



JULY 2021

FRESHWATERS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In-Person & Streaming Live on Sundays at 10 AM

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings and blessings to you dear sisters and brothers and readers of the Freshwaters Current. I pray that you are all well and that your summer has gotten off to a good start.

It is hard to believe that school has finished for another year, Covid seems to be for the moment on the wane, and now as I write this – we are trying to beat the heat. 98 degrees today! We are all doing our best to stay cool and hydrated. This past Sunday, we had a “welcome back” day with cake and refreshments. After worship, people seemed to enjoy their time together around the table getting reacquainted with one another. We had a wonderful time in worship together. And we had a total of 69 people in worship, which was very encouraging to see and experience. My hope is that those numbers will grow with familiar and new faces.

Speaking of new faces – you will be welcoming Kevin Schill in mid-July into the pulpit while I take a renewal leave. Kevin is a wonderful, caring pastor who recently retired and has been filling in various congregations on an interim basis. He will be serving as pulpit supply, offer pastoral care in the event of any emergencies. While I am on leave, any administrative questions or concerns can be addressed by our Single Board. Cori will be tending to our children's and youth activities. Our worship team will continue to offer their best in Sunday worship. Bethany, our office assistant, will of course be on hand to help out as well. Please give these persons your love, patience, and support during this time.

I am taking a time of renewal to recharge my spiritual batteries, I

Sermon Series

July 4

Sawyer Carey

July 11

Living in harmony
with one another

July 18

Grace to You and
Peace

July 27

Standing Firm in
One Spirit

New Flags

As we celebrate Independence Day this year, please notice our new flags in the Sanctuary. The original American flag has been moved to the Library.

will be working on addressing anxiety and depression, and I will be spending quality time with my wife and son. This is not a “vacation” but a time of necessary rest so that I can reconnect with God and my sense of call. I am thankful for the opportunity and the support that has been given as I take this time of renewal. In the course of this time, I will be praying and searching the scriptures. We see in scripture the importance of rest, renewal, and sabbath as a means of restoration. It is not easy to do because I want to offer my best for this congregation. But I also know that this is something that I need to do so that I CAN offer my best, not just for this congregation but also my family and myself. I ask for your prayers that God continues to do the good work that he has already been doing in me.

Freshwaters is a great congregation, and I pray that we continue to move toward greater unity with one another; a greater sense of mission and purpose for those who do not know Jesus Christ – those who are thirsty for a drink of his love, mercy, forgiveness, and mercy. May God bless you with his love and peace!

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!”***



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Calling all students! This year we are replacing our VBS with a Christmas play! Join us as we practice, sing, learn lines, and have lots of fun! On the final night, we will invite our friends and family to join us at 6 PM for a live performance.

We also need adult volunteers to help make this a great experience for the kids.

For more information, to sign your children up, or to volunteer, contact Cori Wallace at freshwaterschildren@gmail.com

FRESHWATERS CHOIR

Do you like to sing? Would you like to become a member of the Freshwaters UMC choir? We are hoping to restart the choir the beginning of September. More information will be coming in the August newsletter and the Sunday bulletin with a date for a choir meeting for those who are interested. We will welcome anyone from age 13+. If you are interested contact Myla Tolmie at 651-955-3877 or mylatolmie@rocketmail.com.



GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. - Psalm 34:18

GriefShare will start on September 16th. Because this is such an area of need in our community, we welcome anyone who is struggling with loss to join us. Grief Share provides a safe, compassionate, confidential, and caring place to walk through grief. Freshwaters is hosting a

GRIEF SHARE group, to be led by Pastor Kevin Fox. The cost is free. Beginning on September 16, 2021 (for 13 weeks-Thursday nights) 6 PM-8 PM at Freshwaters UMC. Please RSVP by contacting the church office at 763-631-1185 or admin@freshwatersumc.com.

BAGS OF BLESSING

Many thanks to Ildiko Fox-Gulyas and Isaac Jenson for their hard work in preparing, shopping, and organizing the Bags of Blessings this past year. Many thanks for all the donations of money and items to support this

ministry of feeding school children in Princeton and Zimmerman. It is hard to calculate the total numbers this year with the covid situation, but please know that each child/family was blessed by this ministry! Well done everyone!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Twice New Clothing and Treasures (formerly the Princeton Used Clothing Center) is looking for volunteers to help in the operation of this non-profit store. This includes sorting, working scheduled store hours, and other various jobs. In 2020, they gave back to the community \$12,456.50. Stop by the store (116 S. Rum River Drive) or call 763-389-8380 to start volunteering.

Day of Kindness

We are partnering again with Immanuel Lutheran to collect and distribute free school supplies during the Day of Kindness. We are collecting notebooks, folders, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, erasers, Kleenex, backpacks, and other school supplies.

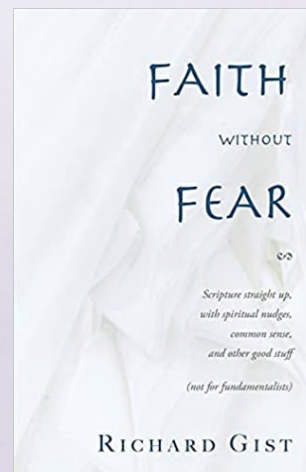
Day of Kindness will take place on August 7th from 10 AM—1 PM. If you have questions or want to volunteer call or text Isaac at 763-742-4583.



SCHOOL SUPPLY

DRIVE

DROP OFF BY AUGUST 1ST



Dick Gist's new book "Faith Without Fear: Scripture straight up, with Spiritual Nudges, Common Sense, and Other Good Stuff (Not for Fundamentalists)" is now available. You can purchase it in hardback, soft cover, or as an eBook.

ONE BOARD

NO MEETING WAS HELD IN THE MONTH OF JUNE. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MINUTES FROM THE JULY MEETING IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

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

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

Return Service Requested

JULY 2021

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

JULY MINISTRY NOTES

BIRTHDAYS

July 01	Breanna J
July 02	Scott A
July 02	Sandy W
July 03	Jolie A
July 07	Nancy R
July 08	Elliott S
July 09	Lylia H
July 10	Joyce M
July 11	Pearl B
July 11	Nora F
July 12	Nita L
July 14	Lillian S
July 14	Abe W
July 16	Spencer C
July 16	Marian G
July 18	Roger L
July 19	Dana B
July 19	Dennis T
July 20	Linda M
July 21	Terry A
July 21	Hailey D
July 21	Joan S
July 23	Jim B
July 24	Daniel F
July 24	Joanne M
July 26	Jeff S
July 27	Jenna J
July 28	Joe L
July 28	Anna P
July 29	Kris H
July 29	Tina V
July 30	Ben K
July 31	Ron A
July 31	Norma G
July 31	Greysen P
July 31	Diane W

ANNIVERSARIES

July 02	Phil & Sue L
July 07	John & Connie T
July 12	Jesse & Trudi A
July 12	Jennifer & Brian M
July 13	Gary & Bobbie H
July 22	Dennis & Joyce T
July 27	Wanda & Larry M

PRAYER AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Charlotte & Lowell Y	Hans & Gloria
Betty & John O	Joyce M
Val V	
The Juanita L Family	

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!

Joyce Mattson **Muriel Walker**
(Gracepointe Crossing)

Sunday Fellowship Hosts – July 2021

July 4th – No Fellowship

July 11th – Kathy and Gene S

July 18th – Needed

July 25th – Nancy R and Myla T

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

Sound Schedule

July 4 - Jim Hennessy

July 11 - Isaac

July 18 - Slayter

July 25 - Scott Liestman

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10 AM 	5 7 PM BSA	6 9 AM Quilters 6:30 PM 4-H	7 6 PM Youth Zoom	8	9	10
11 Worship 10 AM Water War 11:30 AM (Kids & Youth)	12 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Trustees 7 PM One Board/ BSA	13 9 AM Quilters	14	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM Men's Prayer @ McD Worship 10 AM	19 7 PM BSA	20 9 AM Quilters	21 6 PM Youth Zoom	22	23	24
25 8:30 AM Men's Prayer @ McD Worship 10 AM	26 7 PM BSA	27 9 AM Quilters	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS IN JULY—VBS ALTERNATIVE						

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

Freshwaters July 2021

June 2021

Dear Freshwaters Congregation,

As you know, the pandemic has taken a toll on our church and in particular on our Pastor Kevin. This has been a very difficult 18 months to 2 years, considering our consolidation work and the pandemic.

We have received a letter from the Minnesota Conference of the UMC to consider the toll this has taken on our Pastor and to offer as much support as we can for his spiritual, emotional and physical renewal.

Pastor Kevin has also recognized that he is in a state of depletion in these areas. Therefore, He has requested a 2 month renewal leave in July and August. We will be having an interim Pastor, Kevin Schill who will be with us on Sundays and available for additional spiritual needs and funerals. If you have a spiritual need, during this time, please contact the church office or myself.

Susan Neinaber, our district superintendent, and the leadership of the church including the Single Board and SPRC are in agreement with this request.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Kevin and his family, that God will renew his spirit, soul and body. He loves this church and wants to return in the fall a renewed, energized person to serve Freshwaters Church.

Feel free to contact me or one of the other leaders if you have any questions or concerns.

Linda Olson

Single Board Chair

612-963-8429

Please see the included letter from Pastor Kevin Fox

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

On Friday May 28, I sat down with our Big Waters District Superintendent Susan Nienaber, Single Board Chair person Linda Olson, and SPRC Chair Darren Wesloh to discuss the possibility of taking a renewal leave this summer to begin on June 28 and end August 30. The Minnesota Annual Conference recommends that pastors take a renewal leave every 7 years in order to recharge their spiritual batteries.

A renewal leave is not a "vacation" but a period of time where I can do important restorative work on mental health areas of anxiety and depression. I have been in full time ministry for 15 years and have not had the opportunity to take a renewal leave. I should have taken one after my last appointment at the toxic congregation but did not take one because I was unaware that this was a possibility. Our congregation has been through a lot of change with the consolidation work of bringing our campuses together, Healthy Church Initiative, and of course the Covid pandemic. Honestly my sisters and brothers, I am mentally and spiritually exhausted. I am asking for this time so that I might do some important work in addressing areas of mental health, recharging my soul and mind, and spending quality time with my wife and son. Having this time of rest will help me prepare for the Fall as we prepare to relaunch our ministries post-Covid pandemic.

During my leave, Freshwaters will have as interim pastor Kevin Schill who will serve as pulpit supply for Sunday mornings, offer pastoral care as needed and be available for funerals. The Freshwaters Single Board is very capable in leading the administrative needs and doing preparatory work for the Fall relaunch. Our worship team leaders will continue to offer excellence in worship, please give them the support they need. Cori Wallace will be doing creative planning for our children and youth for the summer as well as do preparatory work for the Fall.

I wish to stress that I am not leaving Freshwaters, just taking a much needed spiritual break. It is my deepest desire to serve this congregation effectively and well, to have a healthy body; mind and spirit; and to have strong family home life. I appreciate your understanding and support during this time while I do the necessary restorative soul work.

Pastor Kevin Fox

Proverbs 22:17

“A merry heart does good like medicine”