



January 2, 2024

E-Pistle

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

Happy New Year !

Pastoral Musings

Pastoral Musings

Happy 8th Day of Christmas! We have had 2 beautiful Christmas services, one on Christmas Eve and the other on New Years Eve. Thank you to all who made these services possible: the Diaconate and their decorating assistants, the String Ensemble, the choir, the other musicians, the ushers, and all who pitched in to make this Christmas special at Union. We will end the Christmas season on Sunday as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism from Mark's gospel. What does Mark's version of Jesus' baptism have to teach us today? As you prepare for Sunday's worship, I invite you to remember your baptism. See you in church, virtually or in person.

Christmas 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 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

Wednesday **January 10** Faith Development and Outreach Board 1 p.m.

Sunday **January 21** Annual Meeting 10:30 a.m.

Please be aware that you cannot exit the church parking lot through the alley to get to Brunswick Ave.

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Loose coin collected in November and December for the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery was \$243.48. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

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.

Flowers for Sunday Worship Procedure
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.



January Birthdays

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

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
Dolores & Everett, friends of the church, struggling with illness
Carl recovering from a stroke
Bill

Those *homebound or under care:

Faye
*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