

# COMMUNITY NEWS

*Community United Methodist Church*

**August 2018**

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## ***August Serving Unit***

### **Anna Lexvold, Coordinator**

Kari Trench

Jim & Mahesh Reinholdson

Janis Sandgren

Nancy Sandgren

Keith & Carol Felland

Ben & Ann Monson

Donna Staubus

Key Reese & Merle Jacobson

Duane Daehn

Debra, Paige & Emily Wilson

Okito Unyangunga

Robert Lundula & Lousie Yema

## **Pastor Linda's Letter**

Dear friends,

Over the next few weeks, we will talk about love and the role love plays in our lives are essential to our faith journey. The love we receive from God, “unmeasurable” and “unconditional,” is critical to how we respond to the world around us. It is easier to love when we like people and those that assimilate to our world, values, ideals and more. It gets harder to love when our human nature toward judgment, hate or strong dislike, and the differences we carry with us toward other people. We don't always see the world from the same view and we often want to rule the world to our ways. The sense of wanting people to assimilate to our standards creates chasms in the potential for love. We hope that throughout this time we can examine ourselves and move from self-ish feelings regarding withholding love or putting conditions on our love (and faith) toward self-less feelings around loving your neighbor (and the church family).

Friends, I know that change is hard for some people, and harder yet for others. The phrase ‘we’ve always done it that way’ and ‘that won’t work here’ seem to roll easier from our human tongues than the words ‘great, let’s try something new’ or ‘I don’t know, but we sure can try it and see’ responses. I had a thought as I watched pure joy from Fortunate’s little five-year-old body yesterday. Let me try to share what I mean, for the last year Mary and I wanted to take a family from church to explore greater Minnesota. I wanted them to see one of my favorite places in Minnesota (and some of yours) by going to Duluth on a day-trip roadtrip!

As we stopped for some relaxing and playing in the big blue lake at Brighton Beach, we watched the comfort of the six kids and their mom grow with excitement, some splashing,

*(Pastor—Continued on page 5)*

## Rally Sunday!

Rally Sunday is coming fast! Save the date as we plan a fun and energized service renewing our role as “God’s Team” for the coming year! Start picking our your favorite “team wear” gear to wear that Sunday to church. September 9, 10 a.m. We will engage some of the sign-ups for the fall season and use them in 2018-2019. Please consider prayerfully what ways you want to serve in our church family on Sunday mornings. We will be developing teams of ushers and using a different greeter system including more of our congregation. We will honor those people that have been serving in specific capacities for several years, too.



**Rally Day  
will be  
September  
9th.**

Hard to believe the summer will be winding down by the time Rally Day arrives.

Our theme this year will be God's Team. Lots of fun being planned! Hope you can join us!!!

*Karen Schneider and Brenda McCoy*



**NEW!**

## Office Manager

I'd like to introduce myself. You are the 4th church I have served by working in the office.

I am a member of PAUMCS— the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional System. We have a strong chapter in Minnesota, and means I have others outside this church that I can ask questions about databases, how another church handles some particular issue, and continue my education about office and church.

Outside of work, I train my Australian Cattle Dog Teaque in agility and obedience, and sing with One Voice Mixed Chorus.

Here and everywhere, I admit that I cannot read minds, nor do I attend worship here. If I need to know something, please make sure you let me know—don't assume someone else has taken care of it.

I look forward to learning more about this church, and working with Pastor Linda.

*Martha Bentley*

Ahmi Jones-Mansary	08/01
Philip Bentrud	08/02
Kenneth Kottom	08/05
Richard Webber	08/08
Vincent Porter	08/09
Nancy French	08/10
Alice Mettler	08/11
Kristine Rodriguez	08/12
Nathan Wigert	08/13
Godwin Kasongoma	08/14
Avery LeBlanc	08/14
Emily Wilson	08/20
Karl Wigert	08/22
Erica Smeby	08/22
Ana Wigert	08/25
Barb Miller	08/26
Ben Monson	08/27
Jan Johnson	08/29
Carter Mapes	08/30
Paige Wilson	08/31

# JOIN us for NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

5:30 to 7:30 pm TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th 2018 at  
Community United Methodist Church



950 Gould Ave NE  
Columbia Heights

ENJOY FREE FOOD  
and LIVE MUSIC

Lyndy Zabel and  
*WORLD BEAT  
CONNECTION*

Visits from Local Police and  
Fire Departments



We will be collecting non-perishable  
food items for the **SACA** Food Shelf  
during this event.

*Special thanks to Old Dutch, the Columbia Heights  
Dairy Queen, Loaves and Fishes and the volunteers who  
make this event possible*

## Prayers for August

1. Pray for our Core Leadership Team
2. Pray for the church to see the new audio video system as an asset to the future of our congregation. Pray it is a tool to invite others to worship.
3. Pray for us to become more loving toward each other, accepting others that are different from us, and using an open heart over criticisms when we don't understand things. And using the framework: Does this conversation build up others or tear them down?
4. Pray we have the courage to live using the Rule of Christ and healthy boundaries with each other.
5. Pray for us to build a church where all are welcome, pray for others to come and join us!
6. Pray for the United Methodist Church and the 2019 Special General Conference to vote for a One Church plan for our future where all are welcome.
7. Pray for our community's health and well-being. Pray for those among us with ailments, illnesses and diseases. Pray for their strength.
8. Pray for our church's stewardship to be a heart of generosity in time, talents, treasures and tithes.
9. Pray for our pastor.
10. Pray for our Autumn kick-off!

*Thank You!*

Thank you for the many beautiful birthday cards, the sweet wishes, hugs and smiles to celebrate my 90th birthday. I especially want to thank the Bible Study Group for taking me to lunch. My church family is my second family—for 61 years. You are all so sweet and dear!!

A great big hug filled with my love!

*Donna Staubus*

## Welcome to Community UMC

Throughout the last year, we have published works from The United Methodist Communications book on Welcoming. This month, we have a reminder as we prepare for fall and the time so many families explore the churches in the community. Take a few moments and read the questions below and prepare your responses to them. The United Methodist Church has suggestions and statistics on what ways churches can be more welcoming, beyond just a friendly head-nod. Here are some questions for you to consider answering. "Do I want to be welcoming?"

1. How does this church help me grow in my faith?
2. Why do I attend this particular church?
3. How would I describe this church?
  - a. Do I share about my church with my friends that are not a part of this community?
  - b. Would I share about this church with someone I don't really know?
4. Why do I think other people might like this church?
  - a. What are the things I like, how could I use those things to invite others to join this church?
5. How would I want my guests to be treated?
  - a. Am I open to various styles of dress?
  - b. Do I comment negatively or admonish them if they wear something other than my expectations of church attire?
  - c. Do I judge others that don't look, dress or talk like me?

These can be intriguing questions, but necessary to explore where we are located on the systems of change for our current and future church. We are at a point of need for growth by our numbers, so examining how we share about our church, and when people walk in how we recognize the hope to truly welcome and make room for others, not just expect them to assimilate to my church choices.

## Fall Rummage Sale 2018

The Fall Rummage Sale is coming up fast! The Rummage sale will be held Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-5 and Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-1. As always, we are in need of things to sell.

Items that are needed include:

- ◆ Clean clothing – kids' clothes are always in demand
- ◆ Jewelry/linens
- ◆ Books/Toys/ DVDs
- ◆ Lawn/garden items/tools
- ◆ Furniture – pick up is available
- ◆ Holiday objects
- ◆ Kitchen utensils/dishes/pots & pans
- ◆ And any other miscellaneous stuff.

Please talk to friends and relatives and let them know that we would gladly accept items they no longer want. Pick up can be arranged by calling Rondine at 612-781-7582 or Anna at 763-572-1437. On Saturday 9/8, the church will be open from 10-3 pm for drop off. It can be delivered directly to the stage if possible and if not, place it in the room under the Secretary's office. We would prefer to have most of the things here by Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, but if your schedule is such and you need to bring it at a different time, call Anna or Rondine to open the church for you.

We have a couple things with which we need help. One of them is **signage**. We are really trying to find help with getting some lawn type signs made and placed maybe at each of our homes or neighborhoods. Ideas? Volunteers? Also, we feel that it is important to **display the clothing** in a more customer friendly way; so many people just don't take the time to go through all those piles. We need to sort them better, hang more of the clothes, and size them properly. If anyone has some portable clothes racks that we could use for that week, we would like to borrow them. This will be a work in progress as we try new ideas.

We also want to emphasize that we hope to have a large bake sale this Fall and, as in the Spring, we will have separate rooms for books, furniture and the higher end rummage.

**FYI** – that Monday (the 10<sup>th</sup>) is Community Dinner night – come and eat with us and stay to help set up the tables and move the rummage into the Social Hall.

Someone will have sign-up sheets available on Sundays, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Your church needs your help.**

(Pastor—Continued from page 1)

throwing rocks and a few slips into the water. We sat with our feet resting in the cool refreshing waters of Lake Superior. Then, it hit me, I saw this immense joy, heard the laughter that made listeners smile as Fortunate scaled the large boulder rocks along the shore. Running. Jumping. Laughing. The smile on his sweet face went ear-to-ear, it couldn't have been larger, it was pure and simple joy! The family shared he was up earlier than normal to get ready for his trip to Duluth, and excited for what the day would hold. I think the day held more joy than he imagined with the happiness he exuded from his face and little body!

I share this because what if, what if, what if . . . What if when we get the opportunities to share our faith, to invite others to join us, to explore places we've never been as a church or do things we've never tried (like our new board or task forces), instead of saying the rituals toward change, we run toward it with joy and expectant hearts? What if we learned from a child that 'I haven't been here, I don't know exactly where you are taking me, but I am ready for what it is and going to make it a great time'?

May we move toward love and all God has for us with expectant hearts the remainder of the year and beyond. May we seek joy before criticism. May we drop our need to make things my way or the highway and see the anxiety reduce around us. May we experience joy like it was for the first time and smile with gratitude like Fortunate did this week! Amen. And Amen.

Peace,

*Pastor Linda*

[pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org)

## Recycling & Composting in the Kitchen

You may have noticed we are using new hot cups for coffee during Social Hour after church on Sundays.

These cups are not only recyclable, but they are COMPOSTIBLE.

This means that they need to be placed in the Organic Recycling bin. We will have someone stationed near the bins for a while to help you place your items, not only cups, but napkins paper, etc., in the correct bins. Obviously, these cups are more expensive than the old Styrofoam cups. They cost about 10 cents apiece so a little extra in the 'kitty' will be appreciated. This is CUMC's effort to help preserve a livable planet for future generations.



## Love Offering

Thank you to all of our generous churches! The love offering received to date is at \$93,881. This is quite an accomplishment! These funds will go far in supporting Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Trips (65%), Park Avenue Freedom School (20%), and the NUMAS Haus (15%).

# COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

950 Gould Avenue Northeast

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Phone 763-788-9009

<http://www.communitymethodistchurch.org>

Pastor Linda McCollough

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### August Events

August 2	Core Leadership, 6 pm
August 6	Chair Yoga: meets every Monday, 2:30 p.m.!
August 6-10	Eco Camp, Faith UMC, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
August 6	Women's Meal, Culvers, 4:30 p.m.
August 7	National Night Out 5:30-7:30 p.m.
August 13	Community Meal 5:30 p.m.
August 16	Retired Clergy "River Rats" Meeting, 10 a.m.
August 20	Newsletter Articles due for September Newsletter
August 27	Community Meal 5:30 p.m.
August 27	NO Chair Yoga

### Coming Up in September

September 5	Communion Service, 7 p.m.
September 5	Choir Starts, 7:30 p.m.
September 9	Rally Sunday: God's Team
September 14-15	Rummage Sale