



Grace Courier

lindstrommethodist.org

Mission Focus this month is Red Bird Mission

The United Methodist Church Red Bird Mission began in 1921 as a school providing education in a Christian environment for children of the mountains of southeast Kentucky.

Red Bird Mission continues today responding to many needs of children, their families, the elderly, unemployed, hungry and homeless through its ministries.

Poverty and lack of opportunity persists in these remote mountain communities, but many are finding opportunity because of the prayers and support of volunteers and churches around the USA.

Red Bird Mission provides for needs in the

areas of housing, home repairs, affordable clothing, food and agriculture, job training, health and dental services, elderly assistance, a mountain craft store, K-12 private Christian school and GED classes.

Learn more by visiting www.rbmission.org.

Mission Envelopes: Mission Envelopes can be found in each pew rack. You are welcome to give to our monthly Mission Offering throughout the month using the designated envelope. Please make your check out to FUMC, marking "Missions" in the memo.

See **Nancy Grossmann** if you have questions.

Greetings from the Lecys

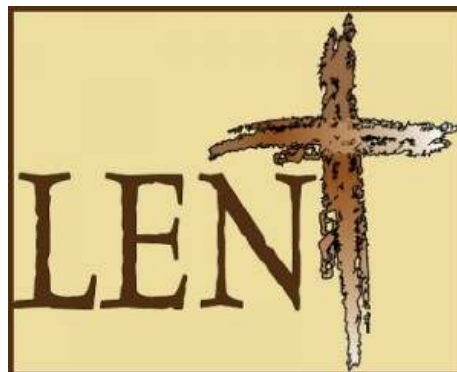
The highlight of the New Year was a visit from our daughter, **Debbie**. You might remember her husband, Roy passed away in July. I'll just say it was good for us to spend this time together.

Our weather during this time was cold for us and Debbie said it was balmy as her St. Paul temp was -4 when she left and we were a high 45. Yes, it has been a colder than usual winter for us. But just as I say this the temp was 82 yesterday and will head for a cold weekend. "CLIMATE CHANGE."

We took Debbie along for our two days at School Tools. She was a quick learn and a good volunteer.

Wishing you all a HAPPY VALENTINE DAY FROM DEEP SOUTH TEXAS!

Dorothy and Irv



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Dates to remember:

- Feb. 1
Paul Prokosch preaching
- Feb. 13-16
Charis Prison Ministry Weekend
- Feb. 15
Chris Anderson preaching / Mission Sunday
- Feb. 18
Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 22
New Member Sunday

From the pastor...

The season of Lent is upon us. We will begin this season with an Ash Wednesday service of worship.

When we think of Lent, we often think of denial. This is a season when folks give up something. The question gets asked. "What are you giving up for Lent?" Lent ends with Good Friday. Jesus took up his cross and gave up his life.

Jesus had set his face towards Jerusalem. He knew he was going there to die. He taught his disciples that he would suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law. He taught that he would be killed and after three days rise again.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples. He told them that if any wanted to go to Jerusalem with him, they had to deny themselves and take up their own cross, and follow him. He then added, "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

This is the invitation of Lent. We deny ourselves. Jesus is our example. As Paul said, Jesus was equal with God, but did not take advantage of that equality. Jesus emptied himself and took on the form of a servant. He was obedient to the point of death. He gave up his life. And so we take up our own cross. We follow Jesus.

What does it mean to follow someone? It means we walk the same path they walked. We follow in their steps. We follow Jesus all the way. As the old hymn says, "I can hear my Savior calling..., 'Take thy cross and follow, follow me.' Where he leads me I will follow; I'll go with him, with him all the way."

This Lent listen for Jesus calling and inviting us to follow him...to walk the same path he walked. In this we will find life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dan



Youth Ministry



Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

That's why we have youth ministry at First UMC. Club Rock is a lot of fun but it's also so much more. We have 8-10 kids show up at Club each week and we continue to see some new faces each week. Our gathering time at the beginning of each Club is a favorite for almost everyone. We grab snacks from the "Snack Man" and gather on the couches to just talk. Building relationships is a big part of what we strive for at Club. The kids can't wait to share what's been going on with them and their openness to share both good- and not so good times has surprised us. We also help them discover and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. On January 16th our lesson stayed in sync with Dan's message. Jesus being tempted in Matthew 4: 1-11 was a great lesson to show the importance of memorizing scripture and using these verses as our "fighter verses" when we're tempted. God provided his Word to help us. It's also a great lesson to show how weak the devil is compared to Jesus. We ended together saying the Lord's Prayer and **Beth** led the art project. God delivers us when we call on him.

Youth Announcements-

We want to say "Thank You" for ordering cookies- we hope you enjoyed them!

Save the date- for Italian Dinner Night Saturday March 21st

Jr./Sr. High Summer Camp

Summer camp as a teenager is sweet: good times with old and new BFFs, great food, awesome activities, serious laughter, meaningful time with the Lord, and the kind of fun that you rarely ever find. Bible camp is one of the best weeks of summer! Camp scholarships and discounts are available so please do not allow finances to keep you from attending. **Registration is now open – Contact Cheryl Lecy.**

Blessings, **Cheryl and Scott Lecy**

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Prayer Requests from the bulletin:

Cole Anderson	Chuck Zimmerman
Hannah Irvin	Chuck Loula
Greg Oien	Jim Holweger

Charis Prison Ministry Weekend

Keep the weekend of Feb. 13-16 in your prayers as **Pastor Dan, Jim & Connie Buelow, Scott Lecy and Paul Prokosch** head into Sandstone Federal Correctional Facility for the Charis Weekend. This weekend is based on the Unidos en Cristo weekend experience.

Defibrillator

We did it! You did it! We have a defibrillator at First United Methodist Church. Thanks to the Trustees for initiating this effort, and to all of you who contributed towards the purchase. It is easily accessible on the hallway wall leading into the fellowship hall. We can all *breathe a little easier* knowing this device is in place.

Carpet Project

If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check out to First UMC, marking "carpet project" in the memo.

Carpet Project Giving (Phase Two) : \$4,212

Goal: \$23,500

Nursery

We are pleased to be able to provide a Nursery during the worship service. It is designed for infants through 2 years.

Children are always welcome in the worship service.

Birthdays!



Gerry Gaudette.....February 1
 Terry Kopp.....February 3
 Joshua Anderson.....February 8
 Matt Hernick.....February 9
 Bruce Larsen.....February 10
 Emily Hultman.....February 12
 Josh Salaba.....February 12
 Steve Hernick.....February 13
 Darlene Christie.....February 14
 Katie Leadholm.....February 14
 Bryce Wilkerson.....February 17
 Mitchell Osterbauer.....February 18
 Nicole Arnold.....February 19
 Steve Oehme.....February 21
 Rick Anderson.....February 22
 Christine Anderson.....February 23
 Lindsey Olson.....February 23
 Paula Oehme.....February 28



Happy Birthday!

Online Bill Pay

Do you use your computer to pay your bills on-line? If you do, you may want to send your church offering/pledge through the same on-line bill pay service. You can set up an automatic payment plan or a one time contribution.

It's easy:

- * First, login to your bill pay account
- * Select *Add a Bill*
- * Select *Create an account without an account number* (use the address and phone number below)

First United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 688
 Lindstrom, MN 55045
 651-257-4306

Please see **Greg Oien** or **Scott Lecy** if you have any questions.

Unidos en Cristo weekends Experience New Testament Christianity

Unidos en Cristo (formally Cursillo) is a 3-day learning, sharing and inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. During the three days of a week-end, a person experiences authentic Christian fellowship and the joy of being part of a genuine Christian community.

2015

#271 Men's: Feb. 26—March 1
#272 Women's: March 5—8
Held at Faith Covenant, Burnsville

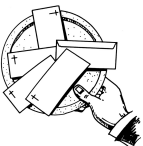
#273 Men's: June 18—21
#274 Women's: June 25—28
Held at St. Lucas Community Church, Lake Elmo

If you would like to participate in an Unidos en Cristo weekend or would like more information, please contact **Scott or Cheryl Lecy**, 651-462-5725.

Prison Ministry...if you're interested in Charis Prison Ministry, please contact **Jim or Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024.

Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2014 was \$191,170 which became \$15,931 per month.



General Fund giving for December was \$14,715.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in January

January 4—80

January 11—88

January 18—102

January 25—91



Church Council Minutes/January 15, 2015

Present: Cheryl Lecy, Dan Doughty, Nancy Grossmann, Craig Stockel, Lloyd Jones, Terry Keese, Cindy Kopp, Juanita Morgan, Marna Gerke

Meeting opened with prayer.

Old Business: MMSP to approve minutes from 11/20/14 meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance - All bills from 2014 have been paid, with 1K remaining in the account. Only one apportionment payment was made in 2014. Pledges for 2015 are essentially the same as pledges were for 2014. Heating expense for 2015 is an area of concern, with the hope that this winter is not as expensive as last winter. Approval of 2015 budget is forthcoming.

Missions - December's offering of \$512 went to Wycliffe. First United Methodist had nine persons who rang bells at Lindstrom Foods on December 6th. The Christmas Eve service offering was divided with half for Family Pathways and half for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, \$457 for each. Mission Sunday offerings designations for 2015 will be essentially the same as in past years. Question arose: Would a Missions booth at Praise Fest be an outreach opportunity?

SPRC - No report

Lay Leader - No report

Foundation - Year end balance is approximately 57K. Notification has been received from the MN Conference indicating that a check designated for the Foundation should arrive this week. As yet the monetary amount is unknown.

Trustees - The committee will be meeting next week. Heat update: Work has been done on the heating and the zones should now be balanced; valves were overhauled, and air removed from the lines (no more noise). Of the three pumps, we are using two, which should result in a cost savings. Last month the gas expense was down and the electric expense increased - why needs to be determined.

Long Range Planning - No report

Worship - The focus (The Journey) during Advent was very positive and well received.

Continued on page 5...

Church Council Minutes continued...

The Live Nativity was attended by 650-700. Christmas Eve service was attended by 204, an increase of 40 from last year. Upcoming: Ash Wednesday, March 18th and Easter, April 5th.

Staff Reports:

Children - Consistently averaging six per Sunday, with middle school two to four. The goal is to study and learn the Ten Commandments and then share with the congregation.

Youth - Club Rock continues to host around fourteen kids. December 18th Club Rock had a party and viewed a movie. The Christmas cookie project raised about \$300 which may be used toward a youth camping opportunity. The Italian dinner to be hosted and served by the youth will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Looking ahead for 2015 and 2016, the intent is to form a team and develop more youth activities and opportunities.

Adult Ministry - Pastor will be gone the first Sunday in February - communion will therefore be held the second Sunday. **Paul Prokosch** will be preaching and **Cheryl Lecy** helping with worship. The third Sunday in February Pastor will be involved with the prison ministry, and **Chris Anderson** will be preaching. Ten people representing five couples will be joining our church the last Sunday in February. We hope to have special fellowship following the service, and perhaps a new member photo board.

Special Groups:

Hospitality - Hope Circle continues to be active with 12-16 persons sharing social and spiritual time. An extension of the service continues each Sunday with our fellowship and coffee time. Discussion ensued about forming a committee dedicated to the hospitality function, encouraging organized participation as desired and needed for hospitality endeavors, as hospitality need not be the sole responsibility of Hope Circle. Wants and needs in this area - *more bodies*.

Women's Bible Study/Cindy Kopp - Will commence, after a brief respite, on Tuesday, February 10th, from 9:15-11:00; typically attended by 9-12 people.

Women's Evening Bible Study/Cheryl Lecy - Thursday's 7:00-9:00. Concluded the Susie Larson study; a new topic forthcoming.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study/Pastor Dan - Regularly 15-20 attending.

Special Events/Projects:

- **Children's Shop Day** - Wonderfully successful. More "elves" needed to help kids shop and to wrap.
- **Operation Christmas Child** - Should we collect throughout the year?
- **A Brush With Kindness** - Meeting January 19th. Work locations are throughout Chisago County, and requests are already being received.
- **Living Nativity** - 650-700 attended. This will be an ongoing event of our church outreach to our community. Committee will be meeting soon to assess.
- **Puzzles/Pie/Potato Soup** - Hoping for more teams on January 31st - *12 puzzles waiting*.
- **Easter Carnival** - To be held March 28th.
- **Softball** - Returning champs will be at it again.
- **Family Praise Fest** - Hope is to have more people from the community involved, possibly a 12 person board of judges for the barbecue contest? Family Feud competition with other churches?
- **Hootenanny** - This year's theme in September will be "Broadway".
- **Youth/Children Harvest Festival**
- **Carpet Project** - Dollars continue to trickle in; Sanctuary Design Team may have recommendations to share.
- **Sanctuary Remodel Project** - Many issues are on the table, including sanctuary redesign/carpet/sound system. Much feedback will be asked for, needed and appreciated - we'll start with "the sky is the limit" and work our way from there.
- **Caroling** - Good turnout of 30-40 with the neighborhood thoroughly enjoying.
- **New Year's Eve Day Potluck** - Enjoyable social time, and presentation by a falconer with his Harris hawk.
- **Christmas Day Meal** - A busy day of fellowship and food enjoyed by many attendees.
- **Youth Italian Dinner Night** - Upcoming once again March 21st.

Miscellaneous - Discussion regarding time of Sunday service - an agenda item next meeting in February.

New Business/Ideas:

Next meeting - discussion - Sunday service time

Closing Prayer

Next meeting February 19th

Minutes submitted by **Marna Gerke**

HOSPITALITY—“THIS ‘n’ THAT

It's paver time again!

I will be sending orders for **pavers** to be engraved in April and May. **Ed Oswald**, who installed the existing walkway along the pavilion, will be adding to it in late spring, but before the Praise Fest. If you have thought about donating a paver, you now have another chance!! You won't regret seeing your name(s) or message on a paver in what will eventually be a mini-patio. We are also going to dedicate pavers to our deceased members. Order forms will be displayed on the table to the left of the door as you enter the fellowship hall. Sign-up. You will be happy you did!

A December funeral

Family and friends of **Joyce Earl Johnson** gathered together at church on December 27 for A Celebration of His Life. Joyce, better known to his friends as “Rocky,” was a long time member of this church. Until poor health required care that was available at Parmly Life Pointes, Rocky was a faithful attendee at Sunday morning service. He would slip in quietly just before worship began, and slip out just after the Pastor said “Amen.” I called him Joyce until he whispered to me in the hall, “Call me Rocky.” I did. I knew he was a friend then. Condolences are extended to his two daughters, **Kay** and **Trudy**, and all his relatives and friends. Hope Circle women, and some men, served a lunch after the service. Thank you to **Ed & Shirley Oswald, Shirley Knopf, Diana Westrum, Jack & Sandy Danielson, Carroll Keller, Jan Gravelle, Lois Anderson and Ron Morgan**. Unfortunately the day was cold, snowy, and blustery---a wintry day that prohibited some mourners' attendance. Rest in Peace, Rocky.

New Year's Eve DAY luncheon

The Second Annual New Year's Day Potluck Luncheon was held, appropriately, on December 31, at 11:30 a.m. About forty people attended, including two children. The kitchen overflowed with appetizers, hot dishes, salads, and desserts.

At intervals we rang bells coinciding with the New Year beginning in a country across the globe. Some games (ask **Roger Anderson** what game he brought), puzzles & jokes were available to keep everybody occupied between 'courses' in case conversation waned (unlikely with a gathering of us Methodists!). A special event followed the meal.

Pat McDermott had made contact with a former neighbor, **Marc Rude**, who is a Master Falconer. Pat had asked Marc if he & his wife **Jackie** would come

to our luncheon as our guests and then demonstrate handling his Harris falcon, named **Harley**. Marc gladly agreed. We were treated to a fascinating explanation of falconry and had a chance to get up close to Harley. Many, many thanks to **Pat, Marc, Jackie**, and, especially, to **Harley**, for providing such a wonderful experience. Also, thanks are in order for the following kitchen helpers: **Jan Gravelle, Marna & Gary Gerke, Ron Morgan, Shirley Knopf, Ed & Shirley Oswald**, and all of you who provided the delicious food. Mark your calendars for December 31, 2015, the Third Annual New Year's Eve DAY event!

Help with Hospitality

As we move into 2015 I would like to thank the many people who contributed to the hospitality of this church in 2014. Did you usher, serve communion, greet, serve Coffee hour, or help at a funeral lunch? A sign-up sheet is near the door to the fellowship hall. Taking the initiative and indicating date(s) you can help would be greatly appreciated. Otherwise I will continue to solicit help in person, or by email or a phone call.

I am also looking for a half dozen or so people who would like to be part of a Hospitality Committee to find ways to fill the above activities, and to initiate some other aspects of hospitality. Please indicate your interest by contacting me or signing a sheet you'll find on the table next to the regular monthly sign-up sheet. Hope Circle members regularly contribute time, but I am looking for a cross-section of the membership.

In His Service and Yours,
Juanita Morgan

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The God We Can Know is a 7 week study designed to explore the “I am” sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John.

Perfect for Lent, this series will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, “Who do you say I am?”

This women's study will begin on Tues., Feb. 10, 9:15 - 11:00 in the church lounge.

Questions? Talk to **Cindy Kopp**.



Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Feb. 2—Joe Rystrom

Feb. 3—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Feb. 4—Gary Gerke & Jim McDermott

Feb. 5—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Feb. 6—Greg McCarthy

Feb. 9—George Hultman

Feb. 10—Carroll Keller & Grace Schmidt

Feb. 11—Larry & Shirley Knopf

Feb. 12—Bonnie Vastka

Feb. 13—Marvin Hultquist

Feb. 16—Joe Rystrom

Feb. 17—Cindy Kopp

Feb. 18—Lois Anderson & Marna Gerke

Feb. 19—Donn and Sharlene Arnold

Feb. 20—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Feb. 23—Floyd & Nancy Paurus]

Feb. 24—Carroll Keller & Grace Schmidt

Feb. 25—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

Feb. 26—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Feb. 27—Gary Gerke & Jim McDermott

Meals on Wheels Co-Coordinators:

Carroll Keller, 257-2225

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Tech Ministries Schedule

February 1 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

February 8 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Kay Oien

February 15 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Colleen Kopp

February 22 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, Feb. 12 at 9:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited!



Prayer Chain

If you would like a request for prayer to go out on our Prayer Chain, please call **Connie Buelow, 651-465-3024**, or **Lois Anderson, 651-213-1036**, or the church office, 257-4306.

Would you like to be a part of the Prayer Chain? Please call the church office for more information.

Can we be of help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday,
8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Pastor Dan is available to help you with your spiritual journey and the door is open most mornings. Please give us a call at 257-4306 if we can be of help to you in any way.

Church email address:

firstmethodist@usfamily.net

Pastor Dan's email address:

dan.d@usfamily.net

Printed Sunday Messages available

Pastor Dan's Sunday messages are printed each week following the Sundays on which they have been delivered. You may pick up a printed copy in the church foyer.

Please contact the church office, 257-4306, if you'd like a copy of a previous message not available in the foyer.

You can also read previous Sunday messages online at www.lindstrommethodist.org.

FEBRUARY 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00a Worship (Paul Prokosch)/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:15a Foundation meeting **Pastor Dan on vacation**	2 NO Bell Choir **Pastor Dan	3 NO Women's Bible Study out of office~	4 NO Adult Bible Study 7:10p Choir Board of Ordained Ministry**	5 7:30p Worship Team	6 2:30— 5:00p Club Rock	7
8 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship	9 6p Bell Choir	10 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church 3:45p Girl Scouts 7p Finance	11 6p Adult Bible Study 7:10p Choir	12 9:30a Hope Circle	13 *** Charis	14 Valentine's Day ♥ ♥ ♥ *Prison*
15 9:00a Worship (Chris Anderson)/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship Mission Sunday Red Bird Mission *Ministry Weekend*	16 6p Bell Choir ***	17 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church 7p Trustees Newsletter deadline	18 Ash Wednesday 7:00p Worship Service 	19 7p Church Council 7:30p Worship Team	20 2:30— 5:00p Club Rock	21
22 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 1st Sunday in Lent	23 6p Bell Choir	24 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church 3:45p Girl Scouts	25 6p Adult Bible Study 7:10p Choir	26	27	28
		Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p				

First United Methodist Church
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lindstrommethodist.org

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Sent with a prayer to:

February 2015



First United Methodist Church Pastor Dan Doughty

Practicing Grace Until We Are Perfected In Love

The *Grace Courier* is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church.

Deadline: the third Tuesday of each month for inclusion in the next month's publication.

Articles received after this date will not be printed. Place articles in the secretary's mailbox, on the desk in the office or email them to the church. The editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

We welcome you to worship with us!

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Children and Middle School Youth leave for Educational Classes during Worship

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Activities:

6:00p Adult Bible Study

7:10p Choir

Our Ministry Team:

Pastor...	Dan Doughty (dan.d@usfamily.net)
Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...	Carol Schmidt
Worship Coordinator...	Kay Oien
Children's Coordinator...	Laurie Doughty
Youth Coordinators...	Scott & Cheryl Lecy
Choir Director...	Kay Oien
Praise Band Leader...	Beth Lunsford
Church Council Chairperson...	Terry Keesee
Finance Chairperson...	Scott Lecy
Financial Secretary...	Linda Ploog
Lay Leader...	Craig Stockel
Lay Member to Annual Conference...	Beth Lunsford
Mission Chairperson...	Nancy Grossmann
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...	
Trustees Chairperson...	Lloyd Jones
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist

Office email: firstmethodist@usfamily.net

Web site: lindstrommethodist.org