

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

JUNE 2024 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | PO BOX 688 | 651-257-4306

LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG | PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:



Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

Freedom from addiction starts here.

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge assists men, women and teens in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life-controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. They offer many services including outpatient counseling, licensed treatment, long-term recovery, legal services and prevention education.

They offer effective and affordable programs throughout Minnesota at all age levels no matter level or stage of addiction. In an environment that fosters love, trust, and respect, clients uncover the root causes of their addictive tendencies and work with dedicated staff to create new patterns of healthy living.

We are privileged to host the Teen Challenge Choir on Sunday June 16th. Clients from the long term program will share their testimonies, sing worship songs and fellowship with our congregation. Please join us for brunch following the service for an opportunity to connect with and encourage them personally. Contact Scott and Wendy Braski if you would like to help with the brunch. Your financial gift to missions during the month of June will also go to support this important ministry.

CHURCH EVENTS

June 2	3rd Grade Bibles
June 3	Scholarship Due Date
June 9	Graduation Sunday June Birthday Sunday
June 11	Worship Team 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm SPRC 7:00pm
June 13	Outreach 11am
June 14	Fun Night! Live Music! 5-8pm
June 16	MnTC Choir and Brunch
June 18	Finance 6:30pm Church Council 7:00pm
June 24	FUMC to serve Community Meal 3:30-6pm
June 23	Lindstrom Beach Baptism 10:30am

Meals on Wheels - Route 2 June 2024

Coordinator: Bonnie Bielcki 651-470-8806

June 3 - Paul Robinson

June 4 - Carol Carlson

June 5 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

June 6 - Jeff & Sue Meinholz

June 7 - Duane & Debby Lee

June 10 - Michelle Gillespie

June 11 - Bonnie Bielicki

June 12 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

June 13 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

June 14 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

June 17 - Greg McCarthy

June 18 - Greg McCarthy

June 19 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostile

June 20 - Grace Schmidt

June 21 - Fred & Barb Prindle

June 24 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

June 25 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

June 26 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostile

June 27 - Carol Carlson

June 28 - Duane & Debby Lee

Thank you for volunteering!

Happy Birthday!

Irve Lecy.....June 3

Jan Gravelle June 8

Cheryl Hultquist

Auchterlonie.....June 9

Ellie Stegmeir.....June 14

Pam Bates.....June 21

Brett Nelson June 27

Graduation Sunday



Last day to submit June 5th

Do you have a graduate? We want to celebrate the accomplishments of all those who are graduating! High School, Tech Programs, Colleges, Certificates, any graduations we want to congratulate you on all your hard word! Please email the church at office@lindstrommethodist.org with the name, picture and program of the graduate.

WHAT A MESS!
VBS

FUMC would like to
Welcome all kids
K-5th Grade to join
us for VBS!

August
19th-23rd
9am-12pm

Register Online
Starting July 1st
www.lindstrommethodist.org

First United Methodist Church Lindstrom
30828 Irene Ave Lindstrom, MN 55045
651-257-4306

Redeemed by name
Called by mine
You are mine
Jesus. Redeemer.
Dearest fear

Minnesota Annual
Conference 2024
May 29-30



MAY 2024

Our Community
Church making
a difference!



BOARD GAME NIGHT



FRIDAY MAY 10TH

DOORS OPEN AT: 05:30PM
DINNER SERVED AT: 06:00 PM
ACTIVITY STARTS AT: 07:00PM

FUMC Fun
Night!!



Go
Wolves!



Mark
your
Calendar!

Join us in JUNE!



Schools
Out for
Summer

JUNE 14TH
5pm-8pm
at the
FUMC
pavilion



Come & join us and
celebrate that school is
out for summer!
Fun for all age!
All are welcome!

Live Music, Food, and Yard
Games.

First United Methodist Church - Lindstrom
30828 Irene Ave Lindstrom, MN 55045



JUNE 14 - 5-8PM FREE WILL OFFERING TAKEN

First United Methodist Church
-30828 Irene Ave -Lindstrom, MN

Bring your lawn chair and be ready to be entertained! Let's celebrate
the kick off to summer! Dinner will be served at 5:30pm

Volunteers Needed

Community Meal Service

Opportunity: on Monday June

24th our Church will be serving

the Monday night community

meal at Zion Lutheran Church. We will need 14

volunteers and 14 desserts. There are many

different jobs to be done, some are sit down;

serving salad, desserts, fruit, buns & wrapping

silverware. Serving beverages, hot food and

bussing tables, many opportunities to help.

Please arrive at 3:30 to get your assignment and

help set up, The meal is served from 4pm-6pm.

We appreciate your help in clean up following

the meal, usually finishing by 6:15pm.

Remember to wear a hat.

Please check the sign up sheet in the fellowship

hall, any questions please call Dorothy at 651-

260-3048.



Holy God, we ask for Your help, Your power, Your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out Your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that You have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask You to do that. We ask You to give us the courage to change. We ask that You give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Your people in all we say and do. Amen. ~ UMC-discipleship

Summary of key decisions from the postponed 2020 General Conference

By: Christa Meland UMC Minnesota

Background info about General Conference

General Conference is The United Methodist Church's top legislative body. It typically meets every four years but was postponed in 2020, so this gathering in 2024 was actually the postponed 2020 General Conference. Each annual conference is allotted a specific number of seated/voting delegates based on its number of professing members. Minnesota has two delegates, both of whom were elected by members of the 2019 Minnesota Annual Conference Session: one clergy (Rev. Carol Zaagsma, Good Samaritan UMC in Edina and incoming assistant to the bishop for connectional ministries), and one lay person (Dave Nuckols, Minnetonka UMC). In total, there were approximately 740 delegates from 133 annual conferences. Bishops preside at General Conference but have no voice or vote.

LGBTQ+ inclusion

- The United Methodist Church's [longtime condemnation of homosexuality—which sparked a half-century of conflict—is now no more](#). By a vote of 523 to 161 after about an hour and a half of debate, General Conference delegates eliminated the 52-year-old assertion in the denomination's Social Principles that "the practice of homosexuality... is incompatible with Christian teaching." In the same vote, delegates affirmed "marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith [adult man and adult woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age] into a union of one another and into deeper relationship with God and the religious community."
- The United Methodist Church [removed a 40-year ban on the ordination of gay clergy](#). Delegates approved this decision by a 93 percent margin, without debate. As of the conclusion of General Conference, the denomination's Book of Discipline will no longer include a statement saying: "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."
- United Methodist pastors no longer face potential penalties for officiating at same-sex weddings or being in a same-sex relationship themselves. Delegates struck down a ban that prohibited clergy from officiating and churches from hosting "homosexual unions."
- Delegates voted to protect the rights of pastors to choose which weddings to perform or not perform by adopting the statement: "No clergy at any time may be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple, including same-sex couples. All clergy have the right to exercise and preserve their conscience when requested to perform any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple."

- Delegates voted to eliminate parts of the Traditional Plan, which was approved at the 2019 General Conference and strengthened the denomination’s longtime restrictions on same-sex marriage and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy. For example, delegates removed of a ban on annual conferences and denominational agencies from giving United Methodist funds to any “gay caucus group” or using funds to “promote the acceptance of homosexuality.” Instead, the provision now says annual conferences and agencies should honor the denomination’s commitment not to reject lesbian or gay members. Delegates also voted to lift a ban placed on boards of ordained ministry from considering candidates without evaluating whether they are “self-avowed practicing” gay people, and to strike the requirement that bishops rule gay candidates ineligible.

What do these decisions mean for us in Minnesota? In 2019, the Minnesota Annual Conference [named the inclusion of all persons, including LGBTQ+ persons, as one of our four core values](#) and we have been living out that value for the past five years. For example, we have already been evaluating candidates for ministry on the basis of [nine leadership characteristics alone](#)—and that will not change. But the General Conference votes are important because they bring the denomination into closer alignment with the ways we are already living and leading in Minnesota.

Other Key Decisions

- Delegates approved a series of petitions related to regionalization, which has become United Methodist shorthand for a package of legislation that would restructure the denomination. Under the legislation, the U.S. and each central conference—church regions in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines—would become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, for more missional effectiveness. Currently, only central conferences have the authority to adapt the Discipline as missional needs and different legal contexts require. To be ratified, the regionalization plan will need at least a two-thirds total vote of annual conference lay and clergy voters, so this item will come to the Minnesota Annual Conference Session for a vote.

- Delegates voted to [grant sacramental authority to deacons](#). Deacons can now administer baptism and Holy Communion without having to obtain special permission to do so. Previously, a bishop could authorize a deacon to preside at a specific celebration of the sacraments and/or in a specific ministry context. But today’s vote changes the language in The Book of Discipline so that such authorization is no longer required. “For the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church and offering the means of grace to the world, the deacon is authorized to preside at the celebration of the sacraments,” the sentence that was changed now reads.



- Delegates passed a petition to welcome “with a spirit of grace” churches that have disaffiliated or withdrawn from The United Methodist Church and wish to return. The legislation stipulates that every annual conference shall have a policy of re-affiliation for the churches seeking to return to the connection, so Minnesota Conference leaders will work to create such a policy.

- Delegates [voted to reduce the portion of church giving requested to fund the general-church budget](#). Minnesota will still set its own apportionment formula, but the bottom line is that U.S. annual conferences will be asked to pay apportionments to the general church that are 38% to 41% lower than what delegates passed at the 2016 General Conference. Also, denomination-wide ministries that rely on those apportionments—including general agencies and episcopal leadership—will need to be budgeted with those cuts in mind.

· Delegates [voted to enter a full-communion partnership with The Episcopal Church](#) after years of dialogue about this possibility. Full communion means each church acknowledges the other as a partner in the Christian faith, recognizes the validity of each other’s baptism and Eucharist, and commits to work together in ministry. Such an agreement also means Episcopalians and United Methodists can share clergy. The agreement still needs the approval of the Episcopalians—which might not happen until 2027.

· Delegates overwhelmingly [approved a new retirement plan for U.S. clergy](#). Called Compass, the plan was conceived and championed by Wespeth, the denomination’s pension and benefits agency. The new Compass plan will mean benefit changes starting Jan. 1, 2026. Unlike previous clergy retirement plans that Wespeth has offered, Compass does not include a lifetime benefit. Instead, Compass is entirely a defined-contribution plan similar to the 401(k) plans most U.S. corporate employees now have. The benefits of clergy who already have retired will not be affected by the plan. Wespeth says the switch to the Compass plan is needed to continue providing reliable and sustainable retirement income.

· Delegates [approved a resolution condemning racial-ethnic discrimination and gender-based violence against Asian Americans](#). It condemns increasing discrimination against racial-ethnic minorities, especially Asian Americans, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It also condemns the violations against religious minorities in India. The resolution calls on annual conferences to urge local churches to be informed and to work against discrimination and gender-based violence.

· Delegates approved a variety of resolutions related to creation care. One resolution calls for every annual conference to name a “caretakers of God’s creation coordinator” who will be responsible for helping the conference develop programs to help it become more ecologically sustainable and to address environmental injustices. Another resolution calls for every local church to create a “green team” to provide people with inspiration, knowledge, encouragement, and practical means for caring for creation and justice. Additional resolutions call on church gatherings to avoid single-use plastics whenever possible and urge churches to conduct annual carbon footprint and/or greenhouse gas emissions audits of their buildings.

· General Conference has issued a heartfelt apology to all who experienced sexual misconduct in The United Methodist Church. On the final day of the denominational gathering, Rev. Gary Graves, secretary of the General Conference, apologized on behalf of the church for the way the denomination has prevented people from being held accountable for sexual misconduct, thus perpetuating harm within local churches and other ministry settings and damaging the United Methodist connection. Submitted by the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the apology was part of a resolution passed in the last hour of General Conference on May 3. The apology statement was read in its entirety during General Conference, and all United Methodist bishops around the world are to read the apology at their own upcoming annual conferences.

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
[122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55404](#)

info@minnesotaumc.org

(612) 870-0058

First United Methodist Church - Lindstrom

Andy Wilkerson

Church Lay Leader

Dorothy Lecy

Ad hoc

Emily Honerbrink

Church Council Chair

Angela RempelEwert

Ad hoc

Tina Sparby

SPRC Chair

First United Methodist Church
30828 Irene Ave.
P.O. BOX 688
Lindstrom, MN 55045

Sent with a prayer to:

(651) 257-4306
lindstrommethodist.org
June 2024



We are here to help!

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

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

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