

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY 1:00-4:00

WEDNESDAY 9:00-12:00 THURSDAY 9:00-12:00

AND MOST FRIDAY MORNINGS

PLEASE CALL PRIOR TO COMING IN

# JANUARY 2020

## Where Do We Go From Here?

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.  
Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

I have written about the graduate course for nonprofit Christian leadership which I began in July 2019. This means I am at the halfway mark, finishing up in July 2020. This has been an interesting experience so far, one that has stretched me as a pastor and taught me that even though change is one process most churches dread, we can't survive if we don't stay current in our culture. This does not mean that we water down the gospel or become trendy with a band and a worship space free from crosses or pulpits. Content matters much more than ambience.

It's stranger finding out that doing ministry after twenty-two years of great advances and experiences would shed light on how much has changed and that the business mentality of management and administration techniques recommended to pastors back in the 90s would prove to work. Of course, none of this was offered in seminary where preaching, teaching and writing skills were the focus. Church leadership classes were replaced by evangelism and effective counseling methods. In the decade since I started seminary the business of the church is dramatically different.

This is not a barrier to ministry, but an opportunity for the church as a whole, all the members of the body of Christ to lend their own talents, experience, and dedication to moving forward into a new decade. Where other denominations are being bisected through controversy or cultural struggles, the United Methodist Church has a yet unfinished story. We're facing tremendous adversity in the next General Conference, there's no denying; but once the dust settles on the issues regarding human sexuality and the Church, Christ will still need people to tell the world about Him.

Within our own congregation changes will be taking place this year that should not be seen as a reaction to the struggle among United Methodists, but as a way of moving forward in our pursuit of sharing the gospel and being a place of faith and compassion. We recently voted as a church council to freeze our current lay leadership roster for the coming year in preparation for a transition to a single board governance model which allows more autonomy for committees to work effectively and not be hindered by decision making.

If you are currently serving in a committee position set to retire and you do not wish to remain on the 2020 roster, please contact Pastor Lori or our lay leader Nancy Lundon. If you are able to remain in your position while we work through our transition, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Another change suggested at our last meeting was the need for paper bulletins in worship, since we have everything projected on the screen. The council seeks some input on this matter. If you prefer having a paper bulletin and would not like to see this practice end, please let the church office know by leaving a phone message or dropping a short note in the mail.

Still other changes are taking place, like the end of our Sunday radio broadcast, which is not being supported financially as it was in the past. We are adding new features; a post of the sermon on our church Facebook page each week, along with a short post reflecting on the sermon. I will be providing a short devotional each week on Facebook and hopefully on our website too. My hope is that even without the radio broadcast those who cannot worship with us can remain connected to our ministry.

Recently we had two young students shadow our ushers in preparation for them to serve as ushers on their own. They were enthusiastic about serving in the church. We need to invest in our young people and value their presence. The Church is getting older and the choices for serving in church are thinning out. Whatever changes may come in the future, please do not view them as interruptions or nuisances. They are only meant to make the generations of those without a faith find there is something valid and meaningful for them, and to do that we may disappoint some and inspire others, but we must remain faithful to God's desire for all to come to the knowledge and love of His Son.

Pastor Lori

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 2 Quincy Stotts  
January 7 Kelli Heilman  
January 8 Leo Saylor  
January 9 Alex Lundon  
January 10 Jerriellen Feldner  
January 18 Jaxstyn Rath  
January 21 Travis Triepke  
January 23 Ed Brown

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PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LISTS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. IF ANY OF THESE DATES ARE IN ERROR, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. THANK YOU!

Remember our residents in our local care centers: Marge Bye and Ervin Harlow, as well as Harold Jorgenson (Bev Oehlke's father) in the Good Samaritan; Delcie Light, Rena Aanstad, Lois Weed and Mary MacArthur at Eventide.

## **WHAT ARE THE KIDS UP TO?**

Abby Troy is currently a 6th grader at Central Middle School. Her family recently moved back to Devils Lake. She is in hockey and loves doing anything where she can be creative. She is a fantastic big sister to Daxson.

Thanks for the cards, gifts and greetings I received this Christmas season. It is wonderful to be thought of and blessed. Another thank you to those who did such a great job of preparing our church for Christmas. Wishing you a beautiful new year.

Pastor Lori

## **WHAT ARE THE KIDS UP TO?**

Ella Wessels is a 5th grader at the Central Middle School in Devils Lake where she plays violin in the strings orchestra. She lives in Cando with her mom Ashley and dad Chris, and shares her home with big brother Trace and little sister Ettalea. Ella loves riding horse with her family, and she recently received a pug for Christmas, whom she named Coco. Her smile when she saw him was amazing and she loves playing with him and taking care of him.

## **MISSIONS UPDATE**

Our *One Thing* project for January is **PATH**, the state coordinating agency for *Transitions into Adulthood*. This program helps foster youth who "age out" of the foster care system when turning 18 years of age. We expect to contribute items for various household "kits"...bathroom, kitchen, bedroom, *Stay tuned for more details on specific items needed.*

## STILL FALLING BEHIND

We have enjoyed the wonderful time of year during the Advent season. And, it was an important time for our donations to catch up with church expenses before the end of the year. Our only source of income is YOU, the members and friends of the church. And, we can only meet the budget needs if everyone is willing to pitch in and provide a special "Advent Offering". Have a Happy New Year and remember to support to our church.

The Finance Committee

## **FUMC Finance Report Operating Fund through December 24, 2019**

Income \$ 6,696.00

\*Amount needed per month to meet our 2019 budget is \$11,667.00

Remember to send in your offering when you're not in church. Consider the option of automatic withdrawals from your bank. Thank you for your giving!

FUMC Administrative Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019

Members Present: Pastor Lori Broschat, Ray Russell, Perry London, Tana Triepke, Leo Sayler, Chuck & Jonielle Soderstrom, Gwen Hodgins, Joyce Carter, and Marcia Ulrich.

Call to Order: Chuck called the meeting to order. Pastor Lori offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes: Chuck called for approval of the November 2019 minutes as presented, motion made by Leo, seconded by Ray, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Perry reported the balance sheet reveals nothing unusual. General Fund has a negative balance of \$13,424.58. We should have another two years of some flexibility. In the regular financial report, he paid out \$192.50 for snow removal, with a pending bill coming at a higher rate for this month. Traynor's will be billed for half the expense of snow removal. Perry moved to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Leo, motion carried.

Finance Committee Report: Leo reported that the finance committee did not meet this month as there were no pressing items. We had a brief pulpit talk this month and will continue regular articles in the newsletters. We need to keep the message of the importance of giving in front of the congregation, including what can be done.

Board of Trustees Report: Ray reported they haven't met, but snow removal is ongoing. The Devils Lake Fire Dept provided its inspection report, which focused on three items: 1) the battery in emergency light above water fountain; Ray has changed it. 2) the little room with water softener should have no storage items in it due to its small size; this needs to be cleared out now. 3) the furnace room has vertical openings in the drywall that need to be sealed up, open spots create a chimney as a fire hazard; it needs to be stuccoed, need to find someone to do that, maybe Roger Joramo. Our insurance rates would increase if these items are not fixed and the building sustains fire and/or other damage. Ray asked if our church has a Facebook page, as he wants to work on streaming.

Staff Parish Relations Report: The committee has not met.

Missions Report: Marcia reported that the Shoebox project was completed, and the boxes picked up by Pastor Mike. We believe that we met our goal of 50 boxes, as monetary donations received before shopping could be completed was also given to Pastor Mike for Spirit Lake.

UMW Report: Joyce reported that their December meeting included a meaningful program by Cathy Jacobson. The group allotted \$2,000 as various community donations. It was decided that the group would meet quarterly, with upcoming meetings to be scheduled by the planning committee.

Education Committee Report: Jonielle reported that the Church School Christmas family party was held tonight with gifts made for the kids. Church school will return after school resumes in January 2020.

Youth Group Report: Tana reported that two youth helped with ushering on December 15th, both did well and were happy to be involved. The group is down to about four regular youth. She would like to buy devotional books for the youth; these can be ordered through the church. She is looking at a 55-inch flat screen TV for the fellowship room. Travis Triepke will change the outlet to ensure it will accommodate a TV that size. Joyce offered to donate a 48 inch TV if the youth group would accept it. Jonielle moved that Tana take care of the media center, motion seconded by Ray, motion carried. Perry noted that this might be a good option for the endowment committee also, or possibly through a funding source within the conference.

Worship Committee Report: Pastor Lori had no specific report, other than a planned Blue Christmas service on December 21st at 5:30 p.m. She has reached out to certain people who sustained losses this year. A list of ushers and scripture readers for 2020 has been distributed. Tim Gulsvig still plans to speak during a service on January 19th or 26th and would like to invite the Presbyterian Church as well.

Endowment Committee report: Chuck said he spoke with Stephanie Shock from Ramsey Bank, who said she was preparing a report about our trust account; she related it is doing very well. Monthly reports are submitted to Kelly Heilman.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lori reported on the progress of the nominating committee. She conferred with DS Kermit Culver about freezing committees for one year, via a simplified structure; the UMC views this as permissible. We may have had this struc-

ture in years past. It is a streamlined way of doing committee work, in lieu of having so many divisions. This would start in 2021, but we will need to transition into it in 2020. She passed out samples from other conferences for review, such as a single board of 9 to 15 members with the purpose to find a leadership style that works to reduce micromanagement, yet still establish budget and goals, and ensure the mission and vision can be achieved. Some discussion was held; we need to review the materials and look at ministry in a more streamlined manner to hopefully involve more people in committees. As for new ad council chairman, Kermit recommended an ad hoc system to conduct the monthly meetings. Lori proposed that we freeze the nominations for one year. Perry moved that all committee lay leader positions freeze for one year, seconded by Leo. Discussion: this affects mainly trustees, missions and finance committees. Motion carried.

Lori needs one more discipleship class before January. Last one was successful. Ideas for 2020: quarterly potlucks after church, continue with technology plans (live streaming), create a care team for visitations (communion), she will do a blog thru Facebook on Mondays relating to recent sermons, a Facebook post each week as a scripture reflection; training of committees on various topics to keep us fresh in our work, and asking for volunteers in the office. Joyce questioned the need for weekly bulletins since we use slides throughout the service?

Old Business: Perry reported that the radio station will bill us through December only. Chuck reported that Barb Britsch will have a proposal for us by January 1, 2020. Leo asked about Christmas caroling and visiting the Hope Center to help with packing. We will try to assemble at the church on December 22nd at 3:30 p.m. for caroling.

New Business: Joyce had some comments about not having a Songs of the Season program this year, so she would like to plan one in February with a love theme.

Meeting was adjourned. Pastor Lori dismissed us with a prayer. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Marcia Ulrich, Ad Council Secretary

**FAITH TALK RETURNS SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 WITH NEW MATERIAL FROM THE BIBLE PROJECT**

**WE WENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE WITH THIS WONDERFUL MATERIAL, AND NOW WE WILL STUDY THEMES AND SUBJECTS IN THE WORD OF GOD AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH JOIN US FOLLOWING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

*Please be in prayer for:* Sylvia Loehr, Mark Restemayer, Naomi Modrow, Delcie Light, Jolene Wee, Tari Owlboy, those battling cancer (Denice, Dennis, Keith, Doug). Please pray for the finances of our church and for those who are unemployed or underemployed. Pray for the members of the military as well as fire, police, and emergency medical services. Pray for our children, our schools and all who work with them. Pray for our country. Pray for our denomination to stay united amid discord and disagreement. Pray for those who no longer feel welcome in the UMC.

*If you have prayer concerns please contact Pastor Lori at 381-0755. These can be private or shared concerns.*

**Breakthrough Prayer**

*Stop and pray this prayer daily at a time convenient for you. Be open to the changes God can bring to your life and to the life of our Church.*

Lord, I pray for breakthroughs in my life, my church, and the world. Give me faith to see your Spirit at work. Reveal what you want to do through me. I trust in your grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

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**DECEMBER WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Average</u>
<b>2019</b>	36	47	74	46	125 (Christmas Eve)	66
<b>2018</b>	52	55	59	98	38	60

*By your regular attendance and invitation to bring a friend to worship, your church is blessed and nurtured.*

Recommended resources for committee members can be found at [www.discipleshipministries.org](http://www.discipleshipministries.org).

Great training and informative videos and broadcasts for various committees are available for free. All those in lay leadership positions should make use of these great resources provided from our General Board of Discipleship Ministries.

You can also sign up to receive newsletters and other information via weekly email.

If you have any questions, please let Pastor Lori know and she can help in the process of using this material. In addition, there are good articles available as well. The more we know about ministry the more we meet our goal of making disciples.

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am	3	4 AA 7:00 pm
5 Communion Faith Talk	6 Choir 5:30 pm	7	8 CS 5 pm Evening Circle 7 pm	9 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am	10	11 AA 7:00 pm
12 Faith Talk	13 Choir 5:30 pm Pastor Lori in class in SD	14 Pastor Lori in class in SD	15 CS 5 pm Ad Council 7 pm	16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am Ladies' lunch 11:30 am	17	18 AA 7:00 pm
19 Faith Talk	20 Miriam Circle 1:30 pm Choir 5:30 pm	21	22 CS 5 pm	23 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am	24	25 AA 7:00 pm
26 Faith Talk	27 Choir 5:30 pm	28	29 CS 5 pm	30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am	31	

## JANUARY SERVING GROUP

### *Chairpersons:*

Diane & Chris Sommer 351-5006  
Karlene & Jim McLaurin 662-1848

### *Helpers:*

Sheryl James 662-8282  
Tana & Travis Triepke 381-8895  
Marcia Ulrich 662-2034

## SCRIPTURE READERS

January 5 Chuck Soderstrom  
January 12 Jocelyn Soderstrom  
January 19 Sylvia Loehr  
January 26 Nancy Lundon

## USHERS

January 5 Vance & Hope Jury  
January 12 Steve & Kelli Heilman  
January 19 Jeff & Melissa Stotts  
January 26 Perry & Nancy Lundon

## OFFERING COUNTERS

Joyce Anderson and Mary Oehlke

Office hours at the church have changed as Pastor Lori takes Tuesday as her day off rather than Thursday. The office will be open Monday 1:00-4:00, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00-12:00, and most Friday mornings after 10:00. Please call prior to visiting the church, as circumstances may change.



## Snow Removal Schedule

December 29 through Jan. 4 (open)  
January 5 through 11 Jeff Stotts  
January 12 through 18 (open)  
January 19 through 25 (open)  
January 26 through February 1 (open)



## FAITHFULLY TO PARTICIPATE

In December, five church members joined Pastor Lori in an initial meeting of the discipleship class known as **Faithfully to Participate**; the result of Pastor Lori's year-long project in the nonprofit Christian leadership program through Dakota Wesleyan University. The two hour meeting covered the five promises we make to our church in our membership vows; *to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified in Jesus Christ.*

The material studied was written entirely by Pastor Lori, and a follow-up study based on the best practices for living out these five vows will begin near the time of Lent this year. The first group was invited by Pastor Lori, and the hope is that with each additional group people will begin to invite others and so have some ownership in the process. The response from this first group was very positive and encouraging as we move forward into a year filled with uncertainty.

If we are to be faithful disciples to Christ first and His church second, we should be truly informed about our discipleship practices and the vows we made. Words are binding in other areas of our lives; why should the vows we make to God and to each other and to the church be any less binding and requiring of action? The group who met in December have already begun to brainstorm and discuss ways to create more of a bond between church members and a sense of purpose for being here at this time, in this place, doing what we pledged ourselves to do.

*We need you to be part of an awesome experience*

We have been talking about Breakthrough Prayer throughout 2019. We know that prayer is important to our lives, our faith and our community. Breakthrough prayer creates opportunities to take the gift of prayer outside the church walls and into the lives of people who are without the knowledge of the power of prayer.

UPDATE: The first half of the video seminar on Breakthrough Prayer has been completed by six of our congregation. We intend to complete the second half in January. If you are interested in this training and have questions, please contact Pastor Lori. Those who are part of the lay leadership of the church should consider attending, as well as those who were a part of the prayer group gathering held earlier. Yet this vital ministry can be something everyone in our church would benefit from within their personal and spiritual lives.

Marcia Ulrich would like to form a core Breakthrough Prayer group within our congregation that might grow into an active prayer ministry. Please talk with her about being a part of this and share your ideas.

**Prayerfully consider this...*"Just as the physical body requires food for fuel, the body of Christ, the church, requires food as well. And that fuel is prayer."***

**WHO'S IN THE PEWS?** Following a recent suggestion by a parishioner, a short questionnaire was created as a fun way to get to know our church family. These will be included in the newsletter as we receive them. Maybe you'll find something in common with someone and start a conversation!

**NAME:** Mary Oehlke  
**SPOUSE'S NAME:** Widow  
**# OF CHILDREN:** 2 sons  
**# OF GRANDCHILDREN:** 4 boys  
**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** N/A  
**JOB TITLE:** N/A  
**# OF YEARS AT THIS JOB:**  
**RETIRED:** Since July 1, 2004  
**# OF YEARS IN DEVILS LAKE:** 56  
**HOME TOWN:** Crookston, MN  
**FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Thanksgiving  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Pasta, with shrimp, even better!  
**HOBBIES:** Knitting, counted cross stitch, baking, cooking, singing, TV and reading  
**WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?:** I eloped after knowing my husband Bill (of 46 years) for only three months.

**NAME:** Marcia Ulrich  
**SPOUSE'S NAME:** N/A  
**# OF CHILDREN:** 0  
**# OF GRANDCHILDREN:** 0  
**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** Christopher & Banks  
**JOB TITLE:** Part-time Associate Manager/Stylist  
**# OF YEARS AT THIS JOB:** 1.5  
**RETIRED:** Retired from VR counseling in 2012  
**# OF YEARS IN DEVILS LAKE:** Moved home in 2018  
**HOME TOWN:** Devils Lake  
**FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Christmas  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Pasta, soups, pizza  
**HOBBIES:** HS basketball games, TV, dancing, shopping  
**WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?:** I was an original member of the Aquanauts water ski club.