

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

## February 2021

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### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 14, 2021



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 17, 2021

**JOIN US FOR IMPOSITION  
OF ASHES**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**



### Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

Diane Jachymowski

763-571-7572

dejladybug@gmail.com

(Please call before 9:00 PM.)

or

Marsha Painter

763-572-9753

*National United Methodist*

*Prayer Chain:*

*1-800-251-2468*



*Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.*



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

We have been traveling through some troubling, jarring, disjointed times. We have constant reminders and nagging suspicions that serious fault lines are developing in our shared humanity. We see a cracking in our shared solidarity to embrace the common good.

I am reminded in the Bible, what David did when he was holed up, hiding from those who were trying to hound, harass and do him great harm. In the rugged wilderness and craggy rocks he called out to God in Psalm 61:1-4

*“Here my cry, O God*

*From a place of extremes, I call out with a overwhelmed heart,  
I am desperate.*

*Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

*God you have been my refuge, my strong tower.*

*Let me dwell in your tent forever.*

*Protect me under the shelter of your wings.”*

For those of us who are increasingly sensing that we are sojourners in a strange land, there is this invitation of holy hospitality, by the God who made us, saves us, and sustains us.

To find that secure, safe place, we give up our sense and pretense of personal autonomy and self identification. We remember that we are born into bodies that are subject to vulnerability, dependence, frailty and finitude. We also remember and rejoice in our Savior who volunteered to become vulnerable and broken, so we could be forever blest. Let us let Jesus lead us, to the Rock that is higher than Us!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Wayne*

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December 30, 2020

**Leave-Taking:** *Bishop Bruce R. Ough*

It is time to take leave of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area. Char and I are very ambivalent. We are eager to embrace the additional personal and family activities retirement affords. Yet, we will miss the people we love and the shared ministry we have enjoyed across the Area. Leave-taking has never been easy for me.

I am seeking to take my cues from the dynamics evident in Jesus' leave-taking activities. His post-resurrection appearances and ascension were characterized by (1) compassion and companionship, (2) collaboration and handing-off, and (3) commissioning and blessing. Jesus “fell-in” with

those who were trying to make sense of or doubted Jesus' resurrection. Jesus prepared the apostles to "feed my sheep" and carry the movement forward. And, Jesus commissioned all his disciples, in every generation, and blessed them with authority "to go" and teach, baptize, and form additional disciples.

I am grateful beyond adequate expression for the privilege and blessing it has been to accompany the clergy, lay leadership, and congregations of the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences on our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. You have been faithful and fruitful partners in implementing our Journey Toward Vitality strategic plan. You have extended grace when I have fallen short in my episcopal leadership. And, you have cheered me on and elected to follow when my leadership urged and challenged us to take greater kingdom risks. Thank you for the many messages, cards, and emails congratulating me on my retirement and extending words of appreciation for our ministry with you. Thank you for the contributions to the Ough Scholarships at Dakota Wesleyan and Hamline Universities. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are without measure.

I only hope I have, in some small fashion, fulfilled the ancient definition of a bishop—"the servant of the servants of Christ."

The North Central College of Bishops spent many hours discussing and discerning how to provide the very best interim episcopal leadership for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area following my retirement. It was a Spirit-led, collaborative process; every active bishop in the jurisdiction offered their services if needed. I could not be more pleased that I will be handing off the episcopal leadership mantle to Bishops David Bard and Laurie Haller. As you know, Bishop Bard Dakotas-Minnesota Area will have primary oversight of the Minnesota Conference, and Bishop Haller, the Dakotas Conference.

As interim, non-resident assignments, Bishops Bard and Haller have agreed to partner closely with the respective conferences' leadership teams to build an effective, innovative bridge from where we are currently to the end of 2021 when the Jurisdictional Conferences are scheduled to meet to determine the model for episcopal leadership for our North Central Jurisdiction. Once again, this is an opportunity for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area to lead the denomination as we explore new models for episcopal leadership.

This interim model will require considerable patience, openness to experimentation, and very intentional communication. Rev. Cindy Gregorson, our Minnesota director of connectional ministries,

and Rev. Cynthia Williams, dean of the Minnesota Appointive Cabinet, will meet regularly with Bishop Bard to facilitate communication and help him leverage his leadership effectively and efficiently. Rev. Rebecca Trefz and Rev. Bob Ruedebusch, the Dakotas Conference director of ministries and Cabinet dean, respectively, will follow a similar pattern with Bishop Haller. The Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences are blessed with outstanding leadership teams. You will be in good hands. Trust them; rely on them; pray for them.

And, of course, the Area episcopal office, faithfully and effectively managed by Sheilah Kyburz (until April 1 when Janet Beard will move into the administrative assistant role) will continue to facilitate communication and calendaring related to the episcopal office.

During my final Episcopal Address delivered to the respective virtual annual conference sessions, I urged all Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodists to remember they are God's people for this particular time and particular place. I Peter was my inspiration: *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light."* ~ I Peter 2:9 (CEB)

I leave you with this commission—remember you are God's people called to proclaim the mighty acts of Jesus who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. Go forth, make new disciples, and be the light rising in the darkness of a lingering pandemic, racial injustice, economic displacement, and political turmoil. Remember, you are God's people for this particular time and place. Continue to imagine and enact God-sized dreams. Stay strong and stay together for the sake of Jesus' mission.

Now, dear beloved friends and companions on the way, receive this favorite blessing of mine—Paul's words to the Ephesian elders as he took leave of them: *"Now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all whom God has made holy."* ~ Acts 20:32 (CEB)

I pray for you and the Dakotas-Minnesota Area a happy New Year filled with hope, peace, love, and joy!

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area The United Methodist Church*

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**IN PERSON LENTEN STUDY:** Fridley going forward in faith.

Dates: Saturday, February 20, 2021, through Saturday, March 27, 2021, from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM. All are invited!

# 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, February 25, at 7:00 PM to see if God is calling you to be part of this ministry. *Blessings, Pastor Wayne*

## EDUCATION

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

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

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### **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.

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### **A GATHERING FOR GUYS**

*Grit & Spit* meets on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. We will be following safety protocols. See you there.

## CHURCH ALBUM



*With Deepest Sympathy*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of former member, Ruth Rose upon her passing in December.

# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the lounge. The next dates we will get together are February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.

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## UMW NEWS

### FRIDLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**RUTH CIRCLE** will continue to meet in the church lounge using our social distancing, face masks and other safety precautions for Covid-19 for our February meeting. It will be held Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Hostesses will be Kathy Bednar and Bonnie Miller. It is close to Valentine's Day so let's spread some love. Jean Mills will offer devotions and Diane will continue the book study with chapter 3, on "courage" in "Finding Peace in an Anxious World". Those of us that would like to attend are most welcome. We are missing our Circle Friends who feel they must be confined at home.

February is Pledge to Mission Month. Your letters will come in the mail and can be brought to the Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting or sent or given to Ruth Hilliard or left in the UMW box.

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Special people like you make Hayes Kids' lives brighter and better. Fridley UMW, thank you for making a difference and helping our students grow. You are bringing smiles, warming hearts, and spreading love. Sincerely, *The Hayes School Staff*

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## THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following members and friends of FUMC, delivered Meals on Wheels, the week of January 11 - 15.

Two Day Drivers: Jim & Evie Skurich; Mike & Jody Lee; Ron & Nancy Newport; Roger & Leone Olson; and Pat King and Pat Brown.

One Day Drivers: Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Bob & Sandy Locker; Jean Mills; Mike & Tammy Hay; Jim & Diane Jachymowski; and Tim & Janet Fossum.

Jim & Evie and Mike & Jody also filled in a day in December, for another church. This happens from time to time, and it did this week also. I had to call someone from St. Philip's to do a FUMC route.

I am really in need of more people. You read all the time of the two Pat's who team up. Two people are nice, but not necessary. Your partner does not have to be a member of FUMC. Maybe you have a relative, friend or neighbor that would enjoy delivering meals with you. I would love to talk to you and explain delivering meals, or if you see the name of a friend listed above, talk to them. It is a very easy and rewarding experience.

The next time FUMC delivers will be the week of March 8 - 12.

Janet Fossum, FUMC Meals on Wheels Coordinator.

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the work we do. Your contribution of \$725.00 on 12/7/2020 makes a profound, concrete difference in the lives of your neighbors. The holidays are a difficult, stressful time for the families we serve, and your generosity makes a lasting impact. We are so grateful for you, taking a stand against violence in your community.

Wishing you a warm and safe holiday season!

*Connie Moore, Executive Director, Alexandra House*