

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

January 2021

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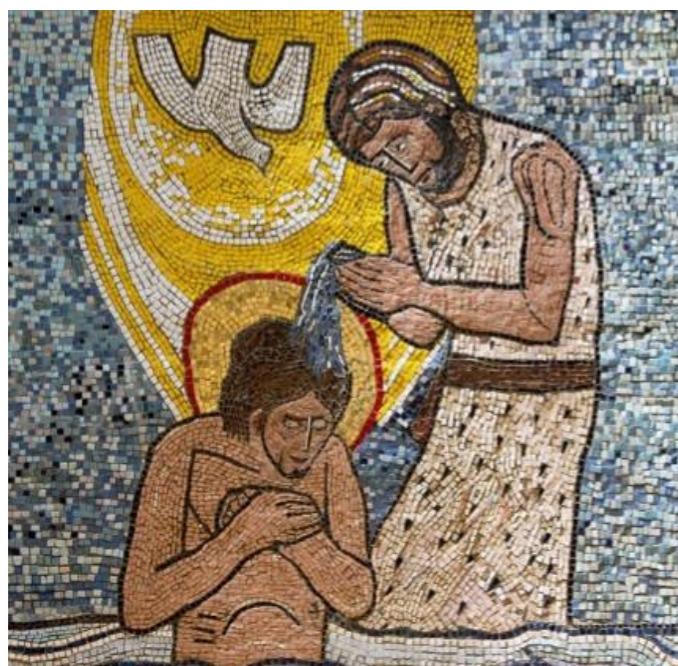
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2021



Baptism of the Lord
January 10, 2021



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

National United Methodist

Prayer Chain:

1-800-251-2468



PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

It was a mildly cathartic exercise to write the year 2021, instead of this horrible year 2020. Many of us are wondering what the New Normal will be. Some are anxious about an imminent Great Reset, which seems to have a slithering, sinister, subjective agenda surrounding it.

When any society determines to ignore directions from Above, it soon finds itself waist deep, in bubbling goo from Below. For example, bonfires of Bibles, beheading statues of Jesus denying that church services are in any way “essential” to our national pandemic times, does seem to smell of systemic secularism.

Commercialism appears to have cemented a 24/7 “buy without ceasing” in our internet age. Churning appetites need to be stuffed, but without living bread, human hungers continue to bring increasing social alienation and social cost.

Christians are exhorted to “pray without ceasing.” We recognize our Triune God created our world and we live in the Lord’s vineyard 24/7. To forget this, is to join the secular choir.

Christians believe the gift of the God-man Christ, builds back the bridge of communion to a Holy, Loving God. With outstretched arms crucified and resurrected, we have true union and perfect communion in the Family of God.

Every year, even 2020, is the best of times and the worst of times. 2021, begins with our proclamation that Christ is risen. Christ is our life. Christ is still building His Church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ is with us to the end of the age, amidst suppression, shuttering, and relentless selfishness. Christ rules over all, whether we know it or not!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Wayne*

CARING MINISTRIES



SAMARITAN’S PULSE-Shepherding in Caring, Competency & Connection

This ministry of our church consists of people who are committed to growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ, in their friendships with others, and in self-awareness. For those interested, join us on Thursday, January 28, at 7:00 PM to see if God is calling you to be part of this ministry. *Blessings,*
Pastor Wayne

MESSAGES OF HOPE

Dear Church Family,

How we have all missed being together in person for worship and fellowship! We are thankful for our wonderful online services, but we yearn for the time when we can be together again! The Ad Council has been looking for ways to help us connect. One of the ideas was to make up a collection of messages of hope for 2021 from our members. These could be thoughts, memories, poems, favorite scriptures or prayers. We would like them to be no more than a paragraph long. Brenda has kindly offered to compile these messages. We are looking forward to reading your special message!

Please get your message to Brenda by mailing it to the church, or you can e-mail Brenda at brenda.labarre@fridleyumc.org. These should be turned in by February 1st.

Many New Year Blessings, Your Administrative Council

EDUCATION

ZOOM MONDAY MORNING CONNECTED IN CHRIST! RENEW AND REVIEW at 9:30 AM, (online only.)

ZOOM WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING at 9:30 AM; and in the lounge. For those attending we will be following safety protocols.

1. Sanitize hands, hand sanitizer on wall in entryway.
 2. Wear a mask.
 3. Temperature check.
 4. Sign in sheet in entryway.
 5. Social distancing.
-

LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS is a learning opportunity where participants explore current life topics from a faith perspective. This class meets at 1:00 PM per Zoom meeting (invitation through Jennie Kratzer) in January.

ZOOM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study zoom meeting every Friday morning at 7:30 AM. All men are welcome. For more information contact Bill Ekstrum.

A GATHERING FOR GUYS

Grit & Spit meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM in the FUMC Lounge. We will be following safety protocols. See you there.

MISSIONS

January Mission – LOAVES & FISHES



The mission focus for the month of January is Loaves & Fishes. The mission of Loaves & Fishes is to provide healthy meals to Minnesotans in areas where the need is the greatest. Loaves & Fishes provides meals to many needy people in the metro area and throughout Minnesota. In 2019, 1,350,720 meals were served and they are projecting to reach up to 3.5 million (yes!! MILLION!!) meals this year. By these increased numbers, you can see

that the need to feed Minnesotans is more urgent than ever. While many of us are doing well; we have jobs or retirement income and are able to purchase groceries, feed our families and pay our bills, many of our neighbors are floundering with unemployment, paying housing expenses and feeding their families. Organizations like Loaves & Fishes provides meals for anyone in need – no questions asked. Many people are utilizing their services for the very first time this year. Watch any news program and you see the struggles that many people are facing - in these troubling and unstable times, the need is greater than it has ever been before.

Loaves & Fishes is guided by their vision that **all** people, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, or ethnic background, deserve to meet their basic needs for food, dignity and respect.

Loaves & Fishes also has many opportunities to donate in person. The closest sight is at Community United Methodist Church in Columbia Heights on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. Check out their website for more volunteer opportunities:

<https://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/volunteer>

Please consider donating to this worthy cause. We are so grateful and appreciate your continued ministry to the missions of FUMC. Remember that giving is easy using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC website and then select “Missions”. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

FAMILY TABLE

Family Table’s next meal is January 23rd. We are continuing the drive through meals, and the number of meals we are giving away is increasing. We continue safe distancing practices with only two cooks in the kitchen and a limited number of volunteers in the lounge assembling the meals.

Our outdoor volunteers will have a warming station inside the sanctuary with hot coffee for when they start to get too cold.

Our guests have really appreciated the pencil game books we are providing! The circle-a-word or word finds are the most popular and large print are very appreciated. Both are available at dollar stores. Donations can be dropped off at the church on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM business hours. Thank you!

Human Relations Day - Sunday January 17, 2021

As we observe Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday in January, we as United Methodists have a mission giving opportunity for Human Relations. This is one of six special offerings throughout the year. We can help support outreach ministries for church-based community developing work in racial and ethnic-minority areas in the United States and Puerto Rico. This offering also helps work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Donations can be mailed to the church.

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Ken Swanson's family and friends upon the death of Char.

The family and friends of Don Wall upon his passing.

The family and friends of Dorayne Shaw upon her passing.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the lounge. The next dates we will get together are January 12 & 26. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UMW NEWS

FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, January 19th at 1:00 PM at FUMC Lounge. The Hostess will be Joan Jagunich with Jean Mills as Co-hostess.

Diane Jachymowski will give opening Devotions and Joyce Dahlberg will lead us in Chapter 2 in our Study Book, Finding Peace in an Anxious World. The title is "Acceptance". Remember we will be Practicing social distancing, as we did in November. Wear your mask and take your temp as you enter the church. Hopefully we can enjoy fellowship together and still stay safe and healthy!

TWIN CITIES DISTRICT UMW WINTER GATHERING: 1-23-2021

10:00 AM-Noon, Via Zoom. Worship (10:00); Guest Speaker: Patty Wetterling, national child safety advocate, visionary and educator (10:40.)

Register online or to **donate**: <https://bit.ly/TCGather>. There is no fee for this gathering. 12:00-2 PM – Leadership Development breakout sessions.

Want to donate by mail? Mail checks to: Helen Eslinger, 10280 Scarborough Rd. Bloomington, MN 55437.



Prayers of Thanksgiving that son Eric was spared when a bullet went through his house during unrest in North Minneapolis.

Joyce Dahlberg

DEEP GRATITUDE for all the prayers, cards, and calls on the death of my brother John, my hip replacement, my torn muscle, and my cataract surgery. All is going well now. I miss you all.

Joyce Dahlberg

Thank you to all, who sent us so many thoughtful cards and shared such kind thoughts with us. We also appreciated the memorial on All Saints Day that Pastor Wayne did. We were able to have a special funeral for my dad, with all his family. He loved being in the choir before his Alzheimer's took over, and wish we could have met some of you, such different times right now with Covid. Thank you.

The Bill Larson Family

Angel and David have a message of gratitude for you:

"We appreciate the help from the bottom of our hearts. You are saving lives each day."

Your thoughtful gift of \$300 on November 5, 2020 as a donation from Fridley United Methodist Women is helping people like Angel and David,

who are doing everything they can to provide for their four children. However, the pandemic has made it difficult to secure a steady job. Thanks to you, they have been able to receive enough meals to feed themselves and their children while they continue their employment search. Thank you for caring for people like Angel and David, and for our broader community.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Cathy Maes, Loaves & Fishes Executive Director

Dear Fridley United Methodist Women,

Thank you for your donation of \$300 to HOPE 4 Youth on November 5, 2020. On any given night in Minnesota, 6,000 youth are without a home. Your support provides Housing, Outreach, Prevention, Education, and Employment to hundreds of young people who are sleeping in cars, doubling up with a friend, or struggling to survive on the streets. Your generous support allows us to continue to provide pathways to end youth homelessness. Because of you, youth have access to basic need resources and services through HOPE 4 Youth.

With gratitude, *Linda Bryant, Executive Director*

