

FRESHWATERS UMC

NOVEMBER 2023



FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings and blessings to you dear readers of the Freshwaters Current, may the blessing and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all; especially as we enter into the holiday season.

I write this article in mid-October in the midst of a changing season. While it is lovely to look at the leaves with their brilliant colors; one cannot help feel a sense of darkness and heaviness at the state of our world. At the moment of this writing, the world is reeling from the brutality of the attack of Hamas upon the innocent men, women, and children in Israel. Israel is responding to this attack, and is on the verge of going into the Gaza strip. As one watches the news there are fears that the conflict might begin to expand beyond the borders. This does not take away from the conflict that is still going on between Russia and Ukraine and there is the threat of China invading Taiwan. There is even talk if are we on the verge of World War III. We look to our own country – we find crime, violence, theft, drug abuse, homelessness, poverty, rising prices, a deep divisive political climate, confusion and delusion being pushed upon our children, so on and so forth. To put it bluntly – the world is in a dark place.

Dear friends, we as disciples of Jesus Christ can look to scripture and see moments of darkness. Indeed the prophecy that portends the coming of Christ says that the people have walked in darkness; a great darkness

Sermon Series

Why It Matters -
What We Believe

November 05
**Paradise or
Punishment**

November 12
**The Bible - The
Holy World Of
God**

November 19
**Community Of
Believers**

November 26
**Eschatology -
Final Things**

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

Return Service Requested

NOVEMBER 2023

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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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

October 10th, 2023 Single Board Meeting

Present: Ryan P, Linda O, Kevin F, Scott L, Susan K, Gene S, Karen O, Darren W, Andrew H

1. Agenda was approved
2. Minutes from 9/12/23 board meeting were approved electronically
3. Kevin led group in scripture & prayer
4. Financial-Susan reported we are showing a loss through September but ahead of the comparative period last year. Our giving is up which is very positive, however expenses are also higher. Board is looking for a Treasurer & Linda would follow up with those that are interested. Susan was thanked for her years of Board Treasurer service. Next month the Board will need to approve the budget, so any committees that have input should get that information in as soon as possible.
5. Investments-Scott reported that FW will close on the Gerth property acquisition on Nov 1, 2023 & that the 1st payment will be Dec 1, 2023. There also was discussion on ways of supporting the monthly payments, options discussed: FW should consider diversifying our investments using CD's. A second option discussed was getting a line of credit where FW could borrow against it if funds were needed. Another option discussed was if members would like to commit to a 'adopt a payment' they could speak to Scott Liestman regarding details. A motion was made to move \$200,000 into CD's as a tool to build earnings. This motion was second by Gene Stoeckel. Motion was carried.
6. Trustees-Andrew will be focusing on lighting in the Fellowship Hall & will be obtaining bids to bring back to next Board meeting.
7. SPRC-Ryan reported that the Team met with District Superintendent, Woojae Im on Sun 10/8 to give annual feedback, what the team can do to support our Pastor, & training for new SPRC members. Next item to discuss will be the Annual Pastoral package which is due in Dec. as well wages for Freshwaters' paid staff; the Board made recommendations on both of these items to the SPRC. Ryan will bring this info back to the Team, then back to the Board for final approval. Ryan shared he would be stepping down from the Board & he was thanked for his service.
8. Leadership recommendations were discussed & made to fill any open/potential openings. Leadership Replacements should be members of the church.
9. Church Conference-Kevin reported there are 2 options for the conference: Virtual in 11/30 with other churches OR In person. Linda made a recommendation to do a live meeting on 11/26. Items to be reviewed/discussed: Vote on Pastoral package, 2024 budget, 2024 Leadership election, review Reports.
10. Next meeting will be 11/14/23
11. Motion was made to adjourn by Susan, All approved.


Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oudekerk

Please note: Committee Minutes are drafted and approved by the committees and the church office does not make changes beyond formatting.

was over the whole world. But then the people have seen a great light, the light in the promise of the coming Messiah – Jesus; Immanuel – God with us. Jesus Christ is the light and therefore the hope of the world. He shows us that God has not given up on us; indeed in the person of Jesus Christ – God walked among us! God walked midst the messiness of humanity to show the world the light. Paul tells us that we are to be the light of Christ, which means we reflect this light by reflecting the hope we have in Christ. We know that despite the darkness we see that in Christ there is light, and there is hope. But the question is how can we make this hope tangible?

We acknowledge the truth “yup, things are not good” but we know because of our faith that this is but a temporary time of suffering. Scripture tells us that this struggle is but preparing for us something better. My friends – we as Christian people walk in the midst of these dark times knowing that this is not the end of our story; this will not endure forever for the promise of God is to turn all things to the good for those who love him. This means we carry ourselves with an attitude of hope that while the present might not look the best; our faith says “you/we have a future.” Our faith teaches we know how this will turn out: “God wins!” Indeed the victory has already been won through Jesus! So my challenge to us at Freshwaters is: **how can we together make the hope in Jesus Christ a tangible reality for those around us?** Because people are searching for hope! How can we bring them hope? Sending a card, phone call, text message; inviting someone out or over to dinner; paying for the person behind you in the McDonalds line. There are many opportunities to reflect the light and therefore sharing hope – little by little we will push back against the darkness with Christ's 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
Becky G	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

All Saints Sunday is November 5th. If you have a loved one who passed away between November 2022 and now, please provide their name, picture, date of birth, and date of death to the office by Nov. 1st. We will be honoring those who have entered into their eternal rest during service on All Saints Sunday. You can drop off their info. in the office Wed-Fri 8 am-3 pm or email it to admin@freshwatersumc.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 01 Nancy B | 05 Anji V | 15 Owen O | 21 Allison C |
| 02 Tina B | 07 Mitchell B | 16 Mark A | 21 Aubry Z |
| 02 Nicole P | 07 Tracey H | 16 Sawyer C | 23 Linda T |
| 03 Clarice H | 07 Sarah L | 16 Findley S | 26 Betty O |
| 03 Beth O H | 08 Kay P | 16 Ed S | 27 Linda O |
| 04 Jim H | 10 Pat T | 17 Joanne V | 28 Kaitlyn G |
| 04 Gene S | 10 Nicholas T | 18 Dick G | 28 Megan S |
| 05 Rene H | 11 Val V | 19 Linda A | 30 Paul W |

Veterans Day Service is Sunday November 12th

WE'LL BE HONORING ALL VETERANS LIVING AND DECEASED. IF YOU HAVE A SERVICE PHOTO, PLEASE BRING IT TO THE OFFICE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH. WE WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTING A SPECIAL OFFERING THIS DAY FOR MEALS - A LA - CAR TO HELP COVER THE COSTS FOR VETERANS WHO ARE UTILIZING THIS MEAL SERVICE.



COMMUNITY **Thanksgiving SERVICE**

SPONSORED BY:

- New Life Church
- Immanuel Lutheran
- Bethel Church
- Christ Our Light Catholic
- First Congregational UCC
- Trinity Lutheran
- Freshwaters United Methodist

MESSAGE:

- Paul Brown

Wed. Nov. 22nd 7:00 pm

Christ Our Light
804 7th Ave S
Princeton, MN

HAPPY Anniversary!

- 13 Terry & Karen A 19 Lester & Carol G



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!

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

November 05 - Youth Group Hot Breakfast

November 12 - Taylor, Stoeckel, Elefrits

November 19 - Sorenson, Elliott

November 26 - Claassen, Vanderhoff

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

Ushers

November 05 - NEEDED

November 12 - NEEDED

November 19 - NEEDED

November 26 - NEEDED

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

November 05 - Joel C

November 12 - Jim H

November 19 - Isaac J

November 26 - 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

November 05 - Jenna J & Kait A

November 12 - Angela H & Alex F

November 19 - Ryan P & Audrey P

November 26 - Hailey N & Amanda P

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

Church Conference November 26th, after worship at 11 am—we will vote on 2024 budget, pastoral support package, elect leaders for 2024, and process reports.



Jingle Sunday is November 19th (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.



The September quilt drawing winner is Kim Jensen! And the winner of the Take A Chance Quilt is Karen Tix! 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!

Join us in blessing children again this Christmas season all across the world by packing a shoebox! There are brochures outside of Fellowship Hall that explain what can be donated and how to pack your shoebox. **All packed shoeboxes are due back to church by Sunday, November 12th** so they can be passed on and distributed in time for Christmas. Thank you for your help again this year!



VOLUNTEER



November 05 - Pastor Kevin's House
November 12 - Pastor Kevin's House
November 19 - NO YOUTH GROUP
November 26 - 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, learning, and fun. Contact Pastor Kevin for more info at 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail. 13822 2nd Ave N Princeton, MN 55398



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.

November 05 - Carnival Day, Review of Joseph - Genesis 37-45

November 12 - When Life Feels Dark...

November 19 - When People Don't Get Along...

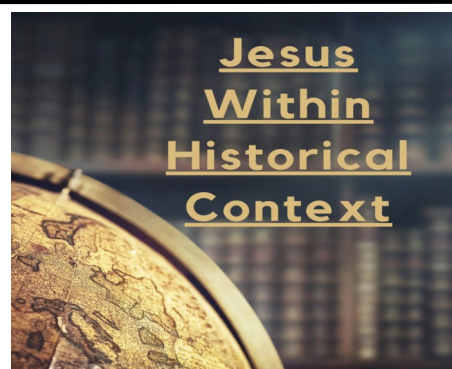
November 26 - When Good Things Happen...



6 Week Adult Bible Study on the Book of Malachi beginning November 1st. "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

Join Pastor Kevin on Sundays at 10:45 am in the Elim Oasis Classroom as he takes a historical look at the world that Jesus grew up in, that the disciples like Peter and Paul taught, and the church began to grow. He will be looking at the Rise of the Roman world as a precursor to the time of Jesus.



Freshwaters November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	2	3	4
5 - 9:30 AM All Saints Sunday Worship & Sun. School - 6 PM Youth Group	6 7 PM BSA	7 9 AM Quilters	8 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	9	10	11
12 - 9:30 AM Veterans Worship & Sun. School - 6 PM Youth Group	13 7 PM BSA	14 - 9 AM Quilters - 6:30 PM Trustee Mtg - 7 PM Single Board Mtg	15 - Newsletter Deadline - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	16	17	18 Church Reserved All Day for Baby Shower
19 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 6 PM Youth Group	20 7 PM BSA Jenna In The Office	21 9 AM Quilters	22 - 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - 7 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	24	25
26 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 11 AM Church Conference - 6 PM Youth Group	27 7 PM BSA	28 9 AM Quilters	29 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	30		

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