

The Window

September 2018 Newsletter



Who are you inviting?



First United Methodist Church

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Windom MN 56101

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www.windomfumc.org

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What is a *Christian*?

If you're wondering—yes!—that's a serious question. And I'm wondering; can you answer it? What is a Christian? It's kind of like defining love, or grace, or peace... we all think we can do it until we try!

It's not a trick question; do you honestly know what makes a person who claims to be a Christian... a Christian? What are the defining traits? Baptism? Church attendance? Being a nice person? Serving and giving?

I just finished a three week sermon series: The Normal Christian Life. I said the normal Christian life is not the life of most normal Christians! Because by the phrase "normal Christian life" what I mean is a person who knows Jesus so well and follows Jesus so faithfully that their life is indistinguishable from his: they think as Jesus thinks, they love as Jesus loves, they act as Jesus acts. They mirror the life of Christ—faithfully, daily, consistently.

Remember the old "WWJD" bracelets, T-shirts and bumper stickers? "What Would Jesus Do?" Could we put your name in there, and arrive at the same answer? "What would Mike do?" "What would (insert your name) do?" Does it work?

Here's the problem. Mirroring Jesus—that's not something that just happens because you're baptized. You don't accurately reflect Jesus just because you sometimes go to church. "Becoming" a Christian isn't a serendipitous, passive thing that just "happens" to you or me.

It requires attention, focus, will, perseverance. All of these words could be summed up in the word "discipline," and of course, that's where we get the word "disciple."

So—what's your discipline that's transforming you into someone who knows Jesus so well and follows Jesus so faithfully that your life bears fruit that Jesus would recognize?

There are some common Christian disciplines that have been practiced by believers down through the centuries that, in cooperation with God's grace, will help you live a normal Christian life: a fruitful life, a life that has eternal impact for you and for others.

In Methodist tradition, these disciplines were called a "Rule of Life." John Wesley practiced these things, and he expected those in his Methodist fellowship groups to practice them as well. Wesley didn't just expect it; it was required! That's because Wesley took seriously God's call for us to be transformed and to become like Christ.

On Rally Sunday (Sept. 9), I'm starting a new message series: What's Your Game Plan? We will explore Wesley's "Rule of Life" for our lives today as we look at seven practices of a fruitful life.

What is a Christian? Join me in September for a journey that will finally answer that question!

Pastor Mike



September



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

After Labor Day, we will go to our fall Sunday schedule:

9:00am Sunday School

9:00am Adult Life Groups

9:00am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Worship Service

Please note our new service time!

STARTING SEPT 9

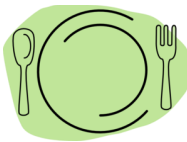


OCTOBER STALKS & BALES



In mid-October, we hope to decorate the church's patio with corn stalks and small square hay bales again this year. If you will have corn stalks & bales available to donate, please let the church office know; we typically use about 100.

Friendly Fellowship will enjoy a potluck Tuesday September 25th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Windom Fire Chief Dan Oltmann.



Please join us for this monthly potluck and program. We encourage anyone interested in presenting a program to contact Darris Snelling or the church office.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Our church has purchased a limited number of Upper Room devotional booklets, which are now available in the church lobby on the information wall. We will receive them every other month for a year, and will see how much demand we have for them. We are also still receiving Our Daily Bread devotionals, which are provided to the church by the publisher for no charge (they rely on donations).

Church Office Hours

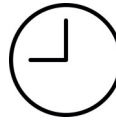
Monday—Friday

9:00am—Noon

1:00—4:00pm

Closed Holidays

Closed Labor Day,
Monday September 2nd



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Congratulations to Lauren Thiessen and Jackie Talley who were married at First UMC August 4th.

Congratulations to Casey Christensen and Drew Swartz who were married in Spirit Lake August 4th.

May God richly bless their marriages.

Memorials Gifts

The church's new patio furniture is provided by gifts in memory of Elaine Mayden and Ron Meyer.



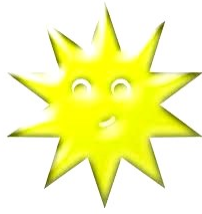
Thank you to all who provided the Memorial gifts, and thank you to Vay Rodman and Judi Ray for assembling the furniture.

Community



Singers in the Windom area are invited to join the **Community Christmas Cantata**. Practices will be at the American Lutheran Church on Tuesday evenings, 6:30—7:30pm, beginning on Tuesday, October 2. The Cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 9 at 2:00pm in the ALC sanctuary. For more information, contact Karen Wojahn at 831-3161.

Summer Ministry Recap



In the summer, most of our classes are in 'recess', but that doesn't mean our church is inactive. Our ministry is year-round, and we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in so many summer ministries and activities, as well as throughout the year:

Pastoral Ministry
Vacation Bible School
Visitation Ministry
Prayer Ministry
Church Softball League
Candle Lighters
Video Recorders
Sound Technicians
PowerPoint Operators
Lay Leaders & Speakers
Ushers
Greeters
Communion preparers & servers
Praise Band Ministry
Piano and Organ Music Ministry
First Things Radio Ministry
Church Library Volunteers
Our many Church Committees & Teams
 Finance Committee
 Board of Trustees
 Staff Parish Committee
 Missions Team
 ReThink Church/ Outreach Team
 Congregational Trust Team
 Administrative Council
Friendly Fellowship
Fundraiser Teams
Coffee Serving Volunteers
Funeral Serving Groups
Meals On Wheels Volunteers
Counting Volunteers
United Methodist Women
Christian Education Team
All volunteers who serve the Lord in countless ways are appreciated!

As you can see, it takes the help of everyone to participate in the mission of our ministry.



Thank you to our August Coordinator sub
Becki Wormstadt
and to all volunteers who served
Meals on Wheels for the month of August:

Kim & Terry Anderson
Rick Brown
Mick & Barb Christians
Marlys Christensen
Linda Dawson
Jan Dehmlow
Sharon Diemer
John & Jan Duscher
Pat Elston
Mary Franz
Margaret Grunig
Terri Jones
Kathy Jo McInnis
Nancy Meyer
Jerry Moon
Judi Ray
Pat & Mary Lee Raverty
Vay & Arleen Rodman
Peggy Roll
Mavis Thompson
Barb & Jerry Torkelson
Jody Vanderwerf

As you can see, it takes many people to provide this ministry. Our church provides this service in April and August each year; other churches and organizations serve the other months. Our April coordinator is Shirley Lyons. Thank you all for your ministry!

Walk to Emmaus Fall Spiritual Retreats Camp Koronis

**Men's Retreat: October 25—28
at Koronis in Paynesville**

**Women's Retreat: Nov 1—4
at Koronis**

More information can be found online at
www.mnemmaus.org
or by contacting the church office.
Pre-registration is required.



Our congregation raised \$4,823 for translating the Jesus Film into a language for a people group in South America who has never heard of Jesus. Thank you!!



Coats For Kids

Cottonwood Co. children and teens will soon be needing new or gently used snow pants, coats, hats, boots and mittens for children of all ages. Can you help? A donation box is located in the church lobby (as well as at other locations around town). Cash donations are accepted, and are used to purchase boots, and any items that are not supplied by donation. All donations should be free of rips and stains and should have usable buttons and zippers. For more information, or to request winter wear for your children, call Public Health at 831-1987. Checks may be written to First UMC, marked for Coats For Kids. **Donations will be collected at our church through Thursday, October 11th. Special needs: boots, snow pants and children's coats sizes 6-12.** Distribution will be Monday October 15th at BARC by appointment.



August 22, 2018



First UMC Volunteers served at The Banquet food mission in Sioux Falls. What an awesome group of servants for the Lord's work there! Thank you!

Noisy Collection

Sunday September 30th

There will be a Noisy Collection for the benefit of the Southwest Crisis Center. The Crisis Center helps people who are victims of domestic violence. Coins, paper money and checks are all welcome.



*Thank you,
The Missions Team*



United
Methodist
Women

UMW News

September UMW Calendar

Tues.	Sept. 4	Executive Meeting 9:30am
Wed.	Sept. 5	Lois Circle 3:30pm
Wed.	Sept. 12	Friendship Circle 2:00pm at the church
Sat.	Sept. 15	District Annual Gathering at Marshall



New Camp Tabernacle

A new Tabernacle at Camp Koronis near Paynesville is being planned. If you would like to participate financially in this project, you are welcome to make your checks payable to First UMC, and write Koronis in the memo or on the envelope.



The groundbreaking will take place September 3, 2018.

September 2018



Christian Education

Rally Sunday—September 9th

Join us September 9th for our first day of Sunday School! We have lots of fun activities planned for the entire family!

Sunday School begins at 9:00 on September 9th. We have Sunday School classes available for Preschool—Adults. Something for everyone!

There will be a church picnic lunch after worship that morning.

JOIN US!

September 9th

9:00 Sunday School
Preschool—Adults

10:30 Sunday
Service

11:30 Lunch



EXCITING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES!!!

This fall we will be offering 3 adult life groups for everyone to choose from. These classes will meet at 9:00am on Sunday mornings.

Class 1: George's group: *Images of the Spirit*

How do you picture the Holy Spirit? Our imagination is likely to run to something like a vague fuzzy cloud. Or perhaps we think of an invisible, impersonal force. However, the Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit is a person. In this study you will find your mental picture of the Spirit come into focus.

Class 2: Kathy Jo's group: *Living Generously*

The first in a 3 part series, we will be introduced to the Donovan family as they journey toward the fullness of life found in giving! Their story begins as they are challenged with the question "Are you giving God your first and best or are you giving God your leftovers?"

Class 3: David's group: *Forgotten God*

Through solid scriptural support and compelling narrative, breakthrough author Francis Chan returns us to the Holy Spirit as the Bible describes Him. He reminds us that we were not created and saved merely to survive our time on earth. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit and are reaping the disastrous results.

Important Dates:

- Sept 2nd—NO YOUTH GROUP. Have a safe Labor Day Weekend.
- Sept 9th - Rally Sunday Tailgate. Activities begin at 9:00am
- Sept 14th —McPrayer begins for the year. Join us at McDonald's at 6:30am.
- Sept 19th - Worry Less, Live More begins at 9:00am or 6:30pm. Please join us!
- Sept 23rd—Youth group. Junior high 5:00, meeting with all youth & parents at 6:00 (pizza provided) and Senior high will meet from 7:00–8:00pm.
- Sept 26th—Confirmation begins at 6:30pm

Attendance Program

Sunday School Children, who at the end of the year, have 2 or fewer absences will receive a pin/gift certificate and those with 3-5 absences will receive a gift certificate.

We appreciate your efforts!!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with Sunday School for the 2018-2019 school year!!





TAILGATE PARTY



Please join us on Sunday, September 9th
for RALLY SUNDAY!!

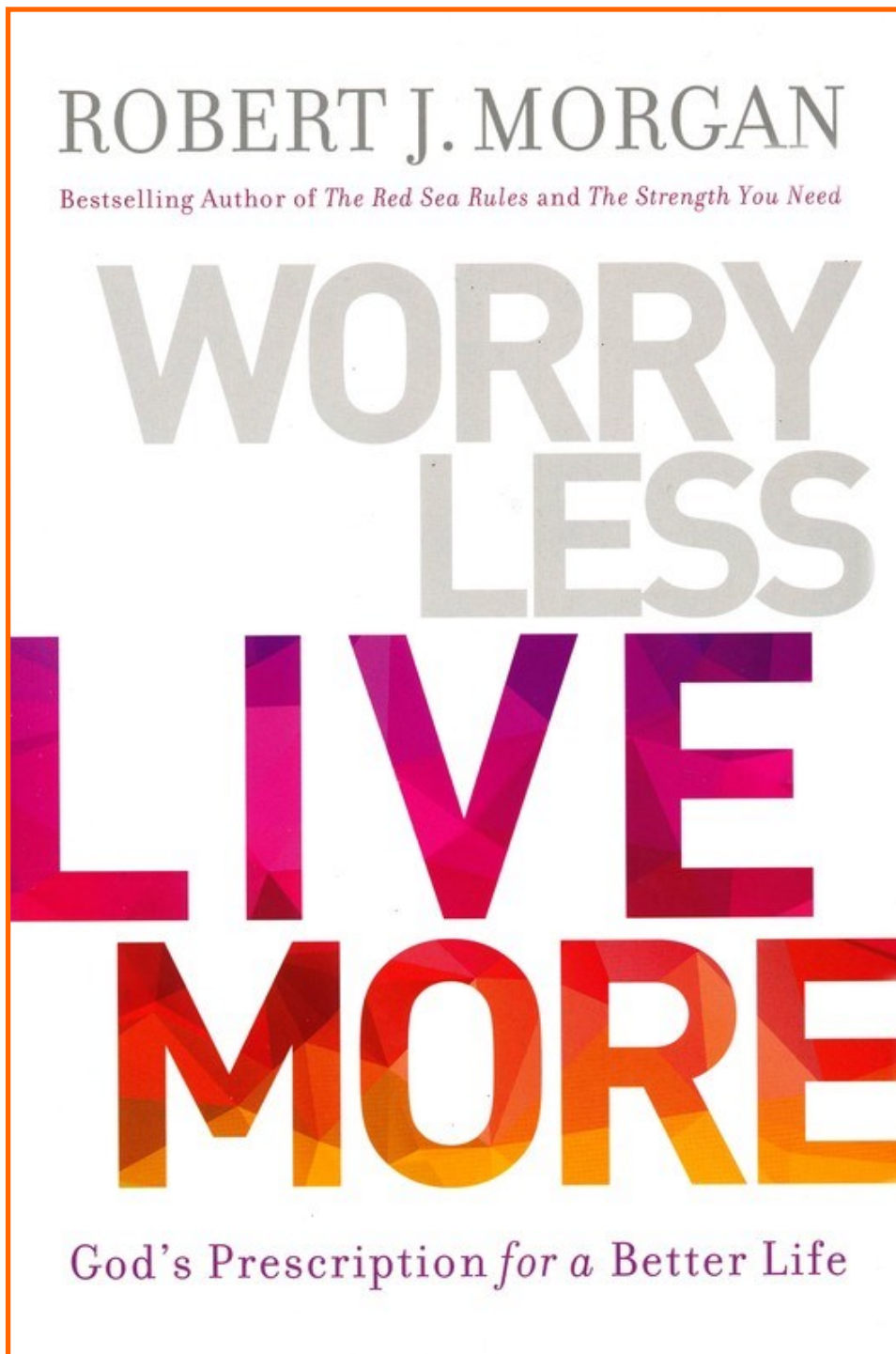
Kids can go to their Sunday School rooms
to meet their teachers and do a FUN activity,
then games on the front lawn during Sunday School.

We will gather together after worship for a
Tailgating meal on the front lawn!!

Meet us at the Windom State Theater at 1:00

We will be showing the movie **Woodlawn**.

Root Beer floats following the movie
right outside the movie theater.



**Please join us
for our
Wednesday
Bible Study!**

**Two options
available.**

**9:00am and
6:30pm.**

**Beginning
September
19th.**

**This study will
be led by
Kathy Jo!**

Our souls are easily troubled by the world's pressure and problems! But in this investigation of the Bible's premier passage on anxiety, Robert Morgan details eight practices from Philippians 4—*rejoicing, gentleness, nearness, prayer, thanksgiving, thinking, discipleship, and peace*—that can give us the power to erase anxious thoughts and compose our minds with peace in any situation.

BEEF DINNER OR **BEEF COMMERCIAL**

at Jeffers UMC

Sunday, October 14
10:30 am - 1pm

Welcome to join us for 9 am worship

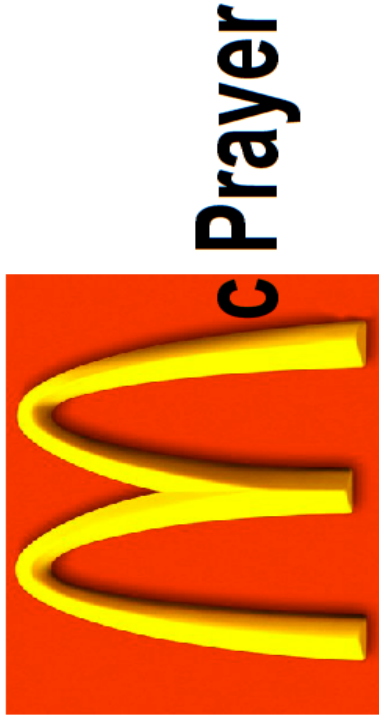
Beef Dinner \$8
Beef Commercial \$8
1/2 Commercial \$7
Children (10 and under) \$5



**Serving roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy,
veggie, coleslaw, buns, bars & beverage.**

Takeout Available

**For In Town Delivery call Marilyn at 227-0775
between 11:00 –1:00**



c Prayer

ALL KIDS GRADES 7-12!!!!

Join us at the Windom McDonalds every Friday
beginning September 14th at 6:30 AM!

Breakfast is FREE!
INVITE A FRIEND!

Kids join together for fellowship, breakfast, devotion and
prayer at 6:30 AM. We are generally finished by
7:20 AM. If transportation is needed or if you have any
questions, please contact Jody Derickson at the
First United Methodist Church of Windom at 831-3284
or via email at umctreasurer@windomnet.com.

rightnow MEDIA

Christian online video library for all ages

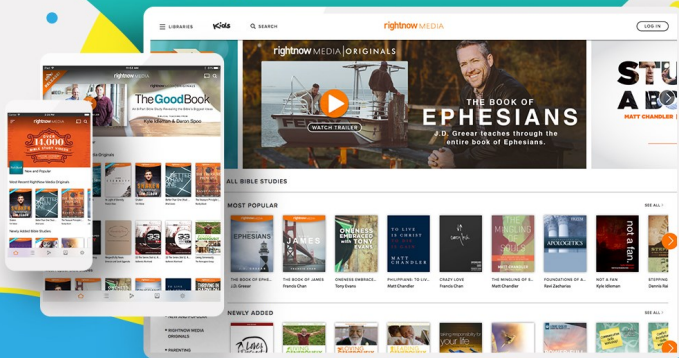
Do you have a login yet?

Contact the church office to get connected

Email invitations are being resent to those who have not yet made a password, to give another opportunity to participate. If you would like an invitation, but haven't received it by Rally Sunday (September 9th), let the church office know.

FREE GIFT

for everyone in our church!



We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to **everyone** in our church. If you haven't already accepted your invite:

1

Check your email for the invite from RightNow Media.

**Let us know if you don't see one*

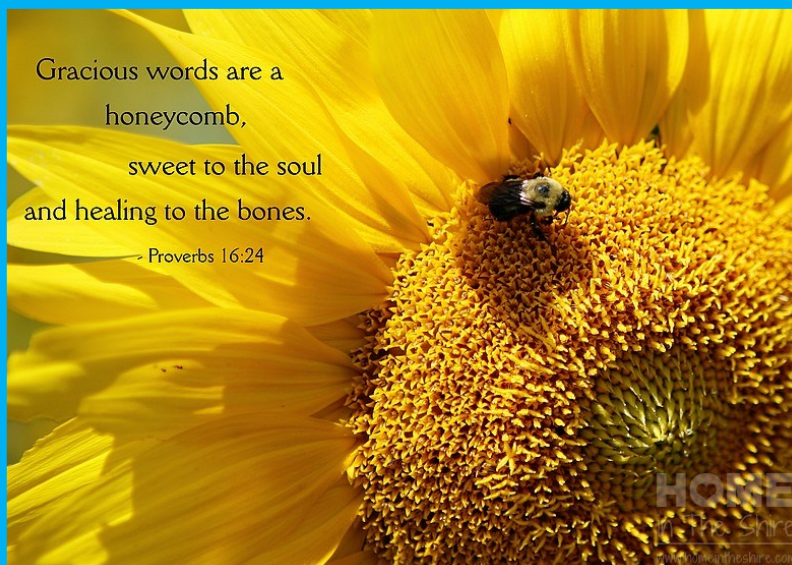
2

Open the email and click "Get Started."

Yeah. It's that easy.

Gracious words are a
honeycomb,
sweet to the soul
and healing to the bones.

— Proverbs 16:24





Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

All United Methodist churches are connected through shared mission and ministry and united in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Check out these news tidbits from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which serves all 360 United Methodist churches in the state.

- **Join Bishop Ough for Conversations on a Way Forward:** In February, a special session of General Conference (the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church) will meet to discern a way forward for the denomination around the issue of human sexuality. In preparation for that meeting, Bishop Bruce R. Ough will host 15 gatherings across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area this fall. Attendees will receive information about specific proposals that will go before the delegates to the 2019 General Conference, and the gatherings will provide a setting in which to share resources and tools for how to facilitate dialogue and build resiliency in local churches. Learn more and sign up for a gathering at <http://tiny.cc/wayforwardUMC>
- **ConneXion: Finding purpose and connection in ministry:** What are my strengths, values, and passions? What brings meaning and purpose to my life? How can I grow spiritually? How do I connect to ministry across the conference? If you have asked yourself any these questions, sign up for this retreat for laity, coming to Christ UMC in Rochester Sept. 7-8. This gathering is about listening deeply to God, to yourself, and to the needs of the world—and connecting your passions and call to ways you can contribute. Learn more and register: <http://tiny.cc/connexion>

- **Helping older adults finish strong in faith, dignity:** Fueled by her passion for ministry to older adults, Tracy Keibler started nonprofit ApparentPlan in 2012. Through it, she provides health promotion programs and advocacy services for older adults and their families. In the past six years, she has helped her clients access more than \$1 million worth of benefits at no cost to them. A member of Normandale Hylands UMC in Bloomington, Keibler wants to raise up an army of people interested in older adult ministry, and she'd love to work with more churches to do that. "Caring for aging adults is our opportunity as Christians," she said.

BRIGHT SPOTS IN OUR MIDST

- **'Worship on Water' reaches new people:** This summer, Grace UMC in Paynesville launched a summer worship service on the lake. Every Saturday, Rev. Bob Kandels stands on a pontoon boat in a bay of Lake Koronis and people anchor their boats all around. Kandels opens with prayer, preaches a sermon, and closes with a blessing. The whole experience takes 20 minutes. People honk their horns instead of saying "Amen" at the end. The first service was on Memorial Day weekend, and 56 people showed up in their boats. Since then, it has averaged 38 attendees. Only a small handful of them have ever been to Grace UMC.
- **Conference teams bring help, hope to flooded areas:** Two early response teams from the Minnesota Conference collectively contributed 310 hours repairing flood-damaged homes in Blue Earth and Morton last month. The teams removed sheetrock, mopped up water, and scrubbed flood-damaged areas with bleach to remove mold. "The people we help have a mountain in front of them," said Gary Bochman, conference disaster response coordinator. "We want to get them up part of the mountain."

STAY CONNECTED!

"Like" the Minnesota Annual Conference on Facebook, follow the conference on Twitter and Instagram (@MinnesotaUMC), and sign up (at www.minnesotaumc.org) for e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit www.minnesotaumc.org.

First United Methodist Church ~September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:30 Summer Coffee 9:00 Summer Worship 11:30 First Things Radio Ministry KDOM	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed	4 9:30a UMW Executive Meeting 6:00p Worship service cable ch 3	5 3:30p Lois Circle	6 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	7	1 <hr/> 8
9 Rally Day! 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 All-Church Lunch 11:30 First Things Radio Ministry KDOM 1:00 Movie @ Theater	10	11 12:30p Missions Team 6:00p Worship service cable ch 3	12 2:00p Friendship Circle 7:00 Trustees Mtg 7:30 SPRC Mtg 7:30 Finance	13 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	14 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds	15 UMW S.P. District Annual Gathering at Marshall
16 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Life Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Radio Ministry KDOM	17	18 6:00p Worship service cable ch 3	19 9:00am Bible Study Worry Less Live More 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 ReThink Team	20 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	21 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds	22
23 9:00 Sunday Schl 9:00 Adult Life Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Radio Ministry KDOM 5:00p Jr Hi Youth 6:00 All Youth/ Parents 7:00 HS Youth	24	25 Noon Friendly Fellowship 6:00p Worship service cable ch 3	26 10:30a Remick Ridge Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation Kickoff	27 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	28 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds	29
30 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Life Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Radio Ministry KDOM						

First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Maxine Walters Jean Willsher	5	6 Troy Deutchman	7 Marlys Christensen Sam Diemer Su Jeffrey Kathy Jo McInnis JoAnn VanNorman Arnold & Betty Haack Paul & Tami Vesey	1 Glen Francis <hr/> 8 Erin O'Brien
9	10 Garry Moller John & Peggy Roll	11 Norman Kuehl	12 Duane VanNorman Jerry & Lisa Ambrose	13	14	15 Maddux Andersen John Burton Miranda Schunk
16	17 Tyler Dahna Eric & Megan Mathiowetz	18 Tara Smith Joyce Stevens	19 Roger & Karla Ambrose	20 Katrina LaCanne	21 Kelly Hayenga	22 Dorothy Van Norman
23 Bill Inman	24	25 LuAnn Giese	26 Jeff Frederickson Briana Visker	27 Kitty Hansen	28 Gavin Berghorst Kevin Curry Tim Snyder	29 Brianna Hedman Chris Hetterich Jr
30 Hadley Inman Jeffrey Pfeffer Ryan Visker Jan Wassenaar				Please let the office know if we are missing anyone. 831-3284	Black= Birthdays Blue= Anniversaries	