

The Window

February 2019 Newsletter



First United Methodist Church

974 6th Street
Windom MN 56101
507-831-3284
www.windomfumc.org



MATTHEW TWENTY-TWO VERSE THIRTY-SEVEN



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: Tammy Crowell umcnursery@windomnet.com
Office Manager: Laura Williams umcoffice@windomnet.com

What Is Church Membership?

*"I'm not a joiner." "I'm already so overcommitted."
"I'm very private about my faith." "The church just wants my money."
"I'm a Christian – why do I need to join a church?"*



When you hear the phrase, “church membership,” some of the above thoughts might cross your mind...or any number of others, like, “*What does this church believe?*” or “*I like attending here, but I want to keep my membership in my previous church,*” or “*If I join, will I be asked to serve on a committee right away? I hate committees!*” Fair enough!

So let me address some of the concerns raised in a few of these questions, and try to give some positive reasons for “church membership.”

First, let’s deal with the phrase “church membership.” Membership is something that is out of favor these days—I get that. And I don’t think it accurately describes what we mean anyway. I prefer the phrase, “church ownership.” It means you’re committing to *make an investment* in something—and that something is a community of people who worship and serve Jesus Christ together.

When I take ownership, I am saying I will invest in this community: that is, I will bring my energy, talents, time and yes, treasures, to help this community *thrive* and *be fruitful*. I will come alongside the other “owners” of this church body *in order to help it fulfill its stated mission*, which is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (as stated in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*, 2016).

Here’s how the above idea gets expressed in our membership vows: we ask those who join the church, “*As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your witness, and your service?*”

Will you participate—will you invest your time, energy and resources through your prayers, your presence, your gifts (financial, spiritual, professional, personal), your witness (to what Christ has done and is doing in your life) and your service (again, your energy and time)?

In other words, *will you take ownership?* Will you come alongside others who have taken ownership here and help us fulfill Christ’s mission to be the church—to share the love of Christ, the message of the new life he offers, and to make his kingdom more visible in our broken hurting world today?

If you can seriously say that you’re ready to join others in helping fulfill Christ’s mission, guess what? All those other questions and concerns raised at the beginning of this article—just fade into the background. Because it means you’ve decided to be a disciple, and you’re ready to answer the call Jesus makes to every one of us, “Follow me.”

If you haven’t taken ownership yet, *I invite you to join us on the Sunday mornings in February for our class on membership/ownership* (at 9:00). It will give you an opportunity to learn more about how we live out this mission, and you can ask me any questions you have about our local church and ministries as well. I look forward to that time to get to know you better and hear about your spiritual journey as well!

Pastor Mike

February



Are you interested in information about the United Methodist Church, or about possibly becoming a member of Windom First UMC? Pastor Mike will lead classes on Sunday mornings starting February 3rd. The classes are for people thinking about joining First UMC, (there is no obligation to join), as well as for anyone interested in more information about the United Methodist Church. Existing members are also welcome to attend. Please sign up at the signup center in the lobby so we have an idea of how many are coming.

Classes start Sunday February 3 at 9:00am in the adult classroom in the north hall (Room 210 N).

Interested in transferring your membership from another church? Or interested in joining (without a transfer)? For either of these, please contact the church office by Monday, February 18th.

New members will be received Sunday February 24 during the 10:30 service. All are welcome.

Friendly Fellowship
Tuesday February 26th
Noon



All are invited to join us for a good potluck meal and friendly fellowship. A team member from Windom Area Health Rehab Department will be our speaker.

If you or someone you know would like to present an interesting program (usually about 20-30 minutes long), please let Darris Snelling know.

Please bring something to share, and join us for lunch! People of any age are welcome.

Church Family News

Two loved ones from our church family have recently gone home to be with the Lord.

In Loving Memory

As we go to print, the services to celebrate their lives will take place in the coming days.

The service to celebrate the life of Katharina Wassenaar will take place at First UMC Saturday, January 26th at 2:00pm.

The service to celebrate the life of Duane VanNorman will take place at First UMC Monday, January 28th at 2:00pm.

More information is available online at www.lacannefuneralhome.com.



We have begun another new year of ministry and there are many new committee members.

Thank you to everyone who has served on a committee, and in all areas of serving the Lord through First UMC. Take a look at the church calendar, and all around you to see all the generous hearts it takes to run a vibrant Ministry. Thank you all!

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:00am—Noon

1:00—4:00pm

Closed Monday, February 18



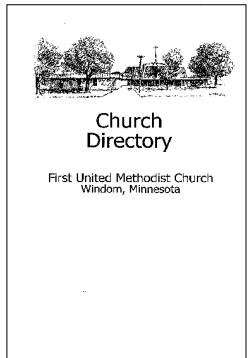
for President's Day



John 15:12

My command is this: *Love each other as I have loved you.*

2019 CHURCH DIRECTORIES



Our 2019 annual church directory will be available in the lobby soon.

Please replace your older directories with this new edition, as each year there are *many* changes made.



The Dinner Table Community Meals

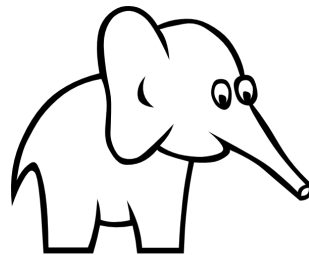
The Dinner Table is a food mission that is being planned for the Windom area. We are getting closer to launching this mission, and the next planning meeting will take place Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome to participate. Our goal is for this to become a community-wide project, with participation by many churches and organizations to meet a need in the community.

Apportionments

We've been asked how much the 2019 apportionments are; our congregation is paying \$142 per member.

I have loved
you *with an*
EVERLASTING
Love.

I have DRAWN
you *with*
loving-kindness
Jeremiah 31:3



*White
Elephant
Items
Welcome*

Our annual salad luncheon and white elephant sale fundraiser will be held April 25th, so please bring your gently used, *clean* items to the church...

Decorations, plants, kitchen items, books, jewelry, movies, music, bedding and most household items.

Please do not bring clothing, footwear, and please **no electronics**.

Sale items are collected in the east coat closet, next to the sanctuary.

Thank you for helping with this all-church fundraiser!

February 2019

Youth & Education



*Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.*

Matthew 22:37

Sunday
School
Offering
Challenge!

We will be keeping track of our Sunday School offering for the four Sundays in February. We will be competing girls vs. boys to see who can collect the most money during these four Sundays. Winner will be announced in church on February 24th with reward for the winners on Sunday, March 3rd at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Parents, please encourage your child(ren) to bring an offering!! The offering collected during this challenge will go to the Windom Backpack Program! This is a great opportunity to show our children how our offering can help others in need. This challenge is for grades **PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12!** If you have any questions, please see Robin.



Any youth in grades 8-12 that are interested in going to the Southern Prairie Youth Retreat in Brice Lynn, please see Robin for more information!

Special points of interest:

- *Praying With Eyes Wide Open* continues on Wednesdays at 9:00am or 6:30pm through February 13th.
- February 3rd **BOTH** youth groups will meet from 3:00-4:30pm. Please note time change
- Kids for Christ meets on Wednesday, February 6th from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Sunday, February 10th children in grades pre-school-6th grade will sing for the congregation.
- Youth group meets on February 24th. Junior high will meet at 4:00pm and Senior high will meet at 5:30pm



Children in Pre-school through 6th grade will be singing for the congregation on Sunday February 10th during worship.

COMING THIS SUMMER.....

June 9th– 13th





Southern Prairie Youth Spring Retreat

**March 29-31
@Prairie River Camp**

WE ARE HEADED BACK TO BRICELYN!!

FOR GRADES 8-12

COST OF THIS IS RETREAT IS \$85.00.

**\$45.00 WILL BE REFUNDED UPON COMPLETION OF THE
RETREAT.**

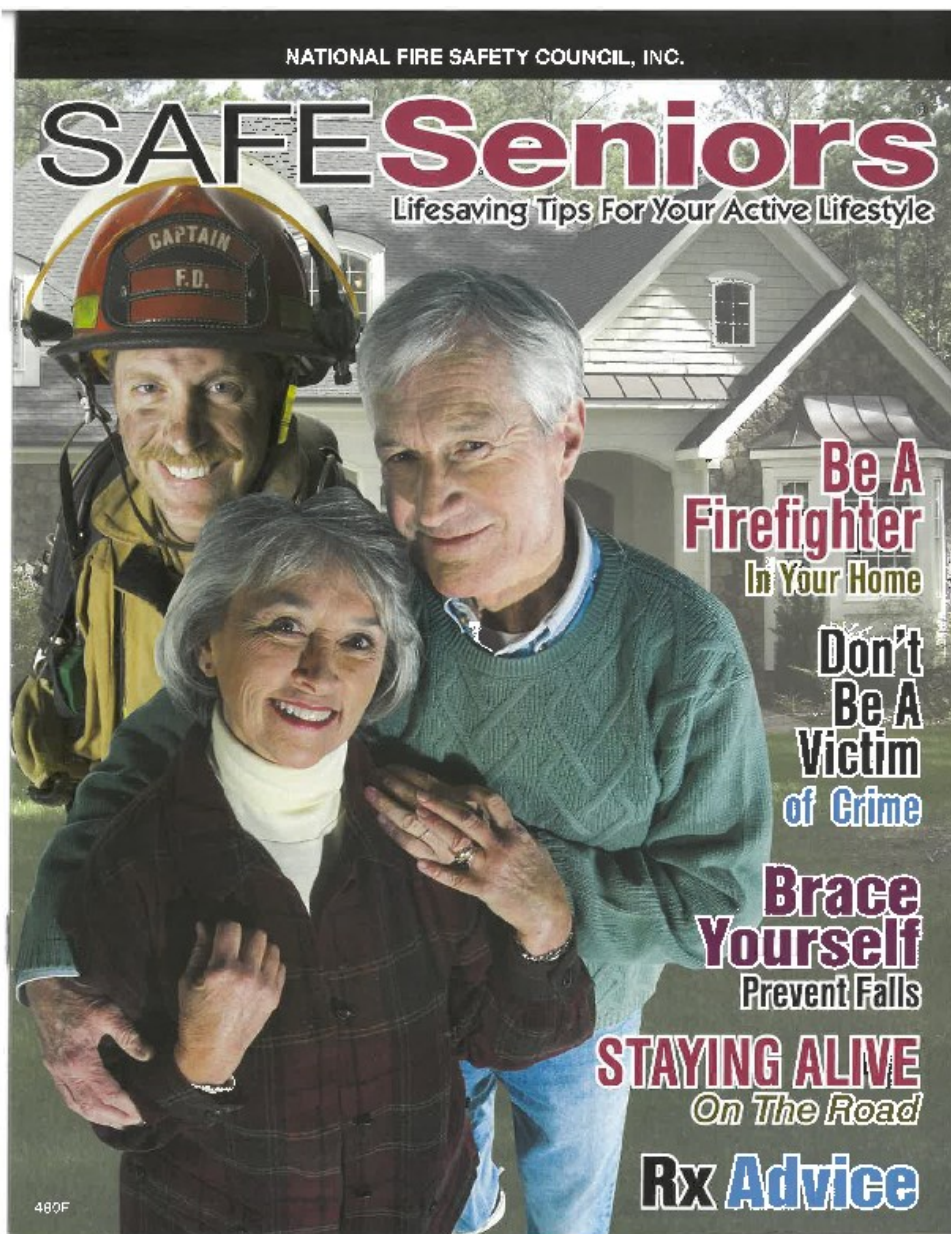
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MN UMC

**REGISTER ASAP IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO, LAST YEAR THEY
TURNED KIDS AWAY BECAUSE THEY WERE FULL!**

\$85.00 PAYMENT IS DUE WITH REGISTRATION.

**WE WILL LEAVE LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE 29TH,
AND RETURN HOME SHORTLY AFTER LUNCH ON THE
31ST.**

**PLEASE SEE ROBIN IF YOU WOULD LIKE A REGISTRATION
FORM!**



Safe Seniors, Lifesaving Tips For Your Active Lifestyle booklets are available in the lobby. There are tips about safe driving, and preventing falls, plus many other articles. These are free—please take them for yourself and for others.

Church Email Groups



The church office has email groups for keeping connected with the congregation. In addition to the 'all church' group that gets this newsletter, for instance, these email groups are also available Prayer Partners for prayer requests, and Weekly Announcements. Please let the office know if you would like to subscribe to either of these lists, or to unsubscribe at any time.

"A Way Forward"

Special General Conference
February 23—26
St Louis MO

The United Methodist Church's worldwide Special General Conference will meet in St. Louis Feb. 23-26 to vote on 3 different plans for the denomination to move forward on its stance on human sexuality. Please be in prayer for this Special Conference.



Weather Announcements

Please check with the following media for weather-related service cancellation announcements

Windom KDOM radio 1580AM
Windom TV cable channels 3 & 24
Jackson KKOJ radio 1190AM
(broadcasts live Sundays)



Like us on Facebook for service cancellation info, or check our website: www.windomfumc.org.



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





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 350 United Methodist churches in the state.

- **“The Balancing Act”: All-conference Lenten study:** During Lent, Bishop Bruce R. Ough invites all Minnesota United Methodists to participate in a weekly study around the book “The Balancing Act: A Daily Rediscovery of God’s Grace” by Bishop Robert Schnase. A video related to each section of the book, along with a study guide containing scripture and reflection questions, will be available at www.minnesotaumc.org every Thursday between Feb. 28 and April 11. The conference encourages congregations to purchase copies of the book and to form small groups to journey together during Lent. Join us!
- **North Dakota mission trip: July 7-13, 2019:** The Spirit Lake Reservation, located in east-central North Dakota, is home to more than 6,000 people in several Dakota tribes. Those who call the reservation home live in extreme poverty and struggle with incessant flooding and an unemployment rate of over 43 percent. This summer, make it your family’s mission to live life through service with them and join a conference-wide, intergenerational mission trip. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center offers comfortable accommodations and a variety of meaningful service work for volunteers of all ages as well as opportunities to engage with the Spirit Lake community and culture. Cost is \$200 per person, and registrations and deposits are due April 30. Learn more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/NDmissiontrip>

- **Grants available for new ministries:** “Micro grants” of up to \$2,500, available through the Minnesota Conference, provide one-time funds to congregations for programs and initiatives that help them grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world in new and creative ways. What dream could your congregation make into a reality with some funding? Which new thing is God calling you to try? Applications are due Jan. 31. Learn more and apply: <https://tinyurl.com/microgrant2019>


BRIGHT SPOT IN OUR MIDST

- **Lydia Zion UMC starts bilingual service, reaches new people:** The small church in the 50-person Lydia community started a weekly bilingual (English and Spanish) worship service in May 2018 that typically welcomes 20 to 30 people not previously connected to a faith community. And for the past year and a half, it’s offered Wednesday night programming that includes dinner, faith formation, and worship. On an average week, 40 to 50 attend—many of whom weren’t previously connected to a church. In the past few months, the congregation has had three new professions of faith. The success of the bilingual service and Wednesday programming has spurred lots of other new ideas: The congregation expanded its Vacation Bible School to offer special versions during Advent and Lent. Members started a new outreach called “Shepherd’s Freezer” that provides meals to the elderly, working moms, and others who have a hard time cooking. And this summer, the church hopes to offer worship around campfires and in other places outside of the building to connect with new people who might be uncomfortable with a traditional church setting. “Everybody has the ability to be reached,” said Rev. Larry Kasten. “I hope we’re an encouragement to other congregations to see where God’s leading.”

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 ~ February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30a McPrayer	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 First Things 3:00p All Youth	4	5 9:30a UMW Executive Meeting 6:00p Cable Ch 3 Service Broadcast	6 9:00a Bible Study 3:30p Lois Circle 6:30 KFC 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	7 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	8 6:30a McPrayer	9
10 9a Sunday Sch 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Kids Sing 11:30 First Things	11	12 6:00p Cable Ch 3 Service Broadcast	13 9:00a Bible Study 2:00p Friend. Cir. 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Congr Trust 7:00 Trustees 7:30 SPRC 7:30 Finance Mtg	14 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	15 6:30a McPrayer	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 First Things	18 President's Day Holiday Church is closed	19 1:00p Missions 6:00p Cable Ch 3 Service Broadcast 6:30 Dinner Table Mission Meeting	20 6:30 Confirmation	21 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	22 6:30a McPrayer	23
24 Membership Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 First Things 4:00p Jr Hi Youth 5:30 Sr Hi Youth	25	26 Noon Friendly Fellowship Potluck & Program 6:00p Cable Ch 3 Service Broadcast	27 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 ReThink Team	28	Corrections? Please let the office know – 831-3284 or UMCOffice@ windomnet.com	

First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~ February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Marshall Bartelt	4 Kaleb LaCanne	5 Lane Steele	6 Denny & Becky Marker	7 Lucas Vesey Sue Visker	8 Erin Thiessen Rob Visker	9 George & Elaine Bramstedt
10 Vicki Anderson Jens Hansen	11	12 Pastor Mike & Kathy Jo McInnis	13 Arnold Haack	14	15	16
17 Sally Larson	18 Greg Pfeffer	19 Paul Vesey	20 Zach Hetterich Bob Mayden Eldon Moon	21 George Paulson	22 Kai Johnson	23
24 Ava Mathiowetz	25 Delaney Smith	26	27 Greg Peterson	28	Black – Birthday Blue - Anniversary	Please let the office know if we are missing anyone.