



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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 173

Return Service Requested

JANUARY 2025

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Christmas greetings and New Years blessings to you and your families; may the presence of our new born Savior Jesus Christ bless you as we look into the promise of an unwritten new year 2025.

It is Saturday December 14th as I write this newsletter, and if you were to ask me “how it is with my soul?” I will tell you – it is heavy with spiritual exhaustion. I am just being honest with you; it has been a hard couple of weeks. Obviously lots to do with getting church conference stuff wrapped up at the end of November, Advent/Christmas preparations, busyness with family life and school etc. However this particular December, there has been hard tragic losses for people within our congregation, and there are those within our congregation who are at this moment bracing themselves for potentially bad news. I know that there are members of our flock for whom this is not a season of glad tidings or great joy.

I want to make something very clear, that while I know things might feel heavy, and yes I might feel exhausted, that does not mean that I have no hope or that I have no joy. I do! I want to offer encouragement to everyone in our

Sermon Series

What You Might Need For 2025

January 05
**Guest Speaker
Linda Olson**

January 12
Courage

January 19
Character

January 26
Communication

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

The Single Board did not meet in December. Stay tuned next month for January’s meeting minutes.

congregation, because we celebrate the literal presence of God in the birth of Christ! We celebrate the coming of God who walked among us. We celebrate the light of God dawning into the darkness. The Prophet Isaiah tells us in chapter 9 verse 2 *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined!* This is so true as of late! It feels like we have been walking in the shadow of death, darkness, despair, and bad news! However very soon, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the promise of God, the light of God! Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:55-58 *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!* In this verse, Paul is taunting death about its defeat at the coming of Christ. Paul is describing the moment when believers will be transformed into glorified bodies and spend eternity with God. This Christmas think about the promise that was begun in the fulfillment of the prophecy of God in Christ's birth; in Christ's death on the cross; in Christ's resurrection from the death; AND in his coming back to finally put Satan, sin, and death away FOREVER! Have hope my friends, sisters and brothers for this is what awaits us “...the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:2-4)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER	
Those Who Are Sick, Hurt, And Suffering	Those Who Are Mourning The Loss Of Loved Ones
The War In Ukraine	Those Struggling With Addiction
Our Nation	Mexico
Family of Fran Howard	Family of Mark Abraham
Nancy R	Mag D
Celeste H	Robin C
Sandy W	Muriel W
Norma H	Alec V



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

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



Pastor Kevin will be on vacation from December 29 (after worship) to January 10. Guest Speaker Linda Olson will give the message on Sunday, January 05. Pastor Kevin was unable to get pastoral emergency care. He will not be in the office during his vacation, but is in the area in the event of an emergency.

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



Jingle Sunday is January 19 (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.



01 Brian H	10 Daren W	24 Hannah J	28 Brian H
01 John W	11 Mya B	24 Kathy S	28 Ken L
05 Myra I	12 Luke N	25 Heather S	28 Jeremy L
05 Scott L	12 Charlotte Y	26 Bryan C	31 Nancy C.H
06 Henry J	15 Judy S	26 Ethan L	31 Carol G
07 Shirley D	21 Megan C	26 Karen M	31 Keith M
07 Alex S	21 Elliott J	26 Evelyn P	31 Shirley W



NO ANNIVERSARIES

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

- January 05 - **Potluck (Epiphany & New Year Theme)**
- January 12 - **Brander / Elliott / Hoefft**
- January 19 - **Wesloh / Frederick / Zins**
- January 26 - **Stoeckel / Henchen / Orton**

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

Ushers

- January 05 - **Mark & Nancy B**
- January 12 - **Gene & Kathy S**
- January 19 - **Jean T & Michele E**
- January 26 - **Jeff & Heather S Family**

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

- January 05 - **Scott L**
- January 12 - **Jim H**
- January 19 - **Daniel F**
- January 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

- January 05 - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- January 12 - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- January 19 - **Angela H & Amanda P**
- January 26 - **Jenna J & Kait A**

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



Youth Group is open for all kids in 6th grade —12th grade. We meet every Sunday at Pastor Kevin's house from 6:00—7:00 pm. We bless one another, play games, learn together, grow in our faith, and have lots of fun. Contact Pastor Kevin for more info or if you have any questions at 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail. 13822 2nd Ave N Zimmerman, MN 55398. **THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH GROUP JANUARY 5, WE WILL RESUME JANUARY 12.**



Freshwaters Kids Concurrent Sunday School is open to all kids ages 3 years - 5th grade. We will begin meeting again September 15th! Everyone starts worship together at 9:30 am and the kids are dismissed to Sunday School from there.

Jesus League - Becoming one of Jesus' super followers. In this 8 week series we will focus on Jesus' followers. Memory Verse: *When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

- January 05 - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- January 12 - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- January 19 - The First Disciples; Luke 6:12-16
- January 26 - Walking On Water; Matthew 14:22-33



BIBLE STUDY

When: Wednesday Nights 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Where: Freshwaters UMC
What: A Journey Through The Bible; each week we will discuss one book of the Bible alternating between the Old Testament and the New Testament
Who: Led by Pastor Kevin, open to anyone and everyone



Each week we look at 1 book of the Bible - the author, genre, historical time period, key message, stories and themes, and challenging parts of each book. Come with your questions and Bibles! Open to anyone and everyone. **NO BIBLE STUDY ON JANUARY 1 OR 8. WE WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 15.**





Pastor Kevin will be teaching Historical Perspectives on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the University of Northwestern this coming Spring 2025.

Confirmation is held from 5-6 pm on Sundays at Pastor Kevin’s house. Please contact Pastor Kevin if you have any questions. **NO CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5. WE WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 12.** 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail.com



AA - Recovery Group meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm, held in Fellowship Hall and lead by Jake Brander... We are glad to have them here, let us be in prayer as this awesome ministry takes place within these walls!

Freshwaters Worship Committee: Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the sanctuary, entryway, and fellowship hall for the advent/Christmas season, and to those who helped clean up after Christmas. A Special thank you to the youth group for decorating the tree in the entry-way, to Phil Lingle and Kevin Walz for putting up the tree and greens in the church, Kathy Walz for her nativity display, and for all those who helped carry up the boxes of decorations. Thank you to all those who purchased poinsettias for Christmas. You all helped to make our church a beautiful tribute to Him who has come at Christmas.



Faith Fest ‘25: We have another fundraising event coming in February. We will be doing our second annual Valentine presentation to area senior facilities and are hoping to also add regular businesses. This may be a 2-day event over Valentine weekend. So, we will need volunteers to help with this event. More information will be coming at a later date. Also watch for our new Faith Fest website coming soon. Contact Myla for more information.

Freshwaters January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed Kevin On Vacation	2	3	4
5 - 9:30 AM Worship - NO SUN SCHOOL OR YOUTH GROUP	6 7 PM BSA Kevin On Vacation	7 9 AM Quilters	8 7PM AA	9	10	11
12 - 9:30 AM Worship - NO SUN SCHOOL - 6:00 PM Youth Group	13 7 PM BSA	14 - 9 AM Quilters - 12 PM UMW Mtg - 7 PM Single Board Mtg	15 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7PM AA	16	17	18
19 - 9:30 AM Worship & Concurrent Sun School - 6:00 PM Youth Group	20 7 PM BSA	21 9 AM Quilters	22 - Newsletter Deadline - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA	23	24	25
26 - 9:30 AM Worship & Concurrent Sun School - 6:00 PM Youth Group	27 7 PM BSA	28 9 AM Quilters	29 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA	30 9 AM Newsletter Assembly	31	

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