

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

January 2018

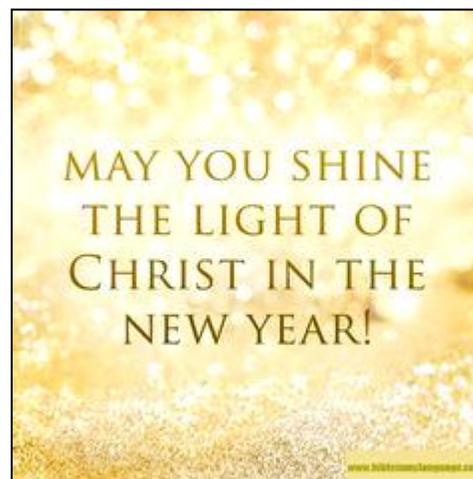
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December 31st, 2017
Watchnight Service



Happy New Year



January 7, Epiphany Sunday



January 28, UMW Sunday
9:15 AM Worship Service



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns*

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Happy New Year's Blessings from the One whose mercies are new every morning and who makes us new creations throughout eternity.

Many would agree that we are living in a time of great consequence and uncertainty. We observe the perpetual crisis of confidence, purpose and identity that roil and boil over in our culture. It seems that we have entered a new stage of drifting away from the things that used to hold us together, to a hyper-drivenness that divides and dissolves our bonds of civility, community and charity. In our current culture, faith is optional, truth is relative, ethics are personal, morality is whatever I need it to be in this fleeting moment. As Christians, let us reclaim what is essential, what is eternal and what is communal. Circles of trust are fragmenting, separating into a series of descending circles that strangely resemble Dante's description of hell. Into this conundrum, the living Christ comes to us and declares "come unto me". Without the cure of the Good Shepherd, societal and self-implosions are guaranteed to accelerate. There is a phrase uttered by one of the Mafia bosses in a Godfather movie, "This is the business we have chosen". I would much prefer that we remember the chosen words of Jesus, "I must be about my Father's business". Let us continue to grow in our understanding of God's purpose for Fridley UMC. Let us be in the business of being made new daily in the Lord's amazing grace. Let us make new friends and invite new friends to become apprentices of Jesus with us. Let us serve in ways that bring hope and healing into our broken world that "God so loves". Let us reclaim our inheritance as children of the light.

Trinity Blessings in 2018.

Pastor Wayne

CARING MINISTRIES



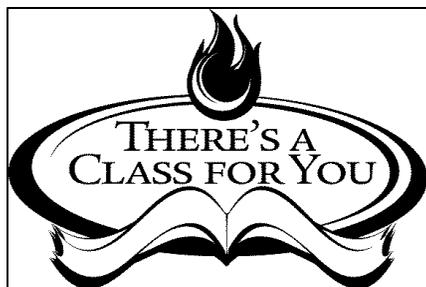
Dates for Stephen Ministers:

January 23, 7:00 PM, Support, Welcome Bob and Sandy Locker

February 27, 7:00 PM, Continuing Education – Supervision

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

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.

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.

A GATHERING FOR GUYS

Grit & Spit will be on Saturday, January 6th 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.

MISSIONS



January Mission – UMCOR’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program

Our mission focus for January is UMCOR’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (WASH). If you’ve ever had your water service interrupted, you quickly realize how reliant we are on our water supplies; to flush the toilet, to take a quick drink of water, to cook our food, to wash our clothes, to water our lawns. For many parts of the world, having a source of clean water is a luxury and not something to be taken for

granted. In fact, 668 million people around the world don’t have a reliable source of clean drinking water and even more lack access to water for agriculture and other household tasks – tasks that we take for granted. WASH works with communities to gain access to clean water by helping them (i) locate and develop safe water sources, (ii) provide education on good hygiene behaviors and (iii) improve sanitation solutions for waste products. Your financial support of UMCOR’s WASH program will help them find solutions to one of the world’s most basic needs – clean water. Every time you turn on the faucet, flush your toilet, take a shower, wash your hands, add water to a kettle, or make a pot of coffee, toss a quarter in a jar and see how quickly it accumulates. Please consider making a monetary donation to provide clean water to the world through WASH. Thank you for your generous support!

You can use the envelopes in the pew racks and make checks payable to FUMC. Write “Missions” in the memo line.

You’re Invited!

You’re invited to Family Table on the 4th Saturday of the month. Come and meet our neighbors and see the ministry done by Fridley United Methodist Church and friends! You can let Judy Lange know you are coming to volunteer and what you might like to do.

There are jobs for standing, sitting, and running around. There are roles for the chatterers, the listeners, and make-things-run-smoother-ers. You can even be the surprise-I'm-here-to-help-whenever volunteer. We had a training this fall, but even if you didn't make it, a group leader can give you a quick training. Sometimes you just need to come and see!

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

January 14, 2018 will be Human Relations Day, one of the six special Sundays during the year that we have the opportunity to help with various ministries. The Human Relations Day offering helps church-based community developers work in racial and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. The Offering also ensures a second chance for youth offenders. Envelopes for your use will be in the bulletin Sunday, January 14, 2018.

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



CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jody Lee and family upon the death of her mother.

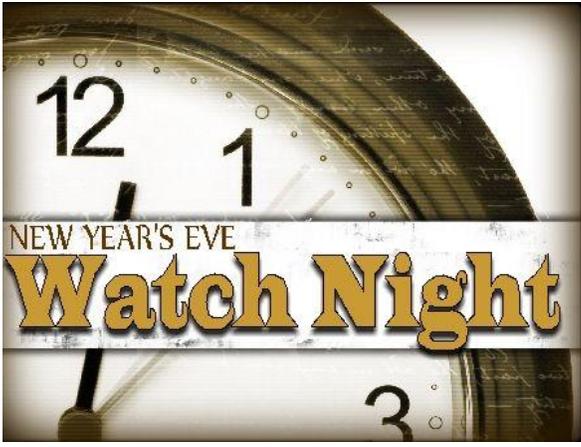
55+

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.



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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!



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW BOARD MEETING: January 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on January 16th, 2018 at 1:00 PM at the home of Diane Jachymowski. Co-hostess will be Evie Skurich. Peggy Mahle is planning our program and Jean Mills has the Devotions. Let's start the New Year right with a good group in attendance. Need a ride call Evie, or see you there!!

NAOMI CIRCLE will meet January 12th at 9:30 AM at the church. Leone Olson will provide treats and Doris Osborne will do devotions. We will make fleece blankets with Mary Bowen in charge of this service project. (Bring sharp scissors to help with cutting.)

Thank you to the FUMW and others who donated to the Christmas collection. We raised \$1,100 and \$200 in HyVee gift cards. The donations will be going to our local schools and their families to help make their holidays merry and to plant a seed of God's love and grace alive in our congregation. Thank you.

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMBERS

As we move forward into 2018 a huge **Thank You All** for meeting FUMC needs with the repair of our roof and more, with additional giving going into the Trustee Fund for continual needs of the Church Buildings and Grounds. Our total roof construction and repair, our west wall repair, and our updated Sanctuary were all funded projects in 2017 through grateful gifts and the generosity from a caring membership. Our church has not been this beautiful, safe and without major needs for many years.

FUMC will now be able to turn our full attention in 2018 to supporting the FUMC Ministry efforts with Pastor Wayne and Pastor Bob, the continual momentum we have witnessed with our second service and the renewed energy to serve our community. Pledge Cards have been mailed for 2018.

Our Committee efforts in 2018 will focus on review of our 304 listed members to update and reengage inactive members in our FUMC family, review and strengthen the FUMC and Rainbow School relationship, and foremost consider planning for FUMC Capital Campaign needs. Thus far the Committee has held a presentation from one vendor and a second vendor has been contacted to provide a second proposal. The Trustees continue to assess the needs of the Church facilities and grounds and will provide a list of projects that will trigger the need for any Capital Campaign consideration.

We remember this holiday season, the face of a baby boy that grew up to tell us, that in seeing his face and hearing his voice, we have seen and heard the voice of God, the earthly face and voice that invites us into eternal friendship and family in the embrace of a loving God.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee



Thank you for all the hugs, emails, cards, and comforting words after the death of my mom. *Jody Lee and Family*

Thank you to all who helped make the *Birthday Party for Jesus* a success! If you helped with set-up, helped in the kitchen, helped with participating children and youth ironing and assigning costumes, with sound set-up (Brian Colvin), with music (Dave Ryan), if you prepared and brought food, brought a baby gift for Alexandra House and/or helped with clean-up, thank you so much! This was the first time we coordinated this event with both services and the Education Commission was impressed with returning first service attendees and with much participation from our second service attendees! We hope this helps YOU feel the true meaning of Christmas.

Education Commission

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

The following people delivered Meals on Wheels the week of December 4-8.

Three day drivers: Jock Robertson and Kerry VanFleet.

Two day drivers: Pat Brown and Pat King; Jim & Evie Skurich; Ron Newport and his friend Wally.

One day drivers: Chuck Ames; Dianne McKusick; Carrol Rahn; Cheryl Skluzacek; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; Tim Fossum; Perry Johs; Marilyn Forsberg; and Dave Ryan.

The next week FUMC delivers will be February 5th – 9th. **I am still in need of more drivers.**

To sign up to drive or to find out about delivering, please call me, Janet Fossum, FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator.

Dear FUMC Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,689.71 to HOPE 4 Youth Inc. With this gift to our organization, you are part of making the young people we serve feel safe, valued and supported. Since the beginning of 2017 more than 999 young people have visited the drop-in center to meet their basic needs – food from the food pantry, clothes from the clothing closets, a hot shower, hot nutritious meals and personal hygiene items.

Wow, thank you so much! *Lisa Jacobson, Executive Director*

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Through your gift of \$352.00 you are supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters. 100% of your contribution will go to UMCOR. Thank you for joining with us to “Be Hope” to those who desperately need it.

Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer, General Board of Global Ministries
Mary Andreolli, Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising

Fridley UMC,

Thank you for your gift of \$1229 which represents a critical investment in available, nutritious food, healthy people, and sustainable growth in Africa. You're crating sustainable solutions for some of our world's most critical (and solvable) food challenges. *Alexandra Spielloch, Executive Director Compatible Technology International*

Dear Fridley UMC,

Thank you for generously investing \$2,055.00 to support MN. FoodShare's response to food insecurity in Minnestoa. Your gift allows us to support food shelves via fundraising efforts as well as engage communities throughout the state in education and advocacy efforts aimed to end hunger and food insecurity throughout Minnesota. *Many Thanks, Summer Anthony*

Fridley United Methodist Women,

Wow! Again, I want to thank you for all the gift cards you have donated to our school through your work with your congregation. Please thank everyone and let them know we really appreciate it.

Daryl Vossler, Principal, Stevenson Elementary School

NEW TAX LAWS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY!

New Tax Reform Legislation raises the standard deduction for income taxes beginning in 2018. If you currently itemize, and are financially able to do so, consider giving some or all of next year's gifts to your church before the end of this year. You can claim your gifts on your 2017 taxes (due April of 2018) and give the church a boost. This can be done for the annual budget, special gifts such as a capital campaign or endowment. To qualify, your gift must be made by the end of this year, on or before December 31 or postmarked no later than December 30. Your check should be dated 2017. Indicate on the memo line "2018 offering" or other designation. Contact the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation if you have questions.

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU IN 2018.

