



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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Return Service Requested

DECEMBER 2024

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Thanksgiving blessings and Christmas greetings to you my dear friends and family of Freshwaters Church; may the blessings of peace and joy be upon you as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

Today it is November 11, 2024 as I write this newsletter article. On this day we remember and celebrate the end of World War I; and we honor and give thanks for the veterans (and their families) for their tremendous service to our country. We give thanks for them and for all they have done for us. It is also one week from the election and we are still feeling the reverberations throughout our political and cultural landscape. Wherever you find yourself on the political spectrum, it feels like we have endured many battles these past years. There is a lot of hurt, pain, frustration, impatience, anger, and hatred. This one specific election will not sweep all this away; indeed we do not know how things will unfold in the weeks to come. And that is ok, because all rests in the care of our awesome God in Christ Jesus who through his Word tells us to "fear not, for I am with you."

Sermon Series

Waiting Room

December 01
Waiting On God

December 08
What You Believe

December 15
**Children's
Christmas Program**

December 22
**What Are You
Waiting For**

December 24
Candlelight Service

December 29
What Is Your Focus

FRESHWATERS UNITED METHODIST
www.freshwatersumc.org

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

Jenna Jenson – Office Administrator and Children's Ministry Director
admin@freshwatersumc.com

Bob Laskowski – Worship Leader
320-267-0233

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 02 Kelly H

02 Carla L

06 Salinger C

07 Betty B

07 Kim N

07 Sharon R
- 10 Don T

11 Steve W

12 Sam T

15 Leo F

16 Kurt N

17 Hans S
- 19 Dawn G

21 Sulyvan C.H.

23 Carol F

23 Karen O

28 Emily S

29 Jeff B
- 29 Mathew K

30 Mark B

30 Mag D

30 Judy H

30 Emmy P

31 Jim H

HAPPY Anniversary!

02 Peggy & Mark Z 05 Larry & Val V

FRESHWATERS

Refreshing Relationships with God and Others

- REAL people who worship the living God in Spirit and in Truth.

Scripture Reference - John 4:24
- EMBRACING God's written word as a guide for life.

Scripture Reference - Psalm 119:105
- FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Reference - Ephesians 5:18
- RESPONDING with prayer and love to hurting people.

Scripture Reference - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- EMPOWERED to share our faith walk with everyone.

Scripture Reference - Acts 1:8
- STEWARDS of God's gifts.

Scripture Reference - 1 Peter 4:10
- HOSPITALITY and acceptance to all persons wherever they are in life.

Scripture Reference - Hebrews 13:2

Thinking of famous battles, I have been reflecting a lot on the Battle of Leuthen, which was fought on December 5, 1757 during the Seven Years War. The Seven Years War was the first real “world war” as it was fought in Europe, India, the Caribbean, and in North America. To us in the United States this conflict was known as the “French and Indian War.” The Battle of Leuthen was between the Prussian army under Frederick the Great and the Austrian army. The Prussians were outnumbered at least two to one, and it was a hard fought battle ending with a Prussian victory. In the aftermath of the battle a lone Prussian soldier began to sing the hymn Nun Danket Alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God). Legend has it that as he began to sing, other soldiers joined him until the whole army was singing praise to God. They were not singing to God because they won the battle, but because they survived it. For me it is a truly moving story!

We as a nation, congregation and I suspect many of you have been through many battles. And I imagine that at the end of the day, we are just glad to have survived – we are thankful that the battle has past, and we have made it to another day. The Pilgrims fought the battle against the elements; and they were thankful to God and to the native people for their help that they lived through another season. Thanksgiving is more than just food and football –it is about thanking God for his provision, for caring for us through times of triumph and times of trial! When we reframe things along these lines; it helps us to see life in a different light! Give thanks my friends, for the Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever! Amen!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Those Who Are Sick, Hurt, And Suffering	Those Who Are Mourning The Loss Of Loved Ones
The War In Ukraine	Those Struggling With Addiction
Our Nation	Mexico
Robin C	Jeff B
Rachel G	Brian B
Celeste H	Sandy W
Norma H	Muriel W
John O	Alec V



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



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Unwrapped gifts are due back to church by December 15th so they can be sorted, wrapped, and delivered in time for Christmas.

Please sign out any ornaments you take to fulfill. All UNWRAPPED gifts are due back to church by December 15th so they can be sorted, wrapped, and delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you for blessing these families!



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

December 01 - Sullivan Family
December 08 - **NEEDED**
December 15 - UMW
December 22 - **NEEDED**
December 29 - **NEEDED**

Beverages are provided by church, we simply need volunteers to help set-up, provide snacks, and clean up!

Ushers

December 01 - Leider Family
December 08 - Claassen Family
December 15 - Gist Family
December 22 - Thompson Family
December 24, 6:30 pm - **NEEDED**
December 29 - Stoeckel Family

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for coffee hour, ushering, or snow removal, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Tina Vanderhoff at 763-318-5095.

Sound Board

December 01 - Daniel F
December 08 - Jim H
December 15 - Scott L
December 22 - Isaac J
December 24, 6:30 pm - Isaac J
December 29 - Daniel F

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

Sunday School Teachers

December 01 - Angela H & Alex F
December 08 - **ALL HANDS ON DECK** for Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 15 - **ALL HANDS ON DECK** for Christmas Program
December 22 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 29 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Jenna Jenson at 763-439-2816.

VOLUNTEER

Freshwaters December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 - 9:30 AM Worship - Concurrent Sun School - 6:00 PM Youth Group	2 7 PM BSA	3	4 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7PM AA	5	6	7 Church Reserved 7 am-2 pm Boy Scouts Eagle Court Of Honor
8 - 9:30 AM Worship - Concurrent Sun School - 6:00 PM Youth Group	9 7 PM BSA	10 - 9 AM Quilters - 12 PM UMW Meeting	11 - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7PM AA	12	13	14
15 - 9:30 AM Worship & Christmas Program - 6:00 PM Youth Group	16 7 PM BSA	17 - 9 AM Quilters	18 Newsletter Deadline - 6:30 PM Bible Study - 7PM AA	19	20	21
22 - 9:30 AM Worship - No Sunday School - 6:00 PM Youth Group	23 7 PM BSA	24 - 9 AM Quilters - 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 9 AM Newsletter Assembly	27	28
29 - 9:30 AM Worship - No Sunday School - No Youth Group	30 7 PM BSA Pastor Kevin On Vacation	31 9 AM Quilters				

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



Pastor Kevin will be on vacation from December 29 (after worship) to January 10th. We will have a guest speaker and pastoral care will be determined soon. Check back in the weekly worship bulletin for more info.

We are 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 and the schools in Princeton and Zimmerman. Keep an eye out for the sign up sheet in the entry way!



Jingle Sunday is December 15th (3rd Sunday of the month). Bring your loose change and “jingle”! This ministry is fun for our children and blesses our bags of blessing ministry in the schools within the Princeton and Zimmerman school districts.





Youth Group is open for all kids in 6th grade —12th grade. We meet every Sunday at Pastor Kevin’s house from 6:00—7:00 pm. We bless one another, play games, learn together, grow in our faith, and have lots of fun. Contact Pastor Kevin for more info or if you have any questions at 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail. 13822 2nd Ave N Zimmerman, MN 55398. **THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH GROUP OR CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29.**



Freshwaters Kids Concurrent Sunday School is open to all kids ages 3 years - 5th grade. We will begin meeting again September 15th! Everyone starts worship together at 9:30 am and the kids are dismissed to Sunday School from there.

Christmas Unwrapped - The Christmas story isn’t just about the birth of a baby. It’s about the arrival of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace promised in the book of Isaiah. In this series, kids will explore the Christmas story and discover why “Jesus matters to me.”

December 01 - Prince Of Peace; Luke 2:1-20

December 08 - Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 15 - Christmas Program

December 22 - **No Sunday School**

December 29 - **No Sunday School**



BIBLE STUDY

When: Wednesday Nights
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Where: Freshwaters UMC

What: A Journey Through The Bible; each week we will discuss one book of the Bible alternating between the Old Testament and the New Testament

Who: Led by Pastor Kevin, open to anyone and everyone



There will be no Bible Study on Wednesday December 25.



Pastor Kevin will be teaching Historical Perspectives on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the University of Northwestern this coming Spring 2025.

Confirmation from 5-6 pm on Sundays at Pastor Kevin’s house. Please contact Pastor Kevin if you have any questions. **NO CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29.** 651-414-1132 or revfox1738@gmail.com



AA - Recovery Group meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm, held in Fellowship Hall and lead by Jake Brander... We are glad to have them here, let us be in prayer as this awesome ministry takes place within these walls!

Worship Committee Update: The new banners have been ordered and should be arriving soon. A special thank you to Gloria Wesloh and other church members for their very generous donations towards purchasing the new Advent banners. By now the church will be decorated for Advent in the new purple colors. Colors will be changed to white/gold for Christmas Eve until January 12th. Then the color changes to green. We will be removing Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 5th immediately following church and fellowship hour. Special thank you to Diane Wesloh and quilting ladies who are making the altar paraments to match the new banners.



Faith Fest '25 update: “For we walk by faith, not by sight”. 2 Corinthians 5:7

The date has been set for the next Faith Fest event – Saturday, June 21st, 2025, at the Mille Lacs County Fairgrounds. Times are tentative but will be extended this year. This year the FF volunteers will be working at the Light Up Princeton event on Saturday, Dec. 21st from 5:30 – 9:30 PM.. The event will take place at the Mille Lacs County Fairgrounds. We will need 8 volunteers to work 2 separate shifts (16 total). If you volunteer to help at this event you will receive a FREE FF sweatshirt. Please let Myla know color (blue or black) and size if volunteering. We will also be having a tree at the new Christmas Tree Lane also at the Fairgrounds during the Light Up Princeton event. We will also be setting up our own website and watch for our new FB page also coming in the near future.

For more info on these events please contact Myla at 651-955-3877 or mylatolmie@rocketmail.com