



# GRACE COURIER

[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

## Mission Focus for March is UMCOR

### Disaster Response

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States, as well as those in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. These beneficiaries are seen as partners, not victims, and UMCOR works to empower them. Wherever possible, UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach.

In its holistic response to disasters, UMCOR:

- Offers disaster preparedness training.
- Provides essential supplies and care—both physical and psychological—in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

Supports long-term rebuilding efforts and assists communities as they adapt.

You can give to this mission throughout the month or on Mission Sunday, March 18.



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## Children's Ministries (Erin Thorvaldson)

Thank you to all the kids that participated in our Youth Souper Bowl Sunday service. They all did a fantastic job!! Special thank you to Wendy Vanderwerf, the RupleEwert's and Tina Forcier for the delicious meal after church. Special thank you to Beth Lunsford, Bret RempleEwert and Sarah Clark for assisting with music. Emily Honerbrink and Adrienne Stegmeir for helping make the service extra special with videos and skits. It's so much fun to see the kids get excited to organize and participate in our worship service.

Looking for a couple adults to sit in on Confirmation on Wednesday nights. As well as help during adult Bible study. We can set up a rotation, so it would not need to be every Wednesday. If interested, please contact **Pastor Dale**.

Next Youth, Family and Children's meeting will be held after church on March 17th.

Mark your calendar for the Easter Carnival - April 13th. We are in need of a couple more games, please see **Katie Leadholm** if you can help. We will also be ordering shirts, an order form will be available soon and cost will be about \$7.

Sunday March 3rd - Family Fun Day event, more details to come.



### Dates to remember:

- March 1 & 15  
Club Rock (youth)
- March 6  
Ash Wednesday  
Worship
- March 10  
Daylight Saving Time  
Begins
- March 17  
Mission Sunday
- March 19  
Newsletter Deadline

## From the pastor...

### Rejoice In the Lord Always - Even During Lent!

Lent is my favorite season of the Church year. I like the opportunity it presents each year to focus on the wilderness journey of life that leads to the empty tomb of victory and triumph on Easter. This is an important opportunity for us not only once a year, but daily, as we place our hope and trust in the new life of resurrection.

Typically, Lent has been thought of as a season of self-sacrifice and discipline that sounds, to many Christians, like a list of spiritual chores. Lenten disciplines become the spiritual equivalent of New Year's resolutions to lose weight, be healthier, or practice better money management. These promises are easily made and often quickly broken, leaving us feeling like we do not measure up. This is not an accurate or healthy view of the Lenten season.

But what if we approached Lent differently? What if we approached Lent with a spirit of joy instead of lament or despair?

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul joyfully turns to spiritual practices that draw him closer to God amid persecution and imprisonment. These practices continually keep Paul connected to a sense of God's power and presence. Joy flows from Paul and becomes a vital part of his relationship with the Philippians.

You're invited to join us this Lenten season on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge for a six-week study of this letter of Paul's to the Philippians. The study is based on a book called, *Because of This I Rejoice* and it explores what Paul teaches about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. The goal of this study will be to help us focus less on ourselves and more on God as we learn to engage in the same spiritual practices as a way to grow closer to God and allow joy to flow through our daily lives.

Participants are encouraged to purchase the book on their own. I hope you'll be able to participate. Please invite a friend whom you think might enjoy or benefit from this study.

The Lenten schedule is as follows:

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. - Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 p.m. - *Joyful Prayer*

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. - *Joyful Witness*

Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 p.m. - *Joyful Humility*

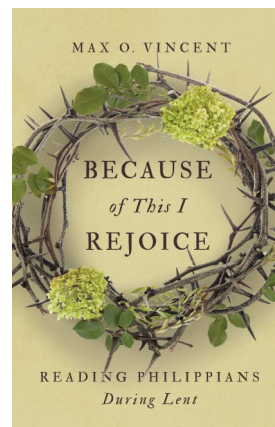
Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 p.m. - *Joyful Hospitality*

Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m. - *Joyful Asceticism*

Holy Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. - Worship with Holy Communion - *Joyful Giving*

Lenten blessings,

Pastor Dale



## Women's Tuesday Bible Study

Women's Lenten Bible Study beginning March 5.

We will be looking at *The Final Words From the Cross*, a study written by Adam Hamilton.

Tuesdays 9:15 – 11:00 a.m. in the church lounge.

Questions? Contact **Cindy Kopp**, 257-8526.



## In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug; Brian Elshaug; Rusty Johnson; George Hultman; Olga Determan; Steve Graves; Rebecca Ervasti; Baby Brooklyn & family; Laura & Phil

## Pastoral Care

Hospitals no longer telephone churches, because of the privacy act, to let us know that one of our members have been admitted.

Please notify the church office, 257-4306, if you desire pastoral care for illness, hospitalizations, or surgeries.

## Get Your Groove On During Lent

Did you hear about our "Advent Groove" class? Now it is time for "Lenten Groove."

If you like to dance, this class is for you! You are invited to dance and BE YOURSELF! It's a fun dance experience that nurtures the body and mind. Do it for fun or fitness-it's a great workout. This class is for every BODY....all sizes, all fitness levels, and you control the intensity. No dance experience is required, and it's impossible to get it wrong...your way is the right way! No following the leader, or complicated choreography. Express your own style and personality at Lenten Groove. Beginners are welcomed and encouraged!

We'll will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30am in our fellowship hall, beginning on Tuesday, March 5. Questions or more info? Ask **Kay Oien**.

**Kay Oien** 612-481-6710

## 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!



Bonnie Bielicki.....March 1  
Tess Sandgren.....March 2  
Boni Stockel.....March 4  
Nordell Anderson.....March 5  
Nancy Thalacker.....March 5  
Brody Thorvaldson.....March 13  
Jim Palmer.....March 16  
Sarah Sandgren.....March 18  
Diana Westrum.....March 19  
Tess Sandgren.....March 20  
Alan Hultman.....March 21  
Sharon Loeffelholz.....March 21  
Lisa Hughes.....March 26  
Shirley Oswald.....March 27  
Char Loula.....March 29  
Vicki Pearson.....March 31



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Hope Circle

The **HOPE CIRCLE** room has become the repository for many of the church's archival records. Among them are several notebooks recording business of the Women's Circles that were active while United Methodist Women was a national organization. By chance I picked up a notebook that turned out to be a record of **Hope Circle** from 1981-1991. What fun it was to read the monthly entries.

The first meeting of the new Circle was held on February 9, 1981 in the church lounge. No decision was decided from the possible names suggested for the Circle: Hope, Lydia, and Dorcas. The group decided "that we should pray about it and vote on a name at the next meeting." The March minutes states "We decided to call ourselves **Hope Circle**."

Good choice, don't you think?!

Interested in more of our history? Let me know.

**Juanita Morgan**

## 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.

2019

No information available

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 2019 is \$192,053, which becomes \$16,004 per month.

General Fund giving for January was \$11,557.

*Thank you for your support of our ministries!*

## Worship Attendance in February

February 3—98

February 10—80

February 17—88

February 24—54



## March Food & Fund Drive

Help re-stock the Family Pathways Food Shelf during their March Campaign.

Most wanted food items in March:

- \*Fresh, frozen, or canned fruit
- \*Fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables
- \*Bags of potatoes, carrots or onions
- \*Whole grain pasta, rice
- \*Baking and cooking items
- \*Canned meats
- \*Hearty soups
- \*Peanut Butter
- \*Personal hygiene and household cleaning products

There is a grocery cart in the foyer for your donations.

If you have refrigerated or frozen items, please bring them to Family Pathways, 40586 Liberty Lane, Chisago City.

## THIS 'N' THAT

By J. Morgan

By the time you read this it will be March, but I hope you haven't forgotten the Super Souper Bowl Sunday on February 3!! Our Youth, under the guidance of **Erin Thorvaldson**, and parents, presented the whole worship service, except for the Dismissal by **Pastor Dale**. Everything: music, scripture, prayer, and sermon was presented by youth. Adults were even called to come to the front of the sanctuary for Adult Time, led by the young people. Adults prepared and children served two kinds of soup, breads, crackers, beverages, and a final treat of ice cream with a myriad of toppings. Bad weather that Sunday did not keep people away or diminish the enthusiasm of our youth. Many thanks from the congregation!



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 20, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Dale Stiles, Chair Terry Keese, Cindy Kopp, Sarah Clark, Don Arnold, Scott Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Juanita Morgan, and visitor Ron Morgan

### Committee Reports

**Trustees**---Lloyd Jones reported that **Susan Meinholtz** is a new member of Trustees. Lloyd also complimented touch-up and painting done by **Jeff Meinholtz**.

**Foundation**---Donn Arnold reported that the *Youth Using Computers* system has been approved by the Foundation and is ready to be installed by **Greg Oien**. Estimated cost is \$418.35.

**Missions**—The position of Chair. is still not filled. Two people are considering it.

**Publicity & Social Media**—Erin Thorvaldson reported that she and **Pastor Dale** are pleased with the success of the Web Site and Facebook.

**Lay Leader**—No report

**Finance**---Scott Lecy reported he had just submitted the 2019 Budget today. Total January giving was \$11,500—short of what was hoped for. February is slow for donations. The recent electric bill was \$1600 for the month. The thermostats are turned down to conserve.

**SPRC**—Pastor Dale recapped the meeting of the SPRC with District Superintendent **Susan Nienaber**. She provided a helpful review of expectations of SPRC and left hand-outs addressing responsibilities of the members. She also suggested our church repeat the Rules of Christ in-service which was held over eight years ago. Current members are unfamiliar with it. She also encouraged the Committee to invite other community churches to participate. How to address wants and needs of church---Conflict Resolution---would be a component of the 'training' led by lay volunteers.

**Pastor Dale**---Methodist clergy from the area meet monthly for lunch. They met at Phil's Grill in Center City this month. **Pastor Dale** asked the Council for prayer about upcoming decisions the denomination will have to make regarding same sex marriage, and gender issues. He reviewed Lenten observation dates and plans. Six youth are in Confirmation class. The Wednesday book study "The Life You've Always Wanted" will conclude soon and a new Lenten study

on the book of Philippians will begin March 13.

### Special Groups/Teams

**Worship Design Team**—Team is still making decisions on the design for Lent & Easter

**Children, Youth, & Ministry**—Erin said the Children's Sunday, February 3 was a **Super Sunday!** March 17 will be a fundraising Sunday for Youth Camping & Mission Trip this summer.

**Women's Bible Study**—Cindy Kopp said the Tuesday morning study is finishing its study of Parables. Women are invited to attend Lenten study prior to Easter.

**Strategic Pathway Task Force**—Greg Oien, who will 'Chair' the group, recapped the first meeting held after church on Feb. 10. Thirteen people were present. It was agreed that the group would meet once a month on the Sunday prior to Church Council. Agenda includes picking four topics to address in small groups.

**Hospitality**—Juanita shared some thoughts: ushers & greeters to wear nametags Sunday Mornings; desire for more women to participate in Hope Circle; an outing to The Grumpy Minnow in Center City in May; and the importance of Hospitality that leads to Fellowship.

**OTHER:** -- Easter Carnival is April 13, 10-11:30 a.m.  
---Sign up for T-shirts for the Carnival, only \$7.00  
---Easter Breakfast will be led by **Erin Thorvaldson**.  
---Three students signed up for July Mission trip so far.  
--- Teen Challenge will be here June 23. Church will provide lunch after.

Submitted by **Juanita Morgan**





## Meals on Wheels Deliverers

March 1—Greg McCarthy

March 4—Michelle Gillespie

March 5—Ron & Juanita Morgan

March 6—Gary & Marna Gerke

March 7—Bonnie Bielicki

March 8—Jim & Joyce Stafki

March 11—Marvin Hultquist

March 12—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

March 13—Larry & Shirley Knopf

March 14—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

March 15—Bonnie Vasatka

March 18—Marvin Hultquist

March 19—Cindy Kopp

March 20—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

March 21—Jon Glader

March 22—Harold & Jan Lovaas

March 25—Georgia Burg

March 26—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

March 27—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

March 28—Bonnie Bielicki

March 29—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

**Juanita Morgan**, 257-9268

## Tech Ministries Schedule

March 3 – Sound: Craig Stockel  
Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

March 10 – Sound: Scott Lecy  
Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

March 17 – Sound: Bruce Larsen  
Accompanist: Kay Oien

March 24 – Sound: Craig Stockel  
Accompanist: Kay Oien

March 31– Sound: Craig Stockel  
Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

## Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, March 14 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 Dale** 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:

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

**Pastor Dale's** email address:

[dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

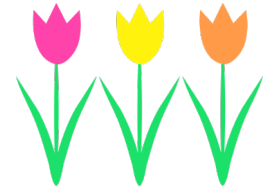
## Sunday Messages available online

Pastor Dale's Sunday messages are posted to our website: [www.lindstrommethodist.org](http://www.lindstrommethodist.org) the week following the service.

Pastor Dale writes a blog on the website and posts it on Tuesdays.

**Weekly Electronic News (eNews)** from First UMC delivered to your computer or smartphone every Monday morning. Subscribe on our church website today!

# March 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p					1 Pastor's Day Off  5:30p Club Rock	2 World Day of Prayer
3 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	4 NO Bell Choir	5 8:30a Lenten "Groove"  9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	6 7p Worship Service  	7 8:30a Lenten "Groove"	8 Pastor's Day Off	9  
10 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship  <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b>	11 6p Bell Choir	12 8:30a Lenten "Groove"  9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	13 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	14 8:30a Lenten "Groove"  9:30a Hope Circle	15 Pastor's Day Off  5:30p Club Rock	16
17 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship  <b>Mission Sunday~ UMCOR</b>	18 6p Bell Choir	19 8:30a Lenten "Groove"  9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church  7p Trustees  7p Finance  8p Church Council  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	20 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	21 8:30a Lenten "Groove"	22 Pastor's Day Off	23
24 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship	25 6p Bell Choir	26 8:30a Lenten "Groove"  9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	27 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	28 8:30a Lenten "Groove"	29 Pastor's Day Off	30
31 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship						

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[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

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Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

March 2019



## First United Methodist Church Pastor Dale Stiles

### 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 leave for Sunday School during Worship

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday Evening Activities:**

5:00p Family Dinner

6:00p Adult Bible Study

7:00p Confirmation

7:00p Choir

#### **Our Ministry Team:**

Pastor...

Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...

Children's Coordinator...

Choir Director...

Church Council Chairperson...

Custodian...

Finance Chairperson...

Financial Secretary...

Foundation Chairperson...

Lay Leader...

Lay Member to Annual Conference...

Mission Chairperson...

Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...

Trustees Chairperson...

Worship Team Leader...

Youth Coordinator...

Dale Stiles

Carol Schmidt

Erin Thorvaldson

Kay Oien

Terry Keesee

Cheryl Hultquist

Scott Lecy

Linda Ploog

Donn Arnold

Craig Stockel

Kay Oien

Sandy Gaudette

Lloyd Jones

Beth Lunsford

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Web site: [lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)