

Freshwaters

December 2023

United Methodist
Church



FRESHWATERS UMC
112 N 7th Avenue
Princeton MN 55371-1599

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 173

Return Service Requested

DECEMBER 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

On behalf of my family and the ministry of Freshwaters Church I wish you and your family abundant Advent and Christmas blessings.

What do we need to experience this particular season; what is the longing of many hearts and minds? I think the word is HOPE. I believe there is a genuine spirit of hopelessness among many people as they receive bills in the mail, look at the grocery and gasoline costs, watch the news which is peppered with violence, war, and deep societal and political divisions. I know because I see it in the faces of people when I am at the gas pump or in the local Walmart. You can feel it in the air, something is not right; there is a tension and the question is – when is the breaking point?

My friends – we are in good company when we open the pages of scripture. The prophets in the Old Testament spoke about the present evils and uncertainties they were facing. Their call was to turn back to God, because God is the source of hope, love, life, and light. In the midst of their writing they spoke about the promise of one whom God would send and his name would be Immanuel “God with us.” For many long years the people waited, hoped, and prayed for this coming

Sermon Series

All I Want For
Christmas

December 03

A Longing Within

December 10

Peace

December 17

**Stellar Christmas
Program**

December 24 9:30A

A Fresh Start

December 24 7P

Good News

December 31

**Guest Preacher
Linda Olson**

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST
www.freshwatersumc.org

Join us In-Person or Online on Sundays at 9:30 AM!

Kevin Fox – Pastor
651-414-1132
revfox1738@gmail.com

Office: 112 7th Ave North, Princeton
763-631-1185
Wed - Friday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Jenna Jenson – Office Administrator and Children's Ministry Director
admin@freshwatersumc.com

Bob Laskowski – Worship Leader
320-267-0233

Keep up to date on our website and our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/FreshwatersMN

promise. I suspect some became frustrated, some began to lose hope or became impatient. You hear that cry in the writings of Jeremiah and Isaiah especially as they faced the impending fall of their country. Despite the calamities that befell the Hebrew people, they held on tightly to the Word of God as their light in the darkness. That light gave them hope, comfort and peace as they faced the present troubles. We in this day have the gift of 20/20 hind-sight because we know that the promise would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was born there were people who were frustrated, impatient, struggling with their present reality living under the occupation of the Roman Empire. He came into the world softly, quietly, without fanfare. Sometimes God comes into our struggles in a similar way. Perhaps in the midst of our present troubles as a nation and world, God is moving in ways we cannot see. We know that God does work for the good for those who love him. What I do know is that God sent his Son Jesus Christ to be the light and hope of the world. The message of Christmas is “yes there is darkness, but the light of the world is dawning.” We must carry that message of hope into the lives of our families and friends. We have been given this message of hope! Hope is a great gift we can give, because I believe many want and need it! And if you are struggling with hope, come to worship – rest, sing, let us pray with you and for you, let us build up one another as we are called to do! I am praying for you that you might know the hope of Christ this season! God bless you in His awesome love! Amen!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Those Who Are Sick, Hurt, And Suffering	Those Who Are Mourning The Loss Of Loved Ones
Our Nation	Bernie W
Rich S	Jim L
Elaine M	Bob L
Enger & Fillafer Families	Chuck V
Family of Anna	Phyllis W
Gearhart Eaves Family	Bobbie H



Let's bless our Seniors who are home bound or in a long term care facility. Why not pay them a visit, give them a call or send them a note to let them know you're thinking of them!

Muriel Walker and Betty Oliver



It's going to be a STELLAR Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 17th** during normal worship! Our Freshwaters Kids and Youth will retell the story of Christmas as the stars who were twinkling away the night Jesus was born. You will meet Bible Buddies and hear some music from VBS this summer, as well as sing some well known Christmas carols. It's going to be interactive, full of energy, and sure to be a STELLAR Christmas time!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 01 Bernie W | 07 Sharon R | 19 Dawn G | 28 Emily S |
| 02 Kelly H | 10 Don T | 20 John R | 29 Jeff B |
| 02 Carla L | 11 Steve W | 21 Sulyvan C.H | 30 Mark B |
| 06 Salinger C | 12 Sam T | 21 Dustin W | 30 Mag D |
| 07 Betty B | 15 Leo F | 23 Carol F | 30 Judy H |
| 07 Kim N | 16 Kurt N | 23 Heather M | 31 Jim H |
| | 17 Hans S | 23 Karen O | |

HAPPY Anniversary!

- 02 Peggy & Mark W.Z 05 Larry & Val V

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm
Service



FRESHWATERS

Refreshing Relationships with God and Others

REAL people who worship the living God in Spirit and in Truth.

Scripture Reference - John 4:24

EMBRACING God's written word as a guide for life.

Scripture Reference - Psalm 119:105

FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Reference - Ephesians 5:18

RESPONDING with prayer and love to hurting people.

Scripture Reference - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

EMPOWERED to share our faith walk with everyone.

Scripture Reference - Acts 1:8

STEWARDS of God's gifts.

Scripture Reference - 1 Peter 4:10

HOSPITALITY and acceptance to all persons wherever they are in life.

Scripture Reference - Hebrews 13:2



Thank you to our volunteers and committee members!! You are acting as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, volunteering and helping your church!! Together we make our worship services a special place to be, and we couldn't do it without you!!

Coffee Hour Hosts

- December 03** - Bernie & Gloria W
- December 10** -
- December 17** -
- December 24** -
- December 31** -

Beverages are provided by church, we simply need volunteers to help set-up, provide snacks, and clean up!

Ushers

- December 03** -
- December 10** -
- December 17** -
- December 24** -
- December 31** -

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for coffee hour, ushering, or snow removal, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Tina Vanderhoff at 763-318-5095.

Sound Board

- December 03** - Joel C
- December 10** - Jim H
- December 17** - Isaac J
- December 24 9:30 am** - Isaac J
- December 24 7:00 pm** - Joel C
- December 31** - Scott L

If you are interested in helping with the sound board on Sunday mornings, please contact Pastor Kevin at 651-414-1132.

Sunday School Teachers

- December 03** - Jenna J & Jolie C
- December 10** - Angela H & Alex F
- December 17** - **ALL HANDS ON DECK**
- December 24** - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- December 31** - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Jenna Jenson at 763-439-2816.

Pastor Kevin will be on vacation December 25th—January 6th. Linda Olson will be preaching on December 31st



Jingle Sunday is December 17th (3rd Sunday of the month). Bring your loose change and "jingle"! This ministry is fun for our children and blesses our bags of blessing ministry in the schools within the Princeton and Zimmerman school districts..

We are seeking donations of food items or financial contributions to help us in our efforts to feed children on free or reduced lunches in Princeton and Zimmerman schools. This is a great ministry of connection between our congregation and the schools. Keep an eye out for the sign up sheet in the entry way.



Last months quilt drawing winners are Michelle Giese and Pat Talberg, congratulations to you both!

Don't forget to enter the monthly quilt drawing in the Fellowship Hall. You will find the quilt pieces up for the winning with the slips to enter by simply filling out your name and phone number!

Be on the lookout for the Christmas Giving Tree again. On that tree, there will be paper ornaments with gifts to purchase and bring back unwrapped for a local family in need. The sign out sheet and directions will be next to the tree. Unwrapped gifts need to be brought back to church by Sunday, December 10th.



VOLUNTEER



December 03 - Pastor Kevin's House

December 10 - Pastor Kevin's House

December 17 - Pastor Kevin's House

December 24 - NO YOUTH GROUP

December 31 - NO YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is open for all kids in 6th grade—12th grade. We meet at Pastor

Kevin's house on Sundays from 6:00—7:00 pm. We bless one another, play games, learn together, and have lots of fun. Contact Pastor Kevin with questions or for more info at 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail. 13822 2nd Ave N Princeton, MN



Freshwaters Kids Concurrent Sunday School is open to all kids ages 3 years - 5th grade. Everyone starts worship together at 9:30 am and the kids are dismissed to Sunday School from there.

December 03 - When People Are Sad...

December 10 - When People Need Help...

December 17 - Stellar Christmas Program

December 24 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 31 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



6 Week Adult Bible Study on the Book of Malachi continues!

"Mediocrity was never God's plan for you. In this challenging six-part series, Dave Cornes cuts to the chase by letting us listen in on six conversations between God and His people, recorded by the prophet Malachi."

Meeting Wednesday nights at Linda O's house at 6:30 pm. Contact Linda if you have any questions at 612-963-8429

Advent Choir will be singing during worship on Sunday, December 3rd! We are excited for this gathering of friends and extra holiday music during this special time of year!



Freshwaters December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 BSTroop 16 Eagle Court Of Honor
3 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 6 PM Youth Group	4 7 PM BSA	5 9 AM Quilters	6 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	7	8	9
10 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 6 PM Youth Group	11 7 PM BSA	12 - 9 AM Quilters - 6:30 PM Trustee Mtg	13 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	14	15	16
17 - 9:30 AM Worship & Christmas Program - 6 PM Youth Group	18 7 PM BSA	19 9 AM Quilters	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 - 9:30 AM Worship - 7 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Kevin on Vacation	26 9 AM Quilters	27	28 9 AM Newsletter Assembly	29	30
31 - 9:30 AM Worship Kevin on Vacation						

**Regular Sunday Worship
In-Person and Streaming LIVE at 9:30 am
Concurrent Sunday School**