

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

Return Service Requested

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Greetings and blessings dear friends and readers of the Freshwaters Current, may the Lord bless and keep you as you receive this newsletter!

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well into our present message series called Backward Living. In this series we are looking at the wisdom contained in the book of Ecclesiastes. King Solomon is writing this as he looks back over the course of his life and reign. The common refrain that he uses is “all is vanity, all is meaningless.” Not exactly the most encouraging and inspirational messages you will find in scripture. When one looks at the deeper message, we can see that Solomon is saying to us “do not make the same mistakes that I did.” The overarching message of Ecclesiastes is do not waste your life on chasing after things that do not ultimately satisfy such as worldly possessions, wealth, status, fame, beauty, superficial relationships and the like. Solomon knows this from personal experience, hence the warning he is communicating in this book of the Bible. At the end of his life Solomon is saying to us that our relationship with God is what truly matters, it is that relationship that will truly satisfy us and complete us.

This should not surprise us because when we look at scripture we can see that it is God who made us. It is God who shaped from the dust and

Sermon Series

Backward Living

February 05
Better Way To Live

February 12
What To Make

February 19
One Foot In The Grave

LENTEN SERIES “Themes”

February 26
Sin

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST
www.freshwatersumc.org

Join us In-Person or Online on Sundays at 9:30 AM!

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Wed - Friday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Bob Laskowski – Worship Leader
320-267-0233

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www.facebook.com/FreshwatersMN

breathed with love life into the lungs of Adam and Eve. It is God who said to Adam that it is not good that he should be alone, and made for him a companion to walk alongside. From this relationship would spring the blessing of children. In the beginning what we see is love and life with God and humanity; what we see is relationship. Indeed when we are at the end of our life what is it that matters to us? We want to be at peace with God, and to be at peace with our friends and family. I have been honored to be in many homes while a loved one is preparing to bid farewell to this side of creation. What I see while I am there is the power of love and life, even in the face of impending death and sadness. What I experience is the power of God's love and life in the presence of family and friends. This is what matters; this is Solomon's message: do not waste your life on "stuff" rather focus on your relationship with God and cultivate friendships and family connections that are life giving. Is this not the deepest longing and hunger of the human heart? As I look at the worn exhausted faces of people, I think that is what lies in the depths of each and everyone.

Freshwaters Church – here is an opportunity for us! How can our congregation or we as individuals help connect people to that which gives life? Remember the woman at the well? She was empty, she found Jesus, she connected with people and because of that – many came to believe! May it be so for all of us, that we experience that life-giving relationship with Jesus and in turn overflow into the lives of those around us! Amen

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER	
Our Nation & Those Who Are Sick, Hurt, And Suffering	Those Who Are Mourning The Loss Of Loved Ones
Bob L	Joanne V
Norma & Barry H	Karen A
Marian G	Brian B



Let's bless our Seniors who are home bound or in a long term care facility. 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, Betty Oliver, Joyce Mulder

- In attendance: Kevin Fox, Gene Stoeckel, Andrew Harvala, Karen Oudekerk, Scott Liestman, Susan Kettelhodt, Linda Olson, Ryan Purdy
- On December 14th, Linda Olson made a motion to take another \$30000 from the investment account for a total withdrawal of \$55000 to pay for the new RTU air conditioning unit, and the motion carried.
- The meeting opened with a scripture reading of Psalm 100 and a prayer led by Pastor Kevin.
 - The Single Board welcomed Gene Stoeckel and Karen Oudekerk
 - **Financial Report:**
 - Currently, there is a special fund for Elim Oasis, which offers the opportunity to people to try out Elims' services. The trustees will let Elim's new director know that these designated funds are available.
 - Great news! Tithes/Offering are up 14,000, and loose plate collections are up \$1000 compared to last year..
 - Unfortunately, our Income is still down \$16,000 compared to last year, leaving Freshwaters with a year end deficit of 9%
 - **If each family could find it in their hearts to give an additional 5%, we could close that deficit.**
 - There is a small amount of money remaining in the Investing in Congregations funds, and this will be moved to the general fund for use in Sunday School.
 - Scott Liestman shared the letter regarding the request to withdraw additional funds from our Methodist Foundations investment account. Because it can be challenging to access funds with Methodist Foundations, Scott proposed moving the investment to a mutual fund with more liquidity and easier access.
 - Gene Stoeckel made a motion to transfer our Foundations account to Edward Jones. Susan Kettelhodt seconded. Motion carried.
 - **Trustees Report:**
 - The water heater booster has arrived, and the dishwasher will be in top-running order in the next couple weeks.
 - AirTech Thermex is doing the RTU air conditioning work starting in April.
 - Linda Olson introduced planning for a single board and committee heads retreat on Saturday, April 15th to develop goals for the year and ask God for His direction and guidance.
 - It's time to update the church directory, and options for photographs are being discussed.
 - Scott Liestman shared a report on **Church Outreach**
 - School Supply Drive in August, Bags of Blessing, Meals a la Car, Love Laundry (2nd and last Monday of the month), Shoebox Giving Program in November/December, Breakfast Club (at the Civic Center) for high school students: a meal is provided and they get a message as well.
 - Linda had another idea for outreach: A couple couples get together to Fellowship Over a Meal (Neighboring).
 - Motion to adjourn by Gene Stoeckel.
 - Next meeting is Monday, February 13th

BIRTHDAYS

February 01	Sue L	February 17	Lana S
February 03	Lois C	February 18	Ryan D
February 03	Brandon L	February 18	Dolores H
February 04	Rachel G	February 20	Dale B
February 06	Zach L	February 20	Hunter S
February 08	Lisa F	February 21	David V
February 08	Abby M	February 22	Larry M
February 11	Alan W	February 25	Ruth A
February 12	Michelle M	February 25	Mark L
February 15	Barry H	February 26	Slayter C
February 16	Everett P	February 26	Jason Z

February 28 **Audrey P**



ANNIVERSARIES

February 14	Daryle & Dawn G
February 22	John & Betty O
February 28	Marlys & Ron F



Thank you to Becky G, Jon & Rosetta C, Phil & Sue L, Pete K, and Ron J for helping with Meal Ala Car in December. Your deliveries blessed each recipient, THANK YOU!

This month our amazing quilter’s have 2 options to choose from for the drawing! To enter the drawing, simply fill out the slip in Fellowship Hall. Make sure to note if you have a preference of one quilt over the other. Drawing will be held 1st Sunday of February. List of past winners is located by the drawing slips!



Hot Breakfast Sunday on February 5th, It’s a great Sunday to invite a friend! Hot breakfast is provided by UMW with the help of our Youth Group. See you then for worship and breakfast!

We are seeking donations of food items or financial contributions to help in our efforts to feed children in Princeton and Zimmerman school districts on the free or reduced lunch program. This is a great ministry of connection between our congregation with the schools. In Princeton and Zimmerman. Check out the sign up sheet in the entryway for requested donation items.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Lent is quickly approaching, which means we will soon be having Wednesday Lent Services (see Lent Schedule on additional page) with a delicious soup dinner before worship! Please sign up to bring a soup, bread, or dessert on the sign up sheet outside fellowship hall. Thank you!





Youth Group is open to kids 6th grade and older, and is held Sunday nights from 6 pm –7pm at Pastor Kevin’s house. We do Bible study, watch videos, play games, eat treats, and have lots of fun!

SPECIAL YOUTH GROUP DATES

February 05 - 8:30 AM Helping with Hot Breakfast



Freshwaters Kids Sunday School is open to kids 3 years old through 5th grade. Every Sunday we start worship together in the Sanctuary and then the kids are dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

This month our Freshwaters Kids will continue to learn about how Jesus turns our ordinary lives UPSIDE DOWN in incredible ways. Then on February 26, we will begin our Countdown To Easter learning of Jesus’ journey to the cross.

February 05 - One More Mile

February 12 - The Least Gives The Most

February 19 - Lose To Save

February 26 - All Hail The King

Freshwaters February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study - Virtual	2	3	4
5 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 10:30 AM Coffee Hour. - 6 PM Youth Group	6 7 PM BSA	7 9 AM Quilters	8 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study - Virtual	9	10	11 Church Reserved For B-Day Party
12 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 10:30 AM Coffee Hour - 11 AM Trustee Mtg. - 6 PM Youth Group	13 -6 PM 4-H -7 PM BSA -7 PM Single Board Mtg.	14 9 AM Quilters	15	16	17	18 All Day Scrapbook- ing
19 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 10:30 AM Coffee Hour - 6 PM Youth Group	20 7 PM BSA	21 9 AM Quilters	22 ASH WED 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lent Service	23	24	25
26 - 9:30 AM Worship & Sun. School - 10:30 AM Coffee Hour - 6 PM Youth Group	27 7 PM BSA	28 9 AM Quilters				

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

- The Trustees will meet at 11 am on **Sunday February 12.**
- The Single Board will meet at 7 pm on **Monday February 13.**
- Creative Ministries meeting date and time is **TBD.**

MEETING



Single Board and committee heads retreat coming on Saturday, April 15th. We will be developing goals for the year and asking God for His direction and guidance.

Announcements in worship: If you have an announcement that needs to be made in worship, please bring in a note of what you would like to have announced and Pastor Kevin or one of the worship leaders will be happy to do that for you. Thank you so much for your help and cooperation!



JAVA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Java Relief is a special kind of coffee retailer which operates out of Waconia, MN. They sell high quality coffee that's fresh roasted. What makes it unique is that they are a volunteer company and 100% of their profits go directly to helping children at risk. Many of their coffees are named after children whom they have helped. We have ordered this coffee and it is GOOD! To get more information go to brandy@javarelief.org or you can contact Rosanne Beattie on her cell at: 763-443-0226 or at her e-mail address here: gingersandykidd@izoom.net



Linda O is leading this Ladies Bible Study by Dalene Reyburn through Psalm 90. It is virtual so you can join from the comfort of your own home! All materials are provided by Freshwaters through Right Now Media. **Email Linda O if you are interested in joining - lindavennolson@gmail.com**

“Wherever you find yourself on the timeline of your life, you have a choice. You can look back with regret, and look forward with fear, and live a mediocre present. Or you can take hold of the truth that Jesus redeems your past, He is real in your present, and He can position you to be ready for your future. Join Dalene Reyburn in this four-part series through Psalm 90, in which we’ll echo the prayer of Moses: ‘Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.’ “



As Pastor Kevin would tell you, the more history you know, the more interesting history becomes. That is true about most everything. The more geology you know, the more interesting a walk in the mountains (or a pile of stones) becomes. The more botany you know, the more you enjoy a walk along a country road. It’s also true of the Bible. The more you know about it, the more fascinating it becomes. Join Dick Gist on Sundays after worship as he leads Adult Sunday School class through *Mark In Depth*. You will learn about Mark (and Matthew, Luke, and the early Christian community that was fraught with divisions and debate).

WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

SOUP SUPPER AT 5:30 PM
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 01
MARCH 08
MARCH 15
MARCH 22
MARCH 29

This Lenten season we will have a round robin schedule with other pastors in our area. Join us at 5:30 pm each Wednesday for a delicious soup supper* and worship at 6:30 pm.

- February 22 - Ash Wednesday
- March 01 - Bill Marschall from First Congregational
- March 05 - Sheri Routh - God's Greater Glory Lutheran Parish
- March 15 - Mike Pancoast - Trinity Lutheran Church
- March 22 - Paul Brown - Immanuel Lutheran Church
- March 29 - Mark Brower - Bethel Christian Reformed Church

* There is a sign up sheet outside fellowship hall to sign up for bringing soup, bread, or dessert. These dinners are not possible without volunteers, and this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while breaking bread together. Thank you in advance for volunteering and helping make the soup supper and Lenten worship experience great!

Thank You!

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 05 - Hot Breakfast UMW & YG

February 12 - Sue & Phil L

February 19 - **NEEDED**

February 26 - Carey-Houghton's

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! Beverages are provided by church, we simply need volunteers to help set-up, provide snacks, and clean up! There is a sign up sheet outside fellowship hall if you are able to volunteer. Please keep it simple! If you have questions, please contact Pat Talberg at 763-221-6344.

Ushers

February 05 - **NEEDED**

February 12 - Sue & Phil L

February 19 - Pat T & Joyce T

February 26 - **NEEDED**

Sign up sheet outside the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at 763-631-1185.

Sunday School Teachers

February 05 - Ryan P & Cayla L

February 12 - Angela H & Audrey P

February 19 - Jenna J & Amanda P

February 26 - Karen M & Alex F

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please contact our Children's Ministry Director, Jenna Jenson at 763-439-2816

Sound Board

February 05 - Isaac J

February 12 - Jim H

February 19 - Scott L

February 26 - Isaac J

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

VOLUNTEER