



Newsletter Index

Birthdays.....Page 2
 Breakthrough Prayer.....Page 3
 CalendarPage 9
 Community Meals.....Page 4
 Core LeadershipPage 8
 Lay Leader Corner.....Page 7
 Feed My Starving Children ...Page 4
 Financial UpdatePage 5
 Meals on Wheels.....Page 4
 Mission & Vision.....Page 3
 Mission LiberiaPage 8
 Music & Lent.....Page 2
 PlumbingPage 5
 Safety & SecurityPage 6
 SouperBowl Sunday.....Page 5
 Thank You.....Page 3
 United Methodist Women.....Page 4
 What's Next.....Page 2

Pastor Linda's Letter

Friends, we begin this new year in hopes and change opportunities that are before us. There is an idea that to create change we need to have enough consensuses to agree on change theory. If we agree on the theories of how we can create change there will be more success in what we are doing, how we arrive at the places of change as a church. The change theory, I hope, for us demonstrates that we grow into areas for growth and revitalization. When we become the age of our church, the statistics of things in the decline cycle can be overwhelming. One of my favorite verses is: Don't worry, cast all your anxiety on God, who cares for you! And we keep praying breakthrough prayers as a church, and following the change theories with possibilities for us!

We are going to spend time in 2019 working on revitalization and working with Consultant Rev. Cathy Townley and her coaching services. We will examine the local community with the Ministry Insight reports (among their other reports by Experian) and see what is possible for our community. She will help us vision and give suggestions for us to consider building new and fresh ideas into our current worship service. She will help us to examine what is our mission field from surrounding areas by processes and systems that have worked elsewhere.

Some of you may wonder why can't we just do what we have been doing and maybe try some new things. Friends, we've been on the decline side of church participation for more than two decades, so the things we are/were doing aren't reversing the trends. The upside with the use of a consultant is that we get the benefit from her decades of experience, fresh eyes and insights that see things differently, and things that are mundane for us. We need her help! We can't just start a new service and expect people to come because *we are here*. We have to do the hard work and build the theories of change to create a community that people want to become a part of and we need to be learning how to build relationships in new ways and new ideas. (The same old same old isn't working.)

(Pastor—Continued on page 6)

February Serving Unit

- Kristine Rodriguez
- Katherine Brown
- Mike and Sandy Langner
- Shirley Fenn
- Pat Cruse
- Cheryl Boe
- Skyлар Varhol
- Dick and Marilyn Meixner
- Brenda McCoy
- Glen Mapes
- Melissa Ferrell
- Fred Carter

What's Next:

- ⇒ **SouperBowl Sunday** – please bring SOUP or a non-perishable food item for SACA Food Shelf. Wear your favorite team colors or sportswear. We plan a fundraiser for Heifer International to buy more goats by selling chili-to-go for the game! Get in the spirit of the game for February 3, 2019. (We will take pre-orders.)
- ⇒ **HeightsNEXT** is a great neighborhood organization. We celebrate the work that they do and how we can walk along side them in providing spaces for their outreach and help when we can. **February 21** is their Volunteer Potluck, it is held in our fellowship hall. (questions, please check-in with Mary Tholkes)
- ⇒ **FoodShare Month is coming!** As SACA (our local food shelf) and other Minnesota food shelves plan to restock their shelves, we prepare to help them. The official campaign is from **Monday, February 25-Sunday, April 7**. Please prayerfully consider bringing non-perishable food items and/or monetary gifts to them through the drive to restock supplies and build up what they need for the coming year! More details next month!
- ⇒ **On March 2** – the 2nd Fix-It Clinic will be held at our church in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ This summer, **HeightsNext** is planning a *PRIDE Fest*.
- ⇒ Save the Date! **June 28** the *Community Parade for Jamboree* will take place. Community UMC will participate in the parade this summer! Let's start a plan soon of how we can promote visibility and welcome through the parade.

So what's happening in the music area now?

We are planning our music and preparing for the upcoming months with the choir, special music, bells and an outside music person from now until the end of May. We are posting the position for choir director and accompanist in the appropriate places. If you know someone interested in the position, please have them contact Pastor Linda.

Lent is just a short time away!

We will kick off our Lenten time with an Ash Wednesday service on March 6 with a soup supper. Please save the dates on Wednesday evenings to come and worship in the spirit of Lenten preparation. We will also have a Maundy Thursday service at 7pm and host the local ministerium service on Good Friday at noon.



Luke Jones	2/09
Matt Haag	2/10
Olivya Chau	2/14
Meghan Ferrell	2/19
Mark Mettler	2/20
Patricia Cruse	2/22
Jessica Chau	2/22
Merle Jacobson	2/25
Corey Zappa	2/26

Breakthrough Prayer for Our Church

*Good and Generous God,
Your grace and love are an outpouring for me;
I give thanks for all that you have given me and
our church. O God, we know that Community
UMC has held a presence in this community for
111 years. We are blessed and rejoice in the
works and wonder we have provided to serve
this community. God, we pray fervently for our
church as we seek You for new directions, new
ministries, new purposes to join in your vision
for us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. Guide
us in your purposes and help us to know your
purpose is our purpose, your vision, our vision.
God, breakthrough to us! Grant us the spirit of
exploration, new adventures, new leaders, more
visitors, and new members – help us to go
where we have not yet been. Expand our
territories and nudge us from our comfort zone.
Help us to grow more in love with you, God, and
more in love with our neighbors. Guide us to
take risks in Your Name and for Your Kingdom!
Amen.*



Mission:

To bring people into Christian Community, in order to grow in God's love, as demonstrated by Christ, for the transformation of the world.

Vision:

We are a welcoming, diverse Christian Community, reflective of our neighborhood, actively working to serve our community through our demonstration of God's love. We want to Reach others through God's love, Grow in faith with God's love, and Send people out with God's love.

Thank you to all those who served on the unit in January:

Naomi Jones
Kelly and Kay McKee
Arlene Peterson
Mike and Angela Forga
Joannie Anderson
Randy Rennaker
Joan Bixler
Faythe Anderson
Kathy Davis
Lynn Reinholdson
Mahesh Reinholdson



Our next delivery dates will be February 11th—15th. Mark those dates down, and we'll be in touch.

Thanks again for your hard work!

Rod Bruns & Sylvia Bruns



On Saturday, January 5th, 17 members and friends met at the Coon Rapids facility where we packed food and put labels on the packets. As a group, we packed 225 cases—which is 48,400 meals, enough to feed 133 kids for a year. Our meals are being sent to Haiti. Thanks to everyone who helped with this project. If you haven't tried this before, try it. It's fun and for a great cause.

Our next work day will be:

Saturday, April 6th from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM
at 401-93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Watch for sign-up dates.

Thank you!

Dick Meixner



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The February 6th UMW meeting is a luncheon (provided). The program is a short play put on by Andy, Randy and Bert. Come for some food and fun. If you would like a ride call Anna 763-572-1437.



Community Meals Served!

January 14 116 served

January 28 34 served

Financial Information and Updates

Every part of the church being functional and missional is related to the funding that makes the work possible. Friends, we are sending another letter out to those that didn't participate in the annual stewardship plan for our congregation. We know there was a little glitch in the return envelope address, and some people's cards were returned by the mail back to them. So, those that we didn't receive a pledge card from will be receiving a second letter.

We are around \$30,000 less in pledges for 2019 from 2018. We can account for those things via deaths of members that were pledging members, one transfer to another church by a giver, and one large 1x gift to Community UMC.

However, we know that we will need more than the \$30k to do the good work God has called us to do in this community. We have spent time cutting anticipated expenses where possible in our annual budget. We will be developing a strategy for some additional fundraising for the coming year.

The 2018 financial books are still being finalized. We were pleased that our anticipated pledges came in very close to what we expected. There was some less than planned, but again, those things were accounted for by change in status by members that were pledging and giving to the church.

We had larger than budgeted expenses for the year on the building and office expenses. One reason for the higher than planned building expenses was deferred maintenance. We hope that our putting in plastic pipes and change in a "y" pipe from the upstairs restrooms will reduce some of our issues in the nursery/family room. Also, putting in a new ceiling to repair the leaky stained and soiled ceiling tiles in the family/nursery room was a necessary repair. Like many of you, we did not get anticipated or hoped for investment market value increases in 2018.

Our anticipated December giving was strong and went well. Thank you! We did end up around \$18,000 in spending more than the giving for the year-end total. We did dip into the reserves to cover those expenses for the 2018 year. If you have any questions regarding this, please talk to Jim, Jan, or Les.

SouperBowl Sunday!

Sunday, February 3rd is the Super Bowl. Please bring SOUP or a non-perishable food item for SACA Food Shelf. Wear your favorite team colors or sportswear. We plan a fundraiser for Heifer International to buy more goats by selling chili-to-go for the game! Get in the spirit of the game!

Plumbing

We seem to have some ongoing issues, and we had another visit from a plumber to clear the mainline of the sewer under the building. We will be putting new signage in the bathrooms. Just an FYI for you if you have questions talk to Bruce, Karl, or Rod.

General Conference 2019

In less than a month, the worldwide United Methodist Church will hold a special session to address the issues of human sexuality and how we respond to those things via our Book of Discipline and face-to-face inclusion/exclusion in our denomination. The people that will vote on said legislation are the delegates from the 2016 General Conference. The response from the vote could mean a few different things in time for our congregation. First, we remain focused on the mission of our church that we are living into and moving us toward creating space for more people to learn about Jesus. Second, whatever the vote outcome is, our Minnesota Annual Conference will respond to that vote at the conference this May. The next General Conference (worldwide) in 2020 may

be impacted by the work that needs to be done for our denomination resulting from this special conference, too. (That is held here next year and will need thousands of volunteers from our local churches.)

There is a copy of the three plans that were suggested from the work of the Commission on The Way Forward outside the sanctuary for you to take home, examine and pray over. There is also a prayer sheet from one of the U.S. United Methodist Women's groups encouraging the final 40-days of prayer.

What we know is that we need to be disciplined in our prayers and outreach to the world and live in the inclusivity of Jesus Christ, God and the Holy Spirit always and forever more.

Safety and Security

As many of you know, we had a break-in between Friday and Saturday (1/25-26). They took some of our audio and wireless technologies from the sanctuary, and damaged our doors. Yes, we are insured and will be making a claim. Due to these issues of accessing our church, we are going to be upgrading to new security measures and safety steps in the building for access and usage. We are evaluating those steps at this current time and next month will share more with you. Thank you for your prayers and patience in the upcoming changes.

(Pastor -Continued from page 1)

My prayer and hopes are that you will join us in continuing praying for the "what's next" moments in our congregation and community. Our breakthrough prayer allows the heart-beat of the church to corporately blend our hearts, minds and spirits in a unifying manner. Please continue with me in praying it for us – and to encounter a big God that can help us as we proceed down a path of uncharted territory for reimagining growth and revitalization. We are no longer in the holding pattern of wait and see or just hoping that things turn around for us – the time is now. That means friends that action is required of us now to reach, grow and send. Please rally with me in prayer, that is the key and essential component! Amen!

Peace,

Pastor Linda

pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org

The Lay Leader Corner

by Les Johnson

Last month I described some of my major responsibilities as Lay Leader and interacting with Pastor Linda. This month I'll focus on activities related to mission and vision for our church.

As Methodists, our overall mission, as defined by the global church organization, is, *To make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*. It's up to each congregation to determine what that means in their specific situation. So, it's up to us at Community UMC to define how we go about fulfilling that mission.

Our Core Leadership Team has taken a shot at further defining our mission, and both our mission and vision statements are posted at the top of the stairs. We've also landed on a shortened version of mission that consists of "REACH – GROW – SEND – with God's Love. The idea being that we need to reach new people who are not currently involved with a religious organization, help them become a part of our community and grow in relationship with God, and equip them to continue that process in the world (as we also continue that process in the world). While that sounds like a reasonable and meaningful goal, it is still pretty general and needs further definition.

It really comes down to understanding our mission field; who are the people in our neighborhood, how can we establish meaningful relationships with them, and what are they are looking for. If we don't understand that, we'll never be able to welcome them in partnership with us. In order to help us move forward quickly with the job of REACHING, we have engaged the help of an expert who can help us with this process. She will guide us as we seek to better understand our surrounding community and make new, meaningful connections that can lead to new ways of growing in our faith community.

This is an exciting time in our church life as we work to GROW while connecting with new groups of people in our community with the ultimate goal of SENDING all of us to make yet more Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Stay tuned for more communications about how we can all get involved in this great goal.

Core Leadership Team updates

January 10, 2019, we invited Rev. Cathy Townley to come and share her insights from her consultation she did with a group from CUMC in November. Her vision and insights often bring new ideas and thoughts into what become a rote routine of driving through a neighborhood and not always seeing what is there. She also did a walk-through of our building and gave us some of the ideas on decluttering the space and updating bulletin boards and updating the look for visitors. (Townley reminds us that updates to the building alone won't bring new people into the congregation.)

She shared ideas of how we could revitalize what is happening in our current context on Sunday morning. The vision and ideas of how we can grow the church and what it takes to do it. The conclusion of the time with Cathy was a discussion and unanimous vote to contract with Townley Coaching. She is one of the UMC coaches and consultants that works with churches all

over the US. We will use some of our Resurgence Funds to pay for her services and more information will follow in the coming months.

- The carpets are going to be cleaned in many areas of the church building in February. The final touches are going into the Family Room, there will be an open house happening later in the month.
- We spent time talking about the stewardship campaign on the expenses/income for the 2018 year.
- We discussed the Jamboree Parade for June, and our participation.
- We voted to participate in the PRIDE Fest that will take place in July with HeightsNEXT. They approached our church to ask if we would help with planning and producing the event. More details will follow as we know more about the upcoming events.

Martha Bentley: Mission Trip

Martha Bentley, our office manager, is going on a mission trip to Ganta, Liberia in West Africa. Some of you are hearing about this for the first time. I wanted to let you know about this great opportunity.

I will be part of a team of nine people from multiple MN churches: Crosswind UMC, Brooklyn UMC, North UMC, St. Francis UMC, Destiny Christian Church and Campbell UMC in CA, to work on the second building on the Gipo Vocational Institute campus located in Gipo Township near the Ganta Methodist Mission Station. The new building will be a co-ed dormitory for students. We depart on March 14, 2019.

We are currently working on raising donations for this project and would appreciate your support. We will take donations with us on our trip and any donations received afterwards, will be forwarded on to Gipo to continue the work. Donations that we will take on the trip will be accepted until February 20, 2019.

Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to:

Brooklyn United Methodist Church
c/o 2019 Liberia Mission Trip
7200 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55428

Please make the checks payable to "BUMC" and include "VIM/Liberia 2019 Advance # 14369T (MJB)" on the memo line. Note that if you would like to make an electronic donation, you can call the Brooklyn UMC office at 763-561-1684. We appreciate your prayerful consideration in supporting our mission trip.

Thank you to everyone who helps in the office. I really appreciate being able to take the time to go on this trip.

Martha Bentley



February 2019

February 2019							March 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church	Office Closed 4:30pm Women's Meal at Culver's (Culver's)	10:00am NE Seniors Meeting (Asbury Room)	9:45am Adult Bible 11:00am UMW Exec 12:00pm UMW Lunch 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	7:30am Finance Committee 5:30pm Bell Choir	Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga 12:00pm Set up for TC UMW Meeting	8:00am Twin City UMW meeting
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church	Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner		9:45am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Core Leadership Team	Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga	16
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Blood Pressure Clinic 12:00pm Elevate	Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner		9:45am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Core Leadership Team	Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church	Office Closed		Newsletter Deadline 9:45am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	10:00am River Rats 5:30pm Heights Next Volunteer Potluck (Social Hall) 5:30pm Bell Choir	Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga	Special Session of General Conference
24	25	26	27	28		
Special Session of General 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate	Office Closed Special Session of General 5:30pm Community Dinner		9:45am Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Eve Circle	Martha's Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 AM —4:30 PM	

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

February Events

February 2 (Sat)	9:45 am Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir (repeats on Wednesdays)
February 4 (Mon)	4:30 pm Women's Meal at Culvers
February 6 (Wed)	11:00 am UMW Exec 12:00 pm Lunch
February 11 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal
February 14 (Thurs)	6:30 pm Core Leadership Team
February 20 (Wed)	<i>Newsletter Articles due for March</i>
February 25 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal