



January 16, 2024

E-Pistle

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Louis Park MN

Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

We are now back in the season of Ordinary Time. The parament colors have changed from white to green. The wreaths and poinsettias are packed away for next year. The term “ordinary” comes from the Latin word “ordinal” which means something that expresses an order or a numerical sequence. Thus, ordinary time means that we count the time using sequential numbers. This current Ordinary Time follows Christmas and Epiphany. We will hear how God’s light shines in our Sunday lessons and hymns. As you prepare to gather for the Annual Meeting next Sunday, pay close attention to where you see God’s light shining. Where is God’s light calling Union at this time?

See you in church, virtually or in person.

With Ordinary Time Blessings,

Pastor Liz

*If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office
at 952-929-8566 or e-mail Pastor Liz at pastor@unionslp.com
Office hours are Sunday from 11 am until 4 pm and by appointment.*

**To contact Union Congregational United Church of Christ please
send e-mails to info@unionslp.com**

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Sunday **January 21** Annual Meeting 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday **January 24** “January Fika” 3 p.m. Angel Food Bakery 8100 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park

Announcement of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Union Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on January 21, 2024, in the Sanctuary of Union Congregational United Church of Christ at 10:15 AM. The purpose of the meeting is: to receive annual reports of Officers, Staff, Board, and Standing Committees; to elect Officers and Board member as necessary; and to adopt the annual budget.

Our Prayers, Sympathies and Condolences

Curt Tiffany, father of Brenda Clarno died on Dec. 15, 2022. Faye Battisti, Union member and mother of Brenda Clarno, died on January 6, 2024. Services will be scheduled later in the spring.

Our prayers, sympathies and condolences go Suzie and Mike White for the unexpected death of Suzie’s sister, Sam. Services are pending at this time.

Board Position Openings for Next Year

We need to fill the following positions for officers in January: Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Clerk. We could also use some help on other boards or task groups, especially a Nominating Committee and Buildings and Grounds. If anyone is interested in helping with this or has suggestions, or questions, please contact any member of the Executive Council: Cindy Budd, Marilyn Carnell, Sharon Wittorf, Mary Krafft, Marv Bunnell, or Debbie Blake.

Parking Lot Update

When it snows...There will only be 5 spaces shoveled near the ramp. Please leave for those who need easy access to the church. There is parking in front on Alabama. Please be aware that you cannot exit the church parking lot through the alley to get to Brunswick Ave.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Loose Coin offering for January and February is STEP

STEP is the St Louis Park community food and social service agency. They directly provide food and clothing to residents in need, as well as advocacy, referrals, and build a collaborative relationship. Their vision is to be the trusted resource for connecting community members with resources to fulfill their basic needs.

MCC Refugee Services (Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services). Refugee Service Update

Refugee Services is experiencing a high demand for:

Feminine products, new pillows, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, disposable razors, all-purpose cleaner, dish soap
Please put one or two of these items on your shopping list and put them in the blue Refugee box at the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks so much for your contributions and working to supply these needed items.

Contact Janet Midtbo (phone or text:612-414-5671, jdmidtbo@gmail.com) if you have questions.

The Lenten Group returns in 2024

Union will join Chapel Hills UCC, Lynnhurst UCC, and Edina Morningside Linden Hills UCC for Thursday evening dinners and worship services during Lent. Union will be the host site on March 7. More information will be forthcoming.”



January Birthdays

Ray P.	1/6
Jon R.	1/13
Judy R.	1/14
Kevin G.	1/26
Kay I.	1/27

Flower Pick-up and delivery time has changed

Deadline for signing up for Sunday flowers is the Sunday before your request date. The cost is \$35.00 and you will need to pick them up at Arts & Flowers (6011 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park) between 10 a.m. and their closing at 4 p.m. and then deliver them to church Saturday anytime or early Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet and request cards for flowers is at the back of the sanctuary.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST
Those in need of support and healing:

Carol L recovering from broken hip
Ben H. recuperating at home with chronic health issues
Carl recovering from a stroke
Michael's friend Jay

Those *homebound or under care:

*Betty Jean
Ray

If you are in need of prayer, please email info@unionslp.com with your request to be added to the list.

Epistle

Just a reminder regarding announcements for the Epistle. Please email requests to info@unionslp.com by the end of the day on Monday. Thank you.



*Grounded in God's love, with a spirit of wonder and inclusion,
we work as a community towards a just world.*
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 16089 or 3700 Alabama Ave. S. St. Louis Park, MN