

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

Return Service Requested

February 2021

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FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings and blessings dear friends and readers of the Freshwater's Current, may the Lord bless you with amazing peace, grace, mercy, and above all, love.

I spent yesterday meditating over Psalm 46, one of the many great songs we find in the songbook of the Bible called Psalms. You may not know this, but this Psalm formed the inspiration for the Martin Luther hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God." King David the Psalmist wrote in verse 7 "*the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.*" Luther was inspired by that verse and composed the hymn while he was hiding from those who were given the license to kill him. Luther was hiding in a fortress called the Wartburg under the false name of Brother George. Martin Luther had just stood before the might of the imperial court and defended his stance on scripture and the corruption in the church at the Diet of Worms. It was in Worms that he made his famous "Here I Stand" statement. Luther took a stand on a matter of conscience that was grounded in scripture and human reason and for that stand, he was condemned and branded a criminal. His supporters "kidnapped" him and spirited him away to the protection of the Wartburg. While at the Wartburg, Luther composed the hymn A Mighty Fortress, and perhaps he was inspired by Psalm 46 while he was in the work of translating the whole Bible into the German language so the people could read the Bible for themselves.

Sermon Series

DIVINE SIGNS

February 7
U-TURN

February 14
ABIDING IN GOD'S
LOVE

NEW SERIES FEAR NOT

February 21
ORIGIN OF FEAR

February 28
JOSHUA'S STORY

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST

www.freshwatersumc.com

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

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Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 AM – 5 PM

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Cori Wallace – Children/Youth Leader

freshwaterschildren@gmail.com

Keep up to date on our website and our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/FreshwatersMN

Psalm 46 has a great message regardless of when David wrote it or how it inspired Martin Luther. Its message to us is very relevant in light of all the unsettledness we see in our country and the world. The message of this Psalm is that God is with us, God is our refuge and strength. It tells us powerfully that even though the world may shake, the seas roar, the mountains be moving God is there offering us hope and strength. One of the familiar sections of this Psalm is “*be still, and know that I am God.*” My question to you is where in your life is there quaking, roaring, or unsettledness? The Psalmist is saying – ground yourself in God, say to your troubled spirit “be still, God is with you, God loves you, God knows you, God cares about you...be still my troubled soul.” In these troubled times, I believe this is a moment of opportunity for us to lean into God with our uncertainty, with our hopes, fears, dreams, and disappointments. God is saying “be still, trust me I have not forsaken you.”

I invite you once you have finished reading this newsletter that you take the next moment, open to Psalm 46, and read it slowly and out loud to yourself. Lift to the Lord whatever it is that is causing you to feel troubled, focus on the words of “refuge”, “streams”, “glad”, “help”, “morning”, “with us”, “still”, and “strength”. Let God speak into your anxiety and your trembling put him in the center and take refuge in him. May the Lord bless you!

Pastor Kevin

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten Worship services 6-6:45 PM

Messages will be shared by area pastors who will rotate either in person or through recorded video messages. The schedule of pastors is in process, please check the website, bulletin, Facebook, or March newsletter for more information.

Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 24

Wednesday, March 3

Wednesday, March 10

Wednesday, March 17

Wednesday, March 24

Friday, April 2 Good Friday – Tenebrae



Media Upgrades and Virtual Campus

The Worship Committee met this month and had started planning media and technology upgrades for our online services. We want to create a solid online experience that will be backed up by a thriving online community. Bethany will be taking an online training to improve our online ministry and set up a virtual campus.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this happen. If you love social media and want to make an impact on our community, please contact Bethany at 763-631-1185 or admin@freshwatersumc.com.

Single Board Minutes

January 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Linda Olson at 7:04 pm.

The members present were Linda Olson, Roger Leider, Scott Liestman, Darren Wesloh, Carla Lusche, Susan Kettelhodt, Dave Halverson, Andrew Harvala, Philip Lingle and Kevin Fox.

Kevin led the group in a prayer. The agenda was approved, and the minutes of the last meeting was previously approved electronically.

Andrew reported for the Trustees that the work in the sanctuary is completed, with exterior work scheduled for spring. They are looking for different signage also.

Roger presented the financial report. The profit/loss statement comparing 2019 to 2020 shown income down by about \$3000, which includes the \$20,000 District grant. Expenses were also down so our balance ended up with a \$13,623 gain vs. a loss of \$16,079 in 2019. The balance sheet shows funds still available for Trustees to continue improvements on the church.

Linda led us through a review of our goals and vision from the leadership retreat. It has been hard to maintain the theme of “real relationships” when we are not meeting in person yet.

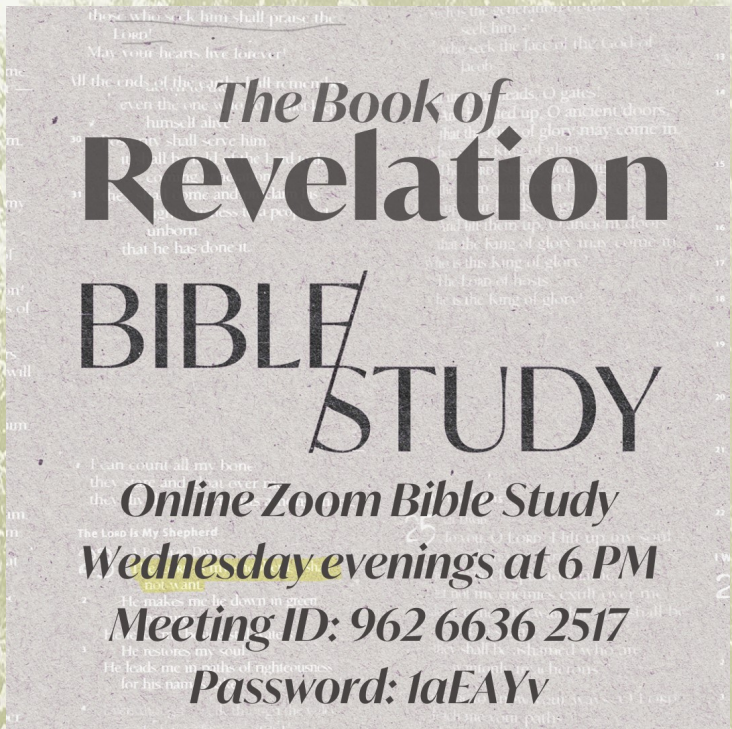
The motion to adjourn was made at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Phil Lingle

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

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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February 01	Sue L	February 14	Daryle & Dawn G
February 03	Lois C	February 22	John & Betty O
February 04	Rachel G	February 28	Ron & Marlys F
February 06	Zach L		
February 08	Lisa F		
February 08	Abby M		
February 11	Alan W		
February 12	Michelle M		
February 15	Barry H		
February 17	Lana S		
February 18	Ryan D		
February 18	Dolores H		
February 20	Dale B		
February 20	Hunter S		
February 21	David V		
February 22	Larry M		
February 25	Ruth A		
February 25	Mark L		
February 26	Slayter C		
February 26	Jason Z		
February 28	Audrey P		

PRAYER AND MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Charlotte & Lowell Y
Betty & John O
Joyce M
Val V
Hans & Gloria
The Wayne P Family
The Dorothy A 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, Connie T



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
Irene Galbrecht
Joyce Mattson
(Gracepointe Crossing)

Ruth Hein
Bernice Johnson

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9 AM Quilters	3 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday Worship 10 AM	8	9 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Trustees 7 PM One Board	10 Zoom Bible Study 6 PM	11	12	13
14 Sunday Worship 10 AM	15	16 9 AM Quilters	17 ASH WEDNESDAY Lenten Worship Service 6 PM	18	19	20
21 Sunday Worship 10 AM	22	23 9 AM Quilters	24 Lenten Worship Service 6 PM	25	26	27
28 Sunday Worship 10 AM						

Regular Sunday Worship
In-Person and Streaming Live at 10 AM

Freshwaters February 2021