

First United Methodist Church of Windsor

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

APRIL 2024

Christ is counting on us to *Know, Love, and Serve* God.

Our doors are open for all to join us in worship every Sunday at 10 am.

9:00a Adult Sunday School (Church Basement)

10:00a Worship Service (in-person and online)

10:10a Children's Church

Pastor's Pen



Happy Spring Time! Happy Spring time? Why do we like spring so much? Is it because we feel the dark, cold days of winter have gone on sojourn? Perhaps we like the feeling of warmth of a nearby small yellowish star radiating on our faces from 98,000,000 miles way? Or could it be that we enjoy the new life that is blooming, blossoming and birthing all around us? Whatever it is, I am hearing a lot of people talk about how wondrous springtime is.

You know, when you really stop and think about it, the season of spring is a complex and chaotic time in the world. We have weather that can't make up its mind to snow, rain, or bring us ice falling from the sky. The winds begin to pick up, dark clouds come rolling in, and we find ourselves hiding in our basements because of tornado warnings and watches. And for those of you who like to sleep late in the morning, we now have to deal with all sorts of birds loudly chirping their happy little songs each and every morning.

Now, don't get upset with me, I'm really not bashing springtime. Actually, I quite enjoy the change that this time of year brings (minus of course the lightning and thunder of which I am not a fan). One day it's in the 70's and the next day we have ice to drive on. I'm constantly checking the weather forecast to see if I need a warm jacket, a raincoat, a light coat, or if I'll be okay wearing a t-shirt. I think the only thing 'normal' about spring is that we know each day will bring something different than the previous day.

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth, along with being a time of utter chaos. Spring brings with it the anticipation of the end of the school year, paying our taxes, and trying to plan our summer vacations. (By the way, I have not made mine yet so if you have some good ideas of places to go, please feel free to let me know.) Oh, it's also the time of year when we finally get to open up our windows, let the sunshine into our houses where it hasn't shone all winter long, and we get to see how dirty the carpeting really is. That's right, spring cleaning! See, I told you, utter chaos!

Something else happens in spring...we celebrate the season of Easter. For six weeks from the date of Easter, the church is in the Easter season...celebrating and remembering that Jesus is not dead but that he has been resurrected into eternal life with God. Easter symbolizes new life for sure. Jesus received a new life, and we receive a new life when we accept Jesus as our savior. But again, when you look at birth or re-birth, is it easy and nice? No, it really isn't. Being born is a wild experience to be sure. Think of a human baby...all warm and cozy in its mother womb and then all of sudden there are these bright lights and this cold air hitting their bodies. No wonder babies cry when they are born.

Pastor's Pen Continued

Then, after birth, this new life has to learn how to deal with the world around it. This baby has to learn to speak a language, they have to learn to crawl and walk, and they have to deal with these things called teeth pushing through into their mouths. But, a baby does all these things, and although not easy, these things are necessary for this baby to live in this world of ours.

You see, you cannot have birth, re-birth, or change without a little bit of pain and discomfort. When we humans discover that there is a God and that this God sent his son down to us and we choose to give our lives to God's son, we give up a lot of things as well. We give up living our lives as if no one else matters, we give up our inward focus to look outward, and we give up our power and control to this one we call Jesus. And all of this is chaotic and nerve wracking. To place our lives in the hands of another is a hard and difficult thing to do. Yet, this is what is best for all of us...to allow this change to happen, not matter how difficult it is...so that we can live a new life in Christ.

Change like this is normally not appreciated, especially in an established group like a church. Change makes us un-easy, it makes us wonder why we have to change and if we really want to.

Can you imagine if we were to 'do' church the same way the disciples did? You would all have to learn Hebrew, you would all have to memorize the Psalms, obey Jewish customs and wear different clothing. But today, we still worship God, but we use English as our language, we memorize songs, we try to obey Christian principles and ethics, and we wear slacks, dresses, jeans, and shorts to worship in. You see, we, the church, has changed to reflect our modern times. So, why shouldn't we keep changing to reflect the communities around us?

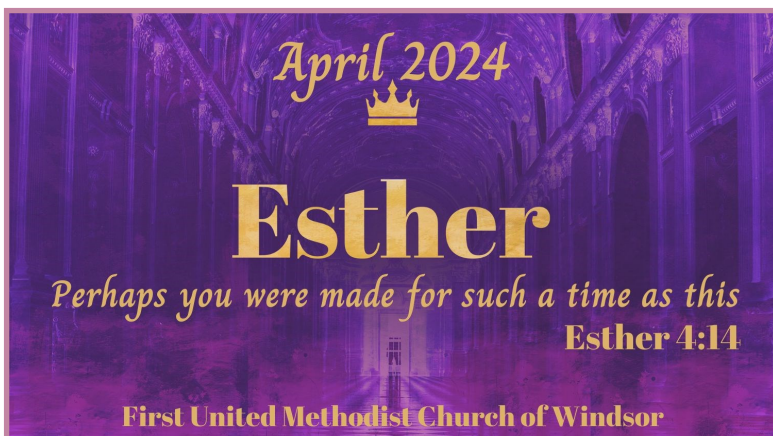
What does this look like? This change? Well, it can and will look different to each one of us. To some it means we can stay at home and watch worship via streaming on the internet, to some it means we interact during worship using our smart phones, and to some it means being together in one building as we worship God. Is any one of these things the perfect right way to change? I'm not really sure and none of us can be sure until we try them for ourselves.

How can we be a relevant church to our local community? How can we rethink what church means? How can we re-create ourselves in a world full of constant change and chaos? These are the questions that are facing us today. Do you have any answers? Do you have even more questions? Come by my office and talk to me about your ideas of how this church can be alive and relevant to our local community.

In the meantime, enjoy the spring season and all the beauty that it has. As for me, I'm going to get another cup of coffee and watch the birds argue with each other over who gets the last seed from our new bird feeder.

Blessings!

Pastor Phil



FUMC Windsor Missions

April Mission Focus: Stepping Stones of Windsor

Stepping Stones is a nonprofit organization that began in 2003. Pastor Gary Haddock and First United Methodist Church were instrumental in its beginnings. Stepping Stones board members work directly with neighbors in need within the Weld RE-4 school district to prevent homelessness by providing financial assistance and referrals in times of need. Assistance is provided directly to a client's landlord or utility company upon receipt of an eviction notice or utility shutoff. In 2023 the organization helped 144 households in the Windsor, Severance and West Greeley areas. An average of \$8837 was paid out each month last year for a total of \$106,000. \$78,000 was spent on rent assistance and \$28,000 provided assistance for utilities. Efforts are made to keep administrative costs to less than 3%. Our church provides a home for this organization, providing space to meet clients and we support them as an ongoing mission of our church. They rely heavily on donations and fundraisers such as the soup luncheon we hosted about 1 year ago. Other churches in the area have hosted luncheons as well. Please help us support this very helpful organization by providing monetary donations. We will focus on collecting donations during the month of April. FUMC members Cole Gerstner and Rob Bradley are active members of the board of Stepping Stones.

Stepping Stones of Windsor Helping Neighbors In Need

April Mission News

Missionary Partnership with Jennifer Moore in North Macedonia- Thanks to your donations, both large and small, we were able to send \$3,000 to General Board of Global Ministries for support of Jennifer Moore in North Macedonia.

UMCOR-After UMCOR Sunday on 3/17, we had received \$1,420 for UMCOR, which will go toward administrative costs, allowing them to use all other money for designated projects.

Missions Soup Sale- Thank you for supporting our Mission Projects by purchasing Soup! Our profit as of 3/25 is nearly \$700.

Food for High School students and jackets for elementary students- Both collections will continue through the school year.

Thank You for your amazing support of Missions.

The Mission Team meetings are open to all. Our next meeting is on April 21, immediately following worship. Meet us in the upper room!

Squeaky's Corner

Now, where did I put that rake? And the shovel, where is that? Oh, can't forget my gloves, don't want to get my paws dirty. Let's see, what else do I need? Seeds! I need seeds! Where did I put them? Oh, Hi there! I didn't see you there until just now. I was just getting ready to go to work in the garden! Springtime is here, the weather is warming up, the rain is beginning to fall and it's the perfect time to plant stuff!

I'm working on a vegetable garden this year because I LOVE vegetables! Do you like vegetables? I really enjoy picking them off the plants in the garden, washing them up, and then eating them for dinner. I think vegetables taste even better when you grow them yourselves. Are you planting a garden this year? What are you doing to grow in it?

Some of my favorite vegetables are green beans, lettuce, peas, cucumbers, and eggplant. I'm going to plant them in rows and I'm going to label the rows, so I won't get them all mixed up when I go to harvest them. I'm going to set up a schedule to water them and to pick out the weeds so that the vegetables will grow really big! Gee, having a garden does seem like a lot of work, doesn't it? But I guess that is okay because the food is soooo good!

You know, God gives us all of these plants and vegetables to make us healthy and strong. God gives us rain and soil that allows the seeds to grow. Have you ever seen a seed grow? It's pretty amazing and what is even more amazing is that you can have a seed on your shelf for a year and it won't do anything. But put that same seed in Gods soil and WHAM, all of a sudden you have a plant!! Isn't that cool? God is so amazing!

Oh, hey, I have a couple of Knock, Knock jokes for you. Do you want to hear them? Okay, ready or not, there they come!

Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Emerson
Emerson who?
Emerson nice flowers in your garden! Get it? Them are some nice flowers?? Ha, ha, ha! That was funny! Okay, here's another one for you!

Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Lettuce
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in and you'll find out! Wow, that was funny too! I love these jokes, don't you?

Okay, where was I? Oh, that's right, I was gathering seeds for the garden. I have my cucumber seeds, my pea seeds, my green been seeds, and my lettuce seeds but I couldn't find any eggplant seeds but that's okay. I just went to the refrigerator and took out a dozen eggs that I'll be planting so we'll have really fresh eggplant! Yummy! I hope everything grows!

Well, I better get going in the garden, it's going to take a lot of work to get it going. I hope you can plant your own garden this spring so you can see the wonder of God's creation for yourself. Until next month, take care and I'll see you around the church.

Squeaky



-Squeaky

Adult Ministries

There are a variety of ongoing opportunities for Adults to connect each week. For more information about any of the groups please feel free to reach out to the leaders listed below.

Sunday School: All are invited to join our Adult Sunday School Class at 9:00 am each Sunday in the church basement. **Class Leader Bruce Hyink (Bruce@Hyink.org)**

Vera's Bible Study: Vera's Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 12:30pm in the church's Upper Room. All are welcome to join. **Contact: Paula Allard (paulaallard38@gmail.com).**

Women's Bible Study: They meet each Thursday at 5:30pm. All are welcome. For more information contact Pat Ferrell. **Contact: Pat Ferrell (patferrell59@yahoo.com).**

Prayer Shawls



There are Prayer Shawls available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one, or give one to someone in need of Comfort.

General Conference 2020



The 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be taking place between April 23rd and May 3rd. You read that correctly, this is the 2020 General Conference that was postponed during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It was never canceled so here we are. The main website for the General Conference is:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

There are some links on that main page to Regionalization and access to the very lengthy Daily Christian Advocate, the publication of General Conference that will be updated daily once General Conference begins. You will also find the main links to the Live Streaming on this page as well and those will appear when the General Conference goes live in April.

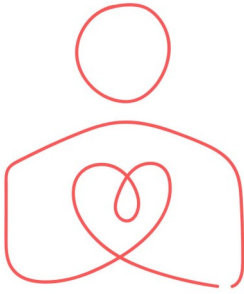
Windsor/Severance Food Pantry Needs

Thank
you...

Shampoo, Conditioner (regular size) Toothpaste, Lotion, & Deodorant. The Food Pantry is in desperate need of Flour and Sugar (11lb & 5lb bags). Peanut Butter, Soup (any flavor) Chili & Raisins.

For High School Students: Ramen Noodles, Small cans of Spaghetti O's, Mac & Cheese (already prepped with a pop top) Cheese/PB Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Fruit Cups, Trail Mix (individual size) Juice Boxes, Raisins, and granola Bars.

Congregational Care



The congregational care ministry team is seeking new volunteers to join us in our efforts to provide care for and contact with those who may be home bound, hospitalized or in need of additional support. Currently the team sends cards, makes phone calls and visits. The desire is to expand what is currently done to include home communion, increased contact and support to our church and community members. If interested or if you have questions please contact Pastor Phil or Pat Ferrell.

Volunteers Needed

Have you wanted to get involved in helping with worship? We are in need of volunteers in the form of Ushers, Communion Servers and Worship Leaders. Training will be provided. If you would like to sign up, please go to firstumcwindSOR.com. Under the serve tab you will find buttons that take you to Sign up Genius where you can put your name in to volunteer for a date that fits your schedule. If you have any questions, or need help, please call the church office at 970-686-2368.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

4/01 Kathy Hinde
4/04 Linda Burr
4/07 Danica Vogels
4/09 Sandy Lee

4/12 Sarah Spirek
4/18 Betsy Peterson
4/20 Bo Chapin
4/22 Dan Klema



Happy Anniversary

4/03 Vicki & Steve Christian
4/27 Kerry & Nick Spirek



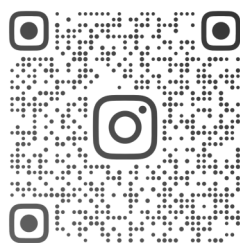
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April 2024

First United Methodist Church of Windsor

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Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10AM-3PM

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Email firstumcwindsor@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30p Choir 7p Boy Scouts	2 12:30p Vera's Bible Study 6:30p Troop 88 meeting	3 10a League of NOCO quilters 5:30P Trustees	4 5:30p Women's Bible Study	5 9a UWF Craft Group	6 8a Troop 88
7 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ Kids S.S. 11a Fellowship	8 5:30p Choir 7p Boy Scouts	9 12:30p Vera's Bible Study	10 1:30p UWF 5:30P Finance	11 5:30p Women's Bible Study	12 9a UWF Craft Group	13
14 9a Adult Sun- day School 10a Worship/ Kids S.S. 11a Fellowship 12:30p DAR	15 5:30p Choir 7p Boy Scouts	16 12:30p Vera's Bible Study 3:30p DAR	17 9a GPS Book Club 5:30p SPRC	18 5:30p Women's Bible Study	19 9a UWF Craft Group 5p Scouts Lock In	20 All Day Scouts Lock In
21 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ Kids S.S. Scout Sunday 11a Fellowship/ Missions	22 5:30p Choir 7p Boy Scouts	23 12:30p Vera's Bible Study	24 1:30p UWF 5:30p Leader-ship	25 5:30p Women's Bible Study 6:15p Pack 57 Committee	26 9a UWF Craft Group	27
28 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ Kids S.S. 11a Fellowship	29 5:30p Choir 7p Boy Scouts	30 12:30p Vera's Bible Study				