

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

December 2024

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HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 1st at 10:00 AM

RAINBOW SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 7th at 10:00 AM

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 22nd at 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES December 24th

4:00 PM: Happy Birthday Jesus (with
Rainbow School)

7:00 PM: Candlelight Service
(with choir and bells)

11:00 PM: Candlelight Service (acoustic)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 25th

The church office will be closed on
December 25 & 26.

CAROL SING

December 29th at 10:00 AM



Prayer Chain Information

*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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



Advent is here! This ancient series of holy days celebrates not only the expected arrival of Christ as Christmas but Jesus' triumphant return when we will all rise up to meet him. The word, advent simply means "the coming or arrival of something or someone significant."

An All-Church bible study using the book *When God Comes Down* will begin for some the last week of November to get in all four weeks before Christmas. Some studies will combine the last two weeks as they will run into Christmas week. The Christmas Day chapter will be celebrated on Christmas Eve.

The opportunities to study include in person studies...

- Sunday mornings @ 11:30 AM Beginning Dec. 1.
- Wednesday mornings @ 9:30 AM Beginning Nov. 27.
- Wednesday evenings @ 5:30 PM Beginning Dec. 4.
- **Online only** Thursdays @ 12:00 PM via ZOOM Beginning Dec. 5.

Our special worship opportunities will include:

December 1st We will celebrate communion with a Hanging of the Greens Service. There will be opportunities for the entire congregation to participate in decorating two trees in the altar area. As we decorate the Sanctuary with garland, wreaths, lights, and poinsettias we will sing songs and hear stories from the bible and other places about their significance.

December 22nd All Church Christmas Pageant. You are invited to dress up like characters from Luke's recounting of the first Christmas. Some ideas include the following; sheets and robes for Joseph, kings, and shepherds. Head dresses, scarves, and shawls for Mary. Animal faces either painted or using paper plates for...you guessed it manger animals. Stars from cardboard or construction paper for...well, stars. I will bring extra items that I have floating around my closet, and you are invited to do the same. As each group of characters (examples) Mary, Joseph, etc., those dressed as those will be invited to come forward and to remain up front while the story about their arrival at the manger is read.

December 24th Christmas Eve! What a wonderful celebration we will have!

- **4:00 PM** We will celebrate with Rainbow School with a Happy Birthday Jesus Party. This will include games, like Pin the Tail on the donkey, singing, and birthday cake. FUMC volunteers would be helpful.
- **7:00 PM** Contemporary Lessons and Carols with organ, choir, and bells.
- **11:00 PM** An Acoustic Candlelight Service using "When God Comes Down: A Witness to Ponder."

December 29th 10:00 AM A Carol Sing (most from our hymnals but new songs to learn as well.)

I would also like to especially invite FUMC to celebrate with Rainbow School children and families Saturday, December 7th for their Christmas Program @ 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

Thank you all for the many ways you have shown your love from Advent 2023 through Advent 2024!

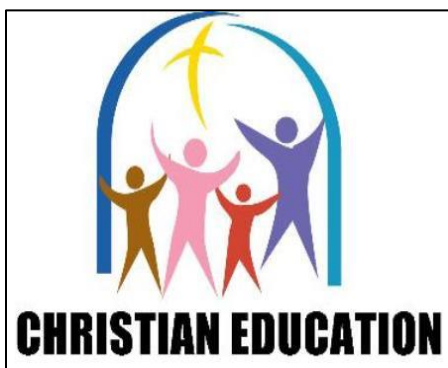
Thank you also for the continuation of our efforts to make love the love of God visible transforming hearts and minds in the coming new year. A blessed season to you and yours!



Pastor John



EDUCATION



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School starts 11:30 AM.

LINKING FAITH AND LIFE CLASS meets in the computer room. Come check us out.

Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Children's bulletins will be handed out following the children's sermon.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE SHAPING at 9:30 AM.

Come join us in the lounge or join us by Zoom.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A Men's Bible Study Group meets every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at the Sunset Grill in Blaine. We eat breakfast; take turns leading that week's lesson, guiding us through a reading of scripture, story and discussion. We share prayer concerns. All men are welcome.

A GATHERING FOR GUYS

Grit & Spit meets every Saturday at 9:00 AM in the Lounge. Join us for coffee and courageous conversation and prayer. See you there.

BOOK GROUP

To All that Like to Read: The book groups next book retreat will be Saturday, March 8th, 2025, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the church. We will be reading The Berry Pickers, by Amanda Peters. I am letting you know early in case someone needs a gift idea for Christmas. Anyone that likes to read is welcome.

MISSIONS



MISSION OUTREACH ADVENT OFFERING – 2024

Dear FUMC Church Family,

As we begin this beautiful season of Advent and look forward to celebrating God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ, let us make this waiting time richer by shining the light of God's love on others! This year we will be supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery and remembering forgotten elderly friends with special gifts just for them.

The United Committee on Relief, UMCOR, was founded in 1940 by Bishop Herbert Welch, in response to displaced and vulnerable populations in the wake of WW II. It was created to be "the voice of conscience among Methodists to act in the relief of human suffering without distinction to race, color or creed." That mandate is true to this day. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States.

When disasters strike, such as hurricanes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities with training, financial assistance, expertise and community collaboration.

As folks begin to recover from these catastrophic storms, UMCOR has been on the ground in these areas helping with clean-up, removing debris, tarping roofs and cleaning out homes in hard hit areas. 100% of our gifts are used for responding to disasters.

This year we are making a special effort to remember ten elderly people in need of Christmas love. We are calling this “Remembering the Forgotten.” This year we will provide special gifts to seniors who do not have the support of a loving family. These recipients will be selected with care by Pastor Yolanda through contacts in the community. The gifts will be generous, and unique for each special individual. The gifts will be wrapped and accompanied by a card. We hope to generate some new friends and happy hearts!

We thank you in advance for your gifts. May your Advent season be filled with the light and love of God’s greatest blessings, Jesus Christ.

In God’s Love,
Your Ministry of Mission and Outreach

We are so grateful and appreciate your continued ministry to the missions of FUMC. Giving is easy using the “Give Online” button on the FUMC website and then select “Advent Offering.” You can also mail your donation to the church. Please write “Advent Offering” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous support of our mission programs!

FAMILY TABLE

Thank you for graciously donating your time and talents to Family Table this year and in the year to come. The monetary donations will ensure we can continue serving our neighbors the food they need and the fellowship for thriving.

Please note that there will be no Family Table meal at FUMC in December due to the Holiday. There are many Holiday meal events in the metro that you may enjoy serving at or may benefit of receiving a meal from. We serve a meal again in January.

CHURCH ALBUM



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Pat Zeglen family and friends upon her death.

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

-Anonymous

From Bread and Wine to Faith and Giving: Stewardship Campaign 2024



Thank you all for your many gifts this fiscal and church calendar year. You have ministered by serving on committees and on the church council, by ushering and greeting, providing treats and coffee for fellowship times. Your ministry to others has been seen in contributions of time and resources to missions of the month, Family Table, Meals on Wheels and others. Your dedication to growing closer to God and one another has been seen in a rise of participation in Bible Studies. Your commitment to the 2025 fiscal budget has been equally overwhelmingly positive.

To date, forty families have pledged over \$120, 000 dollars. This is not counting what happened on Consecration Sunday which we are expecting to grow this number significantly. Why is this important? It is important because-

- It is in part a response to our call to Love God with all that we are and our neighbors as ourselves.
- Commitments like this are important because it gives your Stewardship/Finance Committee valuable information used to construct the budget which will be voted on at our Annual Meeting/Charge Conference in January.
- It continues the legacy of giving that is representative of Fridley United Methodist Church.
- Giving was a key element of the early Christian Church as it provided one of the ways in which ministry to the faith community and beyond occurred.

Thank you for your commitments of time, presence, skill, talent, and finances. Your gifts mean that FUMC can continue to do the work God has called us to do both in becoming better disciples and in loving the world so that hearts and minds are transformed.

Your Stewardship/Finance Committee

55+

55+ BREAKFAST!

55+ folks, join us for breakfast at Perkins 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

MITTEN TREE – DECORATE WITH LOVE!



Help decorate a Christmas tree with mittens, winter hats and scarves this Advent season! These warm gifts will be donated to children who need extra help in keeping warm this winter! Our congregation, along with Rainbow School, will be invited to decorate a Christmas tree. Starting on December 1, there will be a Christmas tree on our upper level for Rainbow School and a tree in the downstairs lounge for the people of our church to adorn with mittens, hats and scarves. These will be collected during the Christmas season and then donated to Southern Anoka Community Assistance.

We hope to put smiles on many faces! Thanks in advance for your gifts!!

Your Mission Outreach Team

A close-up photograph of a Christmas tree branch. The branch is green and has several red berries. Two large, shiny purple ornaments are hanging from the branch. The background is a light, neutral color.

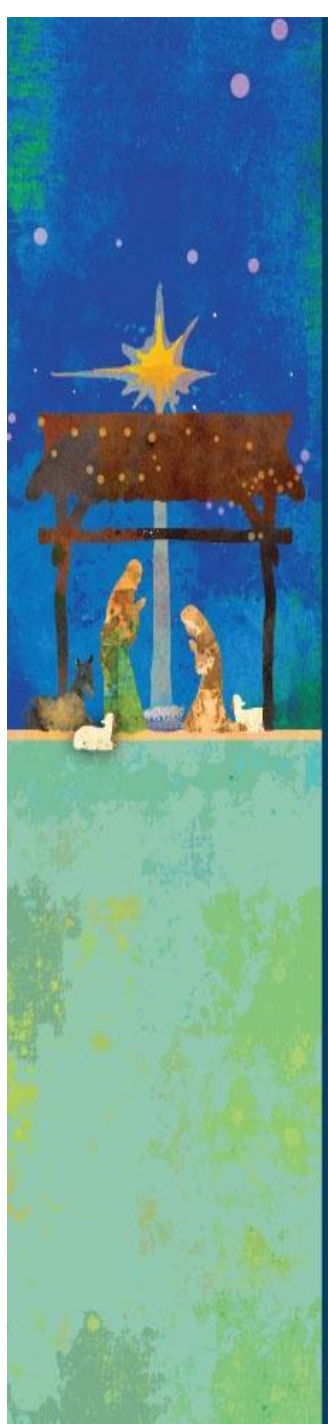
December 1 @
10:00 am
Join us!

Hanging
of the
Greens



RAINBOW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 7th at 10 AM



You are welcome to join us!

All Church Christmas Pageant

December 22, 10 AM

Bring your family & friends.



Christmas Eve Services:

**4 PM Happy Birthday Jesus
with Rainbow School**

7 PM Candlelight

**11 PM Candlelight
(acoustic)**



KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday in December at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Christmas Potluck



ALL CIRCLES AND ALL WOMEN –

All Women are invited to our Christmas Potluck, which will be Monday, December 9th, from 6:30-8:30 PM. It will be held at Banfill Crossing. We will enjoy food, fellowship and sing some Christmas Carols. We will also take a collection

for our Christmas gift giving to Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools in Fridley.

Anyone wishing to donate can join us by putting their gift in the UWF box in the church office, or give a check to our treasurer, Ruth Hilliard, by Sunday, December 15th. There will be carpooling from the church, so if interested please contact Cindy Doerr. Questions, contact Dawn Bushnell.

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday, December 13th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. We will send Christmas cards to church shut ins after a short lesson with prayer and scripture. Wanda Boyer will provide treats.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The following people from FUMC delivered Meals on Wheels (MOW) the week of November 11 - 15.

Two Day Drivers: Tim & Janet Fossum.

One Day Drivers: Dave & Judy Ryan; Chuck & Bonnie Ames; Ruth Hilliard & Pat King; and Jim & Diane Jachymowski.

This is the shortest MOW thank you that I have written. The next time that FUMC will be asked to help will be January 6 - 10.

If we all plan ahead, maybe we can cover a few more routes. Laura from the MOW office tells me, "I appreciate any help that I can get." You can reach Laura at 763-300-2626. Janet Fossum still writes the thank you's. If you are more comfortable asking me any delivery question, I'd be happy to help.



CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFT!

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN...
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6, ESV

