

DECEMBER 2021

FRESHWATERS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In-Person & Streaming Live on Sundays at 9:30 AM

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings and blessings, my dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, may the blessing of the coming Savior Jesus Christ, the promised "God with us," be with you and your family.

I have noticed a change in me and my attitude toward this time of the year.

When I was young, I was filled with anticipation and excitement as we approached the holiday of Christmas. I am sure the prospect of getting presents fueled it, but something is amazing about the season's lights, decorations, sights, sounds, and smells. The sights, sounds, and smells still hold my attention, but this November, when we turned the clocks back, it felt different. While grateful for the extra hour of sleep, I found myself looking outside at the darkness in the early evening and feeling a sense of blah. I do not like the dark so early in the evening, and since my run-in with deer in the dark a few years ago, I am not a fan of driving in the dark. I don't know about you, but I sense genuine tiredness in all of us. We have been through a lot as a people – the consolidation of our congregation into one location, the pandemic, the racial tensions, the covid, the masks, the vaccines, and the political environment have taken their toll on us. There is anger, frayed nerves, exhaustion, and anxiety. It seems like we are people who walk in darkness.

We read in scripture, "*for behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross (heavy) darkness upon the people*" (Isaiah 60:2-3). At the time of Christ's birth, it seemed like there was a darkness that had filled the earth, especially since the advent of the Roman Empire. And yet Isaiah the prophet goes on, "*but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*"

Isaiah also writes the beautiful promise earlier in his book "*the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the*

Sermon Series

Scandalous Christmas

November 28

1st Week of Advent

Scandalous Plan

December 5

2nd Week of Advent

Scandalous Savior

December 12

3rd Week of Advent

Scandalous Birth

December 19

4th Week of Advent

Scandalous King

December 24

Christmas Eve

Scandalous Love

December 26

The Madness of

Hatred

Kid's Corner

land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." The promise of God to his people, and not just to his people but to all, is the promise of a great light that will banish the heavy darkness that has fallen upon them.

This promise, of course, was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the World, and the darkness cannot overcome Him.

On Christmas Eve, we celebrate the birth of the Light in a festival of candlelight. We remember the shepherds who were standing in the darkness when a light shined to proclaim that unto you a Savior has been born. When they heard this news, they went to see for themselves, and this experience changed their lives. We hear that they went back to their flocks praising and glorifying God.

My prayer for you and for all of us is that we will experience the Light of Christ in this time of "gross darkness" and invite others to experience Jesus' birth with us. God bless you all, and may your Christmas experience be peaceful and peace-filled, and may 2022 bring us together in the love of Jesus Christ in amazing ways!

Pastor Kevin

Pray this daily – "Lord Jesus Christ break through to us, break through to our hearts that we may see with your eyes, and love with your heart our neighbors. Help Freshwaters Church Lord Jesus to have your heart which is filled with love overflowing. What would you have us do? Who are we called to ministry to? Where are you and where would you have us be? Lord we cannot do this without your wisdom and guidance! Break through all that holds us back from being the church you are calling us to be! Lord Jesus hear our prayer! Amen!"



CELEBRATE WITH US!

Kids

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
10:45 AM

A festive poster for a kids' Christmas party. It features a green background with a red banner. A green speech bubble says "CELEBRATE WITH US!". The word "Kids" is in large white letters, and "CHRISTMAS PARTY" is in smaller white letters below it. The date and time "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH 10:45 AM" are at the bottom. There are white starburst decorations and a snowman illustration on the right.



Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:30 AM

@FRESHWATERS

A festive poster for a Christmas program. It has a white background with a decorative border of red and green holly leaves, berries, and a reindeer. The text "Christmas Program" is in a cursive font. Below it, "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19" is in a bold, dark blue font. A red box contains "9:30 AM" in white. At the bottom, "@FRESHWATERS" is in a dark blue font.



No Sunday School

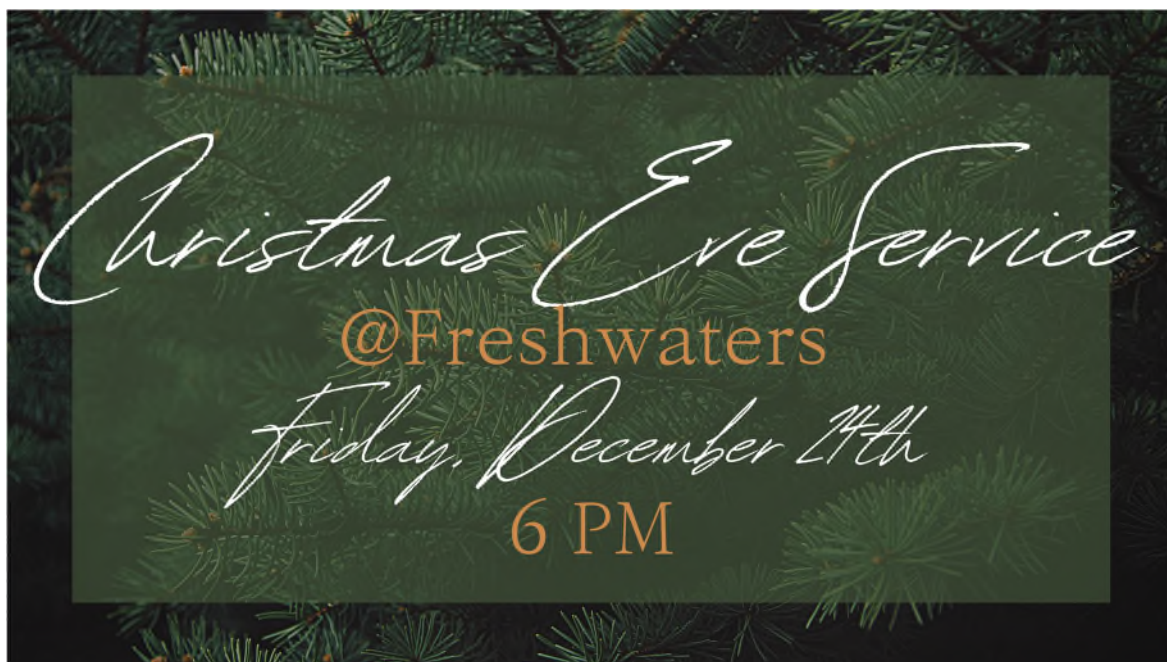
DEC 26TH & JAN 2ND

See you in the New Year!

A poster with a white background and a light blue border of snowflakes. The text "No Sunday School" is in a large, light blue cursive font. Below it, "DEC 26TH & JAN 2ND" is in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, "See you in the New Year!" is in a light blue font on a white background.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for hosting Sunday Coffee Hour. At this time, we are allowing members to bring items from home. If that changes, we will continue to have Fellowship, and the church will purchase refreshments. Please bring in 1 or 2 types of cookies and treats for the kids. The church is providing coffee, juice/lemonade, and paper supplies.



Classical Academy of
Practical Education

Cozy Day Bake Sale

Date: Saturday, December 4th

Where: Freshwaters UMC

112 7th Ave N, Princeton, MN

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

- Cookies • Bars • Pies •
- Bread • Fudge • Cupcakes •

Proceeds from our sale helps support our

- Various programs
- General supplies
- Educators



• Silent auction included!

We are a 501c3 organization



30 Days of Christmas Bible Readings

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day 1 - Isaiah 9:2 | Day 16 - Luke 1:5-17 |
| Day 2 - Isaiah 9:6-7 | Day 17 - Luke 1:18-25 |
| Day 3 - Genesis 3:15 | Day 18 - Luke 1:26-38 |
| Day 4 - Isaiah 7:14 | Day 19 - Luke 1:39-45 |
| Day 5 - Isaiah 11:1-4 | Day 20 - Luke 1:47-56 |
| Day 6 - Isaiah 40:9-11 | Day 21 - Luke 1:57-66 |
| Day 7 - Isaiah 42:1-4 | Day 22 - Luke 1:67-80 |
| Day 8 - Isaiah 61:1-3 | Day 23 - Matthew 1:18-24 |
| Day 9 - Jeremiah 23:5-6 | Day 24 - Luke 2:1-7 |
| Day 10 - Micah 5:2-4 | Day 25 - Luke 2:8-20 |
| Day 11 - Zechariah 9:9-10 | Day 26 - Matthew 2:1-6 |
| Day 12 - Isaiah 52:7-10 | Day 27 - Matthew 2:7-12 |
| Day 13 - Isaiah 40:1-5 | Day 28 - Matthew 2:13-15 |
| Day 14 - Isaiah 53:1-5 | Day 29 - Matthew 2:16-18 |
| Day 15 - John 1:1-5 | Day 30 - Matthew 2:19-23 |

Freshwaters Single Board Minutes

Freshwaters Board Minutes

November 9, 2021

Members present were Susan Kettelhodt, Kevin Fox, Linda Olson and Philip Lingle. Since a quorum was not present no official action was taken.

Susan presented her draft of a 2022 budget and discussion ensued. The two major questions remain: what level of giving can be expected for next year and can that support the youth director position. A revised budget was created and will be sent to you by Linda.

The other reports such as Nominations and Pastoral Support Package will also be sent, as they need approval from the Board to be sent to Charge Conference. Please respond to that email as soon as possible.

Submitted by Phil Lingle

Addendums to the minutes:

- The 2022 budget was approved by the majority of the board via email.
- The pastoral support package was approved by the majority of the board via email.
- The Nominations for Leadership were approved by the majority of the board via email.
- The October minutes were approved electronically with the following correction:
"giving and expenses are down from the previous year, but we have only a net income of \$744 vs \$7983 last year"

Submitted by Linda Olson

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



ADVENT
@ Freshwaters

In-Person and Streaming
Sundays at 9:30 AM
Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM

SCANDALOUS CHRISTMAS

NOVEMBER 28
1st Week of Advent
Scandalous Plan

DECEMBER 5
2nd Week of Advent
Scandalous Savior

DECEMBER 12
3rd Week of Advent
Scandalous Birth

DECEMBER 19
4th Week of Advent
Scandalous King

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
Scandalous Love

DECEMBER 26
The Madness of Hatred

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Bake Sale 9-3 PM
5 Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School	6 7 PM BSA	7 9 AM Quilters 6:30 PM 4-H	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School	13 7 PM BSA	14 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Trustees 7 PM One Board	15 Youth Group Christmas Party	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School	20 7 PM BSA	21 9 AM Quilters	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 PM	25 Merry Christmas!
26 9:30 AM Worship	27 7 PM BSA	28 9 AM Quilters	29	30	31	



**Regular Sunday Worship
In-Person and Streaming Live at 9:30AM**

Freshwaters December 2021

DECEMBER MINISTRY NOTES

BIRTHDAYS

December 01 **Bernie 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 **Steve W**
December 12 **Sam T**
December 14 **Tyler S**
December 15 **Leo F**
December 16 **Kurt Nn**
December 17 **Hans S**
December 19 **Dawn G**
December 20 **John Rr**
December 21 **Sierra B**
December 21 **Sulyvan C-H**
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 **Mag D**
December 30 **Judy H**
December 31 **Jim H**

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 2 **Mark & Peggy Z**
Dec 5 **Larry & Val V**

PRAYER AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Charlotte & Lowell Y **Hans & Gloria**
Betty & John O **Celeste H-J**
Val V **Elaine M**
Dan M **Mary V**

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!

Muriel Walker

Sound Schedule

December 5 - Slayter Carey
December 12 - Jim Hennessy
December 19 - Scott Liestman
December 26 - Isaac Jenson

Sunday Fellowship Hosts December 2021

December 5th – Needed
December 12th – Needed
December 19th – Needed
December 26th – Needed

Complete instructions are available in the kitchen, or are available from the church office or from Myla T (651-955-3877).



Community GIVING TREE

Look for the Christmas Giving Tree at church with the paper ornament tags. Each ornament will have a Christmas gift for a family member that stays in our local community. Please, sign out your tag and read the instructions next to the tree. Thank you for spreading some Christmas Joy to those in need!

Bags of Blessing! We will be 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 with the schools in Princeton and Zimmerman. Be on the look out for the sign up sheets as we see what the needs are in the coming year!

A graphic for Rightnow Media featuring a light blue background with stylized blue pine trees at the bottom. The text 'rightnow MEDIA' is at the top, followed by 'FREE GIFT' in large blue letters, and 'FOR EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH' in smaller blue letters. Below this is the text 'To get started use this QR Code or visit:' followed by the URL 'HTTPS://WWW.RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/ACCOUNT/INVITE/FRESHWATERSUMC'. A QR code is located on the right side of the graphic.

rightnow MEDIA

FREE GIFT

FOR EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH

To get started use this QR Code or visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/ACCOUNT/INVITE/FRESHWATERSUMC](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/freshwatersumc)



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

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

Return Service Requested

DECEMBER 2021

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST

www.freshwatersumc.com

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

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