable to tune in, please contact **Pastor Dale** or **Carol** to be added to a mailing list.

Virtual Coffee Hours have been very fun! Huge thanks to **Bret RempelEwert** for setting those up. If Bret doesn't have your email and you'd like to be added to his list, please send a note to bretgyver@gmail.com.

Monthly Financial Report (Scott):

Financials for March were pretty close to last year, however, April has been down. As a reminder, there are multiple ways you can send in your offerings, including through mail, automatic withdrawals through a bank account or by using tithe.ly.

Worship Services:

In light of COVID-19, **Pastor Dale** will be trained on CCLI licensing by **Beth Lunsford**, as her April 30 resignation date will occur before in-person worship is back in session. It is our hope that Beth will agree to lead us all in song one more time once we can meet in person again. SPRC will be meeting on the next steps for that position once they can meet in person.

SPRC Update:

Carol's job description is up-to-date, SPRC will be meeting to go over next steps. SPRC is also working on details for a special reception to thank **Carol** for all her years of service for our Church and our Community. **Juanita** has a detailed timeline for finding her replacement; the search is currently on-hold due to COVID-19.

Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Flooring Update (Mark):

On a very positive note, it's been a great time to do the flooring updates! A few contractors have been in already. Flooring will be started on the kitchen April 27th, carpet in the fellowship hall will begin after the kitchen is complete (beginning of May). **Pastor Dale** will post photos to our Facebook page after installation begins.

May Mission of the Month – Cemetery Clean-up (Adrienne):

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Cemetery, help is especially needed to pick up sticks and debris before Memorial Day. Please contact **Mark** or **Lloyd** to volunteer. Also, volunteers are needed at MN FoodShare to help with distributing food.

Additional notes:

Please think about those living alone during these trying times. A simple phone call is greatly appreciated, as well as dropping off books or sending a note. We're all in this together!

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by **Pastor Dale**.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Honerbrink



Mother's Day

Second Sunday of May



APPRECIATION
 BEAUTIFUL
 BREAKFAST
 CANDY
 CHARMING
 COMFORT
 DEVOTED
 FLOWERS
 FORGIVING
 GIFTS

GUIDANCE
 HUGS
 JEWELRY
 JOY
 KISSES
 LAUGHTER
 LOVE
 MATERNAL
 MOM
 MOTHER

NURTURE
 PERFUME
 PROTECTIVE
 SHARE
 TELEPHONE
 TENDER
 THE BEST
 WARM
 WISE





Meals on Wheels Deliverers

May 1—Greg McCarthy

May 4—Marvin Hultquist

May 5—Ron & Juanita Morgan

May 6—Larry & Shirley Knopf

May 7—Jim & Joyce Stafki

May 8—Jim & Joyce Stafki

May 11—Michelle Gillespie

May 12—Cindy Kopp

May 13—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

May 14—Gary Gerke

May 15—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

May 18—Phil & Joan DeMunck

May 19—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

May 20—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

May 21—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

May 22—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

May 25—HOLIDAY

May 26—Jon Glader

May 27—TBA

May 28—Fred Prindle

May 29—Fred Prindle

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

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.

2020

Clergy & Spouse's UEC# 301

Tuesday August 11th - Friday August 14th

Held at The Well

14770 Canada Ave. W. Rosemount, MN 55068

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.

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will NOT be meeting in May.



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

Worship Services available online

Complete Worship Service recordings available on our church website and Facebook page.

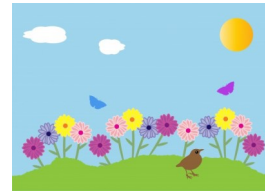
Online Worship Offering Update


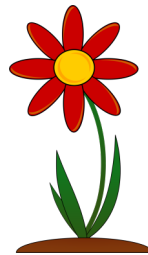
It's important to point out that the total amount of offerings received during our April suspension of in-person worship was \$12,822. This amount compared to financial offerings received during the same time period in 2019 is only \$3,072 less. Fortunately, our expenses have also been less during this time, which helps.

We are thankful for your continued financial support and commitment during this time. Thank you!

lindstrommethodist.org

MAY 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 NO WORSHIP SERVICE	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	1 Pastor's Day Off	2
					8 Pastor's Day Off	9
10 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship Mother's Day	11	12 6:30p Trustees	13 7p Worship Team	14 NO Hope Circle	15 Pastor's Day Off	16
17 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship Mission Sunday~ Crescent Beach (UMC) Cemetery	18	19 7p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter deadline	20 7p Worship Team	21	22 Pastor's Day Off	23
24 9:00a Worship/ Andy Wilkerson 10:15a Fellowship 1:00p Adopt-a-Hwy Clean-Up	25 Memorial Day~ Office Closed	26	27 7p Worship Team	28	29 Pastor's Day Off	30
31 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship Pentecost 			Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p			

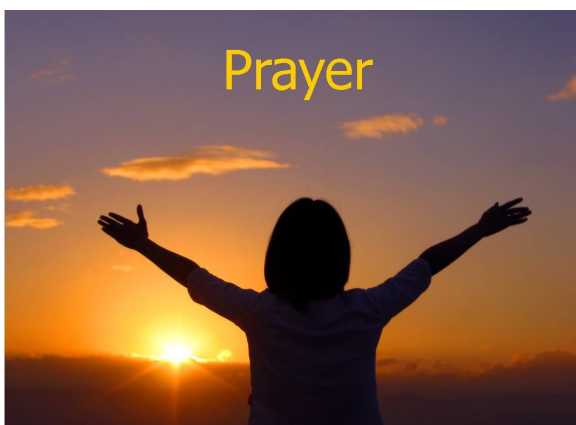
First United Methodist Church
30828 Irene Ave.
P.O. Box 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651) 257*4306
Fax (651) 257*8039

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

May 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...	Tom Ervasti
Church Council Chairperson...	Wendy Vanderwerf
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist
Finance Chairperson...	
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...	
Youth Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson

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Web site: lindstrommethodist.org