



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Mission Focus: Family Pathways Food Shelf

For the month of March we will be hosting a Food and Fund Campaign! Our mission contributions will support the Family Pathways Food Shelf. Last year 9% of Minnesotans lived below the poverty line and record 3.8 million+ visits were made to food shelves. With more than 400,000 people in our state receiving nutrition benefits each month, in addition to challenges exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic, Minnesota's charitable food system continues to run at capacity.

You can help!

- With help from MN Foodshare, each \$10 financial donation to our mission of the month fund will feed a family of four for an entire week.
- Make a food donation from the Family Pathways "most wanted" food items list.
- In addition to financial and food donations we will also be collecting birthday box contributions to assist families with food insecurities in celebrating a household birthday. Simply bring in birthday related items such as cake mixes, candles, or party tableware (or create your own birthday party in a box!) and the items will be distributed to local families through the food shelf.
- For information about volunteering with Family Pathways, contact Brooke Zank, Volunteer Manager at (Direct) 612-322-8137 or 651-674-8040 or email her at brookez@familypathways.org

Thank you for your generosity!

Birthday in a Box ideas:

- * Cake mix, frosting, sprinkles
- * Candles, cupcake liners
- * Birthday plates, napkins, cups
- * Balloons
- * Wrapping paper or gift bags

- * Small gifts such as: crayons, markers, coloring books, cards, games and books



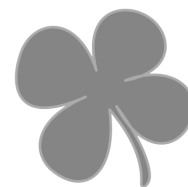
Most Wanted Food Items:

- * Fresh, frozen or canned fruit
- * Fresh, frozen or canned vegetables
- * Bags of potatoes, onions or carrots
- * Whole grain pasta and rice
- * Baking and cooking items
- * Canned meat
- * Hearty soups
- * Peanut butter
- * Personal hygiene items
- * Household cleaning products



Inside this issue:

From the pastor...	2
This 'N' That	2
Gambia Update	3
Birthdays	3
SPRC Announcement	3
Council Minutes	5
Meals on Wheels	6



Dates to remember:

- 3/14 - Daylight Savings Spring Ahead!!
- 3/21 - Mission Sunday
- 3/28 - Palm Sunday

From the pastor...

Please enjoy this selection from Rev. Dr. Derek Weber

Get their names! That's a well-known evangelism technique; or it could be argued that it is a hospitality technique. Get their names; find out who they are as people. We like to be known by name. Take the time to share a name in worship today. Your name and the name of the one you are talking to. Declare that this is judgment free on forgetting names day. Give your name when you speak, and ask the name of the one to whom you speak.

Why? God seems to care about names. In the conversation with Abram, God renames him, and then God renames Sarai too. She is a part of the covenant, not just added baggage. Knowing names is knowing the people, at least in part. It says you care about them.

At the same time, we go beyond our names and take on a new identity in Christ when we enter into covenantal relationship with God. Or perhaps it would be better said that we become more fully ourselves when we walk before God with our whole selves. God doesn't ask us to set aside who we are, but enables us to use the gifts within us to serve the kin-dom and the community of faith.

So, this might be a day of examining our names; both the one we were given at birth and the one we claimed at our baptism. Of course, in our tradition, we don't rename those who come before us for baptism, whether children or adults. But we do take on the name *disciple*, the name of follower. We take Christ's name as our name – Christian.

The deeper question, of course, is how do we walk before God in the name we have been given? How do we represent that for which we live and breathe and have our being? Testimony is a powerful way for us to hear and experience this walking before God life. Who in the congregation has a story to tell about commitment, about covenant, about grasping hands with another follower to help and be helped on the journey. These could be stories of success, or, perhaps more meaningfully, stories of failure and accepting the grace to start again. We're not so much looking

for heroes as for real human beings with bruised knees and humility. The biblical take on heroes is different from popular culture. Let's be real with one another.

More importantly, let's be real with God. Walk before me, says our God, and be blameless.

THIS 'N' THAT

By Juanita Morgan

SPRC---Have you ever wondered who or what this is? These are the initials for a committee whose mission is to build a strong positive relationship between our church staff and the congregation.

Staff Parish Relations Committee duties include: encouraging, supporting, and respecting the pastor, staff and their families; recommending needed staff positions, job descriptions, and compensation, etc.; conferring and clarifying concerns about personnel conditions; bringing personnel policy and procedures to the church council for adoption; and preparing annual updates of clergy evaluations and our church profile for the District Superintendent.

SPRC is expected to meet regularly, and in closed session with the Pastor and all discussion is confidential. **SPRC** is expected to communicate information and decisions with the congregation, at least quarterly, as well. Five to nine members serve on a 3-year-rotation, 1-2 terms at a time. If you wish to communicate with **SPRC** please speak to any one of the following members: Lois Anderson, Donn Arnold, Gerry Gaudette, Peter Leadholm, Emily Honerbrink, Juanita Morgan, Dorothy Lecy, or Pastor Chris.

"So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us." Hebrews 12:1

This is the "race" laid out for the **SPRC** committee:

**Relationships,
Accountability
Communication
Encouragement**

Pray that we can demonstrate three simple rules that Methodist founder John Wesley lived by: **Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God.** Let it be so.

A Letter from The Gambia...

Dear All

"God is great!" We hear this announcement several times a day from the central place of prayer just a short distance from our house. 5 times a day the people all around us kneel and bow in devotion to God. We are longing for the day when they perform this act of worship in spirit and in truth!

One thing which is taking us a step closer to this goal is getting a series of chronological Bible stories aired on our local radio station in our language. This has been in the pipeline for several years and THIS is the year!!! Please pray that the final logistics and agreements with the radio station go smoothly. We have set up a WhatsApp account specifically and uniquely for receiving comments and questions on this stories. Please pray that God would use these programs to reach those who are truly seeking Him.

We are currently at the coast for a week's break (well at least when this was written - we returned yesterday afternoon). Elina is attending the annual conference with her host organization. Erik and I have hosted a couple of YWAM Gambia staff meetings. We are sharing the house with some friends who have just returned from a 7-year stay in the States, so it's been good to catch up with them.

School is going so well for the kids with their new teacher Elina, and they enjoy it (although Anna can be quoted on commenting "But I don't know why!"). Erik has turned down some projects recently because he's feeling more led to focus on people more than work. He is enjoying spending time in the evenings at the local shop with a group of 30-year-olds, one of whom is very interested in hearing and talking about Jesus' teachings, especially right now the Sermon on the Mount. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to inhabit their conversations and for salvation for Bak and his friends.

Blessings on the rest of your month!

Ele & Erik, Asaph, Anna & Khara



Happy Birthday!



Bonnie Bielicki.....March 1
Boni Stockel.....March 4
Nordell Anderson.....March 5
Nancy Thalacker.....March 5
Brody Thorvaldson.....March 13
Jim Palmer.....March 16
Sarah Sandgren.....March 18
Diana Westrum.....March 19
Tess Sandgren.....March 20
Lisa Hughes.....March 26
Shirley Oswald.....March 27
Char Loula.....March 29
Vicki Pearson.....March 31

Update from SPRC

Dear FUMC worshippers,

On Monday, February 22, 2021, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met virtually at 7:00 p.m. along with District Superintendent, Susan Nienaber. She brought information about the interim assignment for Pastor Chris Kneen.

We were informed that Pastor Chris' interim assignment will be EXTENDED TO JUNE 2022! That is GOOD NEWS to us! Since starting in mid-December, Pastor Chris has already restarted Confirmation Class and Sunday School. He is also teaching a Sunday School class. He and a few others have provided in-house worship services on Sunday mornings, while keeping people physically distancing and wearing masks. The services are recorded for viewing at home as well. Pastor Chris has reached out to people who might help such as; offering counters, ushers, greeters, etc. He has also visited people in their homes and at the church.

We look forward to our congregation working together with Pastor Chris to renew, and regrow our historic church.

SPRC: Lois Anderson, Donn Arnold, Gerry Gaudette, Emily Honerbrink, Peter Leadholm, Dorothy Lecy, Juanita Morgan, Andy Wilkerson

Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2021 is \$172,500, which becomes \$14,375 per month.

General Fund giving for January was: \$36,164

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in February

January 31 -- 60 (395 online views)

February 7 -- 61 (242 online views)

February 14 -- 51 (207 online views)

Ash Wednesday -- 33

February 21 -- 56 (167 online views)

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.

Easter Services

March 28th, Palm Sunday: 9am

April 1st, Maundy Thursday: 7pm

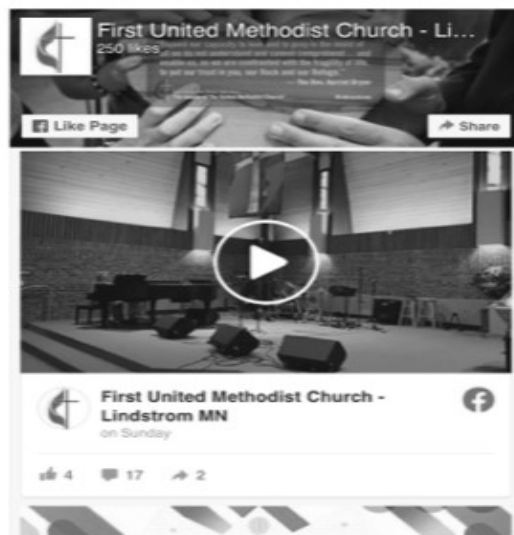
April 2nd, Good Friday: 8pm

April 4th, Easter Sunday: 9am

Sunday Messages Available Online!

Can't make it to Church on Sunday? No problem! We stream our service **live** on Facebook at 9am every Sunday. You can watch it by simply logging in to your Facebook account and searching for Lindstrom Methodist.

Don't have Facebook but want to watch church live? Head to our website: lindstrommethodist.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click the Facebook link in the bottom left corner.



Missed watching church live? Don't worry, we post the previous Sunday's worship service on our website Monday morning. If you head to our website, lindstrommethodist.org you can click on the video right on our homepage and watch whenever it is convenient to you!



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

Church Council Minutes

February 16, 2021

The February meeting was conducted virtually.

OLD BUSINESS:

Easter/Lenten post card being mailed out – almost all set

Trustees: Plan to haul and clean rooms that have extra items in them, set in an area for members to claim, what's left will be donated or tossed.

Sound system: Working through some hiccups, currently working with Rob at Music Connection. Bret and Scott found a class to help understand live streaming; up to 10 people can view the class. Foundation will help out on the \$100 cost for the class, class is online.

Camper Bucks: Program is up and running, need to do a better job of promoting it more.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer: A 2019/2020 pledge came in and brought giving to \$36,096. Reviewing dedicated accounts to combine or clean up those that have not had little to no spending. Some accounts have funds that aren't being used and should be. Looking for various groups/leaders to put together a "wish list" of things they need or want.

ELI Project: Internship for younger individuals looking to continue their ministry. \$3,000 but we can get a \$2,000 grant. Individual will work with all teams and be involved in the congregation and services. Will look to foundation on the \$1,000 to move forward on this

Security cameras: CWS is giving a bid for a video screen in the office, recorder and cameras

Noisy offering – Will go to family pathways

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Thorvaldson

Youth Sunday



The children at First United Methodist did a great job helping with service on Sunday, February 7th.

Bryson Honerbrink and Brody Thorvaldson received their third grade bibles and delivered wonderful video messages.

The Sunday School children had lively actions to the worship songs led by Bret RempelEwert and they collected pots and pans full of coins for the noisy offering that will go to Family Pathways.

The Confirmation class did a great job leading the service by reading announcements and the scripture.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful youth here at FUMC!

Lenten Food & Fellowship

All are welcome to join us Sunday evenings for a light supper followed by video lesson and discussion on the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Dinner starts at 5pm in the church Fellowship Hall. The video portion begins at 5:30 in the Sanctuary. After the video we break in to small groups for a discussion.

Bring a friend!



MEALS on WHEELS AMERICA

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

Drivers for March 2021

March 1 - Greg McCarthy

March 2 - Greg McCarthy

March 3 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

March 4 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

March 5 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

March 8 - Michelle Gillespie

March 9 - Cindy Kopp

March 10 - Gary Gerke

March 11 - Gary Gerke

March 12 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

March 15 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

March 16 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 17 - Bonnie Bielicki

March 18 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

March 19 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

March 22 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

March 23 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 24 - Wendy Braski

March 25 - Fred Prindle

March 26 - Fred Prindle

March 29 - Jon Glader

March 30 - Jon Glader

March 31 - Michelle Gillespie

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

* If interested in delivering meals contact Juanita Morgan.

thank you!



Contact Us! We'd love to hear from you!

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 1 pm

Church Office Phone Number:

(651)257-4306

Church Email:

Office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Chris's Email:

Pastor@lindstrommethodist.org

lindstrommethodist.org



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:30p - Confirmation	4	5	6
7 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 5p - Lenten Food & Fellowship	8	9 7p Trustees	10 5:30p - Confirmation	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 5p - Lenten Food & Fellowship	15	16 6p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter deadline	17 5:30p - Confirmation St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School Mission Sunday 5p Lenten Food & Fellowship	22	23 7p SPRC	24 5:30p - Confirmation	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 5p Lenten Food & Fellowship	29	30 <div>Office Admin. Sarah on vacation</div>	31 5:30p - Confirmation			

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lindstrommethodist.org

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Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

March 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!

In-person Worship 9:00 a.m.
Children leave for Sunday School during Worship

Watch our service 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

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Web site: lindstrommethodist.org