

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

## DECEMBER 2017

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Sunday, December 10, 2017:

**Birthday Party for Jesus: 12:30 PM**  
**Longest Night Service: 7:00 PM**

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Friday, December 15, 2017

**Deck the Halls: 2:00 PM @ FUMC**

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Sunday, December 17, 2017

### **Carols Of Advent**

The choirs of FUMC will present the message in word and music at the 9:15 AM service.

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Sunday, December 24, 2017

**Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:15 AM**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be at 7:00 PM.



**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25.**  
Merry Christmas! Our Lord is Born!



Sunday, December 31, 2017

**Watchnight Service: 9:00 PM – 12:00 AM**

**WATCHNIGHT  
SERVICE**



### **Prayer Chain Information**

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns*

*National United Methodist*

*Prayer Chain:*

*1-800-251-2468*



## ***PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD***

A promise had been given. Plans and preparations were in full swing. Then came the weather forecast. Maybe the meteorologist was mistaken.

Onward we drove, resisted fiercely by contrary, buffeting gales. Into the hastening darkness, with the sun impatiently diving towards its destination.

A promise had been given. Into the plummeting temperatures and darkness we traveled. We reached that gate, then the cabin door. Thankful to be out of the wind, we stood in zero degrees, our breath spewing clouds with every exhale. We didn't stand, staring too long.

The wood stove stood, quiet and cold, before the fire would roar, all the remains of previous fires needed to be removed. A five gallon bucket was quickly filled with grey powdered lifelessness.

Split birch at the bottom, with five year old split oak on top. In 30 minutes the wood stove was roaring. The stove would be fed continuously, every three hours for two straight days. Upon leaving the cabin, frosty ice slivers would still remain on the outskirts of our sleeping bags.

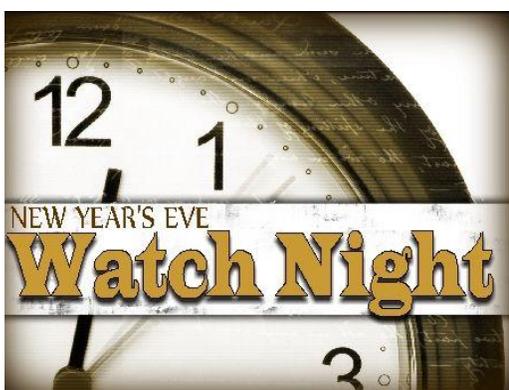
During this Advent and Christmas season we remember a promise we have been given. A promise has been kept. A fire is lit and redeeming radiance has entered our icy world. No amount of frost and frozenness will prevail against the promise. ***Blessings, Pastor Wayne***

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Join us on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 PM for a candle lit worship service. All are welcome!

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Join us on New Year's Eve this year from 9:00 PM-12:00 AM for a Watchnight Service!

We hope this will be the beginning of a new tradition for Fridley UMC as many of our immigrant members, neighbors, and friends eagerly look forward to this traditional time of praying, singing, sharing testimonies, encouraging one another, and gathering as a community to thank God for the year past and look forward to the year ahead.

This will not be a traditional “worship service,” but will be an interactive and exciting time for us to get to know each other better and share our stories for God’s glory. Music, food, fun, and fellowship! Please help us get the word out about this gathering to anyone looking for a safe and uplifting option to ring in the New Year!

## CARING MINISTRIES

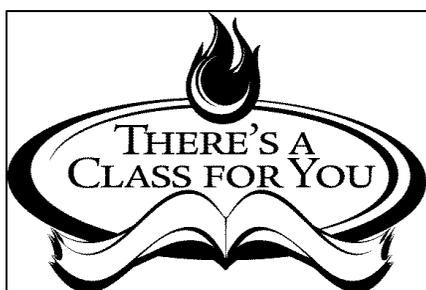


Dates for Stephen Ministers:  
December 10, Longest Night Service

*Please keep our Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they serve in this important ministry.*

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## EDUCATION



### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 10:45 AM. Nursery care is available.

### PASTOR WAYNE’S CLASS:

Is a Confirmation/Discipleship opportunity for everyone from middle school to old school. The time will be from 10:35 - 11:05 AM in the computer room upstairs. Bring your refreshments with you. We will learn to be apprentices of Jesus in his new kingdom living.

**LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS** is a learning opportunity where participants explore current life topics from a faith perspective. This class meets upstairs in the Sunday School room next to the computer room. Come join us.

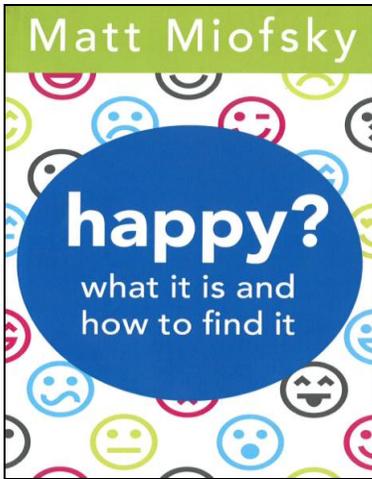
**SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY CLASS** is Bible study class that meets in the far corner of Fellowship Hall. The lessons are based on the Common Lectionary, which often (but not always) correspond with the scripture for our worship service. See you there.

**NURSERY CARE** is available from 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM for children up to age 3. Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Children’s supplies (children’s bulletins, crayons and coloring pages) can be found just outside the back sanctuary doors.

ALSO (mid-week learning opportunity)

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING STUDY** at 9:30 AM.

All are invited to come.



**ADVENT STUDY: 5:30–7:00 PM, Wednesdays:  
November 29, December 6, 13, 20.**

We will be reading and discussing the little book “happy? What it is and how to find it”. 12 books have been ordered. Couples can share. The cost is \$10.00. (Nancy Nehring is serving a light supper – yum!) The author is a United Methodist Minister, Matt Miofsky, a fresh gifted, cutting edge pastor. *Please sign up for this Advent Study.*

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### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 6:30 AM at Keys Cafe on the east side of University Avenue NE near 83rd Street in Spring Lake Park. We eat breakfast at Keys. We take turns leading that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture, story and discussion. We share prayer concerns. The Bible study text that we use is *The New International Lesson Annual*, for which we each make a voluntary annual contribution of about \$20. We keep a free extra copy in the church library for anyone who would like to try out this opportunity. All men are welcome. For more information contact Roger Olson.

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### **A GATHERING FOR GUYS**

*Grit & Spit* will be on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM at the Fridley American Legion; 7365 Central Ave. NE, Fridley. There will be coffee, rolls, and spirited conversation. Hope you all can make it.

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## **MISSIONS**



### **ADVENT MISSION OFFERING**

The Advent Mission Offering will be designated to supporting **Gordon & Ardell Graner's** missionary work and **Habitat for Humanity**. Please refer to the Advent Mission Offering letter that was mailed to your home. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our missions.

December FAMILY TABLE is On!

The past few years we have been unable to have Family Table in December because it was Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This year the fourth Saturday of December is the 23<sup>rd</sup>! Because some of our regulars will be out of town, we will be looking for volunteers. If you have extra family in town that would enjoy serving beverages or doing dishes, they are welcome, so bring them to have a good time! A turkey and potato dinner with mixed vegetables on-the-side will be served.

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**AT THE DONATION STATION** (the bins in the hall near the front doors) we are collecting:

- Batteries (button sized to D cell, no car or computer batteries)
- Used Cell Phones
- Used Eyeglasses for the Lions' Club



### **ROOF FUND**

Over \$50,000 has been raised for the Roof repair including a \$5,000 donation from Rainbow. Thanks to all those that have contributed and we hope, with more contributions, we will meet our goal of \$60,000. As a reminder, mark donations "Roof".

**55+**

### **55+ SINGLES BREAKFAST!**

55+ folks, join us for breakfast at Perkins at 7520 University Ave in Fridley, every *first* Monday of each month at 9:30 AM. This is just a social time – come, relax and enjoy the company of FUMC friends. You order what you want, and pay your own bill!



# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**ADVENT DECORATING:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 AM

Help is needed to adorn our sanctuary and other parts of our church for the Advent Season. We need sanctuary tree assemblers and decorators, help with wreaths, garlands, decorating the lounge, hallways and fellowship hall. Many hands will make the decorating go fast. Thank you!

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You're invited to a party!

**COME CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH!**

**December 10, 2017: 12:30 – 2:00 PM**

In the FUMC Fellowship Hall:

Join us for games, music, fellowship and fun!

*Please bring a baby item to donate to Alexandra House and a side dish to share.*

Sloppy Joes, cupcakes, beverages and fun provided!

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**WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST  
INTO YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT**

On December 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM, the Stephen Ministers of Fridley UMC invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurts with God, and preparing our hearts for Advent. It is a time for each one of us to acknowledge our challenges, concerns and even normal day-to-day happenings.

Our theme is “**Christ is the Light of Christmas**”. Jesus’ star is the light that shines within us. There will be scripture, words of meditation and prayers reflecting Christ’s light that guides our lives. Jesus is a ray of hope in our troubled world.

**Everyone is welcome.** Please invite someone you know who might need assurance of God’s daily presence.

**Jesus will be there for you!**

Looking for some Holiday Cheer?

Come to Fridley United Methodist Church for "Deck the Halls", a performance by Steven Marking (Baritone), JoAnn Funk (Jazz Singer, Pianist), Jeff Brueske (Bass) and Gary Schulte (Violin). They will be performing a Christmas Concert on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, in the sanctuary. Some of you may remember Steven and JoAnn from the Salad Luncheon a couple of years ago. We are fortunate enough to have them come to Fridley to perform for us. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon treat that you won't want to miss.

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### **Carols Of Advent**

The choirs of FUMC will present the message in word and music at the 9:15 AM service Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Invite your friends and family. Join us as we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent.

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## **UMW NEWS**

### **FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Inviting ALL women of Fridley United Methodist Church to the Annual UMW Christmas Potluck.**

The Fridley United Methodist Women will be having our Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Banfill Crossing, 8310 University Ave NE, Fridley. Please join us for a fun evening of good food, great conversation and a little bit of Christmas Carol singing. We will be meeting at FUMC at 6:00 PM to carpool to the location. If you need a ride, please contact Dawn Bushnell.

**RUTH CIRCLE:** December we are excited to join the UMW Christmas Potluck and will reconvene in January.

**NAOMI CIRCLE:** On December 15<sup>th</sup> we will go to Margaret Ekstrum's for lunch. We will meet at the church at 11:00 AM to carpool. Call Pat King by December 11<sup>th</sup> to reserve a chair at Margaret's table.

**HOLIDAY DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:** The UMW December Mission is dedicated to the Stevenson and Hayes Elementary Schools in Fridley. We invite you to make a personal contribution as part of your holiday mission. You may mark your donations as UMW Christmas and place them in the offering plates or in the UMW mailbox.

The Fridley United Methodist Women will be collecting unwrapped items to assist in creating a personalized gift bag for every Walker Methodist Health Center resident this season! Items needed include socks, pocket Kleenex, cookies and crackers, candies and chocolate, sugar -free candy, DVDs and CDs, chapstick and lotion. Please see the complete list on the flyer attached to the collection bin at the front of the church. Donations are needed by 11/30/2017.

### **SOCIAL ACTION:**

United Methodist Women are "**Standing in the Red Zone**" and making offensive plays to Intercept Human Traffickers. We are applying our skills of advocacy and action to capitalize on the weaknesses of those who prey on vulnerable. To symbolize our efforts we will be **BOLD IN RED** and we invite the congregation to **STAND TOGETHER DRESSED IN RED** on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, 2018.

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Please note **America AND ITS GUNS A Theological Expose** by James E. Atwood has been recently added to the church library.

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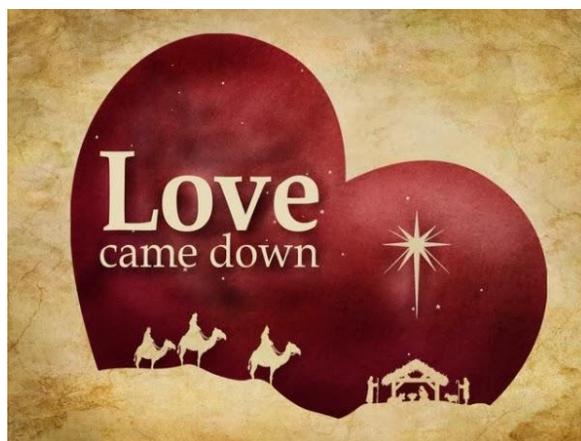


THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU,

To everyone who helped us with Jean Saxton's Memorial Lunch on Saturday afternoon, October 28<sup>th</sup> by contributing food, or helping with setup, serving, cleanup, reset and tablecloth laundering. Many of you did double duty that day since you helped with Family Table earlier in the day. You are deeply appreciated. God is Good!

*Leone, Jinny & The Funeral Reception Committee*

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.