

# Grace Courier

## *First United Methodist Church*

FEBRUARY 2022

30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688 | LINDSTROM, MN  
651-257-4306 | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG

PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

## Interim to Full-time appointment

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee, along with the support of the Church Council is excited to announce that Pastor Chris Kneen will be serving at First United Methodist Church in a full-time appointment. Over the last 12 months, Pastor Chris has been supporting FUMC on an interim basis. His transition is effective immediately, and was announced to the church congregation at our January 16th Sunday service. His appointment to FUMC has been approved by Bishop Bard and the Cabinet. The following message was shared to our congregation based on this decision;

*With prayer and discernment, it is the intention of Bishop David Bard to appoint Pastor Chris Kneen to Lindstrom: First UMC. This means that Pastor Chris' status has changed from interim to a set appointment. This change is effective immediately. Acting on behalf of the congregation, the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee has affirmed the Bishop's intention.*

We are excited about the continued growth of FUMC. Having Pastor Chris be a part of our journey is a blessing, and should enable the positive development of our Church. He brings experience, energy, and commitment to his ministries. Through his leadership, and the engagement of the church congregation, FUMC continues to take positive steps forward.

Thank you,

Terry Kopp - Ad Church Council Chair

Peter Leadholm - SPRC Chair

Andy Wilkerson - Lay Leader

## Church Events

- Feb. 8 - Trustees; 6:30p  
- SPRC; 7p
- Feb. 9 - Confirmation  
Field trip; 3:45p
- Feb. 10 - Hope Circle;  
10a
- Feb. 15 - Finance; 6p  
- Council; 7p



# Meals on Wheels

Feb 1 - Greg McCarthy  
Feb 2 - Greg McCarthy  
Feb 3 - Jim & Joyce Stafki  
Feb 4 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

Feb 7 - Phil & Joan DeMunck  
Feb 8 - Michelle Gillespie  
Feb 9 - Gary Gerke  
Feb 10 - Bonnie Bielicki  
Feb 11 - Bonnie Bielicki

Feb 14 - Phil & Joan DeMunck  
Feb 15 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker  
Feb 16 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker  
Feb 17 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold  
Feb 18 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Feb 21 - Jon Glader  
Feb 22 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy  
Feb 23 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy  
Feb 24 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz  
Feb 25 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Feb 28 - Jon Glader

*Meals on Wheels Coordinator- Juanita Morgan  
(651) 257- 9268*

## Volunteer Opportunity

If you are looking for a position in the church that takes less than an hour a month, we could use you! Offering is counted following the service each Sunday and it typically takes less than an hour to count. Two people are needed each Sunday. Training will be provided. Please contact Linda Ploog if you would like more information or are interested in volunteering.

# Announcements

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, February 10th at 10am to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please bring a valentine and a treat to share. We will work on valentines to mail out.

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Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Brinks over the Christmas season. \$19,261 was raised from the Brinks location!

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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 wish that these purchases be part of your financial contribution to the church, you can increase your personal contribution upon reimbursement.

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

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New Church Office Hours to begin January 31st: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am-2pm.

# Council Minutes

*January 18, 2022*

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, Scott Lecy, Bret Rempel-Ewert

The January meeting was opened with a devotional from Linda Ploog based on Luke 9.

## **Old Business:**

Council meeting process: Working well, council passed Terry's pop quiz. Website Mission Statement: Sarah has updated with approved mission statement. Boy Scout Sponsor Agreement: Barb from UMC confirmed that we are not liable (in case of any incidents) because the troop is not chartered with us.

## **New business:**

IT/Streaming Presentation: Bret and Scott presented a live stream tech upgrade proposal to the Council. One year ago permission was received to pursue upgrade (to move from phone based system to computer-based system) and put interim system in place (\$8k-\$11k). Quotes received from 3 vendors. Upgrade would improve video quality and streamline future enhancements. Summary includes two new cameras, a video switcher, hardware, installation/ training and support. Asking approval from Council to approach Foundation Committee for funding. Council asked questions about improving audio quality, as that is a major concern. Audio not being addressed at this time. Question about getting local quote (choice vendor was in St. Louis Park). Motion made to get a bid from local firm. Lots of discussion - motion passed to get local bid but must be received within one week. Motion to approve Bret meeting with Foundation - motion carried.

2022 Planning: Council discussed committee accountability and visibility, moving forward one committee each month will present to the Council, and then to the Congregation. They will introduce members, give an overview of what they do and how they are doing. Discussion on creation of new committees - what are we missing to move forward with what we learned in the strategic planning, and what areas are we relying on volunteers without providing structure or guidance. Decision to create a 'Task Force' of Council

members to explore new committees - Terry, Pr. Chris, Rebecca, Adrienne, Andy and Emily to meet.

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

**Finance Committee Attendees;** Lloyd Jones, Verna Hultman, Linda Ploog

Review Statements: Statement of Financial Position – Suggestion to add values for main church property and assets for future. Current checkbook balance \$30,693.64. Request to approve December catch up payment for 2021 apportionments. \$7,754 will be paid prior to the January 14, 2022 deadline for 2021 calendar year credit.

Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for November \$12250: 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: Grant for Children's Ministry Program awarded for \$15,000. We will receive the first half early in the year. A progress report will be submitted per the grant guidelines mid-year. The second half payment will be received after the progress report is received and approved.

Discussed briefly possible sexual harassment training which could lower insurance costs. Open item for January.

Need to schedule bi-annual internal audit for January. Open item for January.

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. Update: December statement is \$28,229.78 which represents a return of 17.9%. Edward Jones office confirmed signer is Scott Lecy

and couldn't give info until signer is updated. Lloyd Jones, Verna Hultman and Scott Lecy will be signers once all the paperwork is completed. We submitted individually, however, they must have all signatures on one form. Open item. 3. Budget: Copies will be distributed at the December charge conference later this evening for approval. 4. Year end statements – Linda is looking into email options. The back-up would be paper envelopes for 2021.

Old Business 1. Photo inventory of church assets 2. Records procedure – 3 ring binder/cloud/server storage 3. Bi-Annual bank statement audit – July and January of each year.

**Memorials:** Memorial meeting January 4, 2022.

Reviewed the wish lists from committees, comparing amounts spent and balances against Lloyds list. All is balancing.

New needs- Easels for funerals and other gatherings using posters, boards for display. Addressed aging windows in offices. Will get bids. Working on wish list for Pastors brochure of needs in church. Will be updating the present "In Remembrance Folder". New pages, gifts given, people, dates. Organizing the Memorial notebook, providing information of workings of this committee will be on going. Once completed, will provide a smooth transition of the chair position. Our meetings will become quarterly starting with February, 2022.

**SPRC Members Present:** Pastor Chris Kneen, Tami Rehbein, Tina Sparby, Dorothy Lecy, Peter Leadholm, Wendy Vanderwerf

Book Club: Completed final chapters of "Antagonists in the Church". Starting a new book for 2022- "Speaking the Truth in Love".

Old Business: Children's Ministry Leader position is still posted. We have received one applicant for the position. The first steps of the hiring process will be completed by a sub-committee made of Peter, Emily and Tina.

New Business: Staffing update: Pastor Chris has been assigned as the new Full Time pastor for FUMC. The communication plan to share news with congregation: 1. Church leaders will make an announcement to the congregation on Sunday, January 16, 2022. 2. Sarah will send out a follow up email to the congregation. 3. Sarah will mail out the announcement to members without email access.

Training Opportunities for SPRC: FUMC was approved for a \$15,000 grant through the MN Annual Conference. The grant is to be used for FUMC's Children's Ministry position. The grant will be renewable for up to three years. The amount may be less in subsequent years. Verna Hultman recognized by the SPRC for taking care of the grant process.

Active Review: Church Secretary, Sarah Sandgren, has proposed a decrease in her current hours in the office to three days a week (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday), five hours per day. This will be a decrease in hours from 20 to 15 hours per week. Sarah feels that she can complete her current workload in 15 hours.

Staff check in-follow up: Music: Dorothy met with Bret and Nancy and both expressed that they would like more people to volunteer to help with worship music. Bret would like to hear the congregation's input on what they would like to see from our worship music. Bret is hoping to recruit some help to manage the technical side of the worship planning.

## Happy Birthday!

Terry Kopp.....February 3

Bruce Larsen.....February 10

Emily Honerbrink..... February 12

Katie Leadholm.....February 14

Erin Thorvaldson.....February 15

Lily Sorenson ..... February 19

Jeff Meinholz.....February 21

Steve Oehme.....February 21

Lindsey Olson ..... February 23

Paula Oehme.....February 28



## “Puzzles” winners!



Congratulations to Patsy Berglund and her team for winning the puzzle contest on Sunday, January 23rd!



Second Place winners!

Cindy & Colleen Kopp and friends.



Third place winners!

Ellie & Jackie Stegmeir, Angel RempelEwert and friend.

## MISSION FOCUS: Union Gospel Mission

FUMC continues to focus on Union Gospel Mission (UGM) throughout the month of February. UGM 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.

If you would like to support the efforts of the Union Gospel Mission please indicate “missions” on the memo line of your offering contribution or use the mission envelopes provided in the pews.

Our confirmation youth will be visiting UGM on February 9th. It will be a great opportunity for them to see how support from local churches like ours helps para-ministries like UGM accomplish their mission and to expand their understanding of Christian ministry in the world.

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*“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.”*

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### INTENTIONAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Resolving congregational differences is a requirement. Matthew 18:15

**TRUST**  
Feel safe with one another. Eph. 6:7

### LOVE & RESPECT

Building blocks of trust and wellbeing in relationships. 1 Peter 3:8

**DISCIPLE MAKING**  
The business of the church. Mark 16:15



First United Methodist Church

## Core Values

### GRATITUDE

Showing you value other people. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**HUMILITY**  
The ability to see our own need for maturity. Proverbs 11:2

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Using our resources to connect outside the church. Hebrews 13:16

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

(651) 257-4306  
Lindstrommethodist.org

February 2022

**Sent with a prayer to:**

**We Are Here to Help!**

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
9am - 2pm

Church Office Email:  
office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Chris' Email:  
pastor@lindstrommethodist.org

**Join us for Worship!**

Worship will us in-person every Sunday  
morning at 9am

Watch our Sunday service LIVE on our  
Facebook page.

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