

First United Methodist
Church

30828 Irene Ave.

P.O. BOX 688

Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306

lindstrommethodist.org

January 2023

Sent with a prayer to:

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

How Can We Help?

Church Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9am - 2pm

Church Office Email:
office@lindstrommethodist.or
Pastor Chris' Email:
ckneen60@gmail.com

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2023 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | PO BOX 688 | 651-257-4306
LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG | PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:



Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities 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. They do not rely on government funding; almost all of their funding comes through donations from individuals and businesses. While other homeless shelters provide meals and a place to stay for people from our community, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities goes further to provide a permanent pathway off the streets.

- Gospel centered
- Forming disciples of Jesus Christ
- Provide personalized programs to help individuals get out of poverty, homelessness or addiction
- Education and job training
- Medical and mental health clinics

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 place your offering in a missions envelope.

Church Events

- Jan 1- Baptism of Blake Nelson
- Jan 3 - SPRC 7pm
- Jan 4 - SME 7pm
- Jan 5 - Start of “Discipleship 101” Bible Study 7pm
- Jan 10 - Trustees 6:30pm
- Jan 11 - Outreach 7p
- Jan 17 - Finance 6pm Council 7pm
- Jan 18 - Adult Education 7pm
- Jan 25 - Children Ed 7pm
- Jan 31 - Memorials
- Every Monday - Worship 10am

Meals on Wheels – Route 2

January 2023

- January 2 – Greg McCarthy
- January 3 – Greg McCarthy
- January 4 – Jim & Joyce Stafki
- January 5 – Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- January 6 – Mike Arendarczyk
- January 9 – Fred Prindle
- January 10 – Cindy Kopp
- January 11 – Carol Carlson
- January 12 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- January 13 – Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke
- January 16 – Joan & Phil DeMunck
- January 17 – Joan & Phil DeMunck
- January 18 – Jim & Joyce Stafki
- January 19 – Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- January 20 – Bonnie Bielicki
- January 23 – Michelle Gillespie
- January 24 – Sue & Jeff Meinholz
- January 25 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- January 26 – Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
- January 27 – John Glader
- January 30 – Fred Prindle
- January 31 – Mike Arendarczyk

2022 Financial Contribution Statements are available for pickup outside the fellowship hall. Any statements not picked up by 1/29/23 will be mailed. If you have any questions regarding the information on your statement, please contact Linda Ploog (lkploog@gmail.com 612.616.5657).

Charge Conference 12/11/22

Call to Order: Cynthia Williams

Opening Prayer: Pr. Chris Kneen Presentation of pastoral compensation package: Andy Wilkerson (Lay Leader) Motion to approve compensation package, passed 2022 Annual Budget: Verna Hultman (Finance Chair) Good savings/ checking, clean on apportionments. Some ministries on hold. \$19,702 over estimated income. Motion to approve budget, passed Election of new officers/committee members: Terry Kopp (Ad Council Chair) Church Council: Terry Kopp re-elected Chair Adult Discipleship: Rebecca Ervasti elected Chair Outreach: Cheryl Lecy elected Chair SPRC: Angel Rempel Ewert joined Trustees: Four members renewed Foundation: Cindy Keesee joined Memorials: Bob Determan joined Motion to approve changes, passed Adjourn: Cynthia Williams



Foundation
Statement
to Congregation
2022

The church’s foundation was created in 1983 as a separate working partner of the church. It has its own yearly tax exemption and it is audited separately. Its original purpose is stated “to operate for the religious, charitable , benevolent, and educational purpose of our church.” We have adopted the mission statement as “to direct funds toward initiatives that support personal enrichment of its church family and community, thus moving toward a more Christ-centered life.”

Our board of directors requires 6-9 members and needs a quorum of 5 to accept or reward funding. Applications for funding are required and are available through the church office. In the past few years, we have provided scholarships [10- \$1000 scholarships this year], audio visual enhancements of \$10,000.00 this year, support to the youth through camp funding, tech equipment for the pastor and youth, and additions to the pastor’s discretionary funds. One of our focuses for the upcoming year is to more closely define our scholarship selection system. We meet at a minimum of 4 times a year. We would love to add to our team.



Happy Birthday!!!

Andy Wilkerson.....January 9

Chris Kneen January 9

Tom Ervasti.....January 14

Pete Olson.....January 18

Peter Leadholm.....January 22

Bruce Heilig.....January 25

Wendy Vanderwerf January 27

Lila Leadholm.....January 31

Teen Challenge
Choir Concert



Proverbs 22:17
“A merry heart does good like medicine”

Discipleship 101: Using the 12 steps to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work of Sanctification - Thursdays, 7 pm. January 5th to February 16th.

The 12 steps have been used successfully for almost 100 years in the context of substance abuse treatment. Please join us as we discuss the steps, their Biblical origins, and apply them to our Christian walk. The only requirement for attendance is a willingness to admit we aren't perfect, and a desire to grow spiritually. This study will be team-taught by Nancy Thacker and Bret RempelEwert. Feel free to reach out with questions.

Puzzles, Pie, and Potato Soup

Join us Saturday, February 11th, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, at Lindstrom First UMC for our 12th annual Puzzles, Pie and Potato Soup competition. There will be food, fun and prizes! See Adrienne or Angela to register your team or watch for a link on the church website in coming weeks. \$20 for a team of 4 people to register. If you would like to help by donating 1 lb. or more of cooked bacon or pies, please let Angela or Adrienne know.



Thank you to all the volunteers that worked so hard to make this Christmas so wonderful.



Church Council Meeting

December 20, 2022

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

The December meeting was opened with a devotional from Cheryl Lecy

Annual Scheduled Committee Report: Sunday Morning Experience (SME) • Terry Keesee provided the report for SME:

SME Committee Annual Report

December 20, 2022

Pastor Chris, Terry Keesee, Char A., Cindy Kopp, Dorothy L., Bret R., and Sonny S.

The Sunday Morning Experience Committee (SME) had their first initial meeting on September 7th of this year. We are currently comprised of 6 committee members and Pastor Chris. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

The committee was formed at the suggestion of the Church Ad Council. Its intent is to help to deliver a positive Sunday morning experience for our congregation, our Sunday Service participants, and our tech teams. Suggestions are made to improve our Sunday Services from weekly email observations from our committee members and from any input that we receive from the congregation. Some of these suggestions have involved the reformatting of our Sunday bulletin, changes to audio or video formatting, visual arts suggestions, and our hospitality needs.

We have made some small improvements over the last few months to the mechanics of our service, and we are continuing to slowly adjust as we move forward.

If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the SME, please contact one of us!

Methodist denomination pending division plan, schedule, assignments

- Outline resources available: Disaffiliation packet, videos, comparison charts
- Lay out steps 1-4 (formal request to conference, discernment process, conference process, disaffiliation agreement)
- Assign team to steer process: team will be ad council
- Critically assess our current health: divided up questions based on committees with knowledge/expertise. Questions to be completed prior to next meeting (committees to submit answers to Terry Kopp)
- Vote to proceed or not: Council voted to proceed with discernment process
- Discernment process helps us discover who we are as a Church, it does not mean we have decided to disaffiliate.
- All current members will vote on whether to disaffiliate or not; it is not a council decision.
- If you are NOT a current member, but would like to become one prior to the vote, please reach out to Pr. Chris, he will be holding a new member class. If you aren't sure if you are a member, please reach out to Erin in the office.

The following committee reports were submitted prior to the council meeting; minutes approve during the meeting .

Trustees

The trustees did not meet this month will meet in January, one thing new the trustees are going to adopt:

Due to liability issues the Trustees are going to be monitoring the 2 refrigerators and freezer in the kitchen any items with a past due date will be removed, any items put into the refrigerators or freezer without a date on when it was placed in refrigerators or freezer will also be removed, the Trustees will be checking refrigerators and freezer at least once a month.

SPRC

A. Chapter 7 OLD Business

- Children’s Ministry Leader
- Cottage Meetings - Place Holder
- Worship Committee Leader
- SPRC Open Position - Angela Rumble-Ewert
- Annual SPRC Feedback Form - Review - Complete

B. NEW Business

- Church Annual Charge Conference
- Worship Leader Vacancy

Missions

In November 2022 First UMC donated \$148 to Voice of the Martyrs. This amount is enough to sponsor 24 Bibles to people in persecuted area s. The mission focus in December is Heifer International. The mission for January will be Union Gospel Mission. The missions team will meet Sunday January 8 at 10:15am to discuss our church mission vision and giving opportunities for 2023.

Finance Committee

Attendees: Verna Hultman, Lloyd Jones, Linda Ploog, Cindy Anderson

I. Review Statements

- A. Statement of Financial Position –Current checkbook balance steady throughout the year. YTD apportionments paid.
- B. Statement of Activities – We are steady for the year with some month to month fluctuation. Overall looking good for this time of the year. The \$7,500 grant remains allocated to account 404. The money remains targeted for Childrens Ministry position.
- C. Dedicated Accounts – HELP program has received cash donations in 2022. Question will be passed to SPRC for possible allocation. Open item for December meeting

II. New Business

- A. Financial Control Policy – needs update to reflect: Dedicated accounts, Tithe.ly, and Offering Counter procedures. Will be reviewed at December meeting after budget work is complete.
- B. Tithly account access – completed an admin email and limit admin access to secretary.
- C. Brinks – credit account available for members to pick up supplies. Lloyd will check with Brinks to add a password access. Will be reviewed at December meeting.
- D. Budget – completed final preparation for Ad Council submission November 15th.
- E. Key areas for increases:
 - a) Utilities
 - b) Insurance
 - c) Pastoral compensation

A Question of Affiliation

Since its founding the Methodist church in the Chisago Lakes area has been affiliated with a Methodist denomination. The country’s denominations have divided and merged at various points in history, but we are currently (since 1968) known as the “United Methodist Church.” T

here are other denominations in the United States that are “methodist” or “Wesleyan” in their theology and doctrine. There are also “independent” churches that may be considered to have similar doctrines and practices. First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom MN, has always carried a denominational affiliation with the predominant methodist denomination of the country.

Most of us have become aware that the “United Methodist” denomination has experienced some disagreement over doctrine for a number of years. That is primarily illustrated by the subject of the church’s teaching on human sexuality. Consequently a new methodist denomination has been formed, and allowances for churches to change denominational affiliation have been created. The new denomination is known as the “Global Methodist Church.”

Methodist churches, including ours, are faced with a decision about future affiliation. Should we be United? Should we be Global? Should we be independent or other? We did not necessarily ask for this issue to be placed in our control at this time, but it’s here. Our United Methodist leadership has allowed, and encouraged decisions about future affiliation to be made at the local level. That is both a blessing (we have control of our destiny), and a burden (it will take work to sort out our options).

The purpose of this article is to inform all that this situation is before us. More importantly the Administrative Council wants you to know that we are hard at work attending to the question. We are following a rigorous process, with guidance from the Minnesota conference and our District Superintendent, to inform and engage the congregation, complete a thorough discernment process for the whole church, and come to a decision point within the next year. There are some time constraints outside our control so the Ad Council members have been asked to step into an elevated level of commitment to accomplish this, along with the ongoing ministries and tasks of the church.

More information will be coming, and all of you will be asked for input, support, prayers and attention. Please bring your questions to me, Pastor Chris or an Ad Council or committee member. Perhaps soon we can compile a Frequently Asked Question resource around this topic.

Thank you, Terry Kopp Administrative Council Chair