



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Feed My Starving Children Mission Focus for August

A Christian non-profit founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children tackles world hunger by sending volunteer-packed, nutritious meals to 70 countries, where they're used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty.

Last year, FMSC welcomed nearly 1.2 million volunteers to pack more than 333 million meals to feed more than 913,555 kids daily for a year. The Minnesota-based charity spends more than 90% of total annual donations directly on feeding kids.

The Power of Food

Nutritious food equips kids to learn in school, build their communities and grow up strong in body and spirit.

Food paves the way for education. Food builds a solid foundation for communities to become strong and self-reliant. Food makes it possible for children to gain physical and spiritual health. Food delivers hope in the name of Jesus.

Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands.

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Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships

Two young people were awarded a Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarship July 26 during our Drive-In Worship Service:

Katie RempelEwert

Katie is planning on attending the U of M this fall

Jessica Collyard

Jessica is the step-daughter of Pete Olson
She is planning on attending the MN State University in Mankato this fall

Drive-In/Outdoor Services

All services in August will be Drive-In/Outdoors and will begin at 9:00 a.m. In case of rain, services will be held indoors.

Aug 2 – Hymn Sing Sunday-
Led by **Nancy Thalacker & Tom Ervasti**

Aug 9 – Camp Song Sunday-
Led by **Pastor Dale & Bret RempelEwert**

August 16 – Gaither Hymn Sunday-
Led by **Gerry Gaudette & Sue Hanvey**

Aug 23 – Special Music Sunday-
Led by members who sign up to share their musical offerings

Aug 30 – Taizé/Irish Music Sunday-
Led by
Bret RempelEwert & Beth Lunsford

Dates to remember:

All Sunday Services
Outdoors

August 16
Mission Sunday

August 18
Newsletter Deadline

August 18
Church Council

Blessings!

From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

God will cover you with his wings, and under those wings you will find refuge. –Psalm 91:4

We're now in what's often called "the dog days of summer."

While we associate that term with the unrelenting heat and humidity of late July and August, the ancient world associated it with draught, plague, and ill fortune. Given the kind of summer we're having – with pandemic, economic woes, and social injustice and unrest – that ancient description suddenly doesn't seem exaggerated at all!

Perhaps it's for this very reason that so many of us head north for a respite. If you are able to do that, blessings for a time away that leaves you refreshed and renewed. Others have recognized that doing something – almost anything – to address the challenges of the day can also be restorative in that it reminds us we are not victims but servants who are ready and willing to help and make a difference wherever there's a need.

In addition to retreating and working, a third means by which we may not simply weather these dog days but flourish amid them is to be immersed in God's promises. Psalm 91, the inspiration for a variety of Christian hymns and imagery, was addressed to Israelites feeling oppressed by circumstances and opponents and therefore greatly in need of a word of encouragement. In this beloved Psalm, God promises presence, protection, refuge and renewal. As you read the words below, imagine them addressed personally to you so that you, in turn, can reach out in love to someone else in need of encouragement.

You who abide in the shadow of the Almighty will say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from deadly pestilence. God will cover you with his wings and under those wings you will find refuge. God's faithfulness will be your shield, so that you will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday (Psalm 91:3-6).

Blessings to you for renewed energy, commitment, and hope during these summer days!

Pr. Dale

Welcome Our New Office Administrator!

Our Staff/Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce the hiring of our new Office Administrator, **Sarah Sandgren**. Sarah, her husband **Rob**, and their two girls, **Maddie and Tess**, live in Lindstrom.

Welcome, **Sarah**!



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.



In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Brad Elshaug; Brian Elshaug;
Olga Determan; Tari Eng; Kennedy (Dorothy Lecy);
Phyllis Perry on the passing of her son, Keith

August Update from the C.A.R.E. Team!

Our team met on July 20 and decided to hold Drive-In/Outdoor worship services each Sunday in August at 9:00 a.m. Our recommended safety measures remain the same as were in place at our June 28 and July 26 outdoor/drive-in services.

They are as follows:

*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 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)

Birthdays!



Carol Vanek.....August 3
Lynne Hultman.....August 10
Sue Meinholz.....August 12
Rebecca Ervasti.....August 13
Sue Hanvey.....August 16
Cyndi Keesee.....August 21
Lynne Wilkerson.....August 23
John Keefe.....August 26
Susan Hernick.....August 27



Have a wonderful day!

Continued.....

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.

All services in August will be Drive-In/Outdoors and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Aug 2 – Hymn Sing Sunday–

Led by Nancy Thalacker and Tom Ervasti

Aug 9 – Camp Song Sunday–

Led by Pastor Dale and Bret RempelEwert

August 16 – Gaither Hymn Sunday–

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Led by Bret RempelEwert and Beth Lunsford

Also, our team is requesting that members reach out to us with any concerns, recommendations, hopes, or desires in regard to resuming in-person worship or other in-person activities at the church.

Blessings,

C.A.R.E. Team

Rebecca Ervasti (rebecca.ervasti@gmail.com)

Ashlee Nelson (ashlee.nelson.2@und.edu)

Donn Arnold (donnarnold@frontiernet.net)

Terry Kopp (koppx003@umn.edu)

Mark Vanderwerf (werf79@gmail.com)

Barb Prindle (bprindle@msn.com)

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

Postponed until Summer of 2021
Clergy & Spouse's UEC# 301

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 June was \$10,917.75

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

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.

A Note from Carol Schmidt Administrative Secretary

After 25 years as your Administrative Secretary, I have decided to retire. As you probably know, my last day will be July 31, 2020.

I was hired by **Pastor Adrian Ledermann** and the SPRC in July 1995. I began my ministry here among you on July 26, 1995 after one day of training!

Through those years, I have served under:

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

It is hard to say "Good-bye". So bittersweet. You all have been so kind to me throughout the years and I will miss each and every one of you. But, I believe God is calling me to another chapter in my life and I need to follow Him.

I would like to thank those who have spoken kind words, sent cards, given gifts and have prayed for me this past month of July. Again, it is hard to say "Good-bye." Forgive me if I shed a few tears.

Can you believe it has been 25 years?! Where does the time go? Hard to comprehend. Almost unbelievably, this is my 300th newsletter!

I am looking forward to spending more time in our cabin in the woods, geocaching more, hiking more, shooting (shotgun and pistol) more, volunteering and spending time with family.

May God bless each of you with abundance in peace, love, comfort and the joy of knowing Jesus is with you always!

Many Blessings! Thank you for everything!

In Christ's Service 'til He Comes or I Go...

Carol Schmidt



Church Council Minutes

July 21, 2020

Council Members Present: Pastor Dale, Mark Vanderwerf (standing in for Wendy), Donn Arnold, Juanita Morgan, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Tom Ervasti, Andy Wilkerson

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

SPRC – Juanita, Donn, and Pr. Dale: We are interviewing candidates (2) on Wednesday, July 22. A list of questions was sent/approved by SPRC. No deadline for hire, but would like **Carol** to be able to train; hopeful start date is Tuesday, July 28. Sunday, July 26 - outdoor Church service, Carol will be guest of honor. Will have table set up, close to pavilion, basket for cards, set up for Carol to greet people without being closer than 6'. Will be able to write messages to her. County Press interviewed Carol, article will be published this week. **Craig Stockel** will say a few remarks.

Outdoor service July 26: John C. Blackford scholarships being awarded

C.A.R.E. Team – Rebecca, Mark, Barb, Terry, and Pr. Dale: Took into account suggestions/concerns. Concerns include Church isn't doing enough to provide spiritual connection. Virtual worship isn't doing it. Decided to solicit feedback via email, **Terry Kopp** to make an announcement Sunday. Ideas include virtual Bible studies, limited number of people in church for Bible studies, etc. Need to know hopes and desires of the congregation. **Outdoor drive in worship every Sunday in August.** **Bret RempleEwert** working with others to provide unique experiences (for instance, this weekend is bluegrass) for each weekend. Talked a lot about data from MN Department of Health; closely following their recommendations. Being very respectful of information available; also aware that adults are capable of making own decisions.

Finance - Scott: June finances are a mirror image of May. Lower giving totals as expected, offset by lower expenses. Just paying overhead/salaries, covering bare essentials. \$5300 down from start of year is a minor concern, not significant yet. Totals in June, 3 weeks in, \$5600 in giving. Announced at worship service and in newsletter, people stepped up and doubled (\$5550 given that Sunday). \$5900 so far in July; hoping for one more good weekend. \$67,800 contributed so far this year; \$91,300 at this

point in 2019. Savings account has had very little movement.

Trustees – Mark: Finishing up kitchen project; some cleaning issues after the installers finished. New crew coming out to do finishing touches.

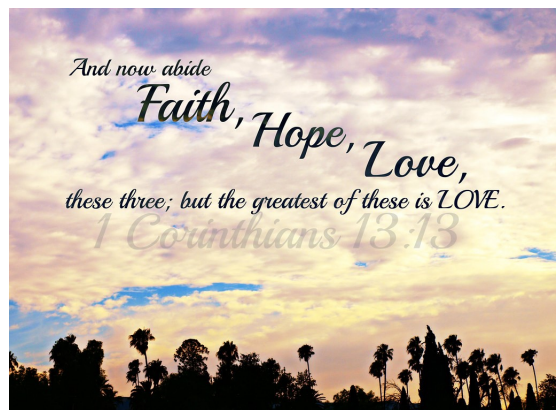
Foundation – Donn: Committee got together to evaluate Rev. John C. Blackford scholarship applicants. Two wonderful scholarship recipients, each receiving \$1500. Funds handed out on Sunday, July 26; both will be in attendance.

Missions: Scott delivered collected donations for Minneapolis; donations were very appreciated and the receiving Church would like to extend a 'thank you' to our Church. Number of packages of diapers, laundry, soap, paper products. Filled up a cartful of donations.

Publicity/Social Media – Erin, Pr. Dale: Erin, Pr. Dale and Barb continue to post. Posts have included the inspirational memes, live premieres of the worship service, images of drive in service, recent job posting. Live premieres haven't been very successful; people like to watch on their own time. Need to continue facebook live stream the outdoor worship service; Erin will help with that the 26th. Andy suggested advertising drive up Sunday services using Living Nativity sign on highway ("Outdoor/drive in worship Sunday's in August, 9am. Social Distance approved."). Will work to get it out prior to August 2nd. Andy to work on sign, Erin to contact middle school principal.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Honerbrink





Meals on Wheels Deliverers

August 3—Marvin Hultquist

August 4—Marvin Hultquist

August 5—Gary Gerke

August 6—Greg McCarthy

August 7—Greg McCarthy

August 10—Phil & Joan DeMunck

August 11—Cindy Kopp

August 12—

August 13—Jim & Joyce Stafki

August 14—Jim & Joyce Stafki

August 17—Michelle Gillespie

August 18—Grace Schmidt

August 19—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

August 20—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

August 21—Fred Prindle

August 24—Jon Glader

August 25—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

August 26—Gary Gerke

August 27—Wendy Braski

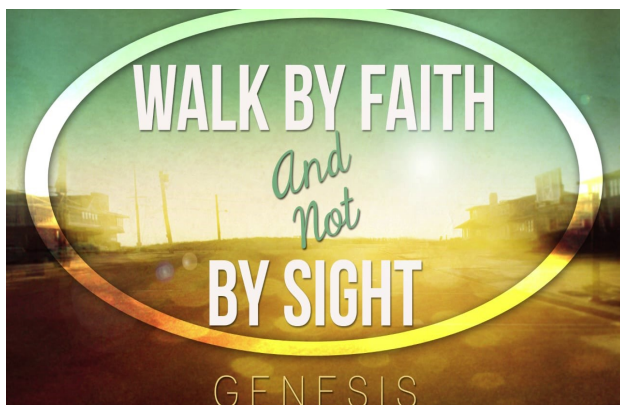
August 28—Fred Prindle

August 31—Phil & Joan DeMunck

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

***Thank you
for
volunteering!***



Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will NOT be meeting in August.



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:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 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 the week following the service.

AUGUST 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00a Drive-In Outdoor Service	3	4	5	6 NO Hope Circle	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 9:00a Drive-In Outdoor Service	10	11 6:30p Trustees	12	13	14 Pastor's Day Off	15
16 9:00a Drive-In Outdoor Service Mission Sunday~ Feed My Starving Children	17	18 6p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter deadline	19	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 9:00a Drive-In Outdoor Service	24 *** Sarah	25 On vacation	26 ***	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	29
30 9:00a Drive-In Outdoor Service	31					

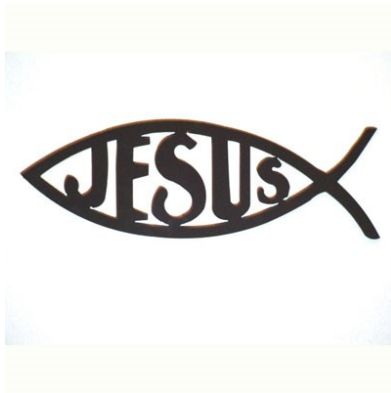
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P.O. Box 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651) 257*4306
Fax (651) 257*8039

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

August 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
Office Administrator...	Sarah Sandgren
Children's Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson
Choir Director...	Tom Ervasti
Church Council Chairperson...	Wendy Vanderwerf
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist
Finance Chairperson...	
Financial Secretary...	Linda Ploog
Foundation Chairperson...	Donn Arnold
Lay Leader...	Andy Wilkerson
Lay Member to Annual Conference...	
Mission Chairperson...	Adrienne Stegmeir
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...	Juanita Morgan
Treasurer...	Lloyd Jones
Trustees Chairperson...	Lloyd Jones
Worship Team Leader...	
Youth Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson

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Pastor's email: dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Web site: lindstrommethodist.org