



January 9, 2024

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## E-Pistle

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

### Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

We are now in the Season after Epiphany. It will last until Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024) which is the start of the Lenten season. In the season of Epiphany, we hear lessons about how God's light is revealed or made manifest in the world and about how Jesus brings God's light to the world. I like to think of the Season after Epiphany as a time when the light of the star which the Magi followed shines a little brighter for us. This season invites us to open our eyes and ears to see and hear who God's light shines today. May we share those epiphanies with each other.

See you in church, virtually or in person,  
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](mailto: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](mailto:info@unionslp.com)**

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wednesday **January 10** Executive Council 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday **January 15** Faith Development and Outreach Board 10 a.m.

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

### Parking Lot Update

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.

### 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 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](mailto: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.

**Photo Gallery**  
**Advent Fika at Angel Food Bakery**





### **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:**

Prayers for the Clarno family on the death of Brenda's father Curt Tiffany on December 15, 2023 and her mother Faye Battisti on January 6, 2024. Services will be scheduled in the Spring.

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  
Michael's friend Jay

#### **Those \*homebound or under care:**

\*Betty Jean  
Ray

If you are in need of prayer, please email [info@unionslp.com](mailto: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](mailto: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