



*Welcome to
CommYounity*

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2019

NEWSLETTER INDEX

Birthdays.....Page 2
 Breakthrough Prayer.....Page 3
 CalendarPage 9
 Chair Yoga.....Page 3
 Community MealsPage 4
 Cookie Walk ThanksPage 7
 Core LeadershipPage 8
 Lay Leader Update.....Page 7
 Feed My Starving Children ...Page 4
 Financial UpdatePage 6
 Heifer Thank You Page 5
 Meals on Wheels.....Page 4
 Pledge CardsPage 2
 SouperBowl Sunday.....Page 9
 Thank You.....Page 4
 United Methodist Women.....Page 5
 What's Next.....Page 2
 What's So SpecialPage 2

January Serving Unit

Not ready at the time of printing

PASTOR LINDA'S LETTER

Friends, as we complete our Advent season of waiting and celebrate the days of Christmas, may we pause long enough to rest and restore our spirit for the coming year. My prayer for us is that 2019 is a year filled with hope, peace, love, and joy in the spirit of looking into the future and how we can respond to our neighbors and world! What difference can you make with your actions and how you can commit your life to the work of our church.

We will take on a short series called "Commit" and follow it with "ACTS lead us to action" and are excited about the possibilities of growing in our faith journeys and increasing our emphasis on sharing stories. We look forward to Lent, this year and teaching how to share our faith stories. There are many things we are looking toward in 2019 and the promise of growth in our mission and vision of CUMC. I ask you to continue pray our Breakthrough Prayer – and our next version of it for the new year:

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 our Community (UMC) has been a presence for more than one hundred years here in Heights. 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, and 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, create for us new opportunities, live into our defined mission and vision; build with us: new leaders, more visitors, and new members. Help us to go where we have not yet been. Lead us to live into our Reach, Grow, Send focus for Heights. May we grow more in love with you, God and more in love with others, make it visible in our responses to the world! Help us to commit and take risks in Your Name and for Your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

May God be our focus and emphasis in sharing love with others,

Pastor Linda

WHAT'S NEXT:

Sermon Series:

- ⇒ **"Commit!"** begins January 6, 2019 with communion. Then, we'll begin "ACTS lead us to action".
- ⇒ **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.)

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL!!!!

That was the title of the skit the Sunday School children presented. That is a great question. During this Advent season leading us to Christmas, the answer is the birth of Jesus. But, to everyone that helped present our skit - YOU ARE!!!! From the first draft of the skit to the final bow and tearing down of the set many hands were needed. The stars of the skit were the children - I want to thank them for doing such a great job by learning their lines and being in the right place at exactly the right time. WOW - we all should be so proud of our children. If you had anything to do with the skit --- THANK YOU!!! And, thank you for saying YES when asked to help. You are now a part of the memories that were made in the lives of all of us!!! GREAT JOB!!!

Karen & Brenda

PLEDGE CARDS!

Thank you to those who have turned them in!
If you haven't yet turned yours in, please get it in as soon as possible!



Marc Porter	1/01
Jordan Havelak	1/01
Brock Havelak	1/01
Nathaleah Chau	1/01
Kathryn Johnson	1/03
Fortunate Mafisango	1/04
Aspen Donovan	1/06
Logan Perez	1/06
Tamra LeBlanc	1/08
Beglad Kasongma	1/08
Blaine Johnson	1/09
Lucille Anderson	1/09
Kelly McKee	1/09
Naomi Jones	1/10
Jeffrey Fisher	1/19
RaeAnn Hill	1/21
Tammy Hill	1/23
Mallery Mueller	1/23
Mary Havelak	1/24
Sachiko Slaughter	1/26
Brenda McCoy	1/26
Katherine Davis	1/31

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 our Community (UMC) has been a presence for more than one hundred years here in Heights. 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, and 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, create for us new opportunities, live into our defined mission and vision; build with us: new leaders, more visitors, and new members. Help us to go where we have not yet been. Lead us to live into our Reach, Grow, Send focus for Heights. May we grow more in love with you, God and more in love with others, make it visible in our responses to the world! Help us to commit and take risks in Your Name and for Your Kingdom here on earth. 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.

CHAIR YOGA FOR THE NEW YEAR!

If you ever wanted to try yoga but were concerned about getting up and down your yoga mat or have issues with balance, chair yoga might be for you. With breathing and relaxation exercises, stretching, strengthening, and twisting, chair yoga will give you the health benefits of yoga without the traditional obstacles of traditional mat yoga. We will be meeting at a new time – come and join us on Fridays at 11:00 am in the John Wesley room. Wear comfortable clothes – no equipment required. We hope to see you there!



A huge thank you to those who helped deliver meals and fruit baskets December 10th—14th. Thank you to the following: Keith & Carol Felland, Dennis Ruhnke, Alice Mettler, Anna & Rena Lexvold, Barb Miller, Pastor Linda, Pat & Duane Rosenberg from St. Matthew's church, Jim & Lynn Reinholdson, Jim's friend Shan Gro, Rod & Sylvia Bruns, and Dan Hapernik, substitute driver for Meals on Wheels. 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!

Thank You

From beneath my snuggly, warm, beautiful shawl and powered by all your prayers, I am making a remarkable recovery. They sent me home after 3 days, so I should be back in my pew soon. (Tell me you didn't reassign it!) Thank you to whoever created this beautiful blue cozy. It sure helps me feel cared for and warm.

Anna Lexvold



COMMUNITY MEALS SERVED!

December 10 86 served



Our next day packing meals will be:

Saturday, January 5th from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM
at 401-93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

If you haven't tried this before, give it a try. Watch for sign-up dates.

Thank you!

Dick Meixner



**THANK YOU !
THANK YOU !
THANK YOU !**

The children of our Sunday School thank everyone who gave so generously to our Heifer project to buy goats. In September when they chose to buy 11 goats, I thought we would never collect that much money and I urged them to lower their expectations – but they wouldn't do it. I'm so happy to say that we collected \$589.85. WOW!!! One of the children came up to me and asked "did we get enough money to buy a goat". They get it!!!! We are able to buy nine goats as of today and I have more money in a jar that was handed to one of the children. Our top supporter, Mahesh Reinholdson, again blessed us with enough money for two more goats which means he has given us enough money for four goats!!!

Again, THANK YOU to everyone!!!!

Karen Schneider

UMW SUNDAY

January 20 will be UMW Sunday. We are in the early stages of the planning so I have no details at this time. Kristine Rodriguez is organizing the service so Ian will be the only male component to the morning. Plan to come as we will have an informational service and of course good food to follow. Can't let those Church Basement Women beat us.

**WOMEN OF OUR CHURCH:
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

As members of the United Methodist Women's organization I would like to invite you to help us entertain the Twin City District members on February 2nd when they meet here to offer training for local officers. We need people to register attendees (8:30-10:00) or people to help with the lunch and food service (about 10:00-2:00). Also set up time on Friday morning is needed. See Mary Tholkes or Anna Lexvold to let us know how or when you can help. Then plan to take part in the activities the hours you aren't volunteering. There will be lively music and the speaker will be informing us about the Wesleyan Foundation and their work with youth on the college campus.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

EVE CIRCLE

The Eve Circle of UMW meets the 4th Thursday evening of the month. Our next meeting is **January 24th** at Anna Lexvold's house. All women are invited to join us. For January, we are reading the book, Threading My Prayer Rug, One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim by Sabeeha Rehman. If you would like to join us in reading the book, contact Mary Tholkes. Books are available for \$10.00.

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 2018

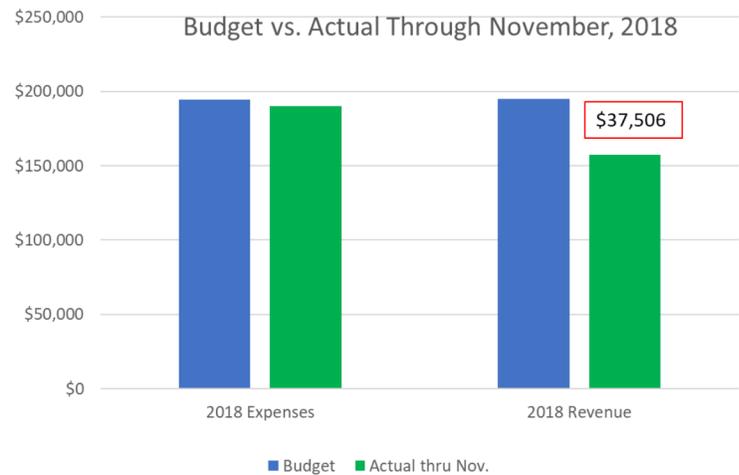
Thank you for supporting CUMC with your time, talents, service and gifts.

Things you should know

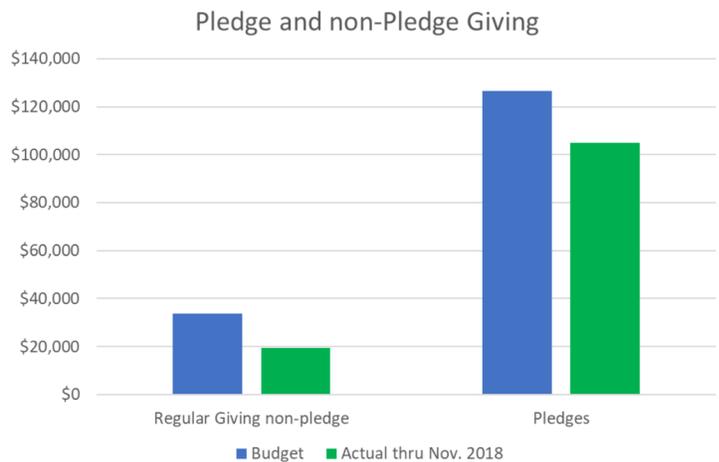
- ◆ Our expenses are higher this year because:
 - ◇ Addressing deferred maintenance items exceeded budgeted amount
 - ◇ Expenses related to fund raisers are now recognized in total expenses and offset by revenue
 - ◇ Individuals purchasing items for the church are being reimbursed in order to recognize full cost of programs (previously these were unacknowledged donations)
- ◆ Income is down because:
 - ◇ Contributions, both pledged and non-pledged are down
 - ◇ We have several un-met pledges due to deaths
 - ◇ Anticipated growth on investments has not materialized
- ◆ We have a relatively large Reserve Fund
 - ◇ We need to think of this money as the “Community Resurgence” fund
 - ◇ This money is to be used for one time investments to:
 - Reach new people in our community
 - Make our church building a more appropriate and welcoming space for the 21st century
- ◆ Separate from the Reserve Fund we need to fund the annual and ongoing expenses of running the church

What does it all mean?

- ◆ In order to meet our **annual budget expenses for 2018**, total giving in December needs to be approximately \$37,000
- ◇ Usually, December giving is about \$17,000 to \$25,000



Current expenses vs revenue



Revenue Shortfall

- ◆ What are we asking?
 - ◇ If possible, please bring your pledge giving up to date during December
 - ◇ If you are a regular giver that does not pledge, please consider bringing your personal commitment up to date during December
 - ◇ If you are in a position to help with the shortfall please prayerfully consider helping

THANK YOU!

This is an amazing, caring, Christian community.

THE LAY LEADER CORNER

As the first in a series of articles I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the duties and responsibilities of the Lay Leader and how this role fits in the congregation. But first, I just want to say that I am humbled by being asked to be Lay Leader of CUMC and that I take this position very seriously. There is a kind of brief job description of Lay Leader in the United Methodist Church that is in the 'Book of Discipline', which we use in our church for instruction and guidance. Here it is

An effective Lay Leader functions as the primary representative of and role model for Christian discipleship and faith lived out in the church and in daily life for the people of a congregation. The Lay Leader works with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation.

That's a pretty high-level overview, so this month I'll just talk about two of the duties/responsibilities of the Lay Leader.

One of my primary responsibilities is to work with the pastor to ensure that church ministries support the church's mission. I meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the opportunities for ministry. As you can imagine, many of our discussions revolve around

our strategies for reaching new people in our community and how we can move forward toward becoming a more intentionally welcoming church.

A second responsibility is to be a communications conduit within the church, working to ensure that congregation, clergy and leaders are moving in the same direction with the same missional focus. Admittedly, this is one of the more challenging responsibilities! We have been going through many changes, both in our church home and in our interpretation of our vision and mission. These changes may sometimes seem random, but they are truly focused on growing our reach in the community in which we live and serve.

It is especially important, as we go through change, to have open and frequent communication. I invite you all to share your thoughts and concerns with me in a conversation, an email, a text, or a phone call whenever you have questions or feedback regarding the life of our church. We're all together in mission at CUMC and I look forward to working with all of you and to future articles as we move forward in mission.

- Les Johnson

A SWEET COOKIE WALK WEEK!

The UMW needs to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you for everyone who helped make this successful again this year. We had the shoppers, the bakers, the no-bakers, the decorators, the cleaner-uppers, the advisors, all the home bakers- cookies, breads and specialty items, who contributed so much time and goods to sell. As most of you know, there was a wonderful article in the December 12th edition of the Northeaster, with pictures, about the history of our Cookie Walk and of the United Methodist Women. It was really very well done and as a result it increased the attendance of the event by at least 20-% and an increase in the amount of funds by approximately \$400-500 raised to support the Mission Work of our own UMW. We already have had inquiries into the date for the Cookie Walk in 2019!

For those of you who might be interested in reading the article, I think there is a copy at church yet, but the website is www.mynortheaster.com -click on Archives, then at the top paper that is shown and then a click at the bottom where the pages show up – on the third one, I believe. It is page 4&5.

Thank you again. We could not do this without the support of all of CUMC.

Rondine Mehling

CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

We met on Thursday, December 6 and voted and discussed the following items:

- ◆ Financial status and our being behind on giving for the 2018 year, pledged giving and unpledged giving are both behind. We will announce in church where the update and status are to invite and encourage our congregation to step-up where possible to fulfill the end of the year giving. Budget suggestions were passed for the 2019 year, changes will be made as needed.
 - ◆ Stewardship campaign update, we are behind in the number of pledge card being turned in this year. Please encourage others to put pledge cards in the offering plate or turn in at the office. More details will be researched and finished.
 - ◆ Discussion and plan for hiring a Music Director (and accompanist) for 2019 and an assigned SPR group planning to put together the new updated job description. We are looking at other job descriptions and will place an ad in various locations after the beginning of the year.
 - ◆ Trustee activities: continued issues with plumbing in the building. We are going to put some new piping in and are looking at other options to alleviate the issues of back-up in restrooms upstairs. If you have specific questions, please contact one of our trustee minded core team (Bruce, Rod, Karl or Lay Leader Les). Pew discussion on making the sanctuary more welcoming and what the distance to be “cut” on the pews should be (ADA and UMC guidelines). Ceiling repair in the Family Room will wait until the final information on the plumbing will take place. Some carpet repair is being taking care of for the transition spots from tile to carpet as well.
 - ◆ We will be meeting with Cathy Townley, consultant that is helping us assess the area for missional growth and potential second service. Each member received her initial report and she will come to the January meeting to present to us her findings and suggestions.
 - ◆ January, we plan to have the Core Team set a year-long calendar and do some diligence on proposed activities and how they align with the mission and vision of the church. We know that a consistent thing we “hear” is that people are “tired” and feeling pulled in many directions. It has been suggested that we hone-in and focus on our events and activities, then begin to align them with our church’s vision. The concept may be that fewer activities for more impact and people’s capacity to give, share and serve. Our Lay Leader has developed a way for us to measure (and many businesses use similar tools).
 - ◆ Rev. Diane Christianson came to preside over the pastoral compensation charge conference, unanimous passage of the package for the 2019 year.
 - ◆ Approval for expenditures for new OSHA guideline ladders for 6’ and 8’.
 - ◆ We are working to declutter, a suggestion from both consultants that have been through our building. We will use some resurgence funds to increase a new fresh look from entry toward the sanctuary for Christmas eve (and other) visitors.
 - ◆ Presentation from the ministry insight report was shared that in the radius around the church the number of Gen x, Gen y and Gen z is around 75% population. We need to test those results. We know this will impact some of the changes we need to make and how we will want to look at growth for the 2019 and beyond mission field.
- If you have questions, please contact Lay Leader Les Johnson or Pastor Linda.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
January 2019		1 New Year's Day Office Closed!	2 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	3 5:30 PM Bell Choir	4	5
6 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	7 4:30 PM Women's Meal at Culvers	8 10:00 AM NE Seniors	9 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM UMW Exec 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	10 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Core Leadership	11 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	12
13 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Blood Pressure	14 5:30 PM Community Dinner	15 9:00 AM Cookie Baking 5:30 PM No Bake Cookies	16 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	17 10:00 AM River Rats 5:30 PM Bell Choir	18 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	19
20 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	21	22	23 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	24 5:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Eve Circle	25 11:00 AM Chair Yoga	26
27 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	28 5:30 PM Community Dinner	29	30 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	31 5:30 PM Bell Choir	Martha's Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 AM — 4:30 PM	

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!

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

JANUARY EVENTS

January 2 (Wed)	9:45 am Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir (repeats on Wednesdays)
January 7 (Mon)	4:30 pm Women's Meal at Culvers
January 9 (Wed)	11:00 am UMW Exec
January 10 (Thurs)	6:30 pm Core Leadership Team
January 14 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal
January 28 (Mon)	5:30 pm Community Meal