



Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

MARCH 2022 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688

LINDSTROM, MN | 55045 | 651-257-4306

LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG

PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:

Family Pathways Food Shelf

March is MN Foodshare Month! Minnesota Food Share began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Across East Central Minnesota, over 8% of our neighbors do not have enough money to buy food for their families. Many of them report going hungry or skipping meals to ensure food goes to their children. Over half of the individuals who visit Family Pathways Food Shelf are under 18 or over 65 years of age.

This March, we join Family Pathways' food shelves, faith communities, businesses, and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity.

We will be creating a "CAN-struction zone" in the foyer to collect cans of fruit, veggies, hearty soups, and canned meats that will strengthen and build up members of our community. Please bring nutritious canned foods for our local Family Pathways Food Pantry and/or designate monetary donations as "Missions" throughout March. With Foodshare buying power, every \$1 you give = \$7 worth of groceries for a local family.

Church Events

- March 2nd - Ash Wednesday; 7pm
- March 8th - Trustees; 6:30pm
- March 13th- Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15th- Finance; 6pm
AD Council; 7pm

*Pastor Chris on vacation
March 7th - March 13th*

Ash Wednesday

The Service for Ash Wednesday will be on March 2nd at 7pm.

The service will be led by our Confirmation students.

Memorials Committee 2021 Year-end report

The Memorials Committee was resurrected and restructured the summer of 2021. Five members are on the committee: Sharlene Arnold (Secretary), Judy Green, Shirley Oswald (Thank you's), Cheryl Auchterlonie (Recording) and Linda Ploog (Chair). Judy Green has recently resigned.

We stated our mission was to create an on-going process that identifies items needed for the church and see that funds are spent timely as family's request or the church needs. Funds are to be used for physical items or for repair of the church building and grounds. Funds are not to be used for programs, salaries or for the General Fund unless designated by the contributor.

We met monthly in 2021 and accomplished the following:

- reached out to committees asking for their "wish list" to improve their area
- we set up an excel tracking tool for capturing our "wish list" of items for the church and assignment of dollars and memorials
- created thank you cards

Over the past few years and as of July, 2021, Memorials accumulated undesignated funds of \$59,870 in memory of loved ones. About a third of the funds is in stock. Since July, an additional \$275 was received which were designated to be used for banners or hospitality needs.

With responses from committees and their wish list, the below was purchased for \$9506 in memory of Marvin Hultquist, Jerry Barnhart, and others previously passed prior to 2021.

Missions: Acrylic sign holders for a missions' display

Trustees: North and South sidewalks repaired; new file cabinets in the office

Youth: new/updated busy bags for children to use in sanctuary

Nursery: Smart TV/wifi

Hospitality: Banners for fellowship hall

Worship/visual arts: Banners for the sanctuary

Our plans for 2022:

--Document our processes: finances and purchase tracking, requesting of ideas for purchases, writing thank you cards. etc.

--Create binder which contains past agendas, financial tracking, & committee roles

--Create and document an ongoing process for identifying items needed for the church that can be communicated to families wishing to donate funds in memory of a loved one.

--Need to create process/rules for prioritization of "wishes/needs"

--Spend approximately \$25k on the following projects/items:

Garage roof/siding repair

A/C in pastor's office, office, and lounge

Seal coat parking lot

Replace windows in offices

Purchase 6 new tables for fellowship hall

Purchase new easels -- done

Deadening sound banners for fellowship hall

Large Easter banner for sanctuary

Purchase paper folder for office -- done

We will switch to meeting quarterly: February, May, August, November

Happy Birthday!

Bonnie Bielicki.....March 1

Boni Stockel.....March 4

Nordell Anderson.....March 5

Nancy Thalacker.....March 5

Brody Thorvaldson.....March 13

Jim Palmer.....March 16

Diana Westrum.....March 19

Shirley Oswald.....March 27

Church Council Meeting

February 15, 2022

Members present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Linda Ploog, Rebecca Ervasti, Verna Hultman, Cheryl Lecy, Adrienne Stegmeir, Boni Stockel, Andy Wilkerson, Peter Leadholm.

The January meeting was opened with a devotional from Pastor Chris.

IT/Streaming Presentation: Foundation approved \$12,000 for purchase of an upgraded video system to support the live stream technical needs. The new system will be computer based and include two cameras, training and support.

Finance: Will update 6 key target areas as all but one of the 7 from July have been completed. Details will be in February minutes.

Missions: Adrienne added February for Union Gospel Mission. March will be Food Share Site.

SPRC: Pete said the team attended Fundamental Training last Thursday with the bishop. One outcome is to streamline communications regarding minutes to newsletter/council. The conference has training offerings available for other committees.

Lay leader: Andy said there been great feedback regarding Chris as full time assignment. Planning for Memorial Day and hoping we can support laying flags at Fort Snelling as an activity.

Memorials highlight: Linda reported the committee currently has 4 members. Since they re-organized in 2021 they have created a policy for funds, roles and responsibilities. Linda provided a list of projects completed and which ones were planned for 2022. She is putting together a brochure to highlight memorials. The committee will switch from monthly to quarterly meetings now that the framework is in place.

2021 starting balance \$59,870

Purchases made \$9,506.31

Current balance: \$50,638.69

2022 planned purchases to date: \$24,351

Organization and Ministry Structure: A task force was created to assess committee structure based on strategic plan. The goal is to create focus growth areas with added structure and guidance. The task force members included Terry, Pr. Chris, Rebecca, Adrienne, Andy and Emily. The goal is to target needs and resources to optimize staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Good discussion. It would be helpful to create a side-by-side

list of current vs. future committee and teams to help see the full benefit. The plan received a positive response. Motion to pass delayed until next council meeting.

SS Activity: Pastor Chris introduced a concept to “drop your kids off for Sunday School” approach that could be used to help bring families into the church. Peter pointed out that it would be worth a try for the remaining SS season (2 ½ months). Volunteers would be needed to help direct kids to the SS areas. Cheryl volunteered to help.

Easter Carnival: Discussed on whether to have one this year. Usually this has been the weekend before Easter. Quite a few people weren’t going to be available that Saturday. April 16th a potential date (Saturday before Easter).

The following committee minutes were provided prior to the meeting:

Foundation Board

January 23, 2022

Present: Lois Anderson, Donn Arnold, Dick Berglund, Dari Ferguson, Sue Hernick, Scott Lecy (guest), and Bret RempelEwert (guest)

Treasurer Report:

Dick presented the Treasurer Report (see Attachment A). The current Foundation’s Fund balance is \$330,427.

New Video System:

Bret RempelEwert reviewed the proposal for a new video system for the sanctuary. The objective of this video system upgrade is to give a better experience for online viewing of the Sunday services. The proposal will move from a phone based system to a computer based system. We currently have a quote from Z Systems, Inc. based in Saint Louis Park for \$10,795 (See Attachment C) and are trying to get a similar quote from a local company. The Foundation Board expressed their support for this project, and Dari made a motion and Sue second to contribute up to \$12,000 towards this project. Motion passed.

Foundation Board Chairman’s Duties:

For the Church Council, Donn created the following list of FB Chairman’s duties:

Set dates for Board meetings

Set agenda for Board meetings

Determine/announce the timeline for the picking-up and completion of the John C. Blackford Scholarship application

Send out letters to the scholarship recipients noting the amount of the scholarship and the date they will be handed out during the church service

Hand out the John C. Blackford Scholarships noting the history of this award

Send out notification of the John C. Blackford Scholarship recipients to the Chisago County Press

Attend Church Council meetings to report on the Foundation's activities

Term Limits:

In regards to our inquiry about term limits for Foundation Board members, Donn contacted Sarah who noted that the UMC Book of Discipline states that "members of the Foundation Board can serve an unlimited amount of time unless otherwise determined by the Church Council". It has been our current custom to have a three year term with the board members determining whether or not they would like to serve additional terms.

Additional Board Member:

Donn contacted Shirley Oswald to confirm that she would be willing to serve on the FUMC Foundation Board. Dick made a motion and Dari second to elect Shirley Oswald to the FUMC Foundation Board. Motion passed.

Chair of Foundation Board:

Donn stated that he wanted to step down as chair of the Foundation Board but remain a member of the Board. This was accepted along with many expressions of gratitude for his years of superb leadership for the Foundation. After discussion, Dari said that she would be willing to accept the duties of the Foundation Board Chair. Dick made a motion and Sue second to elect Dari to the position of FUMC Foundation Board Chair. Motion passed.

Finance Committee

January 2022 Report

Present: 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 \$22,697.12. 2021 apportionments paid in full. Note: Liability accounts 203 (\$1,409.57) and 205 (\$155.83) should be zero. Lloyd checking into software to get these accounts zero'd out. A new 210 account is set up for Missions pass through reporting. Net Asset fund 300 (-\$5443.07) isn't used. The Doris Brand Trust has been set up for account 906 and will show up in the Feb. reports.

Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for December was \$16,352.53. FY21 finished with a net revenue of \$6,508.87.

Dedicated Accounts – All approved changes completed to consolidate small, intermittent activity-based ac-

counts. Doris Brand account remains an open item. Current signer is Scott Lecy. Action: Paperwork complete and will be mailed in this week.

New Business

Linda is looking for offering counters. A request was included in the Sunday bulletin.

Gift in Kind information was provided in the monthly newsletter and the Sunday bulletin. Folks affected have talked to Lloyd with any questions. This will help with budget planning in the fall with tracking actual expenses.

Budget correction for CRSP Pension Contribution. Value was listed at \$6,871. Final number was \$7,769.38 annually. Difference \$644.85. Motion by Donn/second by Linda/motion passed to approve budget correction.

Lloyd will complete the January W-2 submissions for 2021.

Need to schedule bi-annual internal audit for Jan. Since the audit was fall, 2021 the decision was reached to schedule for bi-annual audit in July, 2022.

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

Key target areas:

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)

Doris Brand trust: Update numbers for Doris Brand trust. Update: December statement is \$28,229.78 which represents a return of 17.9%. Decision made to add the amount to 906 Memorials for future reports. 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.

Budget: 2021 completed within planned budget. Year end statements – All statements not picked up will be mailed.

Children's Ministry grant – added this as a target area for 2022.

Old Business

Photo inventory of church assets

Records procedure – 3 ring binder/cloud/server storage

Bi-Annual bank statement audit – July and January of each year.

Council Minutes Cont.

Board of Trustees

February 2022 Report

Present: Lloyd Jones, Irv Lecy, Jack Danielson, Mark Vanderwerf, Gary Gerke

Trustee's approved the upgrade of Video System in sanctuary in the amount of \$15,000.00 which will come from Foundation.

Mark Vanderwerf has been busy replacing all our light bulbs to LED bulbs, all the bulbs are coming from a program thru Xcel at no charge to us.

Trustee's approved the purchase of six new round tables for Fellowship hall to be funded thru memorials

Trustee's approved Lloyd Jones to be Chair of Trustee's for 2022.

Announcements

- There will be no SPRC meeting for the month of March.
- No Confirmation on March 9th -- Spring Break.
- We are seeking an offering counter. If you are willing to volunteer one hour per month to count offering after worship, please contact Linda Ploog.
- Easter Sunday Breakfast will be served by the youth of FUMC from 7:30am - 8:30am. Please join us for a delicious meal before worship. All free-will donations will be put toward the Youth Camper Scholarship Fund to help kids go to Christian camp.
- If you would like to help with the Easter Sunday breakfast please see Cheryl Lecy. There will be sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for items needed.

Meals on Wheels

March 1 - Greg McCarthy

March 2 - Greg McCarthy

March 3 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 4 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 7 - Michelle Gillespie

March 8 - Cindy Kopp

March 9 - Gary Gerke

March 10 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

March 11 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

March 14 - Michelle Gillespie

March 15 - Cindy Kopp

March 16 - Gary Gerke

March 17 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold

March 18 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

March 21 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy

March 22 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy

March 23 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

March 24 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

March 25 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 28 - Jon Glader

March 29 - Jon Glader

March 30 - Bonnie Bielicki

March 31 - Bonnie Bielicki

Meals on Wheels Route 2 coordinator: Juanita Morgan

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



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March 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 with 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