



FEBRUARY

Freshwaters UMC

2025

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the peace of the Holy Spirit rest upon you and your family as you enter into this year! Welcome to the month of February 2025!

As you receive this newsletter, I pray that the weather is warmer and the daylight longer as today January 19, 2025 is in minus territory. It is very cold, but the sunlight is very brilliant! Of course the brutal cold keeps people inside; I am thankful that we have the technology to connect people with our worship within their homes near and far. It was good to see the children return to Sunday School! What a blessing it is to have them and their families in worship. I cannot tell you how critically important it is for families to come together to worship. It has been scientifically shown that the active practice of faith and worship can have upon the positive development of children; the strengthening of a marriage; and the overall well-being of a family. So never underestimate the power and positive impact that coming to church can have upon your life and that of your family.

Sermon Series

What You Might Need For 2025

February 02
Self-Control

Influence

February 09
**Navigating
Influence**

February 16
**Who Is Influencing
You**

February 23
Losing Influence

Dear Freshwaters family – as you may know we are working on acquiring the property next door. It is very exciting and thank you to everyone who has donated toward this project! Every donation that comes in is a huge help! Our immediate vision is to turn that area into a parking lot and hopefully further in the future to see a new entrance toward that parking lot. Why would we do this? We are doing this not just for ourselves, but we are doing this because we envision ourselves as a growing, active, life/soul-changing church for Jesus Christ. This new parking lot and entrance declares to everyone that we are expecting you, we welcome you, and we are about hospitality and warmth!

So as we work toward these amazing physical changes we need to be focused on invitation, we need to work on small groups, we need to think about the people when they get here – warm welcoming people, places for them to engage and plug-in; and of course thinking about even before they come, what is our online presence like because that is the first thing they will check out. What will they see when they look on their phones? It is a much changed world for many of us, but if our church is to be fruitful, viable, and strong for the sake of the Kingdom, then we must start to take steps to build on the things we have already done and are doing! Lets get ready for that parking lot and when those awesome people will come! Exciting days are not just ahead, exciting days are now! Lets get to work! Start praying! God bless you!!



Those Who Are Sick, Hurt, And Suffering	Those Who Are Mourning The Loss Of Loved Ones
The War In Ukraine / Gaza	Those Struggling With Addiction
Those Affected By The Wildfires	Our Nation
Family of Fran Howard	Family of Mark Abraham
Ketchel Family	Lyngen Family
Sandy W	Muriel W
Norma H	Alec V
Nancy R	Rachel G
Mag D	Celeste H

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 February 16 (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.



AA – Recovery group meeting Wednesdays – 7-8pm Fellowship Hall led by Jake Brander.... Glad to have them here, let us be in prayer as this awesome ministry takes place within these walls!

**LENTEN SOUP
SUPPER & WORSHIP**

5:30 PM SUPPER
6:30 PM WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 5 – Wednesday, April 9

FRESHWATERS UMC

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers start March 5 and run through April 9 5:30pm. Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet to bring a soup, bread, or dessert!

Wednesday Lenten Worship start March 5 with Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm, and runs through April 9. During these Wednesday night services we will reflect on a hymn that was written about the sacrifice of Jesus.

LENT

a season of preparation

Soup Supper at 5:30 pm

Worship Service at 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday, A Journey I Must Take - March 05

And Can It Be That I Should Gain - March 12

O Sacred Head Now Wounded - March 19

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross - March 26

Were You There - April 02

The Old Rugged Cross - April 09



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.



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

February 02 – **John 11:1-16, Jesus Decides To Go To Lazarus**

February 09 – **John 19:17-27, The Crucifixion**

February 16 – **John 20:1-18, The Empty Tomb**

February 23 – **Acts 8:26-39, Philip And The Ethiopian**



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 Wednesday we will discuss one book of the Bible. We will look at the author; the genre of the particular book; the historical time period; the key message, stories and themes; and challenging parts of each book. Come with your questions, come with your Bibles! Open to anyone and everyone! **(Feb 5-Feb 26 we will cover the books of Nehemiah through the Psalms)**

Freshwaters Worship Committee: Colors of the church seasons – Advent and Christmas are now complete, Jesus has arrived and we are now entering the liturgical church color of green. This church season is called “ordinary time” or Pentecost season on some church liturgical calendars. I like to think of it as a season of growing in our faith and sowing seeds to others. Nothing is “ordinary” about Jesus, His birth, life or death. Mixed in with the green colors during the year are various single Sundays

Epiphany Sunday – or the baptism of our Lord. Soon after that is Transfiguration Sunday, then Ash Wednesday, Lent (purple), Holy Week which consists of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (red) and Easter Sunday - the greatest day of all (gold/white)!! Eastertide consists of 8 Sundays after Easter then Pentecost is after Easter and then the green colors will remain until we begin Advent.

- **Purple**, representing both royalty and penitence, is traditionally used during **Advent** and **Lent**.

- **Blue** symbolizes hope and may also be used during **Advent**.

- **White** and **gold** are used at **Christmas** and **Easter** to symbolize joy and festivities.

- **Red** symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the **Day of Pentecost** and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. **Red** is also used for **ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances** such as **Memorial Day** and **Thanksgiving**.

- **Green** represents growth and is used during **Ordinary Time** (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

So after January 5th, the church colors changed to green representing growth and soon flowers will begin to appear, the snow will be melting and grass will soon be reappearing. Let us celebrate all these wonders that God has given to us each and every day.

Faith Fest '25 update: We now have a new logo and new website. Our website is: www.faithfestmn.org We will be posting info about the upcoming events related to FF, entertainment, activities, fundraising events, etc. The Executive Board consists of: Myla Tolmie, Kathy Kraft, Pastor Phil Larson, Jon Paleshewski, Christina Robarge and Michele Elifrits. Our next big fundraising event will be the Valentine Sing-o-grams to area senior facilities. It will consist of a flower, cookie and song provided by members of the participating area churches. We provide to: Milaca Elim Home and residences, Princeton Elim Home, Caley House, Sterling Pointe and Fremont senior Living. We will need volunteers to help distribute items purchased and sing songs to the residents. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Myla. If you are interested in donating a Sing-o-gram, contact the participating facility below:

Fremont Village Senior Living – Martha ahlschlager – 612-240-1885

Princeton elim Home –Laura Anderson – 763-389-1171

Sterling Pointe – Kelly Olson – 763-389-8655

Milaca Elim Home – Jenna Free – 320-983-2185

Milaca Elim Meadows – KathyAnn Langlie – 320-983-6386

Caley House – Melissaa kolyer – 763-631-0493

Freshwaters February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun School - 6 PM Youth Group	3 7 PM Boy Scouts	4 9 AM Quilters	5 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA Meeting	6 Jenna Out Of The Office	7	8
9 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun School - 6 PM Youth Group	10 7 PM Boy Scouts	11 - 9 AM Quilters - 12 PM UMW Mtg - 6 PM Trustees Mtg - 7 PM Single Board Meeting	12 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA Meeting	13	14	15
16 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun School - 6 PM Youth Group	17 7 PM Boy Scouts	18 9 AM Quilters	19 Newsletter Deadline - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA Meeting - Jenna Out Of The Office	20	21	22
23 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun School - 6 PM Youth Group	24 7 PM Boy Scouts	25 9 AM Quilters	26 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7 PM AA Meeting	27 9 AM Newsletter Assembly	28	

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



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

February 02 – **Liestman Family**
February 09 – **Potluck – Birthday Dinner**
February 16 – **Vanderhoff Family**
February 23 – **Elifrits / Taylor Families**

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

Ushers

February 02 – **Lingle Family**
February 09 – **Purdy Family**
February 16 – **Liestman Family**
February 23 – **Claassen 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

February 02 – **Daniel F**
February 09 – **Jim H**
February 16 – **Scott L**
February 23 – **Daniel F**

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

Sunday School Teachers

February 02 – **Christina R & Jolie C**
February 09 – **Hailey N & Alex F**
February 16 – **Jenna J & Amanda P**
February 23 – **Angela H & Kait A**

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

VOLUNTEER

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

01	Sue L
03	Lois C
03	Brandon L
04	Rachel G
05	Rosalie J

06	Zach L
08	Lisa F
08	Abby M
11	Alan W
12	Michelle M
15	Barry H

16	Everett P
17	Lana S
18	Ryan D
18	Dolores H
20	Dale B
21	David V

22	Larry M
25	Ruth A
26	Slayter C
26	Jason Z
28	Audrey P

HAPPY *Anniversary*

14	Daryle & Dawn G	28	Ron & Marlys F
----	-----------------	----	----------------

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

Freshwaters UMC Single Board Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025

Present: Linda Olson, Bob Laskowski, Andrew Harvala, Mark Brander, Michele Elifrits, Kevin Fox, and Gene Stoeckel

Absent: Scott Liestman and Karen Oudekerk

Linda, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Minutes of November 12, 2024 were approved electronically.
2. Scripture and prayer were given by Pastor Kevin, asking guidance and giving thanks.
3. Financial Reports were given by Michele.
 - MN Sales Tax Exemption certified.
 - December income was short, but full year was okay.
 - Motion by Gene, second by Andrew to table Elim Oasis funds investment to February. Motion carried.
 - We will work with UMW for a monthly cash box account to abide by Department Of Revenue requirements.
4. No investment action. Some investments were slightly down from November.
5. SPRC – Gene reported employee raises were approved electronically.
 - SPRC left year-end bonuses to one board. Motion by Andrew, second by Bob to give token year-end bonuses to Kevin and Jenna. Motion carried.
6. Trustees – Andrew reports tight screens will be installed before May in the attic to help prevent wasp issues.
 - A trustee calendar has been developed to guide trustees on needed activities.
 - Brotherhood Mutual is our new workers comp carrier.
 - A building walk-thru will be done in April.
7. Signage request from Open Circle (formerly Elim Oasis) to update signage – they will work with Linda to provide aerial views of proposals.
8. Discussion related to future church lay-out was introduced. No action taken.
9. Inherent Dream Advertising – Single Board members are encouraged to listen to the podcast before the next single board meeting. We will then make a decision on what we would like to do. Contract is due for renewal in March.
10. Board retreat will be on April 12, 2025.
11. Next meeting will be on February 11, 2025.
12. Motion by Gene, second by Mark to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by:
Gene Stoeckel

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

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

Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY 2025

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