

# The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

## July 2021

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### HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!

The church office will be closed on July 5<sup>th</sup>  
in observation of Independence Day.

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**Join us for communion on  
July 4, 2021 at 11:15 AM.**



### **Prayer Chain Information**

*Call to share your joys  
and concerns:*

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



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

Summer Greetings family and friends of Fridley UMC.

Like dandelions multiplying and exploding in my front yard, there has been a proliferation of what has been coined “expressive individualism” in our country and culture these past decades.

The goal of expressive individualism or the unencumbered self, are self expression, self realization, and self fulfillment. We are told that the key to happiness is the freedom to construct and choose for ourselves, the identity we most desire.

This vision of human flourishing changes how we define what is human life, and how we relate to one another.

As embodied human beings, we must take into account the implications of our frailty and finitude. Birth and death shows us the edges of life, our beginnings and endings. We are embodied human beings! Our worship of personal autonomy shows a severely incomplete and inadequate view as we elevate our will and our desire at the expense of our mutually lived human experiences. We try to stifle our shared vulnerability and natural limitations with the mask of our invincible self.

Following Jesus and the Scriptures:

We are people who are dependent on others.

We all exist as embodied people, on a fluctuating scale of disability and ability, which changes with our circumstances.

We are made for love that looks outward, upward and inward.

We learn to respond to life with grace and gratitude when we live with compassionate care for each other at all the stages of life.

Stand in the Liberty Jesus Christ provides. (Galatians 5:1)

*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 relationships with others, and in self-awareness. The group will be meeting as needs arise for their services.

For those interested to see if God is calling you to be a part of this ministry, please contact Pastor Wayne or call Marsha Painter.

# 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; online or come join us in the lounge, please sign the provided form with your name and phone number, masks are optional.

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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 Fridays of each month at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee, courageous conversation and prayer. See you there.

# MISSIONS

## **Mobility Worldwide (formerly known at PET)**



Most people take walking for granted, but there are over seventy million people in the world who are leg disabled. Birth defects, polio, injuries, landmines, disease, and other causes can lead to this disability. For those who are leg disabled and live in developing countries, many have to literally crawl in the dirt. Traditional wheelchairs

don't work well where the roads are unimproved. When given the gift of mobility, lives are immediately changed for the better.

Mobility Worldwide's vision is to end immobility. They provide, at no cost, a rugged, three-wheeled, hand-powered cart with hauling capacity.

Developed in the late 1990s in response to a need identified in Africa, the carts are built in the US, but distributed exclusively overseas. There are twenty-three production sites in the US. Each cart costs roughly \$300 to build and ship. Donations fund the cost of materials and shipping.

The staff is all volunteers. Since 1994, over 78,000 mobility carts have been built and distributed in 106 countries using over 70 distribution partners.

The volunteers of Mobility Worldwide are retirees, students, and groups from churches and community service organizations. The Minnesota chapter just loaded a container – shipping its 1,130<sup>th</sup> cart – to Nigeria.

In 2011, Jim Conn, a retired program manager from the aerospace industry, learned of Mobility Worldwide. He was immediately hooked and became the director of the first affiliate in Minnesota. Jim Conn's purpose: *To make a tangible difference in the lives of people around the world.*

Jim says, “You see, in many societies, people with disabilities are shunned, avoided, and believed to be cursed. They are often not even acknowledged as people. When they get their carts, they gain self-respect and hope for a better future.”

Each cart has an area for storage and hauling. Most people use it to better themselves, whether it is to haul books and supplies to a school or to start a small business.

Jim recalled, in Tanzania, after a woman received her cart, she went to the outskirts of town, tilled a garden, and planted and grew vegetables. She harvested them and she took them back to town to sell. She is now self-sufficient economically. He recalls another woman who drove her cart to a local business with a knitting machine she could rent, so she could make clothes and then sell them at the market.

Jim's favorite story is about Seun Okoke, a beautiful young woman from Nigeria who was stricken with polio and scoliosis. She was leg disabled. With her cart and mobility, she was able to finish school and college. She's now working as an information technology specialist for the civil service. Because she is able to work, she feels like she's a contributing member of society. She is now married and has a young son. Jim says Seun earns more than her husband, all due to the gift of her cart. She has been given the gifts of mobility and dignity that are immeasurable in value.

We are so grateful and appreciative of your continued support of FUMC missions. Your gift can easily take place using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC Website and then select Missions. Or you can send a check marked July Missions directly to FUMC, 680 Mississippi St., Fridley, MN 55432. Thank you for your generous support of FUMC Missions programming.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Since the situation is similar to last year, we will not be giving school supplies away at Family Table in August. Our neighbor children are still in need, possibly now more than ever. We will be collecting monetary donations to go directly to Fridley school district for supplies. They will then buy the supplies they need in bulk. Though we will miss seeing kids excited to pick out their backpacks and folders again, we are happy to care for our neighbors this way.

(Please have your donation to the church **no later than July 11<sup>th</sup>** and note **“Fridley School Supplies”** on your check if mailing to the church or if giving online, please change from *current expense* to Family Table. Thank you!)

## CHURCH ALBUM

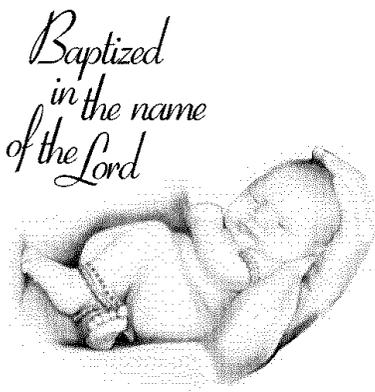


Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of:  
Donna Steffen upon the loss of Earl;

Margaret Grekoff who passed away December 4, 2020;

Elizabeth Nagel, wife of Rev. Clemens J. Nagel (An obituary was published in the *Star Tribune* on June 20 and is available online.)

God's blessing on Jeff and Julie Bohlman and family on the birth of their 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Leo.



Congratulations to the Swanson family of their Baptism of Caden Wayne Swanson on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Many blessings to the Swanson family!



Thanks to my church family for your prayers and support during Earl's illness and passing. A special thanks to Pastor Wayne; your calls and prayers meant so much to him.

*Donna Steffen and family*

We give many thanks to Pastor Wayne and our wonderful church family for all the kind words, prayers and thoughts during this sad time.

*Dawn McCarthy*

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For the past 2 months I have been dealing with high blood pressure. I asked God for the 2 doctors to come up with the right combination of pills. And they did! I prayed without ceasing. If you do not believe, in my case I can say "it worked!"

Receiving my "Thinking of you" cards which came on different days and each card came with an encouraging poem which helped me a lot. Also, I want to thank all of you for helping me carry my coffee and cookie on Sundays. I love all of you!

*Pat Zeglen*

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Fridley UMW,

Thank you for your donation in memory of Donna Munter. Fridley UMC was an important part of her Life. *Marlin, Dave, Gina and Patti Munter*

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## **Fridley United Methodist Women Service Roster**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of FUMC,

Enclosed is your copy of the Fridley United Methodist Service Roster. It has been expressed by several people (men included) that the men of the church could become involved in a service of this sort. Therefore, we continue to add the names of adult male members of FUMC to this service roster. Please find your name and month to serve, and make a note of it on your personal calendar so you will know when you may be called for help. We want also to express our thanks and appreciation to all of you for your concern, generous spirit, and help in making our Service Roster the great success.

Your name appears on the Roster to help on those occasions in the life of our church when our UMW Circles need assistance. These events are of a service-type nature and include serving funerals, helping at the Bloodmobile, and other activities our church undertakes. When we serve a funeral, we are, of course, unable to give much notice of the need for your assistance. Whenever possible we will give you as much advance notice as we can. Each person is assigned for a period of one month out of the year when he/she may be called on for help-most often for a food donation. For each month there are co-chairpersons to contact you. You may not be called during your assigned month-it only means that there was no special need during that month. In the event that one-month's roster is "over-worked," we will call on a month that has not been asked to serve.

The purpose of the Service Roster is to make light work for many, instead of hard work for a few, and it is our hope that you will find it a rewarding and easy way to fulfill a part of your membership vows.

Thank you to the twenty-four monthly Co-Chairpersons that do the calling when needed. Most of them have taken on this responsibility for many years making my job of securing them very easy.

Thank you for helping to provide another year of fellowship and sharing.

Yours in Christian Service,

***Delores Hendrick***

Overall Roster Chairperson