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***April Serving Unit***

- Kari Trench
- Jim & Mahesh Reinholdson
- Janis Sandgren
- Nancy Sandgren
- Keith & Carol Felland
- Ben & Ann Monson
- Donna Staubus
- Kay Reese & Merle Jacobson
- Duane Daehn
- Debra, Emily & Paige Wilson
- Okito Untangunga
- Rondine Mehling
- Robert Lundula & Louise Yema

**Pastor Linda's Letter**

My prayers for this Lenten season are that you find ways to draw yourself from the mundane and instead go deeper in your time with God. Maybe through devotion, quiet stillness, Bible study, or working on your story to share with others about this church setting. We know that the ways churches grow are through invitation and websites. So, you are a part of the equation – please think about your 2-3 minutes of why you would invite others to check out this church that you love and where you worship!

While we finish our stories series, celebrate the joy of Jesus triumphant arrival on Palm Sunday, and move through Holy Week with the emotions of love, sorrow, loss, and ponderance. We complete the feelings cycle on Sunday's resurrection of new beginnings with Easter hope and joy! It is a great way to remember the power of the hope and mysteries of our faith journeys as they build momentum for what's next in our church body, denominational body and our individual faith journeys. *Isaiah 43:19 Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?*

Then, we'll embark on a series to help us as we continue toward R.E.V.I.T.A.L.I.Z.A.T.I.O.N. "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" by Bishop Robert Schnase will be our next series. This may be a review for some of you, however, this will be a time for commitment in what we need to do furthering our hope, plans, and promise of what it will take for us to missionally reach out in new ways for our future. There are many without a church to call home – we want to be that home in the Heights (or CoHi) neighborhood for all people to experience God's love and grace! Love God, Love Others is our calling as followers of Jesus – may we make it so!

Peace,

*Pastor Linda*

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

## Save the Dates!

- ◆ April 18, 7 pm—Maundy Thursday Worship.
- ◆ April 19, 12 noon —Good Friday. This is the Columbia Heights Ministerium event held here.
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 21 — 8:30-9:30 Breakfast, 9:55 Announcements and 10 am Worship.
- ◆ Thursday, April 25, 11 am — Salad Luncheon .
- ◆ May 9-11 Rummage Sale.
- ◆ May 18, 2pm — Piano Concert.

## Palm Sunday!

We'll have Palms, Special Music by Kathy Webb, and a fantastic skit by our talented children's programming complete with home-made paper-mache' puppets. You will not want to miss out on the worship!

## Easter Sunday!

We will have breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am (serving stops at 9:30 so that Jim and team can worship on Easter). We'll have our announcements at 9:55 am and then 10 am a joyous resurrection service, this is our time of why we live into the gospel stories!

### **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.*



Jeffrey Fisher	4/01
Ronald Havelak	4/06
Edison Konold	4/06
Dick Meixner	4/09
Tammy Seebach	4/12
Aza Donnelly	4/12
Annabel Monson	4/15
Dorothy Eckstrom	4/16
Jessica Perez	4/17
Bert Jones	4/20
Kaye McKee	4/20
Brooks Porter	4/20
Marilyn Peters	4/21
Mandy Bixler	4/24
Daniel Trench	4/30
Katherine Donnelly	4/30

## 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  
112 years. We are blessed and rejoice in the  
works and wonder we have provided through  
You to serve this community. God, we pray  
fervently for our church as we continue to seek  
You for new directions, ministries, and  
purposes joining in your vision for us. Pour out  
your Holy Spirit upon us. Guide us in your  
purposes, help us to recognize your purposes as  
our purposes. God, breakthrough to us! Grant  
us a spirit of exploration, curiosity and newness  
in our: adventures, leaders, visitors and  
members. Help us to go where we have not yet  
been, and enlarge our territories. Nudge us  
from our comfort and complacency zones. 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.*



## **Updates on Recycling and Composting**

A group of 7 church members met with a representative from the Anoka County Recycling Program to go over what is offered to help small business and churches achieve their goal of recycling and composting. By doing what we can to continue to further in our efforts here at CUMC, we are helping ensure that we are fulfilling some of the ideas and concerns that were brought up in several of the sermons that we heard on Social Justice in February. As many of you know, we have already begun those efforts.

There is a grant available and we will use those monies to help purchase new color coded containers and posters that will help us all know what goes where!! We also will be able to purchase a 6 months supply of compostable goods and we hope to extend those items beyond just the coffee cups and a few plates that we are using at present time. One of our goals will be to purchase compostables and stay consistent with the same brands so, with time, you will be able recognize them and whether those items are to be recycled or composted. Therefore, we will ask that no one brings paper goods in from outside for the kitchen. If you see that we are running low, or need something we will identify one or two people to contact.

Please watch for further news as we develop this program, and be assured there will be members in place to walk us through this together.



Our next delivery dates will be April 15th to April 19th. We'll be in touch.

Thanks again for your hard work!

*Rod Bruns & Sylvia Bruns*



### Community Meals Served!

March 11      77 served

March 25      90 served

### Address Update:

#### Judy Schnarr

5325 Altura Rd  
Fridley, MN 55421-1144



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

- ◇ **April 3** UMW luncheon at 12 noon. Lunch furnished. We would like to invite everyone to lunch and a performance by the Community Players. The play is entitled, "Pontius Pilate and the Dreams of Claudia". Call Anna if you would like a ride. We will meet in the John Wesley Room at 12 o'clock for lunch. UMW Executive at 11 am.
- ◇ **April 25** Salad Luncheon 11am to 1pm.



### Our next work day will be:

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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*

## **ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON APRIL 25, 2019**

The 2018 Salad Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

As always, we will depend on your help in preparing salads at church, and, of course, we need volunteers to make salads at home and bring to church.

Ticket prices will be \$9.00 and the UMW women will be selling tickets before and after church, Sunday mornings on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Ask Anna if you need tickets before then.

In addition, we will have sign-up sheets for help and a list of salads that we will need.

We will be signing up volunteers for Tuesday night "Chop" night (April 23rd) starting at 5 p.m. On Wednesday morning we will make the chicken salad at church. Thursday morning, we will require many hands in the kitchen. We will need waitresses; dining room help and then clean-up help after the lunch is over.

The Community Boutique will be open again this year and we welcome items to be sold and irresistible homemade baked goods which will appeal to all who attend!

Please join us for this important fund raiser, enjoy a great lunch and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends.

*UMW Special Functions Committee*

## **Potting Party**

You are all invited to a "Potting Party" on Thursday April 11. We will start the planting at 6:30. Children are welcome.

We will plant seeds for the SACA Community Garden of Hope. Seeds, soil and pots will be provided. We use newspaper pots. If you would like the instructions to make them, please contact Mary Tholkes. The potted seeds will be put in the John Wesley Room to grow until the ground is ready to receive them. If you have plans for the John Wesley Room and need the plants moved, please let Mary know and they can be moved to accommodate events.

*Mary Tholkes  
Garden Coordinator*

## **Sheridan Story Update**

Community UMC partners with St. Timothy Lutheran to put food in approximately 100 kids backpacks each week at Valley View Elementary School. They receive a packet of food containing a protein (canned meat beans etc.), a starch (rice or pasta) a vegetable and fruit. It is enough to make a meal for a family or 4.

The CUMC team consists of 13 volunteers who rotate the duties in groups of 4. It takes about 1 hour and is usually done on Friday mornings. If you would like to help with this effort, let Mary Tholkes know and you can get added to the roster. The school does require background checks for volunteers. Forms are available in a hanging folder by the office door.

## ***Update on the Trustees work***

We are exploring paint colors for the building of something more energetic and bright colors, our product replacementx from the break-in are now in use, doors are on order. Security cameras, lighting and electrical work is all on hand. Dealing with some Spring thaw water issues in the social hall, kitchen, and boiler room were also a part of the month following the meeting. We were chosen for the Builder's Spring Call to receive a grant (in time) for painting our industrial and institutional style walls.

## ***Security and Safety Update***

As you may remember we had a burglary issue in January. We are still finalizing the changes that are finishing our last steps of security updates.

We have a full-safety plan for the church on Sunday mornings (developed in 2018). We also have a safety plan for locking our building. If you are a person that locks up the building and you have not yet gotten a copy, please see Pastor Linda or stop in the office for a copy of locking up procedure. Keep in mind we lock all doors when we leave the building and we lock the elevator on the lowest (ML) level (Sunday School floor) toward the inside of the building.

## ***Key Changes***

Due to the break-in that took place in January, we will be changing the steel doors that were damaged. There are many people within our congregation that have keys to the building. We are assessing the safety and security measures and will be reducing the number of keys to the exterior doors by a 2/3 margin. This is also a stewardship and financial issue as the break-in cost considerable monies to upgrade security, premium increases and deductible payment. There will be criteria for who will have a key. If you do not have a key and you have an event and need a key, there will likely be a check out system where you can check-out a key, hold your event, and then return the key. There will be an opportunity for when you are no longer in need of a key (changes in positions) that you will turn your key back into the church trustees. Core Leadership Team is working on a policy for keys and the upcoming changes. We know from our church history, people get upset about limited key access, we pray and ask you to understand that we are working to tighten up the policies due to the safety and security of the building. We have examined many other churches policies and procedures as well as insurance company suggestions. (It is not random decision making by the Core Leadership Team and Trustees.)

### ***Core Leadership Team updates:***

Our team continues to work on “The New Adapters” together, growing as a leadership team. This book helps us think about the ways churches can grow and revitalize.

Discussion on various first steps around the follow-up and fall-out of the Special General Conference and the financials that could impact our churches. Discussion on our current budget/income status and our needing to determine opportunities to increase our giving/receiving to help in the 2019 church budget. Discussion on churches deciding whether to pay our apportionments or not. There are many local churches that are determining if they want to withhold apportionments as a push for changes to happen within the Minnesota Annual Conference toward inclusion. It was voted we would withhold our apportionments and put them in escrow for the time being. (We will save the funds so if we determine we want to pay it in December or if we need it to exit to another plan [to be determined] we have the funds in place.) Lay Leader Les Johnson will write a letter outlining our plan to withhold our apportionments has been sent to our District Superintendent Dan Johnson.

Discussions underway of how we can inform the congregation on conversations happening and state of our financial status for 2019. We continue to work on both things.

### ***Update on hiring:***

We welcome Daniel Ritter as our new Music Director. He will begin his time with us in June, 2019. We are excited to have him as a part of our staff.

We will celebrate Sharon's retirement on June 9.

### ***Music? Why yes!***

Oregon Methodist John Nilsen will be on a music tour in Minnesota in May. He will hold a concert open to all people in our community and cities at 2pm on May 18. It is a free-will offering with his compact disks for sale.

His music will cover folk, jazz and classically woven compositions, and many of his traditional hymn arrangements. He plays a little boogie-woogie and interweaves his stories about his life growing up a Methodist. Please plan to attend and bring your friends. His music is available online through YouTube, too.

### ***Notice: Craft Shop***

The craft shop on our main level has new items for Spring. The profits from the sales go to the church operating budget. The sales have slowed recently. If you would, please stop in and check out the new items. It was also a suggestion that if the sales do not increase other decisions may be made by the crafters. Please stop in and see Pat Good in the craft shop.

## **Follow-up from the Special General Conference 2019**

While we are not always of one-mind in the denomination or even our congregation, we know that there is a lot of things happening for the future of our churches. There are many groups happening around the issues related to the United Methodist Church vote on the traditional plan at the Special General Conference. The groups are offering different times and activities to learn more about the plans that are out there including online: [MinnesotaMethodists.org](http://MinnesotaMethodists.org) is a site that can give you more information. Minnesota Reconciling Ministries Network has had a couple of opportunities to hear and learn more. Naomi has participated in a couple of those events. Please keep watch on hand-outs and conversations on our "what's next" moments coming for the Minnesota Annual Conference on discussions for the future of our denomination. We are discussing, too, if our congregation may become a Reconciling Congregation in Anoka County.



## Responses to General Conference 2019 & the Traditional Plan

### *In Our Church:*

#### **Is it time for CUMC to consider becoming a Reconciling Congregation?**

The number of Reconciling Congregations and groups within the Minnesota Annual Conference is growing. There are things happening all throughout the Conference related to moving forward as Methodists! In light of the recent decision made at General Conference 2019 to emphasize the Traditional Plan, members have discussed options to take action. Some church members are strongly interested in exploring the possibility of our congregation becoming a Reconciling Church.

"What is a Reconciling Congregation?", you might ask. Reconciling churches are United Methodist Churches who go beyond a standard "all are welcome" statement, and specifically affirm that LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, plus) Christians are welcome to participate in the life and leadership of the church without need to fear. These churches accept LGBTQ+ Christians in worship, fellowship, service, and leadership as they do all other faithful Christians.

Reconciling Congregations create and approve a statement that specifically names a welcome of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This explicit welcome is necessary because our United Methodist Church holds official policies that exclude LGBTQ+ people from the full life of the Church.

I, Naomi Jones, would like to set up a team to work with our Leadership Group to share information with the congregation about what is involved in becoming a Reconciling Congregation. This is a process that must be laity-led, not pastor-led.

Please, let's get this conversation started. Talk to me (Naomi) in person, or by phone 763-571-2409, or email: [naomidiva60@gmail.com](mailto:naomidiva60@gmail.com). Thank you!

### *In Minnesota:*

## **GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE - SO DO WE**

### **A letter from Minnesota United Methodists**

We stand in opposition to the actions taken at the recent global gathering of The United Methodist Church to tighten restrictions on the ordination of LGBTQIA+ clergy and to maintain prohibitions on clergy who perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. We grieve this decision and the pain it causes our siblings throughout the world. Too often, our silence has done harm.

We say to our LGBTQIA+ siblings: you are beloved children of God, and you are beloved by us. We celebrate the many gifts and graces you bring to the church. We humbly seek forgiveness.

We commit ourselves to creating the inclusive church God intends us to be. We seek to undo the harm caused by exclusion and discrimination through systemic forms of oppression against all marginalized people both inside the church and in our greater society. We recommit to working for the full inclusion of all people.

We invite you to share your vision for a fully inclusive church on our Share Your Vision page (<https://www.minnesotamethodists.org/vision>).

The local United Methodist faith communities and members listed below proclaim God's love and grace are for all. We welcome everyone and extend a special welcome to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, allies, and families.

United Methodist lay people, clergy, and churches wishing to add their name to this letter can sign below. The listing of names will be published to this page starting on 3/22/2019 and then updated once a day at the end of the day. The letter and signers' names will be published online, social media platforms, and possibly in print media. Note, names will not immediately appear - please sign only once.

To sign, visit:

<https://www.minnesotamethodists.org/>

## *In the US and the world:*

# Resistance to GC2019 spreads

By Sam Hodges

March 26, 2019 | UMNS

Reprinted from <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/resistance-to-gc2019-spreads>

Before last month's special called General Conference in St. Louis, the Rev. Mitchell Boone had participated in same-sex weddings, but he hadn't violated the United Methodist Book of Discipline by performing one.

He's willing now, despite the risk of getting charged under church law. The denomination's top lawmaking assembly's vote to continue bans on same-sex weddings and ordination of gay clergy— and strengthen enforcement— pushed Boone to a new place.

"My commitment to a fully inclusive church will not waver going forward," he wrote to the church he leads, Dallas' White Rock United Methodist Church.

By a vote of 438-384, General Conference delegates adopted the Traditional Plan, and resistance to that vote continues. It's taking different forms and drawing in people who haven't spoken out before.

Among those watching the drama unfold have been United Methodists with a history of defying official restrictions on LGBTQ participation.

"It's very heartening to see the outpouring of support," said the Rev. Austin L. Adkinson, part of the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus and pastor of Haller Lake United Methodist Church in Seattle.

Traditionalist-minded pastors, such as the Rev. Chris Ritter, are observing, too. Ritter's website tracking the fallout from General Conference has received about 100,000 hits in March, he said.

"I believe we are watching the stages of grief play out before our eyes in the reaction of our brothers and sisters who wanted to see church teachings changed," Ritter said.

Resistance to the Book of Discipline has long been pronounced in the Western Jurisdiction— where the Rev. Karen Oliveto, a lesbian married to another woman, was elected bishop in 2016. Now that resistance is spreading to other parts of the U.S. as well as to Europe.

In the Iowa Conference, more than 1,100 clergy and laity signed a statement lamenting the harm done to LGBTQ people by the General Conference action and promising they will no longer abide by the restrictions on ordination and same-sex weddings.

Clergy signees specifically said "we will take the

authority to perform marriages, with respect to our consciences and not to the Book of Discipline."

The Rev. Katie Dawson, a General Conference delegate and one who has worked often with traditionalist clergy and laity on denominational committees and boards, added her name.

"As I have listened to a number of folks who are most harmed by our current legislative stance in the Book of Discipline, I keep hearing that silence is complicity," said Dawson, pastor of Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines. "I feel I can't be silent anymore."

In Raleigh, North Carolina, the Rev. Jason Butler announced his willingness to do same-sex weddings. He's also organized a petition drive of North Carolina Conference clergy and laity asking Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and her cabinet to stand with them in resisting implementation of the Traditional Plan.

"We want to build power, relational power, to create a movement that puts pressure on the leaders of our conference to publicly stand against this and refuse to implement its rules," said Butler, pastor of Open Table United Methodist Church.

More than 300 clergy in the Michigan Conference signed a letter to their episcopal leader, Bishop David Bard, saying they will not abide by LGBTQ-related restrictions in church law. The letter also urged that the conference's Board of Ordained Ministry recommend qualified candidates for ministry regardless of sexual orientation.

Clergy and laity of the Wisconsin Conference drafted their own letter, titled "Sacred Resistance and Call of Action."

At Dallas' Northaven United Methodist Church — long a part of the Reconciling Ministries Network that has tried to change church restrictions on LGBTQ participation — the Rev. Marti Soper shared a nine-part response to General Conference.

Along with covering "United Methodist" on the church's sign, Northaven has chosen to place in escrow its apportionment funds. She said a church committee will review the decision in May.

King Avenue United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio, another Reconciling Ministries Network congregation, also has put its apportionment payments into escrow. The Rev. John Keeny, pastor, said it was a protest of General Conference but also a response to frustration in the congregation.

“Every General Conference we lose members, we lose pledges with the exclusionary language of the Discipline,” he said. “This year it was pretty clear that unless we did something we would lose more persons and more pledges.”

In the Great Plains Conference, the Rev. John R. Collins drafted a resolution for the upcoming annual conference gathering, calling for no funds to be expended for background investigations, complaints, just resolutions or clergy trials related to LGBTQ ordination or marriage.

He started a petition in support of the resolution and collected about 350 signatures over a few hours.

“We’ve had people from other conferences ask to borrow the (resolution) form, so I’m encouraged by that,” said Collins, who with his wife, the Rev. Jennifer Collins, leads First United Methodist Church in Abilene, Kansas.

A petition drive in Norway calls for creation of a committee to explore how LGBTQ United Methodists there can have full equality in marriage and ordination, even if that might mean, as a last resort, the Norway Conference leaves the denomination. The effort was inspired by similar action by United Methodists in Denmark, said Ole-Einar Andersen, a lay member in Trondheim, Norway.

The Rev. Ole Birch of Denmark estimated that 90 percent of the United Methodists in that country oppose the Traditional Plan.

“Some are sad, some are angry,” he said. “The annual conference will look at a proposal to set up a ‘Commission on a Better Way Forward’ to investigate how we can become a nondiscriminatory church inside or outside the UMC.”

Meanwhile, the executive committee of The United Methodist Church in Germany unanimously backed a statement saying that “the stipulations of the Traditional Plan are not acceptable for our church.”

Some churches in the U.S. continue to display rainbow banners or drape the “United Methodist” in their signs with rainbow materials. Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati is among the latest denominational groups to take out a newspaper advertisement expressing grief to the LGBTQ community for the results of General Conference 2019.

Along with protesting, at least a few clergy unhappy with how General Conference went are exploring new futures for their churches.

The Rev. Sid Hall, pastor of Trinity Church in Austin, Texas, said he’s gotten 10 to 12 calls from United

Methodist pastors eager to know about his church’s experience in dual affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the more LGBTQ-inclusive United Church of Christ.

For the Rev. Rudy Rasmus, who leads St. John’s United Methodist Church in Houston — a congregation about one-third LGBTQ — all options are on the table. He’s waiting to see if the Judicial Council again rules unconstitutional a disaffiliation or “gracious exit” plan for churches that was approved at General Conference.

Rasmus’ specific question relates to St. John’s: “Would gracious exit apply to a now predominantly black church that historically was a white church that happens to be located on some of the most valuable land in the downtown area of the third-largest city in America?”

The Reconciling Ministries Network reports gaining 18 new churches and communities and more than 3,000 individuals since the General Conference in St. Louis.

The traditionalist Wesleyan Covenant Association has seen an “uptick” in church membership and lots of inquiries, said its president, the Rev. Keith Boyette.

“The responses that have been on the traditional side have not been of the dramatic public expression — newspaper ads and those sorts of things,” he said. “More, it’s been the conversation that occurs among people, (asking) ‘How can we continue to be invested in a church that is this broken?’”

David Reed, Memphis Conference lay leader and chair of its General Conference delegation, is another traditionalist who thinks the St. Louis gathering and its aftermath underscore the need for considering denominational restructuring or division.

“I think I hear leaders on both sides of the conversation saying we’ve got to find a way not to continue to work in conflict with each other,” he said.

Retired Bishop Will Willimon is feeling for active bishops — most of whom supported the failed One Church Plan, which would have given U.S. churches and conferences leeway on same-sex unions and ordination of gay clergy — as they grapple with the divide.

“I hope this maybe can be seen as an opportunity and a blessing to learn what the law cannot do and only the gospels can do, and to learn that the bishop’s real authority is not the power to enforce the rules of the Discipline,” he said. “Our authority is like a pastor’s authority. It’s influential.”

# The Lay Leader Corner

by Les Johnson

The General Conference, which is the governing body of the United Methodist Church, voted in February to adopt a 'Traditional Plan' for defining organization policy changes. For those of you who have not been following this, these changes would focus on two main things. First, it included changes to the Book of Discipline that very specifically would ban LGBTQ individuals from ministry and ban marriages of LGBTQ individuals in United Methodist Churches. Second, it included harsh penalties for any clergy that did not follow these rules.

This decision came as a surprise to a majority of U.S. clergy who were expecting the adoption of a different plan that would remove discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline. But, the vote for the Traditional Plan was supported to a greater degree than expected by African, Eastern European, and a small percentage of U.S. representatives. In the case of Africa, many of the delegates to the Conference came from countries where being gay is a crime potentially leading to execution.

My first reaction to this news was anger as I asked myself how I could be part of a Church organization that would exclude a group of God's children in such a way. Jesus taught and demonstrated inclusion of those who, for whatever reason, were considered outcasts or "the other". And, he told us, Loving God and Loving your Neighbor are most important in the eyes of God. Not just some neighbors – ALL neighbors.

But over the last month or so, my anger has turned to excitement as Methodist Clergy and lay members have stood up for inclusion instead of discrimination, and we as a congregation have demonstrated our love. I now believe that there will be big changes in store in the United Methodist Church denomination. No one can predict at this time what that will mean, either at a Conference level, or for our individual Churches. But I hope and pray that we will become stronger and more relevant in the world as we deal with the fallout of this decision.

Stay tuned for more updates as the future of our denomination becomes more clear. And join me in praying for the health and vitality of Methodism as we move forward in the vision of John Wesley for a radically loving Church.



## Opening Doors Dinner

Please join us in helping to open more doors for women and families at Emma Norton's annual silent auction and dinner. Join 300+ supporters and partners for an evening of community, philanthropy, and celebration!

Thursday, April 25, 2019 from 5:00—8:30 p.m.  
InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront  
11 East Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul 55101

Register online at:

<http://emmanorton.org/events.htm>



**Emma Norton**

The Journey Home Begins Here

## Funeral Sheet

When a family member dies, it is helpful for the family and pastor to have ideas written down of what the person wanted at his/her funeral. We have finished a document for each of you (regardless of the age) to fill out. We invite you to fill it out, bring it back to church (or mail it in). We will then put it in a three-ring binder in the office and keep it until the time comes when it is needed. We don't want to rush anyone, we want to be respectful and helpful in supporting your family during a time of loss and difficulties. Thank you in advance for participating. The forms will be available in our mailed newsletters and by the nametag table outside the sanctuary. Please fill it out and bring it back to the church. Speak with Pastor Linda if you have any questions about it.

# April 2019

April 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mar 31</b> 	<b>Apr 1</b> Office Closed 4:30pm Women's Meal at Culver's (Culver's)	<b>2</b> 10:00am NE Seniors Meeting (Asbury Room)	<b>3</b> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 11:00am UMW 12:00pm UMW 5:45pm Soup 6:30pm Lenten 7:30pm Choir	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Core Leadership Team	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b> 8:00am NE UME Rotary Sew-A-Thon 10:00am Elevate 11:30am Feed My Starving
<b>7</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church	<b>8</b> Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Wednesday 7:30pm Choir	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Potting Party	<b>12</b> Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga	<b>13</b> 2:00pm NE UMC Community Meal
<b>14</b> Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Blood 12:00pm	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday 10:00am River Rats 5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Office Closed Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday Worship	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline
<b>21 Easter!</b> 8:30am Breakfast 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm	<b>22</b> Office Closed 5:30pm Community Dinner	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 11:00am UMW Salad Luncheon 5:30pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b> Office Closed 11:00am Chair Yoga	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Elevate Church	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>Martha's Hours:</b> 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

### April Events

April 1 (Mon)	4:30 pm Women's Meal at Culvers
April 3 (Wed)	9:45 am Adult Bible Study (repeats on Wednesdays) 5:45 pm Soup Supper (repeats on Wednesdays) 6:30 pm Lenten Wednesday Service 7:30 pm Choir (repeats on Wednesdays)
April 4 (Thurs)	5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Core Leadership Team
April 6 (Sat)	11:30 am Feed My Starving Children
April 8 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal
April 12 (Fri)	11:00 am Chair Yoga
April 14 (Sun)	10:00 am Palm Sunday Service
April 18 (Thurs)	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
April 19 (Fri)	12:00 pm Good Friday Service
April 20 (Sat)	<i>Newsletter Articles due for April</i>
April 21 (Sun)	8:30 Breakfast; 10:00 Easter Worship Service
April 22 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal
April 25 (Thurs)	11:00 am UMW Salad Luncheon
April 26 (Fri)	11:00 am Chair Yoga