



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

A Brush with Kindness/Twin Cities Aid July Mission Focus

The July Mission of the Month is A Brush with Kindness.

This ministry works in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity as “a Christian beautification and preservation program for low-income and elderly homeowners.”

A Brush with Kindness ensures people can live in a safe, well-maintained home by assisting low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability or family circumstances with necessary exterior maintenance and repairs.

A Brush with Kindness offers services such as painting, landscaping, weather stripping and minor repair services using volunteer labor and donated materials to keep costs low. They often work alongside homeowners who are able, helping them to reclaim their homes with pride and dignity.

You can help by: referring local homeowners who need assistance to the program by encouraging them to complete the Homeowner Application, volunteering time and/or materials needed for projects, providing a financial gift by indicating “A Brush With Kindness” or “Missions” and the amount you would like to donate with your giving to First UMC in July.

Contact **Donn Arnold** for more information.

Twin Cities Aid - Donation Drive

In addition to our regular monthly mission, we will be helping to provide aid to those affected by rioting damage in the Twin Cities. While there has been an outpouring of generosity from the community immediately following the riots, many people will continue to need help accessing basic necessities for weeks to come. Needs change daily, but there are several items that are consistently being requested.

We will be collecting:

- Toilet paper
- Diapers, especially larger sizes
- Baby wipes
- Feminine products (maxi pads)
- Bottled water
- Laundry detergent

You can drop off your donations during the following dates/times to be distributed through a local Twin Cities church along with the love and hope of the LORD.

- Tuesday, July 7 from 9-11am or 6-7pm
- Tuesday, July 21 from 8-11am



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Dates to remember:

- July 3
Office Closed for Holiday
- July 10
Scholarship Deadline
- July 21
Newsletter Deadline
- July 21
Church Council
- July 26
Drive-In Worship
- July 31
Carol Schmidt's last day

From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

"Who is the Church?" "We are the Church!"

You've likely heard that before. It's true, isn't it? The people of God make up the Church, not any building. You and I are the church we call First United Methodist in Lindstrom. We are a church with members of a multitude of ages, backgrounds, experiences, and convictions. We are one church coming from numerous communities and neighborhoods, with different gifts to offer, struggles to share, and hopes to live into. In and through all these places and things, we are one church, together.

I start with this affirmation because we are currently facing enormous, even historic, challenges, including a once-in-a-century pandemic and the greatest social unrest and call for reform than we have experienced in fifty years. Moreover, we live at a time when the strong cultural impulse is to define ourselves not by what we share and might unite us, but instead by what divides us. If we are to face these challenges and seek to flourish amid them, and if we are to give witness to our faith in Christ to those around us, we need to remember and remind each other that, as St. Paul writes, *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."* (Ephesians 4:4-6).

As the Church in 2020, we play a, perhaps, more important role, than we have in many years - that of providing the hope and peace and justice and love that our local, national, and global communities are longing for. They are looking to us - The Church. Fortunately, our congregation has a long tradition of being a servant congregation, and we can draw on that tradition and our historic strengths to fulfill this important role we are called to at this time. But it will take all of us. Remember, WE are the Church. And while we may at times disagree on particular actions as we respond to these two monumental challenges before us, I hope and pray that we can agree that God invites us to work to establish a world where all of God's children are accorded dignity, safety, and respect.

"Who is the Church?" "We are the Church!"

Because of that truth, I remain confident that we will get through these crises together and, by God's grace, come out on the other side stronger.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dale

In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Jack Danielson and family on the passing of Sandy; Brad Elshaug; Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Donn & Sharlene Arnold and family on the passing of Babe Anderson; Tari Eng; Kennedy (Dorothy Lecy)

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.

Birthdays!

Pat McDermott.....July 1
Jessie Johnson.....July 1
Maddy Sandgren.....July 1
Wayne Vanek.....July 1
Allen Kask.....July 3
Weston Stegmeir.....July 6
Tim Clark.....July 9
Irene Orton.....July 11
Beth Lunsford.....July 15
Jackie Stegmeir.....July 16
Linda Ploog.....July 18
Glenn Polzine.....July 18
George Hultman.....July 19
Phyllis Perry.....July 23
Vicki Palmer.....July 23
Kristin Anderson.....July 28
Verna Hultman.....July 28
Jack Danielson.....July 28

MEMO to FUMC Members regarding June 28, 2020 Drive-In Worship

Our Team met again on Monday, June 15 to assess, evaluate, discuss, and make decisions regarding the immediate and future worship schedule of our church in the midst of ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

We are excited to welcome everyone to First United Methodist Church's first Drive-In worship on June 28, 2020 at 9:00am.

We are planning specific measures to assure the safety of all worshippers. Among these measures are physical distancing and wearing of masks. We will have our music worship team and Pastor Dale's sermon delivered from the pavilion. Worshippers can tune into 106.7 FM to listen to the service.

We have established expectations to facilitate a safe Drive-In/Outdoor worship experience.

Members are expected to:

- Practice physical distancing while on the church property for the worship.
- Worshippers can stay in their vehicle or sit outside in lawn chairs, on blankets, or on benches. Worship leaders will set up on the church pavilion.
- Masks must be worn by anyone who is not in their vehicle (until seated). Seating location options include:

Benches close to the pavilion – limit to one family per bench (benches will be set up with physical distancing in mind) – benches should not be moved.

Worshippers can bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on the lawn. If you are seated on the lawn, we ask that groups maintain 12 feet of distance between themselves and other family groups.

If you are outside your vehicle you will need to bring your own FM radio to tune into the worship service. Worshippers will tune into 106.7 FM to listen to the service.

Remaining within a vehicle provides the safest option for worshippers.

The church building will not be open, so worshippers should not expect to be given access to the restroom facilities. The playground will also be closed.

We request that members do not attend the Drive-In worship if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or

MEMO continued....

other flu-like symptoms.

If unable to attend or planning to stay at home, feel free to attend the worship via Facebook Live on our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lindstrommethodist)

Use South Parking lot entrance when arriving and follow parking instructions. Attendants will direct parking.

Volunteers will greet and hand out Orders of Worship when entering. Financial offerings will also be received upon entering and exiting the parking lot. All volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves.

Additionally, we are not planning for a specific date to return to full indoor worship. Additional Drive-In worship opportunities may be held throughout the Summer depending on feedback received from our first one on June 28.

We will continue to adhere to the recommendations from the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health. We recognize that ongoing separation of our faith community is frustrating for some. We all long to be back together. We will continue to look for ways that we can gather virtually or connect in other safe ways. Your suggestions are welcome. Please contact the church office or a member of the CARE Team.

Sincerely,
The FUMC C.A.R.E. (Communicating and Responding Effectively) Advisory Team

**Rebecca Ervasti
Ashlee Nelson
Mark Vanderwerf**

**Donn Arnold
Terry Kopp
Barb Prindle**

Thank you!

To our church family, on behalf of the Anderson family, we thank you so very much for your prayers, cards, phone calls, donations and air hugs. It's comforting to know others are supporting us through this grieving process. Until all of the family can be together again, we will continually use our storehouse of memories to give us snapshots of this amazing lady's life. We know for sure that she is keeping heaven spotless and is speaking fluent Swedish with the angels.

God bless you all!
Sharlene and Donn Arnold

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 May was \$8,957.85.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

June Church Financial Update

Financially, First United Methodist Church is feeling the effects of COVID-19 as well. During the months of March & April giving was below normal but at a manageable level, in May giving dropped a little further. January thru May totals for 2020 are \$56,707 compared with \$73,816 (2019) and \$77,394 (2018).

One of the blessings in the past couple months is that church leaders who normally receive honorarium payments have elected not to accept any dollars during this period, God bless each of you. Church expenses have been a little lower as well without people using the building but the difference between income and expenses has been razor thin.

In June with one week remaining the giving has been significantly lower so hopefully we have a good turnout on the last Sunday of the month and first outdoor service.

Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.

Thank you. **Scott Lecy, Finance Chair**

Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships

In 1959 the Rev. John C. Blackford was transferred by the United Methodist Church Annual Conference to Lindstrom, MN, and served at First UMC for 25 years. In 1959, the Lindstrom church was a small white church on Highway 8 with the parsonage next door and also was a former Swedish Conference Methodist Church. Again, God blessed John's ministry, and the church outgrew its building on Hwy 8, and the wonderful and farsighted congregation embarked on a building plan. The new (current) Lindstrom Church was completed in 1968, and since that time this fine facility has been a blessing from God to the members of First UMC and the community it serves. In honor of Pastor Blackford's commitment to ministering in the Lindstrom area and beyond for so many years, the First UMC Foundation Board has scholarship opportunities in his name and memory, for students who are members, or related to members of First UMC.

- ◆ 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 regularly involved in activities associated with the church
- ◆ Applications can be obtained 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:

July 10: All applications must be received

Mid July: Recipients will be notified

July 26: Scholarships awarded

Scholarships may also be obtained by contacting: **Carol Schmidt**
(office hours 9a-2p, Tues., Wed., Fri.),
Administrative Secretary
office@lindstrommethodist.org
651-257-4306

Church Council Minutes

June 16, 2020

Council Members Present: Pastor Dale, Wendy Vanderwerf, Donn Arnold, Adrienne Stegmeir, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Tom Ervas-ti, Andy Wilkerson

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

Covid-19 Response per newly formed C.A.R.E. Ad- visory Team:

The C.A.R.E. team met on June 15th to discuss the lo-gistics for the drive-in/outdoor service (to be held June 28) and for the two scheduled funerals – **Babe Anderson** (6/27) and **Duane Jones** (7/18).

Drive-In Worship: An email is being sent with the de-tails; a graphic was created for Facebook. The rec-ommendations at the time of these minutes are that people adhere to physical distancing (cars parked every other spot, no more than 1 family per bench, maintain 12' distance when outside of vehicle). There will be no speaker set up (due to lag between what you'd hear on radio vs. in a vehicle on the radio). The radio station (106.7) has been tested (thank you **Brett, Duane and Gerry!**). If sitting outside vehicle, please bring own radio (or radio app on phone). Few notes: bathrooms will not be open; playground closed during service. Service will still be available virtually. *Funeral services:* Immediate family only, every other pew, masks recommended. No singing or A/C, no Bi-bles or Hymnals. We are keeping with many other area Churches; and safety is a top priority.

Clarification on who can come back to services once re-opened: ALL are welcome back to Church! It is at the discretion of the individual if they choose to come to the outdoor service (or at a later date, in-door services). We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Missions: July mission is Brush with Kindness. Also talked about doing a Compassion Drive for the Twin Cities, as several items are in short supply (especially volunteers, diapers, bottled water, laundry detergent, feminine products). A schedule for item drop offs will be sent out.

SPRC Update: A timeline for **Carol's** replacement hire has been agreed upon, plan is to have new hire by August 1. Position is on website, Chicago County Press, Community Facebook page and Church Face-book page. July 12 is the application cutoff. Retirement party is still TBD; **Carol's** last day is still sched-uled for July 31. Worship Team Leader: No need to

fill immediately, can be done through combination of **Pastor Dale** and volunteers. Details TBD once in-person services resume.

Foundation Committee: Taking scholarship applica-tions for the Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarship Fund through July 10th; will be announced end of July.

Other items: Andy thanked Pastor Dale for his help editing the Memorial Day service. Service was well received; Andy has been receiving messages and replies from all over the U.S.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Honerbrink

Staff/Parish Relations Update

After twenty-five years, our Office Administrator, **Carol Schmidt**, will be retiring from her position at our church on July 31. Her commitment to our church and faithfulness to God have made her a wonderful part of our faith – and broader – community. A prop-er reception and send-off will be planned at a later date when it is safer for all to gather together. Until then, throughout this last month of her service with us, please express your appreciation for, and love of, **Carol**, through notes/cards in the mail, email, or phone calls.

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee has begun the process of finding someone to fill the position of Office Administrator. The position description has been updated and is currently being published and promoted in local papers, on our website, and on so-cial media. The deadline for applications for the po-sition is July 12. Interviews for the position will then take place and we hope to have someone hired by the last week of July to allow time to overlap and training with **Carol**.

The position will be part-time (20 hrs/wk). If you or someone you know might be interested in applying for the position, please contact, or have them contact **Pastor Dale** directly. The full position description can be found on our church website at www.lindstrommethodist.org/forms

Please keep our committee, our congregation, and **Carol**, in your prayers during this time of transition.

Thank you.



Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Again this month MOW deliveries will be on Mondays only. Each recipient will receive Meals for the week. These people will be delivering:

July 6-----Jim and Joyce Stafki
July 13----Joan & Phil DeMunck
July 20----Irv & Dorothy Lecy
July 27----Fred Prindle

We don't know if this will continue through the summer. Right now scheduling is one month at a time. Many thanks to those delivering!

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:
Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Office Hours

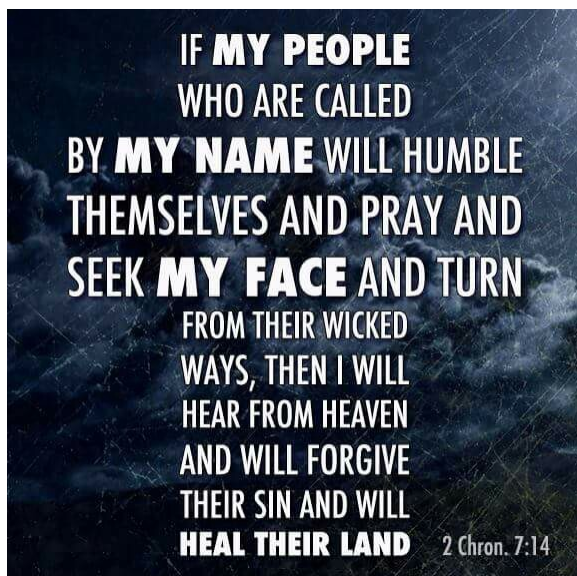
The office hours in July have changed. New hours are:

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

HELP Hours

Health Equipment Lending Program

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



Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will NOT be meeting in July.



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.

On Vacation...

Pastor Dale will be on vacation July 2- 6. Please contact the office or **Pastor David Werner, Forest Hills UMC, directly (651-280-5379)** for any emergency pastoral care needs.

July 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00a – 2:00p		1	2 ***Pastor Dale	3 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed on vacation	4 Independence Day!  Happy 4th of July! ***
5 Worship Online July 2-6	6 ***	7 9-11 am Twin Cities Aid Drop Off 6-7 pm Twin Cities Aid Drop Off	8	9 NO Hope Circle	10 Pastor's Day Off Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarship Deadline	11
12 Worship Online	13	14 Foundation Meeting	15	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 Memorial Service for Duane Jones
19 Worship Online Mission Sunday~ A Brush with Kindness	20	21 8-11 am Twin Cities Aid Drop Off 7p Church Council Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9:00a Drive-In Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31 Pastor's Day Off Carol Schmidt's Last Work Day- Retirement	

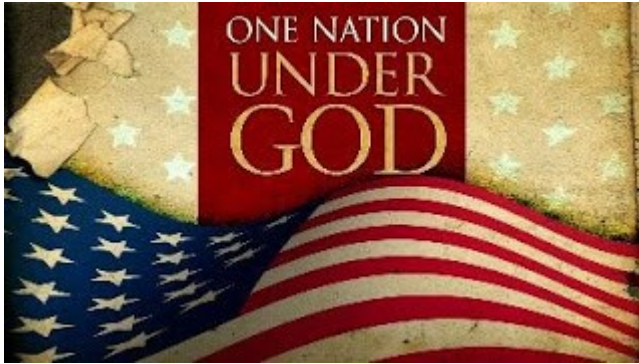
First United Methodist Church
30828 Irene Ave.
P.O. Box 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651) 257*4306
Fax (651) 257*8039

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

July 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.

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

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