



Newsletter Index

Birthdays.....Page 2
 Breakthrough Prayer.....Page 3
 CalendarPage 9
 Coaching CornerPage 3
 Community MealsPage 4
 Core LeadershipPage 7
 Crafts.....Page 6
 Feed My Starving Children ...Page 4
 Funeral Sheet.....Page 8
 Keys.....Page 6
 Lay Leader CornerPage 8
 Meals on Wheels.....Page 4
 Mission & Vision.....Page 2
 Music.....Page 2
 NoteworthyPage 6
 Rummage & Plant Sale...Page 5
 Safety and Security.....Page 6
 Save the DatesPage 2
 Thanks.....Page 5
 United Methodist Women.....Page 4
 Wednesday EveningPage 5

May Serving Unit

- Mary Tholkes
- Barb Miller
- Rod and Sylvia Bruns
- Ashley and Edison Konold
- Wilma Berg
- Pat and Gary Good
- Heureuse Mafisango
- Lennis Bentrud
- Les and Jan Johnson
- James Bordewick

Pastor Linda’s Letter

Hi Friends, we are basking in the love and hope of Eastertide! We pray for our transformation as individuals and as a body of Christ.

We’ve embarked on a new journey in a series with one of my favorite themes: 9 Innings: Habits and Practices. (Did you figure it out? Baseball, friends, it is baseball season!) There are two books influencing our series, *Grateful The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass and *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase.

The idea and hopes are for us to grow in a spirit of gratitude and being grateful in a culture that often minimizes those things in lieu of cynicism and criticism. We hope and pray for lives to be transformed and the healthy fruits of each inning will inspire us to live more fully into a new realm. The other book is a necessity for us to move toward revitalization as a congregation our size in this culture. Bishop Schnase coaches congregations in areas that need to be stronger. Those areas are: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. If we are missing one or two, we will not be successful in our purposes to move forward as a congregation. It requires understanding as well as action and prayer!

Let’s work toward the game plan, strategize about what’s next, live into new practices and habits, as well as pray together fervently our breakthrough prayers to build momentum to create success as Team Community! “Like other forms of practice, gratefulness makes us more resilient and flexible, and also offers a way to frame and learn from everything that unfolds in our lives.” (Kristi Nelson)

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. 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. Build in a greater spirit of gratitude. 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.

Peace,

Pastor Linda

pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org

Save the Dates!

- ◆ May 9-11 Rummage & Plant Sale.
- ◆ May 18, 2 p.m. — Piano Concert (see below)
- ◆ June 2, Daniel Ritter, our new music director joins us.
- ◆ June 9, we celebrate Sharon's ministry at this church and all her gifts as she retires.

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.



Johnson Kasongoma	5/08
Shan Kasongoma	5/08
Elaine Hill	5/09
Cate Vermeland	5/09
Daniel Smith	5/11
Gordon Bixler	5/12
Rosie Haag	5/12
Michael Langner	5/13
David Hendershot	5/13
Cheryl Boe	5/14
Virgil Snipstad	5/18
Faythe Anderson	5/21
Arlene Peterson	5/24
Mikayla Ferrell	5/26
Glen Mapes	5/28



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.

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.*



Coaching Corner:

We are on the road to new and hopeful! Initially my hope was to begin a second service; however, through learning how to build one, it has become apparent we will instead work to revitalize our current service to look different. We will emphasize the work of Bishop Schnase's book in hopes of bearing more fruit.

I am working with our coach, Rev. Cathy Townley, on a more consistent basis. I will be doing and spending fewer hours in the church so that I can be helping us and coaching us to move toward the stages of revitalization as a congregation. It is a longer game strategy and changes won't occur overnight. I am learning about sequencing, and how we need to continue to change our infrastructure in our church to identify areas for potential growth and purposes.

As we worked on learning to tell our stories, it will help you identify who we are and bring people to visit us! Your story is worth telling, understanding why we are here! We hope to be upgrading to a new website soon. Our new t-shirts should be coming in soon (order one please) so we can be more visible in our community. We work hard to show ourselves on social media, a strategy that helps promote and inform about our church in this community. Please share when you are able so that more people "see" what we are doing here at Community!

If you have questions – please let me know.

Pastor Linda



A huge thank-you to those who helped deliver meals the week of April 15th-19th. We would like to say a special thank-you to Barb Miller, Jim Reinholdson, and Fred Carter for going up to the cafeteria and bringing the cart down that had the meals and also anyone else we missed for returning the bags back to the hospital from the church.

Thank you to the following:

Keith & Carol Felland, Bert & Naomi Jones, Jan Johnson, Anna & Rena Lexvold, Pat & Duane Rosenburg from St. Matthews church, Mary Tholkes, Pat Cruse, Jim Reinholdson, Fred Carter, and Barb Miller.

You folks are all Number 1 in Sylvia's and my book.

Our next delivery dates will be June 17th—21st.

Thanks again for your help!

Rod Bruns & Sylvia Bruns



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

- ◇ **Thank you** to everyone who helped with and those who enjoyed the Salad Luncheon on April 25.
- ◇ Put on your seat-belts as we work the Rummage and Plant Sale May 9-11.



Community Meals Served!

April 8	85 served
April 22	55 served



Thank you to everyone who came and helped in April.

Watch for our next date.

Thank you!

Dick Meixner

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who furnished soups, breads or desserts for our Lenten Wednesday Services. All were yummy and very appreciated!

Karen Schneider

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT EDUCATION

Anita Thompson will be facilitating a class on "Self Control" using a book by Robert Strand. It's like the books she has used before that have one book for each of the Fruits of the Spirit. The class will meet 3 Wednesday evenings, May 8th, 15, and 22 at 5:45 p.m. Anita plans to have the books available in church May 5th and will let you know then how much to read before Wednesday's class. She is looking forward to seeing you all after being gone over the winter. If you can't be in church the 5th and want a book, give Anita a call, she plans to get home on the 4th.

Anita Thompson

RUMMAGE SALE

This is our big event weekend and the budget needs help. Events are budgeted to make \$8000 this year. Yes, we can do it if we all do a little. Our front liners have already been at work collecting and trucking in treasures. Bill has tucked away loads so other things could go on at church and Rondine has flyers out all over town. Now its our time to turn their work into cash.

Please sign up to work where you can or come in when you find some time. **Monday** is lift, carry and sort. Sorting can be a sit down job when needed. **Thursday, Friday and Saturday** are mostly cashier positions.

The scheduling for the plant sale is separate so see Mary if you want to help in the sun.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

PLANT SALE

We will be holding our annual Plant Sale in conjunction with the Rummage Sale. There will be Patio Pots (\$40) and Hanging Baskets for both sun and shade (\$20) as well as annuals, vegetables and herbs.

If you want to pre-order specific items or colors, please contact Mary Tholkes (763-202-0796)

If you have any perennials that you want to donate to the sale, please bring them with tags on them and price them.

Volunteers are needed, so contact Mary to help out.

Noteworthy

- ◆ Thanks to everyone who donated to **SACA** during March. They received \$455.00 from us!
- ◆ The **Judicial Council** met and we continue to pray for the new beginnings God has in store for us becoming an inclusive church.
- ◆ If you are interesting in joining our **Prayer Ministry**, please contact Pastor Linda or Naomi Jones. Thank you.

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. 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 to around twenty people. This is also a stewardship and financial issue as the break-in cost considerable monies to upgrade security, premium increases and deductible payment. There is criteria for who will have keys.

If you do not have a key and you have an event and need a key, there will be a check out system where you can check-out a key, hold your event, and then return the key to the office. 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 has 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 doing by changing 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.)

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.

Core Leadership Team updates:

Les Johnson, Lay Leader, has been helping the team work through the book: *New Adaptors*. Chapter 1 and 2 remind us that we are needing to be outward focused, and churches are often focused on personal preferences and what feeds us, not what brings people together and doing things "with" people in the community not just "for" the community.

Pastor Linda will be ramping up coaching time with Rev. Cathy Townley after Easter is over.

We are working to set up VANCO (online giving) in new ways for our church. It was voted on to purchase 2 tablets to help with intention of use for credit/debit card usage for things like Easter, Rummage Sale and Sunday services.

Naomi reported on steps of what it takes to make a justice team to help congregations become Reconciling. There is a team of people that will begin exploring what that looks like and if our congregation is ready for more justice work in the areas of inclusion of all people. If you have questions, please let Naomi know or Pastor Linda. (see April newsletter online for more information)

We've hired a new music director, Daniel Ritter. Sharon plays on May 5 and June 9. She will retire on June 9. We will honor and celebrate her service and ministry to the church.

We are going to have a second-ask stewardship campaign. We are prayerfully consulting DS Dan Johnson for ideas to move toward doing a second drive. Our operating expenses will exceed what our estimate of giving will be in 2019. Please prayerfully consider what you may give during our upcoming drive, more information will follow in May.

Grants:

- ◆ We applied for a \$10,000 grant to help with recycling and composting. We will pay for new containers, as well as items we use to serve food, beverages in our church.

- ◆ We are the Spring Call church with MN Builders Club, these monies will go toward painting the hallways and updating our look. It may be a few months before we receive these funds. The goal is to receive around \$5000-7000.
- ◆ We received a \$1000 Love Grant from the conference to work toward advertising and marketing with damage control after the GC2019 vote for the traditional plan. We are working with our area churches on some advertising and hope to get a "feather" sign for welcoming.

Trustee info:

- ◆ Family Room complete. Sound system theft items have been replaced (with insurance monies). Parking lot doors will be installed soon with higher security locks. Outside doors will be rekeyed. There will be around 2/3 fewer keys in circulation. We will have a key policy for people to sign as they receive a key. Trustees and Core Team put together a list of necessary key holders and policy.
- ◆ We are waiting on the electrician to do the final work for cameras.
- ◆ WIFI should be working for the new cameras in the sanctuary.
- ◆ Our boiler needs maintenance as soon as we shut it down for the season. New copper pipes and insulation will be happening.
- ◆ Input on landscaping on the side of the building where leaking happens in the spring will be given and estimates will be obtained.
- ◆ Elevate will be signing a new lease with increase in rent. They pay 1/3 of the plowing bill for the season.
- ◆ Organ will have some repairs needed soon.

If you have questions - please speak with Pastor Linda or Les Johnson.

The Lay Leader Corner

by Les Johnson

Pastor Linda has started a new sermon series with a nine-inning baseball theme. For some reason it made me think about the players on a baseball team being a little like the parts of the body that form the church as described by Paul in 1st Corinthians. He describes all the parts being different and all necessary, and in the same way, a team couldn't consist of all pitchers or all outfielders. You need people with specific skills for specific positions.

Having said that, I think some of us sometimes feel like utility infielders or like Willians Austudillo of the Twins who is asked to play most positions. (I apologize for the inside joke for those of you who are not Twins fans.) Just as most baseball players are much better at one position than others, we can look at our own talents and see where we might best contribute to our church. One of the vows we make when we join the church is: *To faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, **and our witness.***

Of those I'd like to focus for just a bit on "our service". We have our rummage and plant sale coming up soon. This event is important for two main reasons; first, it is an important fundraiser for the church, with the proceeds going to support the annual budget. Second, it is also a missional opportunity as we make clothes, household goods, toys, and furniture available to people who may have very little to spend and are very happy to find inexpensive, serviceable items. In order to make this event happen there are many things that have to occur. There are donations, set up, pricing of some items, sorting, organizing, managing the money, clean up and many more. All this work occurs over just a few short (or long) days. I ask you to consider how you might be able to help with this event and join in with other "team members" to make this a fun and successful event. All help is welcomed. You can still sign up on Sunday, or contact Anna Lexvold and let her know how you would like to "serve".

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.

May 2019

May 2019						June 2019							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Martha's Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 AM — 4:30 PM			May 1	2	3	4
			9:45am Adult Bible Study	7:30am Builders Club Finance	Office Closed	1:00pm Church Rental
			11:00am UMW Exec	5:30pm Bell Choir	10:30am Chair Yoga	
			7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Core Leadership	11:00am Bev Johnson	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship	Rummage Sale Set Up		9:45am Adult Bible Study	5:30pm Bell Choir	Rummage & Plant Sale	
11:00am Fellowship	Office Closed	7:00am Community Prayer	5:45pm Adult Book Study		Office Closed	
12:00pm Elevate Church	4:30pm Women's Meal at Culver's (Culver's)	10:00am NE Seniors Meeting	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		11:00am Chair Yoga	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship	Office Closed		9:45am Adult Bible Study	10:00am River Rats	Office Closed	2:00pm John Nilsen Piano Concert
11:00am Fellowship	5:30pm Community Dinner		5:45pm Adult Book Study	5:30pm Bell Choir	11:00am Chair Yoga	
11:15am Blood Pressure			7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			
12:00pm						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship	Office Closed		9:45am Adult Bible Study	7:00pm Eve Circle	Office Closed	11:00am Columbia Heights Pride Meeting (Wesley Room)
11:00am Fellowship	Newsletter Deadline		5:45pm Adult Book Study		11:00am Chair Yoga	
12:00pm Elevate Church			7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
10:00am Worship	Office Closed		9:45am Adult Bible Study		Office Closed	
11:00am Fellowship	5:30pm Community Dinner		7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		11:00am Chair Yoga	
12:00pm Elevate Church						

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

May Events

May 1 (Wed)	9:45 am Adult Bible Study (repeats on Wednesdays) 7:00 pm Choir (repeats on Wednesdays)
May 2 (Thurs)	5:30 pm Bell Choir (continues on Thursdays) 6:30 pm Core Leadership Team
May 3 (Fri)	11:00 am Bev Johnson Visitation 12:00 am Bev Johnson Memorial Service
May 6 (Mon)	4:30 pm Women's Meal at Culvers
May 7 (Tues)	7:00 am Community Prayer Breakfast 10:00 am NE Seniors Meeting
May 9 (Thurs)	9 am—5 pm Plant and Rummage Sale
May 10 (Fri)	9 am—5 pm Plant and Rummage Sale
May 11 (Sat)	9 am—1 pm Plant and Rummage Sale
May 13 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal
May 17 (Fri)	11:00 am Chair Yoga (continues on Fridays)
May 20 (Mon)	<i>Newsletter Articles due for June</i>
May 25 (Sat)	11:00 am Columbia Heights Pride Meeting
May 27 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal