

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.*

December 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor	2
Church Album	5
Education	3
Events & Opportunities	6
Missions	5
UMW News	7
55+ Singles Breakfast	6

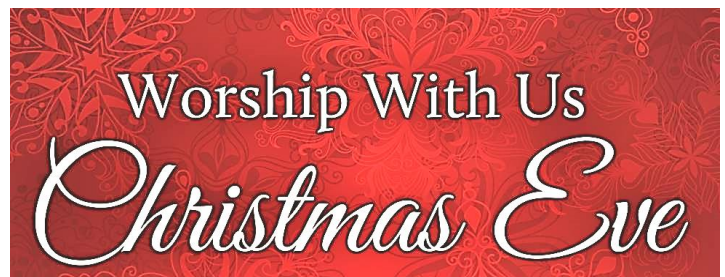


Advent begins Sunday, December 2, 2018

Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:15 AM: The Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers will bring the message "**All Earth is Waiting.**"

Birthday Party for Jesus: 12:30 PM



Monday, December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 7:00 PM.

Merry Christmas! Tuesday, December 25.



Monday, December 31, 2018

Watchnight Service: 8:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns*

Mary Young:
763-571-8807

Jinny Erickson:
763-561-0237

*National United Methodist
Prayer Chain:
1-800-251-2468*



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Sometimes Christmas comes early. Sometimes even before Advent. I was the recipient of an extraordinary gift. During the second week of deer season, Izak and I spent the weekend in fruitless pursuit of venison. We had a great time together with a compliment of family members to make lasting memories.

Upon returning back home, I found myself in Bible Shaping. It was good to be back with my church family. During our spirited conversations, there was a certain person who wanted to make sure I knew about the new visiting couple that came to Sunday service the Sunday I was not there. I was told the name of the new couple, where they came from (Florida), and where they were currently living (Coon Rapids).

The individual who warmly welcomed them, invited them to return the following Sunday. One could not help but notice how animated and joyful the person was who befriended and connected with them on their first visit.

The following Sunday, the visitors returned. Due to the way they were warmly welcomed on their initial visit, they wanted to return the second time. I got to meet them, and it was wonderful to hear them say how they had tried visiting many churches but no one would talk with them. Their encounter at Fridley UMC was remarkably different.

So, one of my best Christmas gifts this season, will not be wrapped under the tree. It will be the expression of caring and connection on the face of one of our Fridley family. To see people with courage and conviction to step out of their comfort zone and build a bridge of friendship to a newcomer is a sign that Jesus continues to grow his family. I was so heartened to witness the act of kindness, the way it animated and delighted the giver of grace and the couple who received it. I know it's not advised to gamble in church, still, I'm willing to wager this couple will be back. They look to see if Fridley UMC has room for them to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Let us be the "gift of connecting" this season. Let us remember the Gift, who is not ashamed to connect with us; even if it meant the crib of straw, and the cross.

Christmas Blessings, Pastor Wayne



JOIN US!

Christmas Eve Candlelight
worship services on
December 24th at 4:00 and 7:00 PM.

All are welcome!

CARING MINISTRIES



SAMARITAN'S PULSE – “Shepherding in Caring, Competency and Connection”

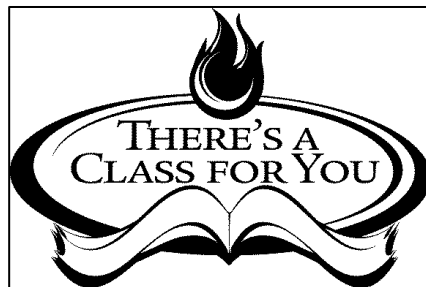
At Fridley UMC we are transitioning to a new format for developing and delivering caring ministry in our family of faith. It is called Samaritan's Pulse, taken from the story of Jesus in Luke 10:25-37. This new ministry of our church will consist of people who are committed to growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ, in their friendships with others, and in self awareness.

Samaritan's Pulse is a covenant ministry of the Pastor, extended to laypeople who desire to work with the Pastor to grow in compassion, competency and caring for one another in the body of Christ.

For those interested in engaging their Samaritan's Pulse, join us on Thursday, December 27th at 7:00 PM to see if God is calling you to be part of this developing ministry.

Blessings, Pastor Wayne

EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 10:45 AM.

PASTOR WAYNE'S INTERGENERATIONAL CONFIRMATION/DISCIPLESHIP CLASS:

This is an opportunity for everyone from middle school to old school. Meet in the choir room, and 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.

Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Children's supplies (children's bulletins and crayons) can be found just outside the back sanctuary doors.

ALSO (mid-week learning opportunity)

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING STUDY at 9:30 AM.

EXPLORING DISCIPLESHIP

Exploring Discipleship meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM. Together we will explore and learn what the Bible teaches us about living as followers of God and disciples of Jesus Christ. Using the Bible as our guide, we will gather around God's stories and explore how God is still working in and through our church and our lives to send us out to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This class will be co-led by the Pastors, and is designed for anyone seeking to deepen their faith and walk with our Lord. Come and see!

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, December 1st 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



ADVENT MISSION OFFERING

The Advent Mission Offering will be designated to supporting **Gordon & Ardell Graner's** missionary work and **Habitat for Humanity**.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our missions.



HATS, SCARVES & GLOVES AT FAMILY TABLE

Brrrrr! It's time to collect cold weather accessories to give away at Family Table. Thick gloves for adult men and women would especially be appreciated by our guests. Children's supplies will go to our Rainbow and our neighboring schools. Look for collection bin in the hallway. Items will be given away at the December Family Table meal. Thank you for taking care of our neighbors!

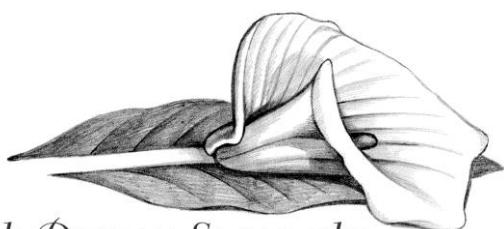
HOPE4YOUTH meals continue the second Tuesday of every month and the congregation is encouraged to participate. If you want to volunteer or to get more information, please contact Judy Ryan or Angela Panter.

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 the Gram family upon the death of Yvonne.

55+



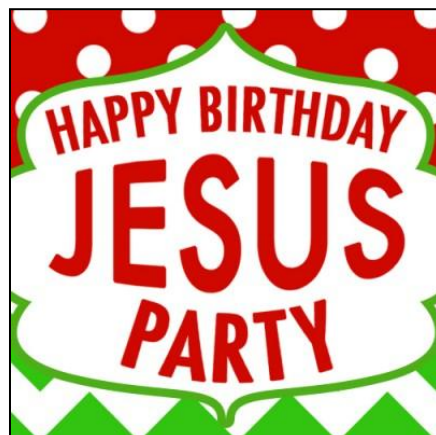
55+ SINGLES BREAKFAST!

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

CHOIR ADVENT SERVICE

The Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers with additional musical friends will bring the message "*All Earth is Waiting*" in music and readings at the 9:15 AM service on December 16th. Invite your family and friends to join us and celebrate the coming of the Christ Child to all of the world.



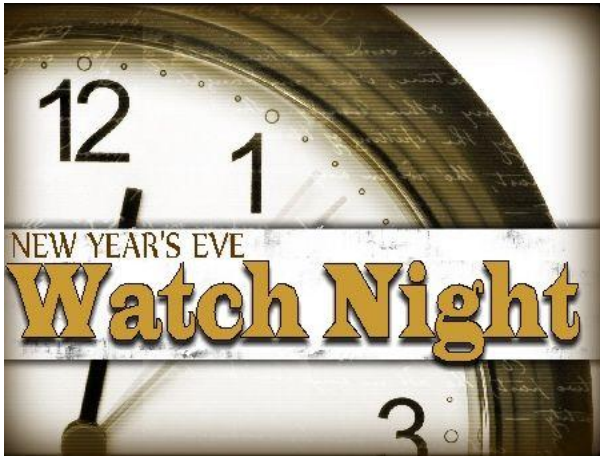
You're invited to a party!
COME CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

December 16, 2018
12:30 – 2:00 PM

Join us for games, music, fellowship and fun in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Sloppy Joes, birthday cupcakes, beverage and fun provided!



Join us on New Year's Eve this year from 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM for a **Watchnight Service!**

We hope you will join us again this year for Watchnight 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!



Knitting Group

The knitting/crochet group will not be meeting in December, enjoy time with your family! See you January 8th, 2019.



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

ATTENTION ALL LADIES!

The United Methodist Women want to invite you to our Christmas Potluck, which is held at Banfill Crossing in Fridley. Address is 8310 University Ave NE. The date is Tuesday, December 11th at 6:00 PM. We will be taking a free will offering to benefit the children at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools. Last year we were able to donate \$1000 in Walmart gift cards. Anyone wishing to donate can leave a check in the UMW mailbox, marked Christmas Collection in the memo line, or give to Ruth Hilliard, our treasurer. If you have any questions, contact Dawn Bushnell.

TABITHA CIRCLE and **RUTH CIRCLE** will not be meeting in December; we are hoping to see all members at the Christmas potluck.

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet December 14th for lunch at Margaret Ekstrum's. Meet at the church at 11:00 AM to carpool. Call Pat King by December 10th to reserve a chair at Margaret's table.



HARVEST DINNER & BAKE SALE THANK YOU

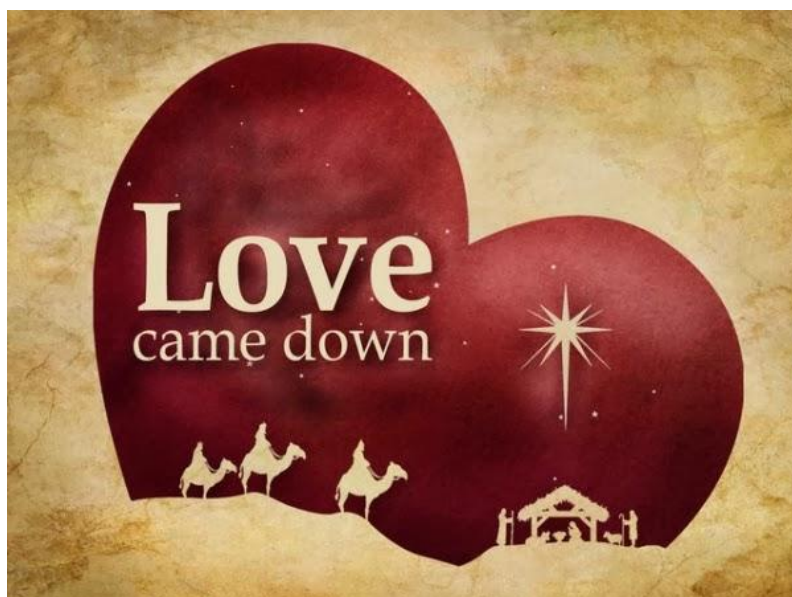
The Fridley United Methodist Women (UMW) appreciates everyone who supported our fundraising event for missions. Thank you to those that invited family and friends, purchased tickets, planned the menu, helped set up and put back the tables and chairs, helped set the tables, prepared the food, and helped serve the food and helped clean up.

Also, thank you to those working behind the scenes to make the Harvest Dinner a success. In addition, thank you for supporting the UMW Bake Sale. Proceeds go to missions.

Coordinators: Sheila Moenck, Jinny Erickson & Delores Hendrick

Fridley UMC,

We appreciate your contribution of 65 lbs. of food. SACA is a self-supporting 501(c)(3) (Non Profit) food shelf and thrift store serving Columbia Heights, Spring Lake Park, Hilltop and Fridley. Thank you for supporting SACA's efforts in our community. *The SACA Staff*



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