

# Grace Courier

## *First United Methodist Church*

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

## August Mission Focus: Family Pathways - School Supply Drive

Family Pathways works alongside people to enhance lives through a continuum of essential services and - together with the community - champions positive change.

Across East Central Minnesota, over 8% of our neighbors do not have the ability to consistently provide healthy food for their families. Many of them report going hungry or skipping meals to ensure food goes to their children. The Family Pathways Food Pantry provides access to healthy food for families and individuals.

With the support of the community, Family Pathways actively works to correct disparities so all people can have what they need to achieve and maintain health, well-being and prosperity. A small donation can make a BIG difference - just \$10 feeds a family of four for a week!

During the month of August, our mission contributions will assist the distribution of nutritious foods to local individuals and families. As always, food and toiletry donations are welcome in the collection cart in the foyer!

The month of August also signals the time for students to prepare to go back to school. For many families in our community, purchasing the supplies needed for school is a financial strain or impossibility. You can help by donating supplies commonly needed by students in our community. These items will be distributed to those who need them most through the Family Pathways Food Pantry and potentially the Safe Haven Foster Shoppe.

Drop off donations in the collection bin in the foyer next to the food shelf collections cart. Thank you for your generosity! Suggested school supply donations:

Backpacks, plastic folders, wide-ruled notebooks, Crayola crayons, markers, or colored pencils, scissors, Elmer's glue bottles and sticks, Ticonderoga pencils, pens with black or blue ink, Expo markers, Lysol wipes

## Church Events

- Aug. 15th - Mission Sunday
- Aug. 16th - SPRC, 7pm
- Aug. 17th - Finance, 6pm  
Council, 7pm
- Aug. 24th - Newsletter  
deadline
- Aug. 25th - Confirmation  
planning meeting

**Sarah is on vacation  
Aug. 12-15th.**

*We will not compare ourselves  
with each other as if one of us  
were better and another worse.*

*We have far more interesting  
things to do with our lives. Each  
of us is an original.*

*Galatians 5:26 (MSG)*

# Church Council Minutes

July 13, 2021

Council members present: Terry Kopp, Andy Wilkerson, Rebecca Ervasti, Peter Leadholm, Linda Ploog, Verna Hultman, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Donn Arnold

*The July meeting was opened with a devotional from Terry Kopp.*

**Consent Agenda Discussion:** Council discussed use of Consent Agendas (following Roberts Rule of Order). *Motion Passed.* All committees will submit their reports to the Council Secretary (Emily) by the Thursday before a Council meeting for consolidation.

**Old business:** Two open spots on Council. Boni Stockel willing to serve. *Motion Passed.* One spot remains if you feel called to serve.

**Finance Report:** Church in need of a computer professional for offsite backup, ongoing maintenance, IT/help desk needs and software updates. Lloyd volunteered to research options.

**Key ministries:** Ongoing discussion until strategic planning takes place. Council members were asked to bring ideas for key ministries to the table, suggestions include: Children, Youth, Adult, Missions, Outreach, Disciple-making, Training, College/Post High School-age, back to fun, ministry through music/variety of music, reaching an older crowd, Bible-based.

**Organizational committee structure:** Council reviewed structure of United Methodists, including how our Church fits into our District, the Annual Conference and the General Conference. Reviewed organization structure of FUMC. Discussed having potential Co-Chair of Council for ease of transition; saved for future discussion.

**Mission statement:** Council reviewed past mission statements and voted to use one statement moving forward. *Motion passed.* Our Mission Statement is "As followers of Jesus Christ, we will proclaim the message of God's kingdom and bring hope to a hurting world beginning in Chisago County"

**SPRC Children's Ministry Proposal:** Peter Leadholm, SPRC Chair, brought forward a proposal for a Children/Youth Ministry paid position. He read a letter prepared by the SPRC, which emphasized the importance of our youth and the importance they play in the health and longevity of the Church. *Motion Approved to continue exploration, including breaking down the hours by tasks and creating a job description.* Council made affirmation that they stand behind this position and the SPRC. Finance committee to further discussion how position could be funded, Foundation also to discuss.

*Meeting closed with Prayer. Next meeting August 17th, committee reports due by August 12th.*

The following reports were submitted to the Council Secretary prior to the meeting:

## **Missions:**

MN adult and teen challenge visited on Father's Day Sunday, shared testimonies and led worship. No giving total yet.

July we will be introducing a new mission: Safe Haven Foster Shoppe. They are a local nonprofit that offers bags of age, gender and size specific essentials to MN foster care families.

## **Memorial Meeting- May 22nd, 2021:**

Present: Pastor Kneen, Lloyd Jones, Linda Ploog, Shirley Oswald, Sharlene Arnold

Discussed: Methods of organizing funds coming into memorials and how to disperse them. Letters are being sent out to various committee chairs asking for priority lists of their needs and wants. Submit the list of items, with prices included, by September 1st. Once received, the lists will be reviewed and decisions will be made. Two additional people were added to the committee list; Judy Green and Cheryl Hultquist-Auchterlonie.

## **Foundation Board:**

The John C. Blackford Scholarship Award winners for 2021: Thomas Braski, Jessica Colliard, Brooke Harvey, Kaitlyn Nelson, August RempelEwert, Kathanna RempelEwert & Kyle Sparby

Each of the individuals noted above will receive a scholarship check for \$2,000.

## **SPRC:**

### **Reviewed role of SPRC, confidentiality and introduction of new members:**

The job description of the SPRC comes from the Methodist "Book of Discipline". Pastor Chris passed out a copy for the committee to review. The process we will follow for solving problems comes through the bible in Matthew 18.

**Book Club:** The committee is currently reading the book, "Antagonists in the Church". There was discussion about the book to bring the new members up to speed and to recap what has been read.

**Core Values Review:** Changes were made to the core values based on feedback received at the All Church meeting. Next steps: finalizing Bible verses for each value.

**Active Conflict Management:** This will be on each SPRC agenda and will be a time to discuss any active conflict management we have in the church. If a church member voices any concerns to a SPRC member, it is important for the SPRC member to bring the concern to the group for discussion/next steps/resolution and to make sure there is follow up with the congregation member so they know their concerns are being heard.

**Recognition:** SPRC would like to make sure we are regularly recognizing and thanking our staff. This will be a regular item on our meeting agendas. The committee was in agreement on who to recognize and Peter will organize the plan to make that happen.



# Meals on Wheels

August 2 - Greg McCarthy  
August 3 - Greg McCarthy  
August 4 - Gary Gerke  
August 5 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy  
August 6 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy  
  
August 9 - Jon & Phil DeMunck  
August 10 - Cindy Kopp  
August 11 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold  
August 12 - Jim & Joyce Stafki  
August 13 - Jim & Joyce Stafki  
  
August 16 - Michelle Gillespie  
August 17 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broeker  
August 18 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broeker

August 19 - Fred Prindle  
August 20 - Fred Prindle  
  
August 23 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie  
August 24 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie  
August 25 - Bonnie Bielicki  
August 26 - Wendy Braski  
August 27 - Joan & Phil DeMunck  
  
August 30 - Jon Glader  
August 31 - Jon Glader

*Meals on Wheels*  
*Coordinator: Juanita Morgan*  
651-257-9268

A big thank you to Jeff & Sue Meinholz for joining the Route 2 drivers. More drivers are still needed. The route is mainly in Wyoming, MN. Let Juanita know if you are interested in helping with M.O.W.

## Hope Circle

- Hope Circle held its first meeting since Early 2020. Nine members attended. Sharlene Arnold, Chairperson, led us in talking about our future plans. What a pleasure to meet again! Hope Circle Room is neat and clean thanks to Dorothy Lecy for sorting, folding, and cleaning up the room. It was a pleasure to be together again. We meet at 10:a.m. the first Thursday of the month. YOU would be very welcome!!
- On Saturday, August 7, Hope Circle will be providing a luncheon after the 11:00 a.m. Service of Remembrance for Sandy Danielson who died during the pandemic Year of 2020.
- Hope Circle, responsible for Hospitality during Fellowship Hour, is asking people to sign-up for the Sunday morning responsibility of providing refreshments and clean-up after. Coffee is expected, but baked goods and juice will be your choice. Please sign up for a Sunday on the list in the Fellowship Hall.

-Juanita Morgan

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

## Announcements

Get to Know Your Neighbors continues in to the month of August. Come and enjoy the fellowship of fellow FUMC members as well as families that live in our neighborhood and a free meal on Thursdays from 6-8pm.

There are still a couple dates in August that need a "Host" family/person. Please see the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

There is a Confirmation planning meeting on Wednesday, August 25th at 7pm. The meeting will be for parents of students and mentors/helpers for the Confirmation season.

If you have a student that will be in 6th to 8th grade this coming school year, please contact the Church Office.

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the important responsibilities of ministry in a community church like ours is pastoral care. To provide adequate care to those who cannot attend in-person worship any longer and those dealing with a crisis (i.e. health, relationship, financial, etc.) our church cannot rely upon the pastor alone; the pastor needs lay members who have been trained to assist in such ministry so our congregation can maintain consistent contact with those in need. I am looking for volunteers in our congregation who have the gift of empathy, who can maintain confidentiality and who want to learn how to provide this type of care to others. FUMC will provide the training needed. The time requirement will be an in-person monthly meeting with the Pastor at FUMC. The meeting will be approximately two hours. The first few months will consist of training. After adequate training each member of the Pastoral Care Team will be assigned a person or persons to contact weekly either face-to-face or by phone. I hope you will prayerfully consider this important calling to ministry. If you do not feel called but think you know someone in the congregation who would be good at this ministry please submit his or her name to the church office.

-Pastor Chris

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Address Service Requested  
Contains dated material

**Sent with a prayer to:**

August 2021

## How Can We Help?

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

**Office Email:**  
**[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)**

**Office Phone Number:**  
**(651) 257-4306**

**Pastor Chris' Email:**  
**[pastor@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:pastor@lindstrommethodist.org)**

## Watch us online every Sunday!

We stream our worship service LIVE every Sunday at 9am 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](http://Lindstrommethodist.org). Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click the Facebook link in the bottom left corner.

You can watch any service on our website. Sunday services are available for viewing the Monday after.