

How Can We Help?

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Office Email:
office@lindstrommethodist.org

Office Phone #:
(651)257-4306

Pastor Chris' Email:
pastor@lindstrommethodist.org

Watch us online every Sunday!

We stream our worship service **live** every
Sunday at 9 am on our Facebook page.

You can watch it by simply logging in to your
Facebook account and searching for Lindstrom
Methodist.

Don't have Facebook? Head to our website:
lindstrommethodist.org. Scroll down to the
bottom of the home page and click the Face-
book link in the bottom left corner.



Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021
30828 IRENE AVE | P.O. BOX 688 | LINDSTROM , MN 55045
(651) 257-4306 | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG
PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

May Mission Focus: Union Gospel Mission

Fighting homelessness, addiction, and poverty since 1902

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities provides Christ-centered pathways and programs that provide comprehensive care to people struggling with homelessness. They also offer emergency shelter and 3 meals a day to hungry neighbors.

They do not rely on government funding; almost all of their funding comes through donations from individuals and businesses.

While other homeless shelters provide meals and a place to stay for people from our community, Union Gospel Mission-Twin Cities goes further to provide a permanent pathway off the streets.

- They are gospel-centered. Their goal is to form disciples of Jesus Christ.
- They provide personalized programs to help individuals get out of poverty, homelessness or addiction.
- They offer education and job training.
- Medical and mental health clinics

If you would like to support the efforts of the Union Gospel Mission please indicate missions on the memo line of your offering contribution.



Church Events

- **May 4 - SPRC 7pm**
- **May 9 - Mother's Day**
- **May 11 - Trustees, 6pm**
- **May 12 - Confirmation picnic, 5:30pm**
- **May 16 - Confirmation Sunday**
- **May 16 - Adopt a Highway**
- **May 18 - Finance, 6pm Church Council, 7pm**
- **May 30 - Memorial Day Sunday Service**
- **May 31 - Memorial Day Office Closed**

Sent with a prayer to:

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30828 Irene Ave.
P.O. Box 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651) 257-4306
lindstrommethodist.org

May 2021

“God Is in the Punch Line”

If Chesterton’s right about humor, laughter can be sanctifying.

Article by Mike Kerrigan

G. K. Chesterton closed out “Orthodoxy”, his 1908 master-piece of Christian apologetics, with a radical thought. He proposed that the one thing too great for God to have shown us when he walked on the earth was his mirth. This suggests that the idea of a blissfulness we can’t even imagine was important to Chesterton. The mere possibility it’s true, that one thing our mortal minds can’t begin to fathom about God’s nature is his joyousness, offers me consolation beyond measure.

It comforts me because it means that laughter--one manifestation of earthly joy I love to experience--is far from mundane. It can be sanctifying. In its edifying echo can be heard something important about the Divine, unreachable by reason alone, if only we listen. Rollicking mysticism that effortlessly makes your sides hurt: What’s not to like about that?

This hopeful insight makes me think differently about cheery laughter. Does humor reflect something about God’s living creativity, conceiving of something good out of nothing? Or his perfect patience in playing the long game with us, his imperfect creations, which surely requires a sense of humor?

**Continue this selection from Mike Kerrigan on WSJ.com.*

Confirmation Sunday

We are excited to announce that we have two youth from the church completing their confirmation journey this month! Taylor Thorvaldson and Ellie Stegmeir will be recognized on Sunday, May 16th during the worship service.

May 16th will also be the last day of Sunday School. **Thank you teachers for putting together a fun spring for the children at FUMC!**

May Birthdays!

MaryAnn Jindra...May 11	Terry Keesee...May 23
Luke Anderson...May 16	Tami Rehbein...May 23
Andrew Tracy...May 18	Cailey RempelEwert...May 25
Karen Bruss...May 21	Nate Clark.....May 28
Reece Jones...May 22	Craig Stockel.....May 28
Kendrick Jones...May 22	

Announcements

- Bell choir will be practicing Thursday evenings at 5:30pm.
- Spring Adopt-a-Highway will be on **Sunday, May 16th** with an bad weather date of May 23rd. Meet at the church at **1pm**. Lots of volunteers makes the work go quick!
- Choir practice dates in May:

Wednesday, May 19th - 7pm

Wednesday, May 26th - 7pm
- Rev. John C. Blackford Scholarships are available for pick up from the Church Office or can be found on the church website. Applications are due by June 6th.

Thank you SPRC & congregation at FUMC for the thoughtful gift and flowers for Administrative Assistant Day. - Sarah

Volunteer at FUMC!

We have many opportunities to be involved with Church activities, events and committees.

- We are in need of a new Adopt-a-Highway Lead. Lois Anderson and Gary Gerke have put many years in to this ministry and would like to step down from coordination.
- Like to count money? Become an offering counter! It requires just one Sunday per month immediately after Sunday worship and you get a counting buddy. Contact Linda Ploog if interested.
- There are several open committee positions. Talk to Pastor Chris about becoming a member on one.

Church Council Minutes

Church Members Present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Andy Wilkerson, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Tomervasti, Linda Ploog, Adrienne Stegmeier & Juanita Morgan

The April meeting was conducted virtually; opened with Devotion by Scott Lecy and Prayer by Pr. Chris

Treasurer’s Report (Scott Lecy): We have a balance of \$18,000, and are ahead year-over-year by \$8,000 thanks to a pledge that came through early for 2021. Savings is down slightly due to Fellowship Hall improvements. March offering was \$11,936. To date, \$8,868 has been given in April with one Sunday left. Added expense this year of Conference Apportionments (\$2,000 for Jan/Feb, another \$2,000 for Mar/Apr). **New:** Had several challenges with previous payroll provider, have now switched to Clergy Financial. Have an opportunity through the Conference to have a financial audit done; haven’t had one in 20 years. Minimal expense for auditor (want to provide mileage and meals, he’s a retired auditor offering us services pro-bono).

Trustees: Have not had any success contacting Music Connection re: audio/visual updates (they are unresponsive). Looking into other businesses.

Missions (Adrienne Stegmeier): The mission of the month for March was Family Pathways Food Shelf. \$808.61 was raised along with several parties in a box and over 350lbs of food. The mission of the month for April is Feed My Starving Children. Volunteer groups are limited to 5 people and slots fill quickly so those wishing to volunteer should sign up on their own at <https://www.fmsc.org>

The current adult Bible Study, Options Together, focuses on engaging with people experiencing poverty and spreading the kingdom of God through relationship and compassion. It has been well attended with a lot of meaningful discussion. The study is open to anyone, no advanced preparation is necessary, and it runs through May 23. Union Gospel Mission will be the mission in May to coordinate with the study. Opportunities to engage with UGM are currently being explored.

New Business:

Methodist Intentional Ministry Training for Interim Pastors (Pr. Chris): Pr. Chris had just finished Day 1 of the 2 day training and for the remainder of the Council meeting shared some of his insights. Excerpts are below, please reach out to Pr. Chris if you’d like to hear more. Churches have always thrived under a “give and get” culture, but we’ve found ourselves in a new “I” culture that has created an “every person for themselves” atmosphere. However, Churches are needed now more than ever. There’s a difference between a problem and a condition. Problems can be solved, conditions have to be lived with.

The role of the interim pastor is to be a calm person with a steady plan that helps guide the Church. He cannot over-function in his role, for long-term success it’s important that the Church makes the decisions. Those decisions include figuring out who we are and what is our purpose now. How are we supposed to be with God now, and how are we supposed to connect with each other? How do we live the mission and values that we as a Church set? **The value of the Church is based on clarity of mission and values.**

SPRC is working towards Church Administration through Conversation. *As a reminder, if you have any issues with the Church, Members, or the Pastor, please contact a member of the SPRC.*

Concern about burnout of Church leadership. Emphasis on “if you want something done, ask a busy person because you know you can count on them”, so we see the same people playing multiple roles within the Church. *Friendly reminder, if you feel called to volunteer or join a committee, please reach out to Pr. Chris.* Anxiety is an opportunity. We may not appreciate the questions that we’re being asked now, but we’re doing it to become a better Church. Beware of the over-use of empathy, which can keep Churches from making the decisions that have to be made.

And, one final thought, which I (as the note taker) felt resonated with the state of the world right now: **It’s been a long time since we’ve been so dependent on God for our Future.**

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Honerbrink

Meals on Wheels

May 3- Phil & Joan DeMunck	May 19- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
May 4- Gary Gerke	May 20- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
May 5- Gary Gerke	May 21- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
May 6- Greg McCarthy	
May 7- Greg McCarthy	
May 10- Phil & Joan DeMunck	May 24- Jon Glader
May 11- Cindy Kopp	May 25- Jon Glader
May 12- Donn & Sharlene Arnold	May 26- Bonnie Bielicki
May 13- Jim & Joyce Stafki	May 27- Fred Prindle
May 14- Jim & Joyce Stafki	May 28- Fred Prindle
	May 31- Holiday
May 17 - Michelle Gillespie	<i>Meals on Wheels</i>
May 18- Wendy Braski	<i>Coordinator: Juanita Morgan</i>
	651-257-9268