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# Grace Courier

## *First United Methodist Church*

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

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### Mission Focus:



May is Foster Care Awareness month! On any given day, there are over 11,000 children in foster care in MN. Most of these children enter foster care with only the clothing on their backs. This puts them in an awkward situation having to ask strangers for personal items such as a toothbrush or underwear during an already stressful time. Foster families must provide for their needs with little or no notice. The Safe Haven Foster Shoppe is a local non-profit that provides essentials to children in foster care, helping to support these children and their foster families.

Essential items can include backpacks/diaper bags, socks, underwear, clothing, pajamas, shoes, jackets, toiletries, blankets, school supplies, and entertainment items. The bags provided are unique in that they are age, gender and size specific. Safe Haven Foster Shoppe hand delivers each and every bag donated to the children through a network of private and county agencies or directly to foster homes. Bags are provided as they are needed, usually within 24 hours of placement.

You can help!

1. Donate by indicating Safe Haven Foster Shoppe or Missions with the amount on your May giving. Just \$75 can fill an entire bag of items handpicked by staff, providing a child of any age from infant to teen with all the items they will need to transition well.
2. Purchase essential items to be distributed through Safe Haven Foster Shoppe as they are needed. Donate these items in the bin next to the food shelf donations in the foyer or at the Safe Haven Foster Shoppe Headquarters in downtown Lindstrom.
3. Volunteer your time by signing up online at <https://safehavenfostershoppe.org/volunteer/> or joining the "Safe Haven Foster Shop volunteer's group" on Facebook. Just 2 hours of your time makes an impact! Choose a time to serve that's convenient for your schedule.

### Church Events

- **May 3rd - Memorials ;**  
10:30a  
New Worship  
meeting; 6pm  
New Outreach; 7p
- **May 4th - Worship**  
Planning Committee;  
4:30pm  
Confirmation; 5pm
- **May 8th - Mother's Day**  
Confirmation Sunday
- **May 10th - Trustees;**  
6:30p  
SPRC; 7p
- **May 11th - New**  
Children's comm; 6p  
New Adult  
Discipleship; 7p
- **May 17th - Finance; 6p**  
Council; 7p

Pastor Chris on vacation;  
May 16-22nd

# John C. Blackford Scholarship

The John C. Blackford Scholarship is funded by the First United Methodist Church Foundation Board. Applications can be obtained through the Church website ([lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)) or stop by the church office during office hours.

Applications will be evaluated by the Foundation Board members and awarded on need and merit. A detailed, thoughtful application will influence the final evaluation and selection.

All scholarship applications must be received by June 1st. Any application received after this date will not be considered.

Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, July 10th during Sunday worship.

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## Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, May 12th at 10 am. More details to follow. Please check the weekly bulletins for details.

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## Community Meal

The Monday night community meal at Zion Church in Chisago will resume in June. Please watch our bulletins for more details. We will also have information in the Fellowship Hall as to how you can help with this ministry.

-Dorothy Lecy, Nancy Thalacker, Barb Prindle



## Meals on Wheels

May 2 - Greg McCarthy

May 3 - Greg McCarthy

May 4 - Jim & Joyce Staffki

May 5 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

May 6 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

May 9 - Joan & Phil DeMunck

May 10 - Cindy Kopp

May 11 - Carol Carlson

May 12 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold

May 13 - Mike Arendarcz

May 16 - Joan & Phil DeMunck

May 17 - Michelle Gillespie

May 18 - Carol Carlson

May 19 - Bonnie Bielicki

May 20 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

May 23 - Jeff & Sue Meinholz

May 24 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy

May 25 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

May 26 - Fred Prindle

May 27 - Fred Prindle

May 30 - Jon Glader

May 31 - Jon Glader

*Meals on Wheels Coordinator: Juanita Morgan*

## Birthdays!

Cindy Anderson ..... May 5

Jessica Collyard ..... May 10

MaryAnn Jindra.....May 11

Angela RempelEwert ..... May 14

Karen Bruss.....May 21

Reese Jones.....May 22

Kendrick Jones.....May 22

Terry Keesee.....May 23

Tami Rehbein.....May 23

Cailey RempelEwert.....May 25

Craig Stockel.....May 28



**Minnesota**  
**Annual Conference**  
of the United Methodist Church

April 14, 2022

Dear First United Methodist Church of Lindstrom,

On behalf of Bishop Bard and the cabinet of the Minnesota Annual Conference, I want to thank you for paying 100 percent of your 2021 apportionments! In partnership with other congregations around the world your generosity has provided resources for clergy and congregational ministries as well as local and global missions. This denominational giving is truly, “a portion meant” for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual, no one church could accomplish alone.

These past two years you have ministered in extremely challenging times. The global pandemic caused great loss, pain, and grief, damaging the economic and social fabric of our society. We have been challenged on all fronts even now watching our siblings in Ukraine fight for their very lives. Yet, we step out as United Methodists to help heal the broken places in our world. We are also challenged to envision and embody church in new and nimble ways and to remain faithful to our call even as our own denomination heads into separation.

I am awed by the creativity and commitment of our Big Waters District congregations. As United Methodists, we faithfully strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – disciples that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training, and support for this vision to bear fruit in and through our local churches. Yes, we’re in this together and together we are making a difference!

I know such dedication does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship, and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! Thank you for the impactful ministry in which you are engaged! It is an inspiration to serve with you as a partner in offering Christ’s light and love.

With joy and appreciation,

Rev. Susan Nienaber  
Big Waters District Superintendent

# New Committee Opportunities!

The First Methodist administrative council approved a bit of restructuring of our church committee to improve ministry activities key to the life of the church. Four new committees have been approved to accomplish the work of: outreach, adult discipleship, children’s ministry, and worship. Of course those activities are and have been functioning all along, but without much coordination with the greater church governance.

In order to kickstart these activities, four short meetings are scheduled, one for each ministry area. Pastor Chris and ad council chairman Terry Kopp, will attend and introduce the charge for each committee. We will ask for all interested individuals to join in the ongoing work of that area. All of our congregation is invited to attend any or all of the meetings.

## Meeting times:

**Worship: Tuesday, May 3, 6pm**

**Outreach: Tuesday, May 3, 7pm**

**Children’s: Wednesday, May 11, 6pm,**

**Adult Discipleship: Wednesday, May 11, 7pm**



Our confirmation class is wrapping up this May. We will have two students being confirmed on May 8th during our Sunday worship service.

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

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

The April meeting was opened with a devotional from Boni based on Philippians 4.

**Annual Scheduled Committee Report:** Verna Hultman, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the key deliverables (robust financial audit completed, creation of financial control policy). Since Donn Arnold stepped down, the finance committee is in need of new members (currently have three - Verna, Lloyd and Linda). Overall message is Church is on target for budget and healthy.

## Old business

Organizational restructure/populating positions

- Continuation of previous discussion; new structure creates four new teams/committees (Children's, Adult, Worship and Outreach).

- Council members were tasked with bringing names forward for each of the new committees and subcommittees.

- Next steps: presented names will be invited to informational meeting; Sarah to set up

- Others interested from congregation will also be invited to the meetings; dates will be communicated through the Sunday announcements, in the bulletin, and through email.

## New business

Brainstorm/discuss adult discipleship

- To be readdressed after Adult Ministry committee meeting kickoff

Revisit children's ministry position progress

- Have posted in local papers (Chisago County Press, Osceola Sun). Posted on Facebook and LinkedIn.

- One total response; was ghosted by applicant

- Peter to get summary of funds spent looking for position to Finance committee for communicating to Conference

- Discussion about how we feel about Sunday school now vs beginning of the year; confidence is up and feeling good about new attendees. Kids enjoy attending and Pr. Chris has done an amazing job.

- Recommendation to reach out to congregation for position leads; recommendation to post on NextDoor site

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

**Foundation Attendees:** Dick Berglund, Dari Ferguson, and Sue Hernick

Dick reported that the current Foundation Fund balance is \$336,182

**New Video System:** Dari reported that the detailed requirements and potential vendors are still being reviewed by Bret RempelEwert.

**Scholarship Application Review:** Last year's Scholarship Application Form was reviewed, and it was decided to make the following changes for this year's application form:

- Add the Foundation Mission Statement to the top of Page 1 before the Bullet List

- Change the Applications Available Online date from April 26th to April 12th

- Change the Applications Must Be Received Date from June 6th to June 1st and add "(applications will not be considered after this date)" to this Bullet Item

- Change the Awarding of Scholarships date from July 11th to July 10th

- Move the statement "Please note your association to FUMC: \_\_\_\_\_" on Page 3 to Page 2 after the statement "Have you received a Foundation Scholarship Award prior to this application? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no"

- Dari will work with Sarah to make these changes.

**Grant Application Form Review:** The FUMC Foundation Board Application Form was reviewed, and it was decided to make the following change:

- Add the Foundation Mission Statement to the top of the page after the title

## Finance

Attendees: Chris Kneen, Verna Hultman, Linda Ploog, Lloyd Jones

### Review Statements

- Statement of Financial Position – Current checkbook balance \$16,610.49. January/ February apportionments paid.
- Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for February was \$14,207.67. \$7,500 grant received and allocated to account 404. Targeted for Children's Ministry position.
- Dedicated Accounts – Doris Brand account – move to Memorial Committee (906). Open item.

### New Business

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

Key target areas: 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.

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. Add property values to long term asset on balance sheet

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

4. Bi-Annual bank statement audit: The first internal audit will be in July.

## Board of Trustees

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

1) Three new toilets have been installed by EZ Testing.

2) New air conditioner's have been installed in Pastor Study, Office and Lounge by Aerotek.

3) Hallways have been painted thanks to Jeff Meinholz and daughter Laura.

4) Lloyd will be contacting Midco about upgrading phone system .



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First United Methodist Church

30828 Irene Ave.

P.O. BOX 688

Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306

Lindstrommethodist.org

May 2022

**Sent with a prayer to:**

## How Can We Help?

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9am - 2pm

Church Office Email:

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

Pastor Chris' Email:

[pastor@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto: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](http://lindstrommethodist.org)