

The Growing Edge

(A Monthly Publication of Fridley United Methodist Church)

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

January 2025

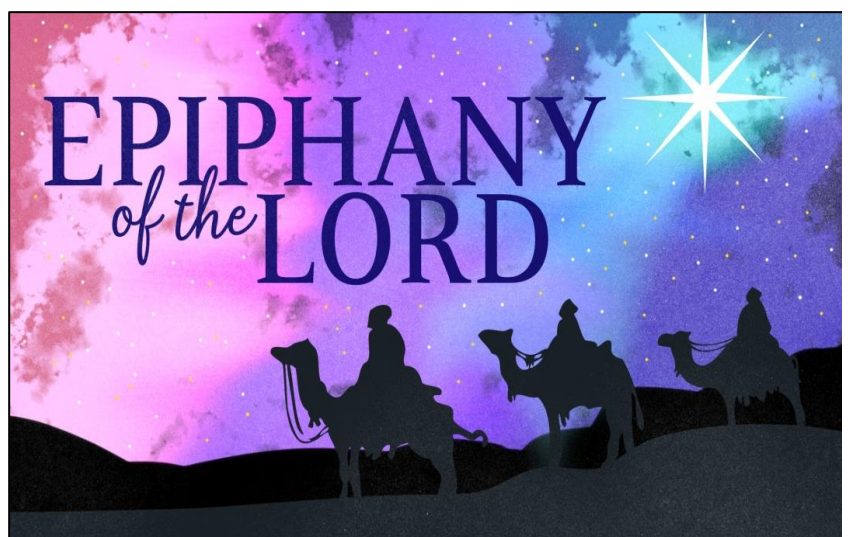
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HAPPY NEW YEAR



EPIPHANY: January 5, 2025



Mark your calendars:

CHARGE CONFERENCE is scheduled
for Sunday, February 2 at 11:00 AM.



Prayer Chain Information
*Call to share your joys
and concerns:*

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

PASTORAL THOUGHTS: JANUARY 2024

January 6th signals a change in church seasons. Advent melded in Christmastide, and Christmastide blossoms into Epiphany. The Merriam-Webster dictionary offers these definitions of the word: “a divine revelation” or “a divine appearance or manifestation.” The term Epiphany can highlight a “divine communication of truth.” All of these were true when the Wisemen/Kings, also called Magi, appeared at the manger. They added another dimension to the birth of Jesus. Not only are angels and the common folk worshipping but so are the powerful and the wealthy. The angels gave what they were created to provide, honor, and glory to God. The shepherds and the family, whose home Mary and Joseph were invited to stay, gave out of their poverty. The three kings gave out of their abundance. These three groups of visitors reveal how we are invited to come, give, and worship.

As Jesus continues to be revealed, I invite you to draw near, to learn of him, and to be blessed. As we learn more about Jesus through this season, when we read the many stories collected by our Gospel writers, I invite you to ask yourselves, “What does this revelation, this divine truth, teach me about how God desires me to live?”

The celebration of light doesn't dim following Christmas. Instead, it intensifies. May the light of the world born to us as Jesus Christ, the son of God, Mary, and Joseph, brighten your homes this Epiphany season.

Sundays in January:

5th Christmas Cantata (Chancel Choir) *Selections from Canticle of Joy* by Joseph M. Martin

12th Special Music by Rainfall

19th Chancel Bells, Ethan Light, guest preacher

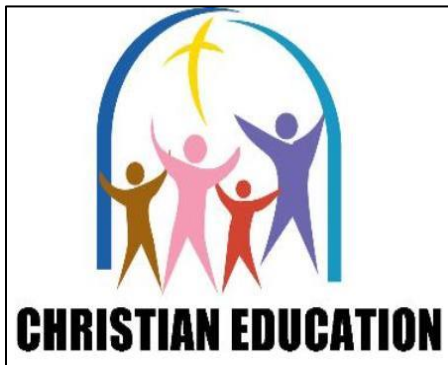
TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Trustees would like to share an update regarding some new efforts that are underway. FUMC and Rainbow, sharing the cost have expanded the security system in and around the building with additional cameras that can be accessed by phone so that if no one is in the office, someone can be identified and given access to entry. Interior areas that previously had no camera visibility are now more secure for those in the building. There is now electronic handicapped access to the parking lot outer door, with the interior door being left in the open position during times when there are services and meetings. New carpet is scheduled to be installed in the hospitality area on January 9-10th, making our church more invitational and attractive. The Trustees hope you enjoy these new amenities!!



COMMITTEE LEADERS please remember to send your agenda and meeting minutes to Brenda in the office for our permanent church files. Thank you!

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.

MISSIONS



Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Special Mission for January

With the onset of our winter weather, it is uplifting to discover a place that offers shelter and a compassionate way to help homeless individuals! Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka provides shelter and basic needs and programs for individuals 18 and older. Stepping Stone seeks to bring education and solutions as part of their homeless response. Residents who stay at Stepping Stone are required to have an individual goal plan with a case manager, getting at the root cause of their homelessness, which may include lack of education, need for employment, finding affordable housing and making positive personal decisions. Residents must meet with their case manager and comply with all rules and regulations and complete all assigned chores. There is a maximum capacity of 6 men and 4 women on any given day. They are assigned to a room with a bed and linens, take showers and are given grooming items. Three nutritious meals are served each day. There is a laundry facility, and clothing is provided when needed. Staff members are committed to treating all individuals with dignity and respect. Here is a quote from Karen Evenson, pastor of Anoka UMC, "Stepping Stone is an excellent organization, and is very worthy of your support. Their director, Steve Griffiths, is a good friend of mine. He and the entire staff are committed to compassionate, quality care." Our heartfelt thanks in advance for supporting this worthy mission with your prayers and gifts.

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 "Missions." You can also mail your donation to the church. Please write "January Missions" 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 Mission of the Month financial donation to Family Table totaled \$3,530. This money will ensure we can continue serving our neighbors the food they need and the fellowship for thriving. Family Table will continue drive thru and indoor meals in January. Please remember that we reverse the direction of traffic in the parking lot for drive thru safety. The lot does get slippery in the winter too, so please remember to "walk like a penguin" during the winter to prevent falls.

CHURCH ALBUM



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Robert Dove upon his passing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Bill Ambrose upon his sudden passing.

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

-Anonymous

55+



55+ 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

KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Questions? Call Evie Skurich.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NAOMI FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will meet Friday January 10th at 1:00 PM in the church choir room. Marilynn Forsberg will give the lesson and Pat King will bring treats.

RUTH CIRCLE - will meet on January 21st at 1:00 PM in the lounge. Join us.

**The fun our church family had at the All Church Christmas Pageant!
Pictures by Jen Steffen.**



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