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Administrative Assistant
Office Hours
Mon. through Thurs.
9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Fri. 9:00 am to Noon

Followers, Not Admirers

It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression “follower.” He never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for.

Christ understood that being a “disciple” was in innermost and deepest harmony with what he said about himself. Christ claimed to be the way and the truth and the life (Jn. 14:6). For this reason, he could never be satisfied with adherents who accepted his teaching – especially with those who in their lives ignored it or let things take their usual course. His whole life on earth, from beginning to end, was destined solely to have followers and to make admirers impossible.

Christ came into the world with the purpose of saving, not instructing it. At the same time – as is implied in his saving work – he came to be the pattern, to leave footprints for the person who would join him, who would become a follower. This is why Christ was born and lived and died in lowliness. It is absolutely impossible for anyone to sneak away from the Pattern with excuse and evasion on the basis that it, after all, possessed earthly and worldly advantages that he did not have. In that sense, to admire Christ is the false invention of a later age, aided by the presumption of “loftiness.” No, there is absolutely nothing to admire in Jesus, unless you want to admire poverty, misery, and contempt.

What then, is the difference between an admirer and a follower? A follower is or strives to be what he admires. An admirer, however, keeps himself personally detached. He fails to see that what is admired involves a claim upon him, and thus he fails to be or strive to be what he admires.

If you have any knowledge at all of human nature, who can doubt that Judas was an admirer of Christ! And we know that Christ at the beginning of his work had many admirers. Judas was precisely such an admirer and thus later became a traitor. It is not hard to imagine that those who only admire the truth will, when danger appears, become traitors. The admirer is infatuated with the false security of greatness; but if there is any inconvenience or trouble, he pulls back. Admiring the truth, instead of following it, is just as dubious a fire as the fire of erotic love, which at the turn of the hand can be changed into exactly the opposite, to hate, jealousy, and revenge.

Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Foxdale Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson

Colony Court: Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran

Latham Place: George and Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Ardella Draheim, Chuck Youngberg

Bridgewater Memory Care: Gloria Tollefson

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Ardella Draheim, JoAnn Egness, Dan & Marilyn Possin, Marlys Garness, Ruby Garness, Robin Bihorel.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office the following dates in May: 8 and 31.

Faith Crafters & Stitchers

Faith Crafters & Stitchers will meet **Thursday, May 9, 2019**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project of your choice to work on. Coffee and treats will be provided. Please call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122 if you have any questions.

Trustee Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Thursday, May 23** at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakeview Room.

Church Table Sign Out

In order to avoid any confusion there will be a sign up sheet in the office for any tables going out. You must do this **before** removing any tables. You will also need to let Stacy or Bob know (or leave a note) when you have returned them.

Thank you.

Meal & Movie Night (M&M Night)

Meal and Movie Night will be on Sunday May 19th. The movie will be 'Secretariat'. The film chronicles the life of Thoroughbred race horse **Secretariat**, winner of the Triple Crown in 1973. Housewife and mother Penny Chenery agrees to take over her ailing father's Virginia-based Meadow Stables, despite her lack of horse-racing knowledge.

We are planning on having walking tacos for the meal.

Youth Room (Sunday School Room)

There is a plan to freshen up the Youth room. We want to paint and get some storage cupboards.

The kids are going to help raise the funds needed. We are planning on having '**Noisy Sundays**' during the month of May. The kids will have cans and walk among the congregation and ask for donations. We are hoping people will remember to bring their change (coins) and drop them in the can (making some noise). The kids will empty their containers of money each Sunday in a wheelbarrow in hopes of collecting enough in a month to cover the costs of the items needed.

So please help us out and drop your pocket change in the noisy cans.

Gentle Reminder to All

As a reminder, if you are the last person out of a room or the last one out of the church, we all need to remember to do a quick check to make sure all the lights have been turned off. This will help save energy and also save on our electric bill.

There also have been reports on several occasions that the church has been left unlocked when no one is in the building. It is everyone's responsibility to take a minute or two to check behind them to make sure the church is locked up.

This is your church and we don't want to see anything bad happen to it.

Thank you!

Faith for a Cure Annual Garage Sale

The Faith for a Cure annual garage sale will take place on **Saturday, May 4th** from **8:00AM to 2:00PM**. Items can be brought to the church Fellowship Hall Monday, April 29 through Friday, May 3 between the hours of 8:00 am and Noon. We ask that you bring your items during this time period when there are team members present to help. Please bring only items that you would be willing to purchase yourself. There will be **NO CHRISTMAS TREES OR OTHER CHRISTMAS ITEMS ACCEPTED**. All money raised will go to the American Cancer Society to support programs which serve Waseca County residents.

If you have questions about donations or need to schedule a different time to drop off your items, please contact Vada Dahnert at 833-5477 or Dave Baldini at 835-3697. Thank you for your continued support in the flight for cancer.

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ITEMS.

Followers, Not Admirers

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There is a story of yet another admirer – Nicodemus. Despite the risk to his reputation, despite the effort on his part, Nicodemus was only an admirer; he never became a follower. It is as if he might have said to Christ, “If we are able to reach a compromise, you and I, then I will accept your teaching in eternity.

But here in this world, no, I cannot. Could you not make an exception for me? Could it not be enough if once in a while, at great risk to myself, I come to you during the night, but during the day (yes, I confess it, I feel how humiliating this is for me and how disgraceful, indeed also how very insulting it is toward you) I say ‘I do not know you’?” See in what a web of untruth an admirer can entangle himself!

The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in words, phrases, songs, he is inexhaustible about how highly he prizes Christ, he renounces nothing, will not reconstruct his life, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all his strength to be what he admires. And then, remarkably enough, even though he is living amongst a “Christian people,” he incurs the same peril as he did when it was dangerous to openly confess Christ. And because of the follower’s life, it will become evident who the admirers are, for the admirers will become agitated with him. Even these words will disturb many – but then they must likewise belong to the admirers.

From Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter and from Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Søren Kierkegaard.

The question for each of us is are we content to just be an Admirer of Jesus or are we willing to go on and become a Follower?

Pastor Victor

Sunday of Native Americans - May 5

Native American Ministries Sunday celebrates and supports 157 Native American United Methodist churches, empowering them to authentically minister with their communities and access scholarships to attend a seminary.

United Methodist Native American seminary students and congregations are empowered to develop new ways of doing church that honor the creative expression of the culture. They are enabled to form new ministry partnerships and coalitions, allowing the process of reconciliation, restoration and release between communities. Will you join us **May 5** in supporting these efforts?

Together, we will make a lasting impact today. Your offering will reach across the country because. .

TOGETHER, WE DO MORE

Checks can be made to Faith UMC with a memo for Native American Ministries.

Mission Team - What Are They Doing Now?

On April 27, we met to pick-up clear Lake Park, Adopt-A-Park. The Mission Team is coordinated with the Waseca Parks department to help with keeping the Clear Lake Park beautiful. God has done his work in providing this wonderful area for our city. Let's help Him keep it looking beautiful.

Everyone in the congregation is asked to help. We will gather at the park at 9:00 am each Monday to pick-up trash, twigs, etc. Bring your gloves. Trash bags will be provided. I believe it would be ok to bring rakes or other equipment. We will not be responsible for any removal of major trash or trees. We leave the bags at the park. We notify the parks department of things that need repair or branches that need to be removed. Hope to see you.

We continue to collect pancake mix and syrup. Sorry we haven't been very good at letting you know how many Waseca residence you have feed. I'll try to get better about this. Keep up the good work!!

Congratulations! More than \$500 dollars was donated for UMCOR Sunday. Thank you.



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

The Mission Team has chosen to collect toiletries during the year to give to Emma Norton Services in the Month of December. We are collecting the toiletries provided at hotel, motels, places you stay while traveling. We hope to provide Emma Norton residence with a small Christmas gift.

A bin will be in church narthex. So after spring cleaning and you have found all the bars of soap, containers of shampoo, and condition or body lotion, bring them to church, any Sunday. And during the summer vacation bring us your unused bottles and bars.

Emma Norton Services provides affordable supportive housing for homeless women and families who are dealing with the additional changes of mental illness and chemical dependency. ENS operate two site-based facilities in the Twin Cities, Emma Norton Residence and Emma's Place.

Emma Norton Residence is a housing program in downtown St. Paul serving 50 adult women at any given time. Emma's Place in Maplewood offers permanent, supportive and affordable housing for 13 families with three or more children. After-school and children's programming includes educational, recreational, and motivational activities.

Website <http://www.emmanorton.org>

Lyndy's Mission Minute by Lyndy Zabel

Do not grow weary

Jesus said "The poor will always be with you." (John 12:8) It is a verse that has been taken out of context by many, sometimes used as an excuse to not do very much for poor people, because they aren't going away anytime soon.

Jesus took on the uncharitable Judas by paraphrasing part of Deuteronomy 15:7-11. His Jewish contemporaries would have known it right away. Read it to get the full context. In summary, it says we are to not be "hard-hearted" or "tight-fisted" toward our needy neighbor. Verse 11, Moses, the leader of the Hebrews at the time, states: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, "I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'"

Centuries later there were still poor among the people in Galatia. The Apostle Paul writes to them in Galatians 6:9 and says, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right... for the good of all."

It's true that there will always be poor and the needy among us. We can view this as a burden, or an **opportunity** to do good works. I prefer the latter. It brings me more joy than most anything else in life, and I never get tired or weary from doing it. I hope you feel the same way.

Here's three timely opportunities for *unwearyed* disciples of Jesus:

1. **You can continue to make UMCOR cleaning buckets** (kits). The ones we make in Minnesota are delivered to the [Midwest Mission Distribution Center](#) in central Illinois. From there they are distributed all over the Upper Midwest. Buckets **you** made right here in Minnesota are currently being used in Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa.
2. **You can join an Emergency Response Team** with other people from Minnesota. Over 100 people are already trained and ready to go when called upon. But more are needed. Team leaders and participants are currently being trained regularly throughout our state. There is a class in [Two Harbors on April 27](#), and another one in [St. Cloud on June 17](#). This UMCOR Early Response Training is taught by three veterans of disaster relief: Gary Klason, Linda Kropenske and Traci Woolard. You might also want to join others in preparing and maintaining two trailers that are used wherever teams go out. For more information, contact Gary Bochman at disasterresponse@minnesotaumc.org
3. **You can support disaster relief** in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Recently, these three countries were devastated by the largest cyclone to ever hit Africa. 900,000 people are displaced and their homes destroyed, with the number rising. UMCOR was there two days after it hit with a \$40K emergency grant and supplies. And hundreds of thousands of dollars will follow as we maintain a presence there for years to come. **Your** money, previously sent to International Disaster Response Advance # 982450, is there right now. But more will be needed.

Helping the Poor without Hurting Them: A Primer

Most people I know want to help those who are less fortunate. But with so many options, the question becomes "how?" Most organizations claim to be good causes. But it is good to think about what, where, why, and to whom we give. More specifically, how do we give to people without actually hurting them or ourselves? Here's four things to consider:

- a. First, we can never go wrong giving **urgent and temporary emergency aid** to reduce immediate suffering from natural or human-made crisis, such as survivors of floods, hurricanes, etc. Likewise with the truly vulnerable, such as the severely disabled, young orphans, the starving, sick, and the mentally ill homeless population.
- b. Secondly, after giving emergency aid, we should seek to **support causes that help people help themselves**. The receivers all have resources, knowledge, skills, time, and abilities just like us. Do our gifts acknowledge and compliment them? Do they help others build up from the assets they already possess? An example of this kind of gift would be giving a student scholarship to a girl in an impoverished country.

Lyndy's Mission Minute by Lyndy Zabel

c. Thirdly, material poverty alleviation usually involves **empowering people** to EARN sufficient material things through their own labor. Examples of this kind of gift are vocational training or micro-loans.

d. Finally, **look for organizations that are accountable**, transparent, produce results, and spend small percentages of revenue on advertising and overhead. UMCOR is an example of this kind of organization. Check out www.charitynavigator.org for more information.

In Ministry Together,
Lyndy Zabel
 Director of Community Development
 Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church



King Cake for everyone during the Umcor Presentation on March 31.



It's fun listening to the kids at Children's time during the worship service. It was especially enjoyable listening to them singing songs at the church service on April 7th.



Bunnies, chicks, ducks and eggs, oh my! Our Fellowship Event on April 14 was a wonderful display enjoyed by all!



All smiles and fun at the Easter Egg hunt on April 14! All Sunday School kids participated.





Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Lakeview Room. Our hostess will be Sandy Voshell. Shirley Hansen will lead devotions. Guests and visitors are welcome.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, May 14th at 10:20 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Nancy Tollefson will be the hostess. Lorraine Wick will provide the devotions. The program will be "Mother's Day". Bring a picture of you and your mother and a memory about your mother to share with the group. All are welcome to attend.