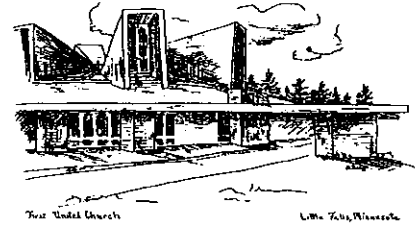


The U N I T E R

First United Church will make disciples through worship, nurturing its members, witnessing to Christian faith and unity, and serving the community and God's creations.



Phone: (320) 632-5468

firstunitedlf@gmail.com

Pastor Tony Romaine

(320) 774-7418

May, 2018

- 1st UCWA Sale set up
- 2nd UCWA Sale
- 3rd UCWA Sale
- 6th Communion Worship
choir practice
Book Study
- 7th Worship Team
M&M
Dance Lesson
- 9th UCWA at Highland
Confirmation
- 13th Happy Mother's Day!
Worship
choir practice
Book Study
- 14th Dance Lesson
- 15th Ad Team
- 16th Confirmation
- 17th Vol. at Food Shelf
- 20th Worship - Pentecost
Team Reports due
Uniter deadline
Book Study
- 21st Dance Lesson
- 23rd Confirmation
- 27th Worship
- 28th Memorial Day
Office closed
- 30th Confirmation

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of First United Church will be held Sunday, June 3, 2018, at 10:35 a.m., following Worship Service, for the purpose of accepting reports, conducting church business, and electing officers. All members have the right to vote at meetings of the congregation.

Annual Team Reports due on May 20

We are missing a few reports from our church teams. If you have not yet submitted a report for 2017, get it in on or before May 20 so the report can be finalized.



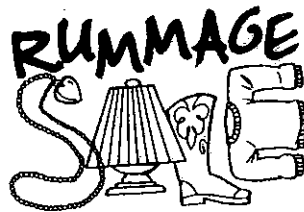
UCWA Rummage & Recycling Sale

Monday, April 30 & Tuesday, May 1st set up & sort 9am - 3pm,

Wednesday, May 2nd ~ Sale, 9am - 6pm

Thursday, May 3rd ~ Sale \$2/bag ~ 9am - 2pm

Help is needed and appreciated, please contact Mary Lou to volunteer. Those who shop at the sale get great gently used items at even greater prices. Proceeds raised at the sale will help fund a variety of local charities. We encourage everyone to come out and support the event, and bring a friend or two!



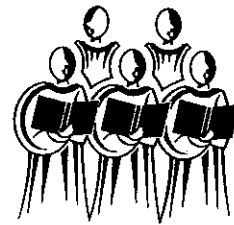
The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28th, Memorial Day.

Recognition Sunday

We will recognize our teachers, Sunday School kids and graduates on **Sunday, May 20.**

We will have a picnic after worship.

We invite *you* to sing in the First United Church Choir! We will have short practices after worship the first and second Sunday of each month. We will sing during worship on the third Sunday of the month. All God's children can sing! All are welcome!



The church office is open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and closed on Fridays.

Pastor Tony is in the office Monday - Thursday unless he is at a meeting or an appointment.

Diana is in the office Mondays, Tuesdays and some Wednesdays.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact us at **320-632-5468** or **firstunitedlf@gmail.com**

First United Church will again offer space for **New Pathways** to shelter homeless families with children starting **Sunday, May 13 – Sunday, May 20**. Volunteers are needed to host families 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and overnight 8:30 p.m. – 7:30 a.m. You may also volunteer to provide an evening or breakfast meal, do laundry, last-day clean-up, or help with set-up and take-down. Please call Peggy 632-5979 or Bea 632-8090 to volunteer. Thank you!

First United Church web site: www.firstunitedlf.yolasite.com Our calendar, Uniter newsletter, ministry volunteer schedule and hospitality groups are posted on our web site. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/firstunitedlf/



Our **Monday night dance class** will meet through the month of May. We will not meet on May 28, Memorial Day. Lessons begin at 6:30 p.m. Please invite your friends to our free community lessons! No partner needed. If any questions call Jeff at 632-1945.

Our worship service airs each Sunday at 4:15 p.m. on channel 180.

Please remember to wear your name tags in church to help all feel welcome!

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

- **Jeanne Meyer**, for recovery from cancer and treatments
- **Carla Brenner**, for her ongoing battle with cancer
- **Pat Young**
- **Rodger Nauretz**, for relief from migraines
- **Bob Olson**, for ongoing recovery
- **Nancy Olson**, for continued healing after her fall
- **Esther Tepley**, for healing and medical answers
- **Mike & Vicki Tepley**, Esther's parents, for strength
- **Maxine Orton**, recovery from a recent fall
- **Jan O'Quinn**, recovery from knee surgery
- **LaVonne Adams**





Greetings Everyone,

I was thinking of all the things we have going on this month,

Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Pentecost, graduations, and of course...fishing opener!

And as I was planning and pondering I remembered a story of God bursting forth into the life of a friend of mine. I hold this story dear, because to me it is an example of how God's love reaches all of us, no matter who we are, no matter where we are, no matter what season of life we are in.

A friend of mine had thought for a long time that she was not good enough for God's love. In fact, she thought she had been forgotten by God. One day she was on a long charity bike ride. She was biking on little sleep and across lots of difficult terrain. She had been physically worn down with saddle sores and leg cramps, and mentally worn down having to will herself onward, and was now at the breaking point.

Right then, she came over a hill on her bike and was blinded by the most beautiful sunrise she had ever seen. It was warm, it was bright, and it seemed to embrace her and say, "I've got you, and it's going to be okay, you are perfect just the way you are." She stopped there and sat down and began to weep uncontrollably, because for the first time in her memorable life, she felt loved by God. For the first time in a long, long time, perhaps eighteen years, she felt God's presence, God's warmth, God's love in her heart.

At that precise moment, a stranger came alongside her, sat down, gave her a hug, and comforted her. She had never seen him before, and usually this would have scared her because she did not know him. This stranger, didn't say a word. He embraced her and sat with her for just a moment, and then he got back on his bicycle and continued on his way. For the final day or two of the charity ride, and ever since that moment, my friend has never seen this person again. I truly believe that "person" was God in some form or another, perhaps an angel sent to comfort, perhaps the Holy Spirit in the form of the best part of our humanity. Either way, God entered into this moment with my friend, brought the heavens down upon her and said, "My beloved child, in you I am well pleased."

In my experience, revelation and clarity happens when we least expect it. God separates the chaos of our day-to-day existence long enough for us to see clearly, and we experience epiphany. This is the great miracle of our existence, this is the great miracle of God's continual revelation in our life...Our continual revelation that we are God's beloved, our continual revelation that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives, our continual Easter blessing of Jesus with us forever.

So, this month with all the brightness that comes with Spring finally here, that comes with warming temperatures and spirits, that comes with the ability to get outdoors and be active...I pray that you find time to feel God's presence with you, that you find time to share that presence with one another, that you can feel the sun shine upon your heart and know that God loves you!

May God bless you this day and forevermore, Happy May, Amen!

UCWA HAPPENINGS

Monthly meeting at Highland Senior Living on Wednesday, May 9.

We gather at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments

Lucy Tanner will be joining us representing
the Little Falls Care Center Auxiliary, and the two fund sales they host each year.

This will be our last meeting until September.

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THANK YOU NOTES:

There are things that make my heart glad.

- Having will hands and hearts to help when all you have to do is ask.
- Seeing people gather to support those who enrich the community we live in.

THANK YOU for helping with the Orchestra Luncheon and the Rummage Sale!
UCWA Chair, Mary Lou



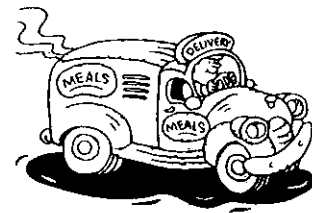
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Weekly Receipts - April 2018

Date	Amt. Budgeted	Amt. Received
4/1/18	\$2,850.00	\$6,015.00
4/8/18	2,850.00	2,651.00
4/15/18	2,850.00	1,765.00
4/22/18	2,850.00	1,040.00

First United Church will have
Home Delivered Meals: May 7-11, 2018.
We deliver on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.
See Keith or Betsy to sign up or call us at 632-5692.



To the members of First United Church,
Thank you! The Minnesota Conference UCC so appreciates your support of OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). Know that your gifts help enable the wider church to live out its mission.

Yours in Christ,
Charlie Green



Updated Hospitality Groups

The popularity of the socialization time after church services shows that the present system for spreading responsibility is working well. Many thanks to those group leaders who continually give of their time to make this happen every week!

Hospitality Groups

May 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019

Group 1 January/July	Group 2 February/August
Jill Griffith McRaith (232-3707)	Joan Bellig (632-8617)
Garry & Debra Bultnick (612-298-2592)	Mike/Allison Hendrickson (632-1542)
Nancy Dobmeier (630-2888)	Julie/John Witucki (632-9754)
Jesse/Kolbi Grant (632-1070)	Greg/Deanna Anderson (250-2237)
Jeff/Kim Johnson (632-1755)	Suzanne Cekalla (584-5530)
Richard/Peggy May (632-4421)	Scott/Layne Freudenrich (493-8508)
Muriel/Diana Poehler (630-3872)	Fred/Jenny Linehan (468-0356)
Robin Scholl (632-2152)	Renae Oothoudt (632-3306)
	Jim/Jenelle Peters (632-8660)
	Craig/Jackie Pooler (632-3356)
	Dan/Peggy Rekstad (632-3590)
	Mike/Delores Schwanke (632-2612)

Group 3 March/September	Group 4 April/October
John/Carol Ahlin (632-9700)	Ida Mae Holland (632-9307)
	Peggy Larsen (632-4491)
Tony/Paula Armagost (632-3188)	Nancy Thoene (218-839-9953)
Lyle Bourdon (218-829-7427)	
Mike/Jennifer Burr (632-3031)	LaVonne Adams (616-2824)
Marjorie DeRosier (414-1016)	Shirley Arvidson (632-5629)
Jim Hill (632-3120)	Gerald/Carla Brenner (632-8277)
Marcy Larson (632-2562)	Helen Isaacson (632-5908)
Andy/Mary Lee Moberg (632-8721)	Maureen Okroi (360-3355)
Amanda Romaine (320-217-2027)	Dale/Jan Peterson (632-3496)
Charlotte Salvog (320-412-0694)	Phil/Susy Prosapio (632-6341)
Steve/Kris Wilger (584-8340)	David Sherman (320-232-8583)

Group 5 May/November	Group 6 June/December
Jason/Dianne Spillum (632-8514)	Jean Samuelson (632-6803)
Al/Pat Libke (584-5992)	Bryan/Debbie Hill (632-4084)
Orv/Mary Lou Yatckoske (355-2433)	Lynn McCarthy (632-3025)
Perry Belcher (632-3257)	Ardy Coenen (632-6454)
Larry/Rosie Brower (584-5977)	John/Brenda Fedor (749-2014)
Sue Edwards (632-3277)	Bill/Barb Girvin (632-6169)
Nancy B. Flolid (612-991-3406)	David/Amanda Hlad (749-2277)
Ressa Harris (393-3647)	Jim/Julie May (632-3416)
Cathy Hartle/Doug Larsen (761-0203)	Jeff Poehler (632-1945)
Edith Lowe (632-9496)	Vivian Raab (632-3786)
Shurod Marrow/Sarah Okroi (616-9735)	Bev Savage (632-6277)
Buck/Jan O'Quinn (632-5282)	Gordon/Mary Jean Stobb (632-9063)
Verna Satter (616-7069)	George/Pat Toschak (507-438-7705)
	Audrey West (632-4677)
	Cindy West (360-1227)
	Tom West (632-5062)

Honorary Members

Betty Anderson
 Roy Belcher
 Betty Benedett
 Helen Gavin
 Bette Gerling
 Margaret Flolid
 Norm Hanson
 Jeannine Hyde
 Echo Kowalzek
 Jeanne/Scottijo Meyer
 Art Lindgren
 Rodger Nauretz
 Eugene Nelson
 Martha Nornberg
 Becki Okerman

Bob/Nancy Olson
 Maxine Orton
 Evelyn Pinckney
 Mike/Joyce Podtburg
 June Politeske
 Donna Rekstad
 Geraine Ryan
 Travis Schwanke
 Nancy Starr
 Gaylene Taylor
 Marge Vannostrand
 Jan Warner
 Aggie Weitgenant
 Pat Young

Funeral Supervisors

Betsy Tepley (360-0332)
 Keith Manbeck (632-5692)

Recent Donations to the Memorial Fund

Lynn McCarthy
Bette Gerling

in Memory of

Odell Coenen
Bradley Spillum

Recent Donations to the Memorial Fund

John & Carol Ahlin
Gordon & Mary Jean Stobb
Margaret Larsen
Perry Belcher

in Memory of

Odell Coenen

Recent Donations to the Easter Flower Fund

Orv & Mary Lou Yatckoske
Ren & Ida Mae Holland
Lynn McCarthy
Bette Gerling
Helen Isaacson
Travis Schwanke
Art Lindgren
LaVonne Adams
Jim & Julie May
Ardy Coenen
Roy Belcher
Lucy Tanner
Al & Pat Libke
William Girvin & Barbara Heinrich Girvin
Barbara, David & Heather Quammen
Marcy, Brandon, Marion & Penny Larson
Albert Blaser

in Memory of

Lyle & Bea Tuller
our parents
Ernie Halls & Tom McCarthy
Gordon and Michael Gerling
Bob Isaacson
Agnes Karpinski
Edith Lindgren
Don Adams
Margaret May
Odell Coenen
Elsa Belcher
Edward, Keith & Viola Tanner
family members
Rhoda Girvin & Dick Heinrich
Clifford & Imogene Beebe
Greg Larson
his ancestors



First United Church invites all members of the community to join a “**book study**” and discussion on alleviating poverty – no reading required! Based on the book *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, this small good experience will explore how to do mission work well. Using a multi-media approach to guide the discussion, the group will explore topics such as: Reconsidering the Meaning of Poverty, Seeing God at Work, Understanding Why Good Intentions Are Not Enough, Joining God’s Work, and Fostering Change. Those wishing to read the book may do so to deepen their understanding, but it is not required for participation.

The group meets each Sunday until May 20, from 4:00 – 5:30 pm at First United Church. Those wishing to read the book along with the discussion may purchase the book at their local bookseller or online; the correct edition has a 2009 copyright date and a colorful front cover. Participants are welcome to join the discussion even if they cannot commit to every session.

For more information and to register, please contact Pastor Tony Romaine at 320-632-5468 or email the Church at firstunitedlf@gmail.com.

From Homeless to Housed

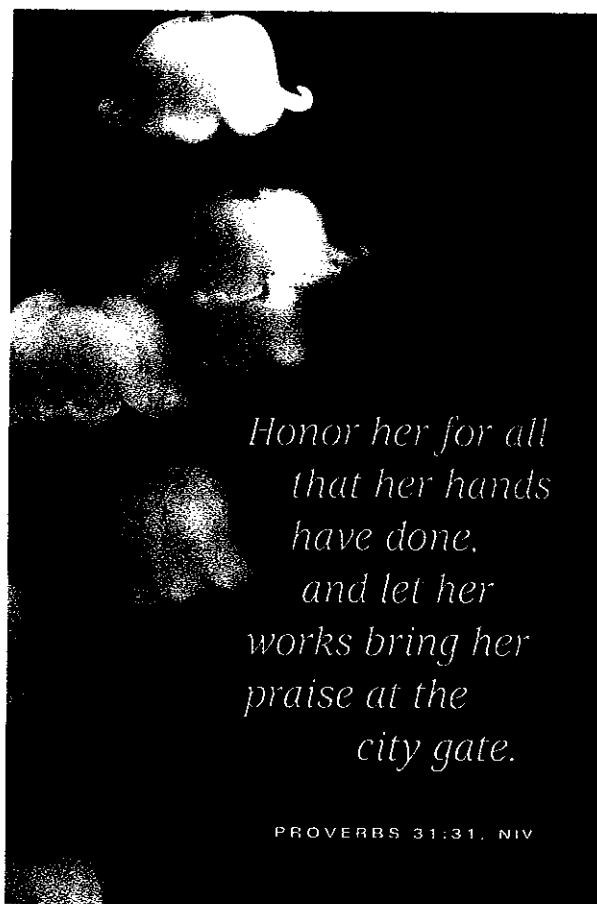
A Morrison County Community Forum will be held on **Sunday, May 6 from 3-5pm at The Initiative Foundation**. Join the discussion to learn about homeless, transitional housing, and affordable housing in Morrison County, and to work together to address this issue. Speakers from Oasis Central Minnesota, New Pathways, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. All are welcome!



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based **preventive health screenings** will be at **First United Church on Friday, July 6, 2018**. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Go to www.lifelinescreening.com/ for more details.

Register online today at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your “Community Circle” discount and your Preferred Appointment!

George and I invite you to join us on a spiritual journey we are taking in the **fall of 2019 to Scotland**. We will travel to the Isle of Iona off the western coast, where it is said Celtic Christianity began. We will stay in the historic Columba Hotel and experience the wonder and mystery of this sacred place with the help of Ecumenical Iona Community. Then we'll explore the city of Edinburgh before heading home. But if you want a bit more of an adventure there is an optional 4 day extension to Ireland. For more information and details please pick up a brochure on the back table or call Pat Toschak at 507-438-7705 or email her at ptoschak@gmail.com. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who might be interested. All are welcome but we are limited by space to 30 people. With a Love of Experiencing this Wonderful World, Pat and George Toschak



May & June 2018 Worship Volunteer Schedule

May 6

Greeter/Ushers: Larry & Rosie Brower

Scripture Reader: Jeff Poehler

Communion Servers: Betsy Tepley, Orv & Mary Lou Yatckoske

Preparation of Communion: Betsy Tepley

May 13

Greeter/Ushers: Andy & Mary Lee Moberg

Scripture Reader: Shawn Holtz

May 20

Greeter/Ushers: John & Carol Ahlin

Scripture Reader: Ida Mae Holland

May 27

Greeter/Ushers: Edith Lowe, Betsy Tepley, Keith Manbeck

Scripture Reader: Cathy Hartle

June 3

Greeter/Ushers: Bette Benedett, Bill Morse

Scripture Reader: Royden Belcher

Communion Servers: Ardy Coenen, Helen Isaacson, Verna Satter,

Preparation of Communion: Helen Isaacson

June 10

Greeter/Ushers: Rich & Peggy May

Scripture Reader: Mary Jean Stobb

June 17

Greeter/Ushers: Al & Pat Libke

Scripture Reader: Helen Isaacson

June 24

Greeter/Ushers: Nancy Dobmeier, Jim Hill

Scripture Reader: Julie Witucki



For those unable to serve, please find a replacement for your spot.

