

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

Return Service Requested

December 2020

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

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST

www.freshwatersumc.com

Join us In-Person or Online on Sundays at 10 AM!

Kevin Fox – Pastor

651-414-1132

revfox1738@gmail.com

Office: 112 7th Ave North, Princeton

763-631-1185

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 AM – 5 PM

Bethany Moos – Office Administrator

admin@freshwatersumc.com

Sawyer Carey – Worship Leader

sawyer2of7@gmail.com

Cori Wallace – Children/Youth Leader

freshwaterschildren@gmail.com

Keep up to date on our website and our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/FreshwatersMN

DECEMBER 2020

FRESHWATERS

United Methodist Church

Join us online on Sundays at 10 AM!

We will announce on Facebook and our website when we are meeting again in-person.

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings and blessings to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! On behalf of my family and on behalf of the congregation of Freshwaters I pray that you and your family are well in this Advent and Christmas season.

We are in the season of Advent, the season of preparing for the coming of the Christ child into the world. I have been reflecting on some of the scriptures that portend this coming, and one of them is from the writings of the prophet Isaiah. One of the scriptures we hear at this time is from chapter 9 of Isaiah ***“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”*** I don’t know about you, but I feel this is a very fitting passage for our time. I feel for this year of 2020 we have been walking in darkness – what started out as a positive collective effort mitigate the covid virus has given way to ugliness, mean-spiritedness, blaming, shaming, and frankly hatred. The presidential election certainly did not help matters, and the idea that one candidate or the other will bring about unity and healing is simply laughable. Our nation is in a dark place spiritually. People are worried about the future as well as the present. At the time of this writing, schools are going to virtual learning again, churches are having to go back to online, lock-downs threaten small businesses and their families, and we see Thanksgiving being “cancelled.” Speaking for myself – I am tired, I am frustrated, I am in a place of disillusionment. I am just being honest with you.

The scriptures for Advent, like the one from Isaiah, are particularly relevant and meaningful this year because at the time of Christ’s birth people were looking for hope; just like us! The children of Israel lay under the control of the Roman Empire, their King Herod was a Roman puppet,

Sermon Series

HOLY WOW

December 6

Christ in Me,
Christ in You

December 13

He Changed My
Life

December 20

God Sent His Son

December 24

2020

Each Sunday evening of Advent, the sanctuary lights will be left on so that the beautiful stained glass windows will be illuminated and seen on the outside for persons walking or driving by.

and I suspect that people felt a disillusionment with the state of the world. Isaiah's words were written centuries before the Roman occupation, they were written at a time when the glorious united kingdom of David and Solomon was long gone. The kingdom was divided, people were looking for hope in different religions, people were apathetic. Isaiah during his day received a revelation from God to tell his people that God is the true source of hope and love; therefore do not lose hope, turn to God for He is the source of light, purpose, and meaning. Isaiah's prophecy also foretold of the promise of the light of God shining in the darkness; namely the birth of God's Son – Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ who is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot (try as it might) overcome him!

In this time of darkness, we must turn to the light of Christ as the source of our hope. In this I am thankful because these words from Isaiah are more powerful than ever before! They remind me that a light does shine in the darkness in the person of Christ, and that from Christ a great light is shining upon us. Rather than focus on the darkness, we as Christian people need to be focused on the light and pointing people to the light. As Paul said to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 5:5) **“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”** As we prepare for this season of the light, let us remember that when we are together in a unified love for God and one another, we reflect the light, love and hope of Jesus Christ – we can bring light into this world! Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday Jesus Christ! God bless you and your families! Amen
Pastor Kevin

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th | 6 PM

HOWEVER, with the spike of Covid recently we may have to reevaluate that worship service. The worship team will be meeting to prayerfully think of creative/innovative way we can celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

CHARGE CONFERENCE December 15, 2020 | 7PM

The DS recommended that we hold a **charge conference** rather than a **church conference** this year. **A charge conference is where the pastoral support package, the election of church officers, the sharing of reports, approval of the budget is voted on by the Single Board.** We mailed out to each of the members of Freshwaters the church conference packet in mid-November so that you had it well in advance of the Charge Conference. We do not anticipate anything major to be voted on this year, so this conference should be straight forward and to the point. **If you have any questions, concerns, comments you are invited to reach out to Pastor Kevin or members of the Single Board.**



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Be on the lookout for the Christmas Giving Tree. We will once again be joining with other churches and the school to bless families in our local community. There will be paper ornaments on the tree listing gifts for each family member. We will also put them on Facebook for those not coming to church in person but would like to be part of this awesome ministry. Contact Isaac if you have any questions (763) 742-4583.

A Message from the Freshwaters Quilters & Crafters

We will be selling some of our quilts and other handmade items through Facebook Live on Wednesdays at Noon. Payments will be online through our church website or by check. Items can be picked up from 4-6pm on the following Thursday or Friday. Shipping items may be available through use of Flat Rate boxes, at an additional cost. We hope you all share our LIVE broadcast with your friends and relatives. What a great way to shop, especially during this pandemic, AND that the proceeds are going to a non-profit.



WEDNESDAYS @ 12 NOON
FRESHWATERS' FACEBOOK PAGE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & GREENERY

Decorate our church this Advent/Christmas season with poinsettias, lights, and garland commemorating loved ones. We want to bring a little cheer by decorating both inside and out this year. Order forms are included in this newsletter. The last day to order is Sunday, December 6th.

Prefilled Communion Cups

We are now providing prefilled communion cups and wafers to anyone who would like to participate in at-home communion. Those interested can either stop by the office to pick some up or a Worship Committee member would be happy to deliver to your home at your convenience.



The Book of Revelation BIBLE STUDY

Online Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday evenings at 6 PM
Meeting ID: 962 6636 2517
Password: laEAYv

A huge thanks to all who donated Christmas shoeboxes this year!

RECYCLING UPDATE

We are scaling back on recyclables and hope that people are using the local pickups. We will continue to collect hard Styrofoam, any can be dropped off at our home, 202 S. 8th Ave., Princeton. Please call Bob or Rosanne with questions at 763-389-3316

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December 01	Bernard W
December 02	Kelly H
December 02	Carla L
December 06	Salinger C
December 07	Betty B
December 07	Kim N
December 07	Sharon R
December 10	Don T
December 11	Steven W
December 12	Samuel T
December 14	Tyler S
December 15	Leo F
December 16	Kurt N
December 17	Hans S
December 19	Dawn G
December 20	John R
December 21	Sierra B
December 21	Sulyvan C
December 21	Dustin W
December 23	Carol F
December 23	Heather M
December 23	Karen O
December 27	Darla S
December 28	Emily S
December 29	Jeff B
December 29	Mathew K
December 30	Mark B
December 30	Margaret D
December 30	Judy H
December 31	James H

Let's bless our Seniors who are home bound or are unable to get out much. Why not pay them a visit, give them a call or send them a note to let them know you're thinking of them!

Wayne Patten	Muriel Walker
Dorothy Anderson	Irene Galbrecht
Bernice Johnson	Ruth Hein
Joyce Mattson	

(Gracepointe Crossing)

Those *unmarked* are at the Elim Home in Princeton or Milaca

December 2	Mark & Peggy Z
December 5	Larry & Val V

PRAYER AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Charlotte Y
Mary V
Jon C
Betty & John O
Joyce M
Val V
Donna L
The Deloris R Family
The Mavis H Family

Thank you to all who have made worship this month wonderful!

Gloria W, Sawyer C, Myla T, Ryan P, Jim H, Dawn G, Nancy R, Tammy S, Kathy W, Ildiko F, Bethany M, Slayter C, Cori W, Owen O, Karen O, Bob L, Jeremy G, Jenna J, Hannah J, Bryan C, Sylvia C, Isaac J, Duane K, Scott L, Jeff S, Ken S,

DECEMBER SOUND	
Dec 6	Slayter C
Dec 13	Jim H
Dec 20	Scot L
Dec 27	Isaac J

December Ushers	
	10 AM Service
Dec 6	Tom & LeeAnn S, Paul F, and Deb F
Dec 13	Scott & Carla L Tim & Tina V
Dec 20	Pat T, Jackie L, and Robin C
Dec 27	Chuck & Jackie Y Ken & Tammy S

FRESHWATERS LEADERSHIP MEETING

Dear Freshwaters Members

The Single Board and other leaders met on October 10th at the MN Propane Association offices, formerly our Zimmerman campus, to look at ideas and goals for the near future. The group spent time going over where we are, where we want to be in the near future and how to get there. Below is the results of conversation and prayer by the group for Freshwaters

The group followed a process of a SWOT Analysis –
(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)
The leadership group agreed upon the following Freshwaters

Strengths:	
Wonderful Youth /Childrens Leader	Worship
Worship Leaders	Leadership- Board
Pastor	Respectful Congregation
Now in 1 location	Financial Stability
On-line worship service	UMW (United Methodist Women)
UMG (United Methodist Men)	

Weaknesses:	
Too Inward Focused	Volunteers (Burn Out)
Giving (Covid had reduced giving)	On-line Worship
Aging Congregation	Building – our building has limitations
Merger Hangover – Still raw emotions from merger to one location	
Technology, better equipment needed for a more professional on-line worship	
Freedom of Expressing/Sharing our Faith	

Opportunities:	
Covid has given us a clean slate (most everyone expects a new normal)	
Poised for change	
Online worship (We anticipate having on-line services well into the future)	
Website Content (great opportunity to reach new families)	
You-tube (Put special sermons and videos on a You-tube channel)	
Contact Tree (Phone and text contact with members)	
Youth Growth (Many youth will be looking for a place to connect with)	
Coordination with other Churches	
Building Changes (We have an opportunity to upgrade and refresh our building)	
Small Groups (Start a variety of small groups)	
Hybrid Meetings and Classes (more use of new technology)	

Threats:	
People not coming back post Covid	Fear of Covid
Losing sense of Community	Future Finances
Keeping people engaged (We are used to weekly face to face contact)	
Our Denominational Changes (What will the United Methodist Church look like in a year)	
Culture of Isolation (Working from home, schooling from home, etc)	
Cultivation of New Members	

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

The group set some goals as follows:

- 1 year:
- Low Intensity Events (Easy to set up and do)
 - Technology Upgrades (Equipment and Personnel)
 - Review of our Building Opportunities
 - Connect by phone (Start a group to make contact with all members regularly)
 - Define our Freshwaters Culture (Who and What is Freshwaters)
 - Keyboard and Technology upgrade-replacement
 - Follow up with recently baptized/weddings families

- 2-3 year
- Create more small groups for meetings
 - Gerth property acquisition for future parking lot
 - Expanding our youth group

- 5 year
- After growth, Future locations for Freshwaters

Attendees:
Pastor Kevin, Andrew Harvala, Isaac Jenson, Phil Lingle, Bethany Moos, Linda Olson, Dave Halverson, Scott Liestman, Myla Tolmie, Cori Wallace, Darren Wesloh, Roger Leider

Despite the current pandemic, the leadership of your church has goals and hopes for the future of Freshwaters Church. Please reach out to one of these leaders with any questions or ideas.

In Christ’s Love
Linda Olson
Board Chair

In-person Worship Reminders

- Please social distance 6-feet apart
- Please wash hand or use hand sanitizer frequently
- Please wear a face mask
- Please stay at home if you or any family member is sick

The weekly bulletin is now publish on our website (freshwatersumc.org) on Friday afternoons. Look for it under the Connect tab.

Pastor Kevin on Vacation
December 25-January 7

Sawyer Carey will preach on December 27
and Linda Olson will preach on January 3

Freshwaters December 2020

Regular Sunday Worship
Streaming Live at 10 AM

We will announce on Facebook and our website when we are meeting again in-person.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9 AM Quilters	2 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Worship 10 AM	7	8 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Trustees 7 PM One Board	9 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	10	11	12
13 Sunday Worship 10 AM	14	15 9 AM Quilters	16 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	17	18	19 Red Cross Blood Drive 8 AM—12 PM
20 Sunday Worship 10 AM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 PM	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27 Sunday Worship 10 AM	28	29	30	31		