### November 2020 Newsletter



# With a Grateful Heart

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

First United Methodist Church 974 6<sup>th</sup> Street Windom MN 56101 507-831-3284

# Life After Confirmation

The Covid-19 virus has interrupted our lives in countless ways... including delaying Confirmation from last spring until this fall. But—finally—this Sunday, we will confirm eight of our youth as they continue their journey of life and faith.

It's important to remember that the moment (or day) of Confirmation, while significant, is only one step, one milestone on our journey. Yes, we all know that, but it's easy to think of "being confirmed" as having some sort of finality to it. So let's be careful here...



Think of other "milestone events" in your life; while they are significant, they don't mean anything unless and until you go on living. Being born doesn't matter unless you keep breathing and learning and progressing every day. A diploma from high school or college may open some doors, but you have to walk through them and work—prove yourself! Marriage is not a destination, it's the beginning of something that must be invested in daily.

And it's the same way with Confirmation. To those of you who are older—and were confirmed at some time back there in history—how has your faith grown since Confirmation? How have you invested spiritually in your relationship with God through Jesus Christ? What specific habits or activities today are still nurturing your growth in faith and life?

It's a journey of faith, not a destination—certainly not a destination we arrive at while still in our teens. And I'll be talking about that with our Confirmands on Sunday: so here's some brief thoughts from an "irrelevant over 60 pastor" to a group of young, shrewd, techie, connected youth who are a carbon copy of their generation in many ways...they are:

- Well off by world standards;
- Advantaged (again, by world standards);
- Experienced the reality and pain of family breakup (which may make them fearful of being able to have a lifelong relationship themselves; and why should they, when our culture also says that is passé, unnecessary and boring...);
- Disconnected from any historical mooring to a deeper cultural tradition where they might find an identity worth embracing;
- Mostly don't question our culture of materialism and acquisition.

What is *real* today? What is fake (fake news, fake eyelashes, fake hair, fake image...) Like most folks today, our youth are living in a mostly "online" world...but how real is that? Or is it more like the movie, The Matrix? And we're getting depressed over something that isn't real!

Our attitude and happiness has become driven by others' opinion of us. This is NOT healthy. And we've entered into a tech culture of soft tyranny: Big Tech knows way more about you than you realize, and they use it to manipulate you in ways you also don't realize!

I'm hoping to share an "alternative reality" with our Confirmands this Sunday; to challenge them to think for themselves, from a Christian worldview—something that is almost unknown today. But it can help them navigate life, experience God more fully, and discover a deeper, more meaningful purpose for their lives. Pray for them as they live life after confirmation!

Pastor Mike







**Congratulations** to Megan and Eric Mathiowetz on the birth of their baby girl! Their daughter Cora Jean was born September 27th, at 7 pounds 10 ounces and 20.5 inches long. She is at Children's Minnesota—Minneapolis Hospital, and has already had heart surgery. Cora's big sister is 2-year-old Ava, and her loving grandparents are Joel and Dawn Luitjens, and Bev Mathiowetz of Mountain Lake.



November 1

November 8

Thank you to everyone who provided items to decorate our patio, and to Pat & Ray Elston and Peggy Roll who also used them to make the patio look beautiful!



### Thank You

We would like to thank you for your words, notes, and prayers of kindness to us during Pastor Appreciation month. It's a joy to serve with you and we look forward to what God has for all of us in the future. Bless you and thank you! Pastor Mike and Kathy Jo



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." -Ephesians 3:20



### Christmas Church Decorating

Please join us to decorate the church for the Christmas season beginning Monday, November 30th at 9:00am

We value your help, even if you can only come for a limited time. Men are needed, as well as ladies. All help is appreciated!

Our annual Church Conference will take place Sunday, November 22 at 11:30am This will be a brief meeting in the sanctuary right after the worship service. We'll use the same seats we used for the worship service. We'll be presented with items to approve as a church body for 2021. All members are encouraged to take part.



### Changes?

Does the church have your *current* contact info? Phone—address—email? Have you recently eliminated your land line?



Please let us know of any updates contact the church office at 831-3284 any time and leave a message, or email us at umcoffice@windomnet.com,

### **Friendly Fellowship**

Tuesday, November 10th Noon

With the current circumstances we find ourselves in, we've been looking for a way that we can gather for Friendly Fellowship safely. We're not able to hold potluck meals yet, but starting the second Tuesday in November (yes, this is our new schedule!), we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll bring our own lunches. There will be space for us to spread out and to enjoy a fun program.

Our program will be by Pastor Kathy Brandt, who, with her husband Charles, participated in making floats for the Tournament of Roses Parade late last year. The parade took place January 1, 2020. *The Globe* newspaper of Worthington featured an article and pictures in January about their adventure, and they have give us permission to share it with you. Copies of the article are available in the church lobby, or by contacting the church office.



We welcome your program ideas! If you have a program suggestion, please contact Darris Snelling.



Just in case!

Weather Announcements

Please check with the following media for weather-related church announcements: Jackson KKOJ radio 1190AM Windom KDOM radio 1580AM Windom TV cable channel 3



### Facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom

When school is canceled due to weather, the church office may also be closed.

Church Office Hours Monday—Friday 9:00am—Noon 1:00—4:00pm

Holiday Schedule Closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday Nov 25 at noon Thursday Nov 26 and Friday Nov 27



If you would like to receive the weekly Sunday announcements by email (but aren't getting them already), let the church office know and we'll be happy to send them.



We are working on providing extra seating for services in the Fellowship Hall. Chairs are already set up in there, and the audio is now available to listen to the service. Our goal is to have the service video also streamed into the Fellowship Hall.





### Christmas program Dec. 13th

Parents...Prek-6th grades will start preparing for the Christmas program soon. The Christmas Program will be on December 13th. If your child will NOT be here that weekend for the program, please let Robin know as soon as possible.

Call Robin at 831-3284.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- November 1st—Confirmation Sunday
- November 4th—KFC meets after school—5:30pm in the art room.
- November 8th—Youth group meets after Worship. Pizza provided bring your favorite board game. We will finish up by 2:00pm
- November 13th-15th—Be Brave LOVE JESUS! 3 day youth retreat at the BARC. Come for 1 day, 2 days, or all 3!! Sign up in the lobby.
- November 14th—Operation Christmas Child box packing. 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Children in 8th grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.
- November 15th—Blessing of the OCC boxes during Worship.
- November 17th—Youth group deliver OCC boxes to Worthington. Leaving church at 5:30pm, supper in Worthington.
- November 21st—Free showing of War Room at Windom State Theater @ 2pm
- November 24th—youth volunteer to help at The Dinner Table



# Sunday School Mission Project Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School classes are gearing up for a mission project. Operation Christmas Child. This is a unique project of Samaritan's Purse that delivers gift-filled shoe boxes to hurting children around the world. This simple hands-on mission project gives our entire church family, especially children, a tangible way to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas—God's gift of His Son.

There is a drop off box in the sign-up area of the church lobby if you would like to donate items

to be packed by Sunday school children. The age groups for giving are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. Items are needed for both boys and girls. Most things are accepted but the following items are not: Used or damaged items; war-related items; chocolate or food; out of date candy; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. Please bring your items to church prior to

November 13th. There is also a cost of \$9.00/box to ship these gifts. If you would like to help with this cost, please make your check payable to the church with Operation Christmas Child transportation in the memo line. These boxes also need your prayers. We will pray over them in church before we send them off.

Perhaps you would like to fill your own box?? There are empty boxes by the collection box. Please feel free to grab one and fill it up. If you have any questions, please see Robin.

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# KFC KIRS FOR CHRIST

KFC IS OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5. WE MEET THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM AFTER SCHOOL–5:30 (UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE) IN THE ARTS AND CRAFTS ROOM. FOR NOVEMBER WE WILL MEET ON THE 4TH. STUDENTS, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BIBLES!! AND THIS MONTH, PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO PACK IN THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES.



We have Sunday School for ALL ages! Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for doing *Whatever it takes* to bring us back together! Our 2020-2021 teachers are: Missy Edmundson

Tammy Crowell Nicole Inman Nikki Schowalter Rhonda Crowell Jackie Fester Keith Schroeder Peggy Roll David Derickson Missy Edmundso Emily Buresch Shaina Johnson Becki Wormstadt Renee Green Abby Kipfer Jody Derickson Miranda Schunk Kathy Jo McInnis

There is a group for **everyone** this winter at FUMC!



Join David Derickson on Sunday mornings at 9:00am for Max Lucado's *Traveling Light* study. David will lead you as Max shepherds you through the beloved 23rd psalm, leading you beside still waters of quiet reflection and through an inventory of emotional and spiritual baggage you were NEVER MEANT TO CARRY! Lighten your load as you step ahead in faith! David's group will be meeting in the Fireside room. He looks forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings. This is a RightNow Media study, so you can follow along on the app if you are not able to make it every Sunday!



*Join us* on Saturday, November 21st at Windom's State Theater for a **FREE** showing of War room. The movie begins at 2pm.

With great jobs, a beautiful daughter (Alena Pitts) and a dream house, the Jordans seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving, however, as husband Tony (T.C. Stallings) flirts with temptation and wife Elizabeth (Priscilla Shirer) becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara (Karen Abercrombie), who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer. War Room is rated PG and the movie lasts approximately 2 hours.

This movie is open to everyone, invite your family and friends. We will see you at the movie, and don't forget to pick up some hot popcorn!

### Church Family! Your help is needed!

Please help our Sunday School students and their families in packing Operation Christmas Child boxes. We will pack boxes on Saturday, November 14th starting at 9:00 am. We have set a goal of 100 boxes! That is A LOT of packing! We would appreciate everyone's help! It is pretty simple, but tons of FUN! Children in grades 8 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. We will then get to bless these boxes during worship the next day. If you have any questions, please contact Robin. Not able to help that day, but still want to help? There are many other ways to help! You can drop off items to be donated in the Operation Christmas Child collection box in the lobby. You can donate money to be used towards the shipping of the boxes (\$9.00/box). You can pack your own box! There are boxes in the church lobby if you'd like to fill your own. Please return your box to the church by November 14th. You can pray for this mission project of our Sunday School classes. They have been working year round on this project! Thank you for considering! *Ro6in* 







# BRAVE JESUS. Acts 4:13

# 3-DAY YOUTH RETREAT NOVEMBER 13-15

at the BARC [1012 5th Ave, Windom, MN 56101] Friday: 4-8:30pm | Saturday & Sunday: 2-8:30pm Bring your own sack lunch for supper



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GUEST SPEAKER & WORSHIP LEADER Josh Edwards with Revive MN

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBINumceducation@windomnet.com507 831 3284



Youth Bake Sale ~ Covid Style Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Commercially prepared baked goods for sale We appreciate your support!



# Area Happenings

### **Borscht Fundraiser**

Mountain Lake Christian School Friday, November 6th 3:00—6:00pm 710 11th Street, Mountain Lake

You are invited to MLC's first ever Drive-Thru Borscht Supper! Ready-to-heat 'n serve pails and quarts of MLC's famous borscht (homemade vegetable beef soup) will be available: pail \$35, quart jars \$10. Watch for signs directing you the day of the sale.



### Kinship Radio Shareathon 90.9 FM



Join them for Music, Conversation and Friendship November 10, 11, 12

KINSHIPRADIO.ORG Listen on-air or online



**Ruby's Pantry**, America's Rural Foodbank, will have a food distribution Monday, November 16th from 5:30—7:30pm, at Sherburn Park, Sherburn MN. There are no income qualifications.

Directions: Line up at the corner of Park & 2nd Street going south from the elementary playground, and follow the directions of the parking assistants. Please do not block driveways. The cost is \$20 **cash**. Have your trunk emptied and volunteers will put the food there directly.





First UMC volunteers served 340 people at *The Dinner Table* monthly mission on October 27th! The cheeseburger meal was purchased from Hy-Vee. Our November serving date is the 24th. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who make this mission to serve our community possible!



Food shelf items and monetary donations are needed to help people in our county who are in need of food through the Cottonwood County Sharing Center. Checks can be made payable to the church, with "food shelf" in the memo. Thank you for supporting this local mission!



On Sunday, November 29th our Missions Team will take a noisy collection for How does the Salvation Army help families? They directly assist families in many ways, including camps and recreation programs, food assistance, holiday programs, housing aid, and activity centers. Other services such as adult rehabilitation and worldwide disaster relief also help families directly or indirectly. The Salvation Army is both a church and the second-largest U.S. charity, according to Forbes. Helping families is one of the major focuses of the Salvation Army's benevolent work.



Cottonwood County Christmas Cheer Box

Gifts and money will be collected through Sunday December 6 for this local mission. Details will be available in the lobby, and by contacting the church office. Hope 4 Kids International is a mission organization that helps kids in a number of countries around the world. They provide food, water, education, and medicine. If you are interested in providing a gift, there are Giving Guides available in the church lobby. There are opportunities for every price range. The giving guides are also available at www.H4KI.org.

### **United Methodist Student Day**

Your generous gift supports our students. When you give, you help provide for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.



We will collect these donations on Sunday, December 6th.



### 30 Days –30 Ways to Be the Neighbor November 2020



During November, we give thanks for our food and our health.

### 18,000+ aging neighbors across Minnesota count on LSS

for their main meal each day to maintain their health.

### How Can You Help Your Local Neighbors?

- 1. Follow the instructions on the calendar below. Make your deposits in a lunch sack or similar container.
- Talk about your "deposits" as a family over meals—what other blessings are you grateful for? Who do you know who may not have some of these blessings listed and how could you help them?
- 3. At the end of the month, bring your collection back to church/group or to your local LSS Meals site. All contributions will support your local community's meal program.

We will feature your church/group's collection on our Facebook page at the end of the campaign!

### For the average household, your "deposits" may add up to \$15.

For your family, this may be an order of pizza or half a tank of gas. \$15 for our program will purchase 5 blizzard meals for an older adult or **\$15 will buy 4 meals for someone who cannot afford to contribute for their meals**.

Sunday	Monday	Tuosday	Wodnosday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Donate \$1 if you eat more than toast and coffee for breakfast	2 Donate 25¢ if you don't have any problems chewing your food	3 If you eat 5 servings of fruit/ vegetables a day, donate 25¢	4 If you are able to get around without a cane/ walker/ other device, donate \$1	5 If you connect with friends or family via email or social media, donate 25¢ for each way you connect	6 Donate 50¢ if you have not had to change the way you eat because of an illness or a condition	7 If you can take care of your finances without assistance, donate \$1
8 Donate \$1 if you have enough money to buy the food you need	9 If you eat more than 2 <u>complete</u> <u>and nutritionally</u> <u>balanced</u> meals a day, donate 50¢ for each meal you eat	10 If you are not on a special diet ordered by your doctor, donate 50¢	11 Donate 10C for every social group or club you belong to	12 If your sense of smell or taste hasn't diminished, donate 25¢	13 If you can feed yourself without help, donate 50¢	14 If you take less than 3 prescriptions a day, donate 25¢
15 Donate 50¢ if you can clean up after preparing a meal	16 If you have a driver's license, donate 50¢	17 Donate 50¢ if you can shovel your own sidewalk or mow your lawn	18 Donate 10¢ every time your family calls you this month	19 If you can shower or bathe without any help, donate 25¢	20 If you have 2-3 servings of dairy products each day, donate 25¢.	21 If you can see well enough to read a news- paper, donate 25¢.
22 Donate \$1 if you live in your own home	23 If you can clean your own home without any help donate \$1	24 Donate 50¢ if you own a car	25 Donate 10¢ every time your family calls you this month	26 Donate 10¢ for each meal that you eat with other people	27 Donate \$1 if you don't eat the same thing every day	28 If you don't live alone, donate 50¢
29 Donate 25¢ if you can do your own grocery shopping	30 If you can stand long enough to prepare a meal, donate 50¢	Visit <u>www.lssmn.org/meals</u> for meal site locations or call toll-free 1-800-488-4146. Meals are available to anyone 60 years or older for the cost of a suggested donation, currently \$5-\$7.80 per meal or what the person can afford. No one age-eligible will be denied a meal. LSS Meals is made possible in part under the Federal Older Americans Act through an award from Area Agencies on Aging under an Area plan approved by the Minnesota Board on Aging.				

## "DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD" ENDS AS A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT



The culmination of the Dress a Girl Around the World project,

sponsored by the Missions Committee, was held on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> during the worship service. The multi-colored dresses were hung in the sanctuary creating a vivid display. Pastor Mike McInnis gave a blessing of the dresses after the people who had given donation of supplies and who had sewn dresses were announced. An astonishing total of 182 dresses were hand-sewn that will be given to girls through the Operation Christmas Child program this year.

Our thanks to those who donated needed supplies (elastic, fabric, thread, etc.) to this worthwhile project that began in January 2020. They include:

- 1. Pauline Buresch
- 2. Jan Dehmlow
- 3. Mavis Thompson
- 4. An Anonymous Donor
- 5. And all those who donated wire hangers

Many thanks to the women in the church who sewed dresses which includes:

- 1. Terri Jones 1 dress
- 2. Margaret Grunig 7 dresses
- 3. Patti Palm 16 dresses
- 4. Juane Elston 30 dresses
- 5. Joann Van Norman 51 dresses
- 6. Cathy Peterson 77 dresses

The Dress A Girl Around The World Project is a part of the Hope4Women International, a non-profit Christian organization which began in 2006. Founder and President of Hope4Women is Rachel Eggum Cinader. The head offices of Hope4Women is in Forest City, Iowa. The dresses will be transported to Forest City in the next few weeks, so that they can be distributed to girls prior to Christmas.

Cathy Peterson Project Coordinator







# Poinsettia Order Form

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone to help beautify the church during December, please provide the information below. Orders are needed by **Tuesday**, **November 3rd**, please. These poinsettias will be used to beautify the sanctuary and other areas of the church, and may be taken home after the last Christmas Eve service. Thank you!



Red



Jingle Bells



White

Size	Color	Qty	Price	Total
Single 6.5"	Red		\$14.00	
	Jingle Bells		\$15.00	
	White		\$14.00	
Double	Red		\$24.00	
	White		\$24.00	
Triple	Red		\$35.00	
	White		\$35.00	
		Grand	Total	\$

Please provide the wording you would like (such as: in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or other wording).

By:

Thank you!

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Staff Email Addresses



Pastor : Mike McInnis umcpastor@windomnet.com Christian Education & Youth : Robin Snyder umceducation@windomnet.com Treasurer: Jody Derickson umctreasurer@windomnet.com Volunteer Coordinator: Becki Wormstadt umcvolunteer@windomnet.com Nursery Coordinator: Jody Buresch umcnursery@windomnet.com Office Manager: Laura Williams umcoffice@windomnet.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation Sunday 9:00a Sunday School 9:00a Adult Groups 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things on KDOM Radio	2	3 9:30a UMW Exec Meeting Poinsettia Orders Due	4 9:00a Bible Study After School - KFC 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Finance Mtg	5 6:30a Men's Breakfast	6 6:30a McPrayer	7
8 Remembrance Sunday 9:00a Sunday School 9:00a Adult Groups 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 All Youth 11:30 First Things on KDOM Radio	9	10 Noon Friendly Fellowship	<b>11 Veteran's Day</b> 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 7:00 Trustees Mtg 7:00 SPRC Mtg 8:00 Ad Council	12 6:30a Men's Breakfast	13 6:30a McPrayer 4:00p Youth Retreat: Be Brave, Love Jesus Operation Christmas Child Donations Due	14 9:00a - Noon Operation Christmas Child Box Packing 2:00p Youth Retreat: Be Brave, Love Jesus
15 9:00a Sunday School 9:00a Adult Groups 10:30 Worship Service w/ Blessing of Shoe Boxes - OCC Mission 11:30 First Things 2:00p Youth Retreat	16 5:30p Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution – Sherburn MN	17 1:00p Missions 5:30 Youth OCC Box Delivery - Worthington	<b>18</b> 9:00a Bible Study 6:30 Bible Study	19 6:30a Men's Breakfast	20 6:30a McPrayer	21 2:00p Free Movie at Movie Theater: War Room
22 Youth Bake Sale 9:00a Sunday School 9:00a Adult Groups 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Church Conference 11:30 First Things	23	24 5:30p <i>The Dinner</i> <i>Table</i> @ First Presbyterian Church	25 6:30a McPrayer Noon Church Closes for Holiday	26 Thanksgiving Day Church Closed	27 Church Closed	28
29 9:00a Sunday School 9:00 Adult Groups 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Noisy Collection: Salvation Army	30 9:00a Christmas Decorating				Corrections? Please let the church office know.	Give thanks

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Barb Christians		Hunter Dahna		Robby Anderson Steve & Laura Fresk Bob & Laura Williams	Terry Anderson Tanner Diemer Mary Kuehl	Jeremiah O'Brier
8 9	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Dennis Bonde		Richard Mohlencamp	Lloyd Greiner Nestor Palm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Casey & Amanda Jandera	Bob Williams	Danny Martinez		Oliver Grunewald Joshua Hedman
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chad Hobbs		Nathan & Kaitie Luitjens	Emery Piotter Larry Stevens	Give Thanks Lora Psalm for He is 118:1 good.	Jerry Ambrose Robin Snyder	
<b>29</b> Henry Visker	30				Missing anyone? Corrections? Please let the church office know.	W.
					Black = Birthdays Orange = Anniversaries	