



# GRACE COURIER

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

## January's Mission Focus - Charis of Minnesota

*Present God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ to inmates in correctional institutions*

Charis is a non-denominational Christian ministry, made up of teams of laity and clergy who have experienced a Cursillo-type retreat (Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias, Unidos en Cristo or similar weekend). Team members are selected and trained under the guidance of Charis leadership and approved by correctional institutions.

Charis introduces inmates to the saving grace of our living God. Through a systematic, structured, Christ-centered program, the residents of correctional institutions are given the opportunity to experience spiritual renewal and to accept God's call to live a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution and beyond.

Do you hear God calling you?

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

*The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*  
Matthew 25:35, 36, 40



## How you can get involved with Charis:

1. Make a financial donation. (Make out check to FUMC with Charis in memo.)
2. Follow on Facebook.  
[www.facebook.com/charisprisonministry](http://www.facebook.com/charisprisonministry)
3. PRAY FOR CHARIS
4. Serve on a team. Team applications requirements and forms are available on the Charis website.  
[www.charismn.com/application/php](http://www.charismn.com/application/php)

For more information visit:  
[www.charismn.com](http://www.charismn.com) or talk to Scott Lecy or Gerry Gaudette.

## In-Person Worship Resumes January 3rd

The Church Council along with the C.A.R.E. team has decided to resume in-person worship. Safety precautions will be in place and you can find our preparedness plan on the church website at [lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org).

Service will continue to be live streamed on our Facebook for those who wish to worship from home.

Please wear a mask and physically distance yourself when attending service.

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## Dates to remember:

- 1/1 - Office Closed
- 1/17 - Mission Sunday



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

Hello and Happy New Year! I am excited to be assigned by Bishop Ough as your Interim Pastor for the next six months. Together with the Administrative Council we can look forward in January to:

**1. In person worship will begin on Sunday, January 10th** for the 9 am worship service. Please graciously follow all COVID protocols including when taking communion to protect your health and that of those you worship with. We will continue live streaming and posting the worship service for those who prefer that manner of worship at this time. Be looking for in person Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Studies to begin in the near future.

**2.** The Council has decided that the weekly bulletin will be the document of record for our congregation. The bulletin will be the primary way we communicate with the congregation regarding event dates and committee decisions and upcoming ministry and learning opportunities. Make sure you look for the bulletin on the church web page or give your email or mailing address to Sarah, the Office Administrator, so we can send the bulletin to you.

**3.** If a couple would like to be married at First United Methodist Church by the Pastor, the Council has determined that the couple needs to agree to go through six to eight weeks of premarital counseling led by Pastor Chris. Each weekly session will last approximately one hour with additional homework assigned. The counseling will be free of charge; the couple will only pay for the cost of materials (financial aid is available). NOTE: The state of Minnesota lowers the cost of the marriage license from \$100 to \$30 if the couple goes through long-term intensive premarital counseling. Studies have shown that engaged couples who participate in long-term counseling lessen the risk of divorce and rate themselves higher in marital satisfaction.

**4.** We will begin a new sermon Series on January 10th "A New Attitude for a New Year". Our attitude determines how we experience life every day. God can help us to not be emotionally trapped by our circumstances. We can enter each day with confidence in God that will transform negative, pessimistic attitudes into positive, optimistic attitudes that are centered on the love and hope of Jesus Christ. See you in church and bring a friend.

Congratulations upon the successful Live Nativity and Christmas Day meal events. This is a congregation that is making a difference in people's lives.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris Kneen

## **About Pastor Chris Kneen**

Pastor Chris is from White Bear Lake, MN. He is married to wife, Susan and they have four daughters; Christina, Sophia, Johannah and Julia along with three grandchildren; Grace, Carly and Brett.

He has served in five congregations throughout his ministry. He started in Illinois at Armstrong and Penfield UMC from 1987-1989. Chris then moved to Lydia, MN at Zion United Methodist Church from 1989-1995. He spent 14 years at North Branch United Methodist Church before heading to Hastings, MN where he was the pastor at Resurrection United Methodist Church from 2009 - 2019. His latest appointment was in Djibouti, Africa where he was a Navy Chaplain from August 2019 to September 2020.

Pastor Chris will be the interim pastor here at First United Methodist until July 2021.

### **Is your contact information up to date at the church?**

If you haven't been receiving emails from the church or need to correct an address or phone number, please contact Sarah at the Church Office.

651-257-4306

Or

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

## 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.



## Birthdays!



Zach Caldwell.....January 1  
Rob Sandgren.....January 6  
Andy Wilkerson.....January 9  
Tom Ervasti.....January 14  
Pete Olson.....January 18  
Roy Brohaugh.....January 20  
Peter Leadholm.....January 22  
Kari Caldwell.....January 24  
Bruce Heilig.....January 25  
Roger Dorenbush.....January 30  
Lila Leadholm.....January 31

### Looking to get involved at FUMC?

#### Here are some volunteer opportunities:

**Communion Prep.** Diana Westrum is stepping down from her communion position. She has enjoyed serving in this position for the past few years, however she would like to pass this duty on. Contact the Church Office if you would like to help.

**Offering Counters needed:** Two people are needed each Sunday after the service to count the offering for the week. It takes less than an hour about once/month. No experience required...you will be trained. If you are interested, please contact Linda Ploog at 612.616.5657 or [lkploog@gmail.com](mailto:lkploog@gmail.com)

**Camera Help.** Every Sunday, the service is live streamed on our Facebook page and recorded to upload to our church website. We are in need of a volunteer to run the camera during the service so we are able to make it available to watch online. If you are willing to come in on Sunday mornings at 9am to record the service please contact Bret RempelEwert or the Church Office.

**Office Help.** Pastor Chris is looking for help filing sermon notes. If you are available to volunteer for about an hour per week to help, please contact the Church Office at [office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org) or call 651-257-4306.

### First United Methodist did great work in our community this past Christmas Season!



Caroling around the community.



Angels in our Drive-thru Living Nativity.

Let's not forget the hard work our Christmas Day meal team did this year! They served over 200 meals! Thank you Volunteers!

## Monthly Giving update

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

General Fund giving for November was:  
\$13,696

*Thank you for your support of our ministries!*

## New Announcements Policy

Those who wish to place announcements through the church should tell Sarah, our Church Office Administrator, whether you want the announcement placed in the weekly worship bulletin or monthly newsletter or both.

In order to improve communications and better utilize our Church Administrators time, we will be getting away from last minute requests for all-church email announcements.

If you want to request an exception please ask to talk to Pastor Chris. This is a decision of the Church Council 12/22/20.



## Poinsettias In- Memoriam

Thank you to those who provided poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas season.

In memory of parents, Bob & Mary Anderson -- Jeff & Sue Meinholz

In memory of mother, Arlene Meinholz -- Jeff & Sue Meinholz

Our Family - - Tim & Linda Ploog

## Contributions

When one becomes a member of FUMC, you declare a covenant with the church that you will support its ministries with your time and money. We have several options now available to receive your monetary contributions:

1. Sunday morning offering plates.
2. Mail your check to the church office.
3. On-line bill pay via your bank or credit union. There typically is no fee for this service.
4. On-line giving via Tithely. There is a link on our website and an app is available for your phone or computer. There is a fee for this option. During the payment process, the contributor decides whether the credit card service fee comes out of the gift or if the service fee is above what is contributed. You can indicate if you want your gift to go to something other than the General Fund.
5. Gift-in-kind: If you purchase anything for the church or a church event that would normally be paid out of the General Fund/budget, provide a receipt and it will be entered on your contribution statement. Examples would be: computer supplies, bell music, snow removal, SS supplies, etc.

When contributing, if you don't state what the gift is for, we assume the donation is for use against the budget or General Fund. If you want the gift given for a specific purpose, i.e., missions, please state that on your check and we will ensure to direct it to that purpose.

We have contribution envelopes if you desire to use them.

See Linda Ploog, Financial Secretary, if you have any questions regarding any of the above options for giving to your church.

## Confirmation

If you have a child who is in 6th to 8th grade, Pastor Chris would like to hold confirmation classes through the rest of the school year.

He will be following the Making Disciples course and will focus on a personal faith experience. It is a 13 week course. Please contact Pastor Chris or the Church Office if interested.

# Church Council Minutes

December , 2020

Church Members Present: Pastor Chris Kneen, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Donn Arnold, Linda Ploog

The December meeting was conducted virtually; opened with Devotion and Prayer led by Pr. Chris

**Council Chairperson:** Currently searching for new Chairperson; all council members tasked with sending Pr. Chris three names as suggestions. If you feel called to serve, please send an email to the office.

**Trustees:** Purchased a new color copier for office.

**Treasurer's Report (Scott Lecy):** Ending the year almost identical to last year, thanks in large part to a CARES Act grant (\$10K). November was best month for giving. Able to drop ongoing copier maintenance charge (\$1200/yr) due to new copier. Still accepting contributions to provide 1 month salary for Pr. Dale; contribute before January 1. Payroll company was hard to work with during the transition; trustees looking into potentially changing vendors.

## New Business:

**Facebook:** Original Lindstrom First United Methodist group still appears on Facebook (have since switched to a Page), this creates confusion for those trying to contact the Church via social media. Erin to look into removal of group.

**Church Mission Statement:** Church needs to be very visible regarding ministries we are doing within the community. Structure and Vision (set by Council) are very important within the Church. Currently, multiple mission statements exist and few members can recite the Mission from memory. January Council Meeting will focus in part on deciding what the mission statement is. This statement will be added to all communications moving forward. Mission provided by Donn was 'Develop Devoted Disciples'. Mission on Church website is 'As followers of Jesus Christ, we will proclaim the message of God's kingdom, and bring hope to a hurting world, beginning right here in Chisago County.'

**Club Rock/Youth Ministries:** Pr. Chris to get insight from Cheryl Lecy on Club Rock history.

**Communications:** Primary means of communication within the Church will be the weekly bulletin. Newsletter will serve as recap. If you are not currently receiving the weekly bulletin, or know how to access it, please reach out to Sarah in the office.

**Premarital Counseling:** Pr. Chris requested Council approval to require 6-8 weeks of marriage counseling before performing ceremonies at the Church. *Motion passed.* This counseling will be free of charge except for cost of materials.

**Discussion on difference between SPRC and Church Council:** Council is the one-stop-shop for anything to do with ministries - all ministries tied to the Church must be voted and approved on by the Council. SPRC is a one-stop-shop for any personnel issues within the Church (SPRC is currently tasked with reading a book about conflict management). All members have a right to know who to go to, and a right to a response. *However, no unsigned/unclaimed complaints will be addressed. You must be willing to put your name to your complaint, and must agree to abide by the committee's decision.* If you are going to criticize, condemn or complain, do so only to the appropriate committee, not to other members. Otherwise, you will be held accountable for your behavior. The Church is a safe place for people to work and worship.

**Bible Study:** Pr. Chris requested approval of a two 6-month Bible Studies; one featuring a segment on disciples and the other focused on a 'Drive through the Bible'. Pr. Chris is looking forward to hearing from those with different opinions and thoughts. *Council approved purchase.*

**In-Person Worship:** Council voted on return to in-person worship. *Motion to return to in-person worship passed.* Pr. Chris to meet with CARES team after Christmas to discuss protocols. Virtual worships to continue; give people the option on how they want to worship. Communion will look a little different; all precautions taken to be safe. Will be a rollout for complete return to in-person - start with worship, then add back bible studies, confirmation, Sunday school, etc.

**Closing Prayer** - Pr. Chris

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Honerbrink

## Sunday Messages available online

Watch Sunday service live on our Facebook page at 9am.

Pastor Chris's Sunday messages are posted to our website: [www.lindstrommethodist.org](http://www.lindstrommethodist.org) the week following the service.



[Weekly Sunday School Resources for Families](#)

[Order of Worship for September 13, 2020](#)

[Click Here for Electronic Online Giving](#)

[Drive-In/Outdoor Worship Safety Guidelines](#)

Click this image on our website to view the past Sunday's service. You can also find the weekly bulletin [here](#).

## How Can We Help? Contact Us!

### Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

### Church Email Address:

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

### Pastor Chris's Email Address:

[pastor@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:pastor@lindstrommethodist.org)

### Church Office Phone Number:

651-257-4306



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
AMERICA

## Drivers for January 2021

January 1 - Holiday

January 4 - Greg McCarthy

January 5 - Greg McCarthy

January 6 - Bonnie Bielicki

January 7 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

January 11 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

January 12 - Cindy Kopp

January 13 - Michelle Gillespie

January 14 - Gary Gerke

January 15 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold

January 18 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

January 19 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

January 20 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

January 21 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

January 22 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

January 25 - Jon Glader

January 26 - Jon Glader

January 27 - Wendy Braski

January 28 - Fred Prindle

January 29 - Fred Prindle

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

**Juanita Morgan 257-9268**

*Dear MOW delivery people,*

*I am at a loss for words that will convey a Christmas message to you faithful, cheerful volunteers so you will know how much you are appreciated. Bless all of you for being so willing to help. Your positive attitudes are heart-warming! Several people on Route 2 have withdrawn from delivering due to age and/or health issues. Thank you for your service to Meals on Wheels: Lois Anderson, Jan Gravelle, Marvin Hultquist, Larry & Shirley Knopf, Ron & Juanita Morgan, and Judy Pierre.*

*As a result of the reduction of volunteers those who are still on the list have been assigned double deliveries. I hope you know how grateful we are. We hope we can increase our volunteer list in 2021 so only one delivery a month is necessary. If you know of anyone who might be willing to deliver, please let us know.*

*May we truly have Peace and Goodwill in the coming year.  
Sincerely, Juanita Morgan, RT 2 Coordinator.*

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

# January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>New Year's Day!</b> Office Closed	2
3 9:00a Worship	4	5 7p SPRC	6	7	8	9
10 9:00a Worship	11	12 7p Trustees	13	14	15	16
17 9:00a Worship  <b>Mission Sunday</b>	18	19 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6p Finance 7p Church Council	20	21	22	23
24 9:00a Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00a Worship						

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

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

Address Service Requested  
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

January 2021

# First United Methodist Church

## Pastor Chris Kneen

### 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.

Streaming online on our Facebook page.

#### Our Ministry Team:

Pastor	Chris Kneen
Office Administrator	Sarah Sandgren
Children's Coordinator	Erin Thorvaldson
Choir Director	Tom Ervasti
Church Council Chairperson	
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 Coordinator	Bret RempelEwert
Youth Coordinator	Erin Thorvaldson

Office email: [office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)  
Pastor's email: [pastor@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:pastor@lindstrommethodist.org)

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