



Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2021
30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688
LINDSTROM, MN | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG
PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:

FUMC will continue to support Heifer International through December.

Heifer International works around the world in 21 countries alongside local farmers and business owners. Giving an animal donation is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. As these businesses grow, they in turn help others by gifting animals to others in need.

Christmas Meal at FUMC

The annual Christmas meal hosted by FUMC will be take-out only this year. A delicious turkey dinner including pie will be available for pick up on December 25th. Call the Church Office to reserve your meals and set a pick up time by Dec. 18. Contact Craig Stockel for volunteer opportunities.

Living Nativity

FUMC will have three showings of our Living Nativity on Saturday, December 18th. The shows will be at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30. The longer spacing between shows will provide time for families to see the animals after the show and enjoy a cup a hot chocolate.

Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall to see how you can help make this Living Nativity a success. Rehearsal date is Friday, December 17th at 5:30pm.

Contact Sarah Sandgren with any questions. office@lindstrommethodist.org

Church Events

- Dec 7 - SPRC
- Dec. 9 - Hope Circle;
11am
- Dec 14 - Trustees;
6:30pm
- Dec 17 - Nativity
Rehearsal; 5:30p
- Dec 18 - Living Nativity;
5:30, 6:30, 7:30p
- Dec. 21 - Finance; 6p
Church Charge
Conference; 6:30p
- Dec 24 - Christmas
Eve Prelude; 3pm
Service; 4p
office closed
- Dec 31 - New Year's
Eve; *office closed*

Meals on Wheels

Dec. 1- Greg McCarthy
Dec. 2- Greg McCarthy
Dec. 3- Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Dec. 6- Joan & Phil DeMunck
Dec. 7- Cindy Kopp
Dec. 8- Gary Gerke
Dec. 9- Jim & Joyce Stafki
Dec. 10- Jim & Joyce Stafki

Dec. 13- Michelle Gillespie
Dec. 14- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
Dec. 15- Bonnie Bielicki
Dec. 16- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
Dec. 17- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Dec. 20- Jon Glader
Dec. 21- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
Dec. 22- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
Dec. 23- Irv & Dorothy Lecy
Dec. 24- Christmas Eve

Dec. 27- Jon Glader
Dec. 28- Jon Glader
Dec. 29- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
Dec. 30- Fred Prindle
Dec. 31. Fred Prindle

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

Happy Birthday!

Jim Holweger.....December 6
Cindy Kopp.....December 12
Gary Gerke.....December 13
Ernie Kertzsch.....December 14
Gretchen Dorenbusch.....December 15
Madelyn Tomczak.....December 16
Carol Lundberg.....December 22
Larry Knopf.....December 30

Announcements

Northern Pines Christian Camp is looking for cabin leaders for the 2022 season. Cabin leaders provide leadership for all camp activities, such as worship time, water sports, game time, crafts, and small groups. Campers range in age from 6-16 and includes campers 16 and over who have developmental delays. Staff typically have 24-36 hours off each weekend and a short break each day. Cabin leaders have 2 weeks of training before beginning 8 weeks of camp. Cabin leaders should enjoy outdoor activities, be able to lead a lesson such as crafts or a Bible study, have a Christian background and desire to share their faith, be responsible, be able to follow directions, have to ability to relate to youth and adults in a positive manner and understand the development needs of children and youth. A full job description is available from the camp director. Call Leslie at 218-732-4713 if you have questions about the position. Applications are available online at www.campminnesota.org

Cabin leaders should be at least 18 years old

Handbells will practice on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. Reach out to Patsy Berglund with any questions.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to the following volunteers who fertilized, mowed, maintained the landscaping and mulched leaves in the fall: Dick Berglund, Jack Danielson, Gary Gerke, Russell Oehme, and Irv and Dorothy Lecy.

The women of Hope Circle will be meeting on Thursday, December 9th at 11 am. It will be a potluck luncheon. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

The 2021 Salvation Army Bell ringing is underway and you can help ring at Brink's market in Chisago. Contact Kevin or Roger at Brinks or Gary Gerke or Irv Lecy to take a turn ringing the bell. \$15,727 was raised at Brinks last year! Let's try to collect more this year!

Strategic Positioning Report from the Administrative Council

FUMC Administrative Council has been busy conducting the normal business of the church as well as trying to plan for a dynamic future. That has involved some honest reflection upon our past and present, identifying areas that need shoring up. To that end we have engaged some outside consultation and leaned upon many of you. We sought ideas regarding actions to be pursued immediately and in the coming months and years. Thank you to all who participated, and please continue to offer input to any of the council members.

As we near the conclusion of 2021 we have determined to structure our work in a manner that will both accomplish two immediate goals and position us for ongoing improvement and success in our ministries. This may involve some shuffling of our committee structure and working teams, and also define the work schedule and duties of the council and its members.

The two immediate objectives we heard loudly from all that shared are the following.

1. Create and maintain strong discipleship training for all.
2. Build a vibrant children's ministry

How we accomplish these objectives remains fluid at this time, but a beginning step will be to add a staff position dedicated to children's ministry.

There were many more ideas, suggestions and issues brought forward. Those have not been ignored or overlooked. Mid range and longer range planning will hopefully address a broader strategy for our future.

2022 should be exciting and likely a year of transition and change. Should we expect any less given the trajectory we have seen recently? Please engage, attend, volunteer, pray and support your church in this time.

-Terry Kopp, Ad Council chair

Ad Council membership: Chris Kneen, Andy Wilkerson, Lloyd Jones, Verna Hultman, Peter Leadholm, Cheryl Lecy, Rebecca Ervasti, Boni Stockel, Emily Honerbrink, Donn Arnold, Adrienne Stegmeir, Linda Ploog

Finance Updates

Gift-in-kind Donations:

It has been our practice to capture members' donations of purchased items via gift-in-kind tracking.

Through the audit process, it has been strongly recommended that we do not encourage gift-in-kind donations. For proper bookkeeping, the church needs to see the expenses come through the appropriate accounts.

Therefore, beginning 1/1/22, if you are purchasing approved items for the church, meals, lawn supplies, computer supplies, music, etc., we ask that you submit the receipt to the church treasurer, Lloyd Jones. There is a form outside the office that will need to be filled out with the receipt attached. Lloyd will then timely cut you a check.

We appreciate your willingness to purchase items for the church's work. To accurately capture our expenses, we appreciate you taking time to submit receipts. Gift-in-kind donations will no longer appear on giving statements beginning 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this change or the reimbursement process, please reach out to Verna Hultman, Linda Ploog or Lloyd Jones.

Last spring, we updated our contribution tracking system. This update now allows us to send out contribution statements via email. We are currently testing this capability. If you DO NOT want your statement sent out via email, please let me know before 12/15/21. Linda can be reached at lkploog@gmail.com or 612.616.5657.

Church Council Minutes *November 2021*

Council members present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Terry Kopp, Linda Ploog, Rebecca Ervasti, Verna Hultman, Emily Honerbrink, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Donn Arnold, Adrienne Stegmeir, Boni Stockel, Andy Wilkerson, Peter Leadholm

The November meeting was opened with a devotional from Peter Leadholm based on Phil. 3:12-4:1

New business: Park Ave: Confirmation kids visited Park Ave United Methodist 11/14 for a field trip. Big momentum towards doing things jointly; Park does big mission trips and has a corporate sponsor. Request by Pr. Chris to invite Park Ave youth to use our Church for sleepover during a winter snow tubing weekend, all were in agreement that it was a great opportunity for our youth to get to know others.

Budget: Verna presented budget to council, council to make final vote at January meeting. Increase in insurance rates, Lloyd contacted our rep and requested that we be able to get multiple quotes for future increases; he will meet with them this Spring. Have been paying apportionments and budgeting for 2022 apportionments.

Financial control policy: The Financial Control Policy is complete, incorporated all feedback and was approved by finance committee. Adds in checks/cross checks for financial payments. Any member of FUMC can request to read the policy.

Consulting process report, next steps: Bill met with various members over 4 hours. First night 29 people looked at past, present and future of our Church and analyzed/summarized findings. Second night group discussed and validated findings, analyzed benefit and effort, and created three groupings. Council discussed Bill's findings, and the overwhelming support for focusing on Children and Adult ministries. Motion to hire Children's Ministry position was a direct outcome of the strategic positioning process. Terry presented his vision for the future based on these findings; council had great discussion. Few points: Realign (or create new) committees to focus on our strategic growth areas. Have each committee create a handbook that helps future committees transition easier. Elect Vice Chairs for each committee to learn from Chair, each Vice Chair would transition into Chair role. Have a different committee present to Council each month to discuss goals, give updates, etc. Discussion to be continued at the December meeting.

Children's ministry plan: Motion to hire Children's Ministry

position passed. SPRC to begin hiring process and prioritize job description duties.

Charge conference date/time: Date/time rescheduled for December 21st at 6:30pm, followed by Council meeting at 7pm. This may be subject to change based on District availability.

Wish list for December meeting: Each council member tasked with sending Terry realistic "Wish List" items for Church before Dec. meeting.

Pastor: Confirmation youth to help during Thanksgiving service; Hope Circle working on quick bread. Request to bring back Stations of the Cross, agreement to restart at Lent.

Meeting closed with Prayer.

Next meeting December 21st.

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

Foundation Board: Our Mission: "Direct funds toward initiatives that support personal enrichment of its church family and community, thus moving toward a more Christ-centered life."

Attendees: Lois Anderson, Donn Arnold, Dick Berglund, Sue Hernick, and Chris Kneen (part time).

June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes: The June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes were reviewed, and it was noted that two additional scholarships were awarded to Kaitlyn Nelson and Kyle Sparby after the June 15th meeting. This was because their applications were not available at the time of the meeting. Treasurer Report: Dick presented the Treasurer Report. The current Foundation's Fund balance is \$354,108.

New Sound/Video System: Bret RempelEwert is still working on the details for a new sound/video system and plans to present a detailed proposal at a future meeting. Term Limits and Additional Board Members: Donn will contact Sarah for a copy of the Foundation Bylaws with the goal of determining the Term Limits of the current Board Members. Donn will talk to Shirley Oswald to determine her interest in rejoining the Foundation Board. General Discussion: Sue commented that she has noticed that various church committees have referred in their meeting minutes to the Foundation as a source of funds for some specific projects. It was reviewed that there is a formal procedure for requesting funds from the Foundation, and that the Foundation will not consider any projects without a formal request.

Church Council Minutes cont.

Board of Trustees: November's meeting was canceled due to other meetings at the Church. We did conduct a few items thru email.

1. Trustees approved for Craig Stockel to hold his annual Christmas dinner in fellowship hall.
2. Repair of north sidewalks and pad for garbage cans has been completed.

Memorials:

- Reviewed last month's discussion of items on spreadsheet provided by Linda and account balance by Lloyd. Balance 30,568.28.
- Funds already spent on North sidewalk, smart TV, and wi-fi installed in nursery. Busy bags purchased for youth. Decorative banners (3) installed in Fellowship Hall, and large banner in Sanctuary.
- Thank you notes chosen, have permission to use digital images reflecting the history of our church buildings, designed by Kay Oien. Quite unique. Cards sent out will be handwritten. Will document funds coming into memorials, so thank you notes can be sent out in a timely manner.
- Lists will be updated frequently, memorials and trustees lists of spending need to match.

SPRC: Book Club - Chris, Chapter 16 & 17

OLD Business District Superintendent Meeting – Recap SPRC met with new district superintendent, Cynthia Williams. Meet and greet, general overview of feedback form. Everyone felt the meeting was very positive and we look forward to working with Cynthia more.

Matthew 18 Review Reminder to continue to keep Matthew 18 top of mind for conflict management

District Superintendent Feedback • What are some ways to prepare the congregation for change? • Plan or structure for a "behavior covenant" when a new pastor or staff joins the team. Budget Analyze yearly portions that we control. Budget is higher due to changes made by others outside of SPRC. Reminder at next council meeting that all staff salaries/increases need to go through SPRC. 360 Feedback for Staff Review Moving forward with implementing 360 reviews for all paid staff members. Get reviews from multiple people, combine and create goals/growth plans. Committee chair and 1-2 others from SPRC to sit in all reviews.

Prepare for Children's Ministry Leader • Benchmarking with Elk River and Anoka Churches • Onboarding Plan - need to prepare individual for success

Finance (October minutes):

Review Statements

- Statement of Financial Position – Account 103, 104, 105, 106 have 0 balance. Value of cemetery \$135,000. Suggestion to add values for main church property and assets for future.
- Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for Sep. \$11533 which is \$548 above the four year average 2018-2021: the projected FY2021 revenue is tracking above budget.
- Dedicated Accounts – All approved changes completed to consolidate small, intermittent activity-based accounts. Doris Brand account remains an open item. Current signer is Scott Lecy. Action: Verna will follow up with Scott to update.

New Business • The auditor recommended a Financial Control Policy be created. A working copy has been distributed for review and continues to be revised. The final document will be presented at the November meeting for approval.

Grant for Children's Ministry Program submitted for \$20,000. Awards will be announced the end of November.

Key target areas:

1. Financial Chart: 3 year history chart to compare monthly giving/expenses. Completed and distributed. This will be a living document distributed to the finance committee monthly (Verna/Lloyd)
2. Doris Brand trust: Update numbers for Doris Brand trust. The last statement we have physically is April 2021 with a balance of \$25,536. Edward Jones office confirmed signer is Scott Lecy and couldn't give info until signer is updated. Open item.
3. Budget: Sept. timeframe to create and submit 2022 budget. • Oct 10th submission from committees • November 16th – working/proposed budget • Jan. 18th – approve budget
4. Stewardship Drive
5. Audit Report – audit final report is complete; the file is available for member viewing in the office. Copies will not be posted on the general website.

First United Methodist Church
30828 Irene Ave.
P.O. Box 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306
Lindstrommethodist.org

DECEMBER 2021

We Are Here to Help!

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9am - 1pm

Church Office Email:

Office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Chris' Email:

pastor@lindstrommethodist.org

Join us for Worship!

Worship with us in-person every Sunday morning at 9am.

Worship with us online LIVE every Sunday on our Church Facebook page.

Sunday Service is available to view on our website the following Monday at lindstrommethodist.org