



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

MN Adult & Teen Challenge Mission focus

From their website:

"For over 30 years, MN Adult and Teen Challenge has been restoring hope to people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction.

Please support them by sending in your donations.



Communication from the CARE (Communicating and Responding Effectively) Advisory Team

The coronavirus pandemic presents a dynamic, uncertain, and ever-changing set of circumstances. For these reasons, the FUMC CARE Advisory Team was formed.

Mission Statement of the CARE Team:

The mission of the CARE Team is to advise and support church leadership and membership regarding actions the church should take to operate safely in these times. This committee is using information from various trusted sources, including guidance from the United Methodist Churches of Minnesota.

The team will evaluate all recommendations and assure that decisions:

- Demonstrate the value we place on the health and safety of all worshippers, visitors, and staff.
- Align with trusted and authoritative sources of information including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
- Include safe implementation of all recommendations relating to worship.

Fighting the Good Fight:

As the month of May draws to a close, we recognize that we have not been able to worship together in person for more than two months. Still, we can celebrate our continued focus on our mission of growing in love toward God and our neighbors, reaching new people, and helping to heal a broken

world. Many of us have demonstrated our love and care for each other in and outside of our faith community. We continue to be amazed by the many acts of kindness we have seen and heard. We continue to prove that we are capable, resilient, and can persevere in these wild and crazy circumstances. Although we look forward to reconvening together, we are not planning to reopen for indoor worship for the foreseeable future. Transmissions and deaths caused by the virus continue to rise, and physical distancing is the best prevention method to stop the spread of the virus.

The FUMC CARE Team exists to regularly evaluate the situation. These meetings will be convened twice per month, or as needed, given the changing circumstances.

We are delighted to learn that our church staff and members will begin to work towards planning three outdoor worship services on the last Sunday of each month: June 28, July 26, and August 30. Look for other announcements soon about new ways we plan to safely connect, love, and share with one another. Please send your great ideas and suggestions to **Pastor Dale**, any of the CARE Team members, or the church office.

From the FUMC CARE Team:

Donn Arnold, Rebecca Ervasti, Terry Kopp, Ashlee Nelson, Barb Prindle, Mark Vanderwerf, and Pastor Dale Stiles

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Dates to remember:

June 16	Church Council Meeting
June 16	Newsletter Deadline
June 21	Mission Sunday
June 21	Father's Day
June 28	Outdoor Worship

From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

*"I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers
for all of you."
Philippians 1:3-4*

I love how the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the congregation he started in the city of Philippi. Significantly, Paul wrote this letter from prison, and there is little doubt he was greatly encouraged in his struggles by remembering and voicing his gratitude for all the blessings he had received in and through this church.

Recent research has testified to the power of gratitude. From strengthening our immune systems and helping us sleep better to creating more energy and providing a greater sense of connection, gratitude has been linked to an incredible number of positive outcomes. The research suggests two reasons for this. First, during periods of hardship, it's easy to think there is no other reality than the difficult one we are experiencing in the moment. Articulating our gratitude helps us put present challenges in a broader context and avoid a negative "tunnel vision." Second, voicing our gratitude connects us powerfully with others, reminding us that we are not alone but joined deeply and meaningfully to others.

We are at a fragile time in our struggle against the coronavirus, as we move from the crisis-response of the first few weeks to recognizing that we are in this for the long-haul. Even as we move to returning to more normal life, we are also realizing that the new normal will be quite different from what we experienced even a few short months ago. It is at just this point that we may lose confidence or be tempted to despair. One way to bolster our spirits and renew our sense of hope is by naming our gratitude, counting our blessings, and remembering all that is good in life.

So what can you give thanks for today? And whom can you thank? Whether by text, phone call, email, or letter, you have an opportunity to name your blessings, be renewed in confidence, and bolster the spirits of another. As you do so, know that I, like Paul, "thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you!"

Peace,

Pastor Dale



Thank you!

Thank you to those who came out to clean "our" road Sunday, May 24 for Adopt-a-Highway:

Angel RempelEwert	Angela RempelEwert
Brett RempelEwert	Cailey RempelEwert
Irve Lecy	Patsy Berglund
Dorothy Lecy	Scott Braski
Marvin Hultquist	Wendy Braski
Gary Gerke	Dick Berglund (took picture)

Carol Schmidt's Retirement – An Update from SPRC

Beside the Covid-19 pandemic that has changed our means of Worship at 1st UMC, our Administrative Secretary, **Carol Schmidt**, is retiring after twenty-five years of service. Memories about Carol will be featured in a later issue of this newsletter. In anticipation of this, our Staff Parish Relations Committee has met to discuss the process and timeline for filling Carol's position. We would like information to be available to you, our congregation, before a notice is put in our local Press and the City papers. We might have someone in our church, who would be interested or who could recommend a candidate for the position. You can view the proposed position description on our church website under the "Forms" tab or by typing directly into your web browser, www.lindstrommethodist.org/forms

If you have questions, concerns, or any recommendations, please contact a member of our committee or **Pastor Dale** directly. We will keep you posted in upcoming church publications. Please uphold Carol, our committee, and this process in your prayers. Thank you.
J. Morgan

In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Babe Anderson;
Tari Eng; Kennedy (Dorothy Lecy); Russ and Steve
Oehme on the death of their mother, Darlene

Virtual Coffee Hour on ZOOM

If you would like to join some of your church family members for virtual coffee hour on Zoom every Sunday at 10:15 a.m., please contact Carol in the church office or contact Bret RempelEwert (309-369-9329) directly to be added to the weekly email invitation.

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.

Vocalists, Instrumentalists, and Readers

Thank you to those who have already contributed to our Online Video Worship from our beginning in March!

If you are one who might sing or play or read the Scripture for the Sunday Worship video, please contact **Pastor Dale** and he will get you scheduled. Blessings and Thanks!

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous donations to our April/May Mission Focus—Family Pathways Food Shelf!

A total of \$2,040 has been sent to help them with their ministry.

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

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.

Office Hours

The office hours in June have changed. New hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HELP Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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~~ **CANCELLED**

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.

Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2020 is \$174,321, which becomes \$14,527 per month.

General Fund giving for April was \$12,822.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Meals on Wheels Deliverers

JUNE 2020

Because of the Covid-19 virus, MOW deliveries will continue to be Mondays only in the month of June. The following people have agreed to deliver this month:

June 1---- Fred Prindle
June 8----Jim and Joyce Stafki
June 15----Phil & Joan DeMunck
June 22----Jon Glader
June 29----Fred Prindle

At this time we do not know if daily deliveries will resume for July, August, September. Will communicate as soon as MOW makes a decision. -----**J. Morgan**

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 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.

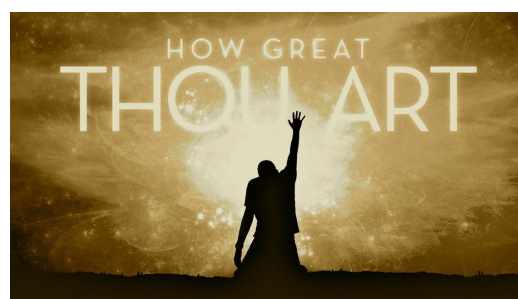
Pastor Dale is available to help you with your spiritual journey. Please give us a call at 257-4306 if we can be of help to you in any way.

Church email address:
office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Dale's email address:
dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Sunday Messages available online

All weekly Worship Services are available for viewing on our website.



Church Council Minutes

May 19, 2020

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

The May meeting was conducted via Zoom; opened with a prayer led by Pastor Dale.

As we potentially near closer to being able to worship together again, it is important that we have a detailed plan for safely resuming worship - the council discussed and agreed to appoint a "Smart" team to lead the creation of a phased plan. The following comes from the suggestion of the Bishop:

I urge each congregation to create a "smart team" if that has not already happened. This planning group might include members with public health expertise, those from the medical and health professions, leaders from public safety or schools, as well as your pastor and other key staff. The smart team knows your context, your members at greater risk, and the physical dimensions of your facilities inside and outside your building. The smart team will help think through the details that will need to be in place when it is time to reopen for activities like worship, funerals, weddings or small group activities.

The council chose 6 individuals to serve on the team alongside Pastor Dale. As of these minutes, four individuals have confirmed: **Rebecca Ervasti, Mark Vanderwerf, Ashley Nelson and Donn Arnold.** These members will create a plan and present it to the Council. Until the plan is in place, and until restrictions are lifted by Minnesota, we will continue to meet virtually. **If you have any suggestions or ideas for future services you are encouraged to send them in!**

The Council also agreed to let **Carol** increase her hours, if she feels comfortable doing so.

Missions: A few calls came in for helping with the cemetery. Mark V. has been out cleaning up the area. June is MN Adult and Teen Challenge; July is Brush with Kindness. **Scott Lecy** has been in contact with Teen Challenge. Several ideas were presented for how we can engage with the group as we've done in the past. The Council decided to use the virtual ministry option; this will be incorporated into the June 21 sermon.

Finances: Finances for April were better than March. Giving was lower, but expenses were also lower. Giving for April exceeding April 2019. Very grateful! 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 tith.ly.

SPRC Update: Committee met May 17th. **Carol's** retirement is on schedule for July 31st. Will have future celebration. SPRC approved the job description; still need to decide hours. Position will be posted on FUMC website initially; will be posted public at a later date.

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 **Scott Lecy**.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Honerbrink

HELP

Health Equipment Lending Program

Do you or someone you know need temporary medical equipment?

HELP offers used medical equipment to anyone with a temporary need. The equipment can be "borrowed" for up to six months, but can be extended with a phone call for another six months – for a total borrow time of one year. After that, the equipment will need to be returned. The equipment is housed at First UMC.

The equipment is donated by individuals and health care providers. It is cleaned and sanitized before being issued for use.

Call the church office, 257-4306, for information on what equipment is available for your use or to donate used equipment.

Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday,
10:00a – 1:00p.

JUNE 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00a – 2:00p	1	2	3	4	5 Pastor's Day Off	6
7 Worship Online	8	9 NO Trustees	10	11 NO Hope Circle	12 Pastor's Day Off	13
14 Worship Online	15 ***Our	16 NO Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter Deadline Secretary,	17 Carol Schmidt	18 on	19 Pastor's Day Off vacation***	20
21 Worship Online Mission Sunday Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 9:00a Drive-In Worship Service	29	30				

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Fax (651) 257*8039

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

June 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!

There will not be any in-church Worship Services
in June.

Please check out our website and facebook page
for online Worship Services.

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

Office email: office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor's email: dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Web site: lindstrommethodist.org