



# Grace Courier

## *First United Methodist Church*

*“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.”*

APRIL 2022 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688 | LINDSTROM, MN 55045  
651-257-4306 | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG | PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

## Mission Focus:



80 million children are trapped in the cycle of poverty. Orphaned and vulnerable children living in extreme poverty are abused, sick and isolated from their community.

Through Zoe Empowers, children who once lived in poverty become entrepreneurs, providers, and leaders in their community who know their worth and abilities. The organization equips children to overcome poverty by addressing all areas of life including child rights, food security, health and hygiene, secure housing, community connections, education, income generation, and spiritual strength. Most importantly, children learn that God loves them and experience the gospel in action.

First United Methodist Church will help Zoe Empowers to make an impact when you designate a portion of your offering to “missions” in April. A little bit makes a big difference! It costs less than \$300 to equip one child to overcome extreme poverty and become part of a strong and healthy community in just three years.

Be even more connected by signing up for encouraging stories of orphan empowerment to be sent to your email inbox or to become an official ministry [prayer partner](#) and receive weekly updates on the [Zoe Empowers website](#).

## Church Events

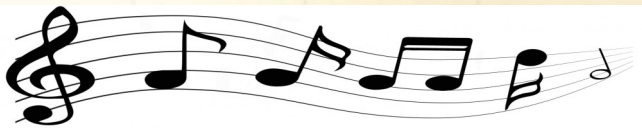
- Apr. 6 - Worship Planning Committee; 7pm
- Apr. 10 - Palm Sunday
- Apr. 12 - SPRC; 7pm  
Trustees; 6:30p
- Apr. 14 - Holy Thursday;  
7pm
- Apr. 15 - Good Friday;  
8pm
- Apr. 16 - Easter Carnival;  
10-11:30am
- Apr. 17 - Easter Sunday
- Apr. 19 - Finance; 6pm  
Council; 7pm
- Apr. 26 - Lay Leadership  
nominating meeting; 7pm
- Apr 30 - Women’s Brunch

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kyle Sparby.....April 1  
Cheryl Lecy.....April 3  
Fred Prindle ..... April 3  
Kathy Larsen.....April 10  
John Thorvaldson.....April 11  
Tim Ploog.....April 13  
Scott Lecy.....April 17  
Tom Lundberg.....April 19  
Colleen Kopp.....April 23  
Karen Hanson.....April 24  
Marlys Polzine.....April 24  
Dorothy Lecy.....April 27  
Pauline Heilig.....April 28  
Marna Gerke.....April 30



Thank you Jeff  
Meinholz and Laura  
Tomczak for painting  
the hallways with a  
fresh coat of paint!



Looking for something to do on Wednesday  
nights? Join the Easter Choir!

Practices are taking place beginning on  
Wednesday, March 23rd at 7pm in the  
Sanctuary for four weeks.

See Terry Kopp or Bret RempelEwert if you are  
willing to sing.

# Meals on Wheels

April 1 - Greg McCarthy

April 4 - Greg McCarthy

April 5 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

April 6 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

April 7 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

April 8 - Mike Arendarcz

April 11 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

April 12 - Cindy Kopp

April 13 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

April 14 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

April 15 - Good Friday

April 18 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

April 19 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

April 20 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

April 21 - Bonnie Bielicki

April 22 - Dorothy and Irv Lecy

April 25 - Michelle Gillespie

April 26 - Michelle Gillespie

April 27 - Carol Carlson

April 28 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold

April 29 - Jon Glader

Meals on Wheels Coordinator: Juanita Morgan 257-9268

## Upcoming Services:

Sunday, April 10, 9am - Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 14, 7pm - Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 15, 8pm - Good Friday

Sunday, April 17, 9am - Easter Sunday



# Easter Carnival at FUMC

Games!

Saturday, April 16th

Face Painting!

Crafts!

Prizes!

10 - 11:30 am

Cake Walk!

The Easter Carnival is back in 2022! All families from the community are welcome to come and play games, do crafts and have fun! Invite your neighbors who have small children!

If you are able to help on the 16th, contact Katie Leadholm.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE FURTHER POSTPONED TO 2024

As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints. The gathering will be postponed until 2024, and the Commission has already secured a venue for what would have been the regularly scheduled quadrennial event.

### WHAT THE POSTPONEMENT MEANS FOR US

In light of the postponement, we as the Minnesota Annual Conference will continue to engage in creating a post-pandemic church, living into our vision, and embodying our values. This means we are committed to creating a place at the table for everyone, including LGBTQIA+ persons, and to listening more deeply to voices that have often been marginalized. The Extended Cabinet has created a statement of our commitments that speaks specifically to how we hold the value of LGBTQIA+ inclusion in this waiting season. Regardless of the outcome of the next General Conference, we will be unwavering in our commitment to full inclusion and laser focused on furthering Jesus's ministry of extending abundant life to all of God's children. This extended liminal time does not change who we are as the Minnesota Annual Conference or who we are in Christ.

Join the youth of the church for Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 17th from 7:30 - 8:30am. The breakfast will be a freewill offering that will go towards our Christian Camp Scholarship Fund.

See sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for items to donate and any help that is needed. Cheryl Lecy is coordinating.

There will be no Fellowship Hour following the Easter Sunday service.



The Worship Planning Committee will be meeting regularly on the first Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting will take place on April 6th in the FUMC lounge at 7pm.

# Church Council Meeting

March 15, 2022

Members present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Terry Kopp, Andy Wilkerson, Peter Leadholm, Rebecca Ervasti, Verna Hultman, Emily Honerbrink, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Adrienne Stegmeir, Dari Ferguson

The March meeting was opened with a devotional from Andy based on Isaiah 19.

Annual Scheduled Committee Report: Peter Leadholm, Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, presented the function (HR committee), key deliverables in 2021 and priorities for 2022 to the Council.

**Old business** - IT/Streaming 2022 Planning; moving forward

- Organizational Restructure: Continuation of February discussion; new structure would create four new teams/committees to fulfill the mission of the Church.

- Four new ministries are Children's, Adult, Worship and Outreach.

- Each new committee would have a Chair person. Chair would have a seat/vote at the Ad Council meetings (if unpaid), if Chair position or person is paid then they wouldn't be a voting member.

- Organizational Restructure passed; discussion on how to fill new positions to begin in April

## New business

Staff Reports: Pr. Chris

- Gen. Conference postponed to 2024
- Cheryl Lecy volunteered to lead Easter breakfast, helped by Church Youth so they can earn money for camp
- Summer Sunday school will happen this year, with hopes to get kids attending Thursday night hot dog feed to attend the following Sunday
  - Postcard approved for K-5 Sunday school drop-off
  - Pastoral telecare started (Barb and Dorothy)

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

**Missions:** Our current mission focus is family pathways

food pantry. We are collecting cans in a "canstruction" zone in the foyer. By partnering with MN food share this month every dollar donated buys \$7 worth of food. Our mission focus for April will be Zoe Empowers. We are in the process of exploring new ways we can partner with this important and effective ministry.

## Board of Trustees:

Present: Lloyd Jones, Irv Lecy, Jack Danielson, Sue Meinholz, Gary Gerke

- Church bell is now working again Mark will look at it, we may need to consider sending bell out for repair.

- Received a bid of \$1800.00 to replace three bathroom toilets waiting for second bid, once we get second bid in, trustees will review it and the send approved bid onto Memorials. Trustees have agreed to pay a portion of new toilets.

- Trustees are working with Jeff Meinholz about painting the hallways; Trustee's will supply the paint.

## Finance

Attendees: Chris Kneen, Verna Hultman, Lloyd Jones

Review Statements: Statement of Financial Position – Suggestion to add values for main church property and assets for future. Current checkbook balance \$16,610.49. January apportionments paid.

- Statement of Activities : Offerings (giving) for December was \$16,325.12.

- Dedicated Accounts: Doris Brand account – will discuss in more detail when Lloyd returns in March for link to Memorial Committee (906). Open item.

New Business: Donn Arnold resigned from the finance committee. We accepted the resignation and wish him the best. His support and work with the committee will be missed. This is an open seat and will be presented during committee nominations in June.

Linda is looking for offering counters. A request was included in the Sunday bulletin and general request. Key target areas: 2021 items completed; new target areas created for 2022. Goal is to invite one functional area/month to the meeting to discuss needs, open issues, and future budget considerations.

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. Children's Ministry grant – \$7,500 first half should be received soon. SPRC working on filling the position.

## Council Minutes Cont.

3. Functional area: Worship.

4. Functional area: Office

5. Functional area: SPRC

6. Functional area: Trustees

7. Functional area: Kitchen and hospitality

Old Business 1. Photo inventory of church assets

2. Records procedure – 3 ring binder/cloud/server storage

3. Bi-Annual bank statement audit – Decision made to skip January as we completed the full audit late fall. The first internal audit will be in July.

## Camp Scholarship Fund



Parishioners can make a donation to the scholarship fund which lowers the cost of Christian camp. This fund ensures that youth from the congregation can attend Christian camp regardless of family finances. If you would like to donate to this fund indicate “Camp Scholarship” on the memo line of your giving check.

## Women's Brunch

Saturday, April 30th  
10:30am - Noon

More details coming shortly.

## SPRC Annual Report

Members: Peter Leadholm (Chair), Pastor Chris, Andy Wilkerson, Dorothy Lecy, Lois Anderson, Tami Rehbein, Emily Honerbrink, Wendy Vanderwerf, Tina Sparby

### Function of the Staff Parish Relations Committee:

- Considered the “HR” committee of the church
- Tasked to encourage, pray for, support and respect the Pastor, staff and their families
- Communicate openly and regularly with Pastor, staff and the congregation
- Meet in closed session and confidentiality
- Recommends needed staff positions and job descriptions
- Recommends compensation, housing, travel, etc.
- Brings personnel policy and procedures to the church council for adoption
- Prepare with the Pastor for the annual District Superintendent check-in
- Conflict Resolution
- Interview incoming Pastors
- Represents the congregation to the Bishop

### Key Deliverables - 2021

- All Church meeting resulted in a new Chair and full committee
- Completed annual District Superintendent check-in
- Proposed and adopted FUMC Core Values
- SPRC training: Book review; Matthew 18 focus - conflict management & District SPRC training
- 2022 Proposed and approved budget for Pastor and Staff
- Consistent monthly meetings
- Reviewed and utilized Matthew 18 Conflict Management behaviors.

### Priorities for 2022

- Engagement and support with Pastor, staff and congregation throughout the year.
- Recruiting, hiring and onboarding of Children's Ministry Leader
- Evaluate additional staff growth and development opportunities
- Support the Ad Council and FUMC focus areas outlined by the strategic vision of our church
- Maintain strong connection to the congregation

First United Methodist Church

30828 Irene Ave.

P.O. BOX 688

Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306

Lindstrommethodist.org

April 2022

**Sent with a prayer to:**

## How Can We 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 with us in-person every Sunday

morning at 9am.

Sunday School begins at 10am.

Watch our Sunday service LIVE on our

Facebook page.

Sunday Service is available to view on our

website the following Tuesday at

lindstrommethodist.org