

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2023 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | PO BOX 688 | 651-257-4306

LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG | PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:



380 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 February. 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 at zoeempowers.org

History:

1972: Methodist denomination adopts language about gay marriage and ordination of gay clergy into the Book of Discipline. Every general conference since has seen debate by progressives, centrists and traditionalists.

2019: Factions agree to an “amicable” division to be ratified at general conference in 2020.

2020: Covid happens. General conferences cancelled until 2024. Support for the “amicable” agreement breaks down. The pathway for churches to leave the UMC with their property and minimal financial cost is set to sunset on December 31, 2023

2022, Spring: Traditionalists start a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church pledging to keep the language of marriage and ordination as it has been from the start.

2022, Fall: FUMC determines the 1/31/2023 deadline could potentially work against the wishes of our congregation. DS supports a discernment process (labeled a “disaffiliation” process) to uncover the true desires of our congregation over this issue, our future, and our denomination preference.

2023: FUMC Ad Council toils on background information for our congregation to discuss the situation, ask questions, understand options and reach some conclusion.

Next step: Ad Council announces discernment process for congregation with church meetings set for 2/12/23, 2/19/23, 2/26/23 and possibly beyond.

Church Events

Feb 1 - Sunday Morning	7pm
Feb 6 - Worship Committee	10am
Feb 8 - Outreach	7pm
Feb 11 - Puzzle Pie & Potato Soup	6-8:30pm
Feb 12- Info Q&A - Global/Traditional	10:15am
Feb 13- Worship Comm	10am
Feb 14 - Trustees SPRC	6:30pm 7pm
Feb 15 - Adult Ed.	7pm
Feb 19 - Info Q&A - UMC	10:15am
Feb 20- Worship Committee	10am
Feb 21 - Finance Council	6pm 7pm
Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday Children's Ed	7pm
Feb 26 - Full Congregational meeting	10:15am
Feb 27- Worship Comm	10am
Feb 28 - Memorials	10:30am

No Sunday School

Feb 12, Feb 19, & Feb 26

Due to Affiliation
Discernment Meetings

*The Lord Bless you
and keep you; the
Lord make his face
shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and
give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26



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

Confirmation Fun!!



Meals on Wheels – Route 2

February 2023

February 1 – Greg McCarthy

February 2 – Jim & Joyce Stafki

February 3 – Mike Arendarczyk

February 6 – Joan & Phil DeMunck

February 7 – Cindy Kopp

February 8 – Carol Carlson

February 9 – Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

February 10 – Jack Danielson &
Gary Gerke

February 13 – Joan & Phil DeMunck

February 14 – Grace Schmidt &
Erma Broecker

February 15 – Fred Prindle

February 16 – Dick Berglund &
Wally Ostlie

February 17 – Dick Berglund &
Wally Ostlie

February 20 – Michelle Gillespie

February 21 – Michelle Gillespie

February 22 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy

February 23 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy

February 24 – Mike Arendarcyk

February 27 – Bonnie Bielicki

February 28 – Bonnie Bielicki

A Question of Affiliation Part two

Methodist churches, including ours, are faced with a decision about future denominational affiliation. Should we be United Methodist? Should we be Global Methodist? Should we be independent or other?

See the sidebar for a brief history describing how we arrived at this point and why now. A second side bar “Ford vs Fred” is an analogy that attempts to simplify the situation to create better understanding.

First UMC has launched the process to engage in discernment over this issue. This should ideally involve our entire congregation. Following two informational meetings and one or more sessions of structured discussion our congregation may determine that it is proper to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination. If so, that would require a two thirds (2/3) vote of church members present and voting at an official church conference. If we arrive at such a vote it will not likely happen before March of this year. All members will be notified and absent members will be allowed to participate via Zoom.

If the discernment process leads to a strong leaning to remain in the United Methodist denomination no vote will be necessary.

Schedule

1/27/2023: Letter to the entire congregation announcing the discernment process

2/12/2023: Sunday 10:15 AM Meeting #1. Information and Q and A with Global Methodist (Traditionalist) representative Rev. Wesley Gabel

2/19/2023: Sunday 10:15 AM Meeting #2. Information and Q and A with United Methodist representative.

2/26/2023: Sunday 10:15 AM Meeting #3. Full congregation meeting for structured discussion to hear from everyone and discern our best path forward.

March 2023: More discernment meetings if needed. Follow up communication from leadership if needed to gain everyone's input. Possibly unofficial straw poll to guide next steps. If indicated, a call for church conference to proceed with official vote on disaffiliation.

All meetings will have Zoom access. Email (office@lindstrommethodist.org) the church office one week before each meeting to get details on accessing the link.

Hopefully it is clear that First UMC leadership is making every effort to include everyone in this very important decision. Please seriously consider your role as a participant in this church. Our best decision requires full engagement.

Council recommendation

Videos endorsed by our conference and the GMC present point and counterpoint discussion in plain language. 12 short videos can be viewed in 3 hours. Watch these prior to our upcoming meetings. Links can be found on the church website lindstrommethodist.org under “Links” .

Traditionalist/ Global argument: <https://goodnewsmag.org/methodisms-great-divides-video-series/>

United Methodist argument: <https://proudtobeumc.com/>.

Terry Kopp, Administrative Council Chair

Ad Council – January 17, 2023

Attendees: Boni Stockel, Linda Ploog, Lloyd Jones, Terry Kopp, Dari Ferguson, Terry Keese, Cheryl Lecy, Andy Wilkerson, Rebecca Ervasti

Devotions: Linda Ploog – Pilgrims Progress excerpt.
Committee report – Terry Kopp (Ad Council)

New Business:

Worship Coordinate/Worship Planning position – currently filled through February with Terry Keese and Cindy Kopp. Looking for someone starting March 1. Pastor Chris will be working a rotation for the time being. The current budget is \$25/Sunday for worship coordinator. Anyone interested can contact the SPRC for more information.

Trustee Committee – the committee needs to vote for their own chair. Lloyd Jones has been voted in for 2023 for a one-year term.

Discernment Process Update: Terry contacted the conference for assistance. The goal is to get as much information as possible regarding the discussion surrounding the United Methodist Church and Global Methodist Church. Cindy Gregorson is available to meet with the Ad Council Tuesday, January 24th at 7 PM. We may be able to use Zoom for folks who may not be able to make it. Terry will confirm tomorrow.

- Terry asked the Ad Council to prepare questions for Cindy's visit. Terry will compile and send the list.

- Brief discussion on membership status. A definition is needed to define active, associate, and affiliate member status.

- Terry reviewed the 32 item discernment questionnaire answers submitted by various committees.

- The Ad Council will continue the discernment process and plan for Cindy's visit next week.

- Terry will put together articles for the monthly newsletter and bulletin with supporting information.

The goal of the discernment process is to create a consensus to move the church in a common direction.

Committee report:

Administrative Council 1/2023

The purpose of the Administrative council is to provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference

The council acts on behalf of the congregation's decisions made annually at the charge conference. Throughout the year the council carries the authority to oversee the workings of the church within the structure approved at the charge conference.

Our Ad Council meets monthly on the third Tuesday. Meeting requirement is minimally once per quarter. The council is made up of 13 members currently. 8 committee chairs, lay leader, recording secretary, at large position, chair person, and the pastor.

Nearly all church administrative business comes before the council for approval. There are a few exceptions, particularly regarding staff employment and some trustee matters. Most of the business actions regarding attention to all the church ministries are delegated to appropriate church committees with oversight approval by the council. Specific ministries cited in the book of discipline include education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Also outreach ministries including church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women. Finally witness ministries such as evangelism, sharing stories of Christian experience, communications, Lay Servant Ministries and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.

Committee Report Administrative Council Continued

Required duties of the council also include a) reviewing membership; b) filling interim vacancies between sessions of the annual charge conference; c) establishing the budget; d) recommending to the charge conference the salary and other remuneration of the pastor and staff; e) reviewing and reporting for approval to the charge conference the housing provisions for the pastor.

This past year we have accomplished the creation of an organizational committee structure to efficiently carry out the administrative functions of the council, with hope to free the council to put greater effort into evaluation of our ministries and visioning for the future. A great challenge for this coming year is our immersion in the administration of serious denominational concerns, which threaten to strain our creative abilities.

My personal thanks to all the administrative council members who have committed to meeting these duties as well as possible.

Terry Kopp

January Committee Reports

Memorial - No Report

Foundation - No Report

Children's Ministry - No Report

Adult discipleship - No Report

SME - No Report

Trustees

Present: Lloyd Jones, Irv Lecy, Gary Gerke, Jack Danielson, John Thorvaldson

1) Will look at cleaning the hallway carpet, fellowship carpet this spring.

2) Trustees purchased new TV for the church lounge cost \$319.00

3) Lloyd Jones was elected Chair Person for Trustees for 2023.

4) New carpet has been ordered for the Nursery, funds coming from Memorials.

Finance Committee

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

Review Statements

- Statement of Financial Position – Current checkbook balance steady throughout the year. YTD apportionments paid.
- 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 Children's Ministry position.
- Dedicated Accounts – Proceeds from the Chili Cook Off brought in over \$1,600 for the Youth Camp/Mission fund. \$335 added to the HELP account bringing the balance to \$4,965.

New Business

- Financial Control Policy – needs update to reflect: Dedicated accounts, Tithe.ly, and Offering Counter procedures. Will be reviewed at January meeting.
- Tithe account access – completed an admin email and limit admin access to secretary. Need update to financial control policy.
- Brinks – credit account available for members to pick up supplies. Lloyd will check with Brinks to add a password access. Open item from December meeting.
- PayPal – Outreach requested a PayPal account be started. Assigned to Linda/Lloyd and Verna.

Outreach Committee Minutes

Present: Tim Ploog, Terry Keesee, Gary Berglund, Keith Green, Pastor Chris

1. Discussed Wild Game Feed – 2 weeks away, Pastor Chris will ask Erin G to Fill out Communication Form and pass on to Cheryl Lecy by Monday January 16th, 2023. - Completed
2. Discussed gift baskets to be given to new visitors. Erin T is willing to give us new resident addresses- send out postcard about church to new residents. New Visitors will be given by greeters, a gift (coffee mug with logo, ground coffee, candy, and contact information for church events).
 - A. Tim Ploog- will look into mugs
 - B. Cheryl will ask about new addresses list and ask Erin T or Erin G to design generic card
 - C. Tim Ploog will ask (... ?)
 - D. Cheryl will mock up a cup
3. Puzzles Pies and Potato Soup was not in the Lakes Advertisement. Adrienne is aware of this and they are working to remedy the situation.
4. Pastor Chris will talk to Erin G, will email completed forms to Cheryl L and Erin T and other communication/advertisement people.
5. Outreach Communication Event Form should be filled out by Cheryl Lecy for Easter Breakfast
6. OCEF should be filled out by Katie Leadholm for Easter Carnival
7. OCEF should be filled out by Cindy Kopp, Cyndi Keesee, Wendy Braski for Women's brunch
8. Erin G to send forms with Event filled in top of form.

Missions:

In December our congregation donated \$338 to Heifer International. The mission focus for January is Union Gospel Mission. The missions team will meet after church on Sunday January 8 to discuss our missions vision and goals for 2023. We will also look at which organizations we will be supporting as a church and discuss potential volunteer opportunities.

Also the 2022 giving schedule has been posted on the church bulletin board for transparency with the congregation. For 2023 missions focuses the missions team had some discussion about potentially substituting the second Family Pathways (August) with an organization that supports sanctity of life (crisis pregnancy support, etc) but more research is needed. I will keep you informed of any changes (if any) as they arise.

SPRC

January 3rd; held virtually due to snow

OLD Business

- Children's Ministry Leader
- Cottage Meetings - Placeholder
- SPRC Open Position - Welcome Angela Rumble -Ewert
- Annual Church Charge Conference Review

NEW Business

- Discernment Process and SPRCs Role
- Worship Leader Vacancy
- Rotation for Check-Ins

Ford vs Fred

Initially presented in Sunday morning service 1/22/2023

Henry T Carman drives a Ford F150 pickup truck. He also owns a Ford Bronco and a Ford Escape. In his garage he has a classic 1969 Ford Mustang. Henry is a Ford man and comes from a long line of Ford men and women. His Great Grandfather is said to have met Henry Ford himself.

Henry loves cars and trucks. He has driven other makes, Chevys, GMCs, but has found them wanting. He is a Ford man. 25 years ago Henry and eleven other partners acquired equal shares of a local auto dealership and they have been selling Fords exclusively ever since.

In recent years the Ford line has put out a few hybrid vehicles and an all electric car. Henry's dealership has sold only a few. Six months ago the Ford corporation announced they would no longer manufacture any internal combustion engine vehicles, not even hybrids. "We are going all electric," read the press release. Two months later a group of minority shareholders started a new vehicle manufacturing company which they named Fred Motors. They pledge to make all the classic Ford models, Mustang, F series pickups, Broncos, maybe even an Astrovan and Taurus. They will all have internal combustion engines.

At that point Henry Carman and his 11 partners got together and began considering options. It turns out that they rent their dealership property from Ford and the manufacturer has said they have a grace period of this year only to purchase the property for a reasonable fee if they intend to change over to become a Fred Motors dealer. If they continue to sell exclusively Ford models then the arrangement does not need to change.

The twelve partners soon discovered that they were of varying opinion. Henry himself realized he was not primarily a Ford man, he was really an internal combustion man so he favored using the buyout and switching to Fred Motors. Mary, head of sales argued for staying with Ford, "because we will sell more vehicles with them." Jimmy the service manager said he could go either way, he just wants as little disruption as possible. He then adds, "Why can't we sell both Fords and Freds?"

All twelve were distressed as they realized this was an important decision that carried some urgency. They also understood that this could disrupt their partnership even though this was not of their own doing. Dylan, the parts manager sighed. "Oh, the times they are a changin'"



**The many gifts
of Queen of
Sheba**

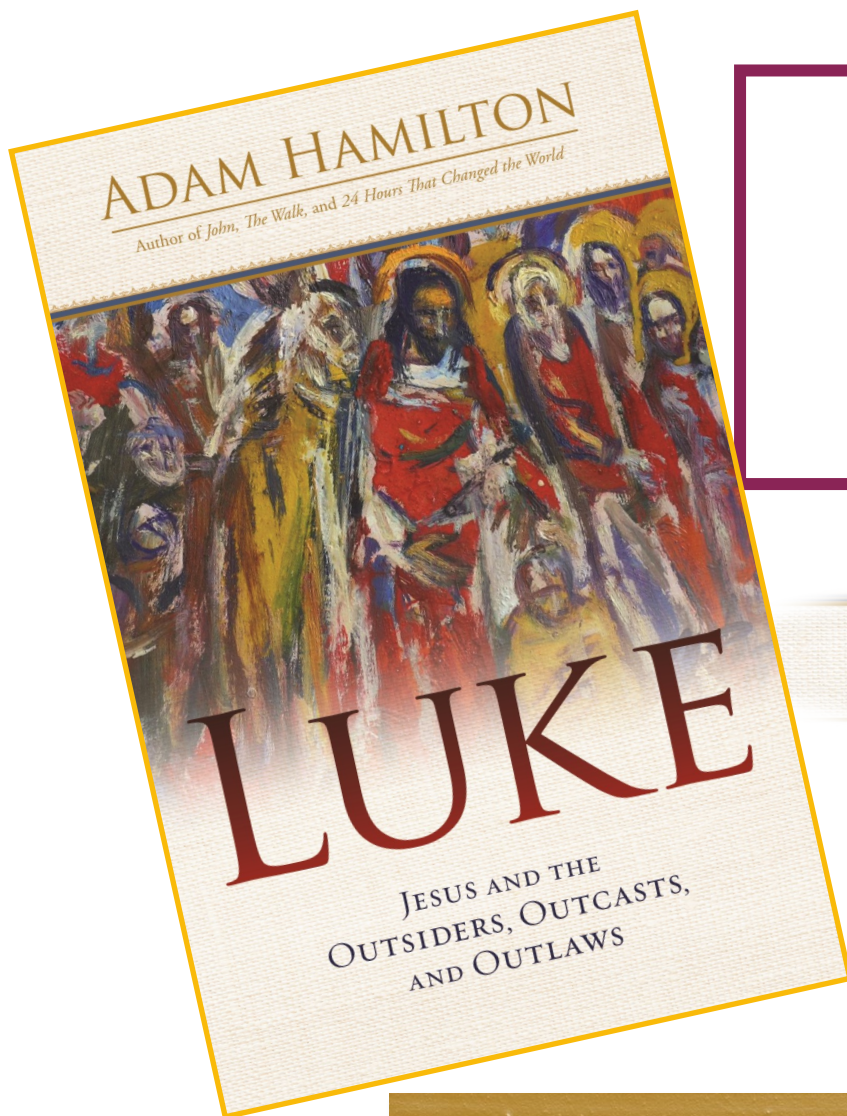


Kid's Church

**Join us for fun activities and
lessons! Bring a friend and
share Christ's love!**

10:00am

After Worship



The Gospel of Luke paints a compelling picture of Jesus. Luke's unique stories show us Jesus's concern for the lowly, the outcasts, the picked on and pushed around. Join us for a study of Luke to deepen your faith and strengthen your commitment to Jesus over the next six weeks.

Please Join Us!

For more information about our Lenten Bible Study please contact
Rebecca Ervasti
rebeccaervasti@gmail.com or the
Church Office for more details!

LUKE

“He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly” (Luke 1:52). These lines from Mary's Magnificat proclaim the theme of Luke's Gospel.

*How is God lifting you up?
How is God calling you to lift up others?*

JESUS AND THE OUTSIDERS, OUTCASTS, AND OUTLAWS

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.



New Members:

Paul & Barbara Robinson

Greg & Jessica Anderson

Debby Lee

Bible Study App-

Did you know you have the power of Bible study at your finger tips? Please see

Ruth Johnsen for assistance in setting up the new app on your phone.



Offering Counter Needed

Counting the offering takes about 45 minutes once/month following the service. You would count with another person. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact Linda Ploog lkploog@gmail.com or 612.616.5657

