HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE

God is at work here at First Church! As Director of Ministries Cindy Gregorson led a workshop to prepare us for the Healthy Church Initiative Consultation Weekend, it was clear that this congregation deeply desires to do God’s will. The Consultation Weekend is scheduled for February 19-21. Here’s what that weekend will look like:

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

**Individual Interviews**
The consultation team will spend the day on Friday, February 19 interviewing staff and key leaders in the church. Each interview will last about 30-35 minutes. The interviews will conclude by 5 p.m.

**Focus group: 7–8:30 p.m.**
In the evening, 12-15 members, representing a cross-section of the congregation, will be invited to meet with the consulting team. These are people who are faithful in worship but have no staff or leadership responsibilities.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

9 a.m.–noon: **Leadership teaching**
This is the chance for congregational members to offer input to the consultation team, so please plan to attend this session! The consultant team will teach us how to move from maintenance to missional thinking. This is a must-attend meeting for staff, Church Council, and committee members.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.: **Church Council**
After the morning teaching session, Council members will stay to meet with the consultation team over lunch.

**Report developed**
After the last session, the consultation team will meet to draft the initial report to the Vision/Leadership Team.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**
The consultation team will attend worship to observe all aspects of the Sunday morning experience. Following the worship service, our HCI Vision/Leadership Team will meet over lunch with the consultation team. The consultation team will share the five strengths and five concerns of this congregation and preview the five strategic recommendations, and discuss these recommendations with our Vision/Leadership Team.

**FOLLOWUP**
The lead consultant will return in two weeks to present the written report of five strengths, five concerns, and five strategic recommendations to the HCI Vision/Leadership Team. Over the next four weeks, our congregation will hold two congregational meetings to discuss the report and the recommendations. **Please plan to participate in one of these sessions!**

**THE VOTE**
About six weeks after our Consultation Weekend, the District Superintendent will lead a Church Conference to vote on the strategic recommendations. There must be a **70% vote accepting all five of the recommendations**, to continue in the process.

**IMPLEMENTATION**
If we accept the recommendations, our coach will help us develop an action plan to implement the recommendations. The coach will guide us through the implementation over the next 15 months. Please pray for our congregation and its leaders, as we enter the Consultation Weekend together. As we become centered on Christ at Center & Broadway, may we be sent by Christ from Center & Broadway to share the Good News that Jesus is Lord!
Mission Outreach Evangelism Update

Operation Christmas Child – In February, perhaps you can look for some dolls or stuffed animals for the kids. Donations of any items are always welcome, even if they are not on this month's list. Keep in mind that items must be small enough to fit in a shoebox, but not so small as to be a choking hazard.

Food for Friends – Our first date for serving, Saturday, February 13, is almost here! The sign up sheet is on the MOE bulletin board in the narthex. You can volunteer to help serve the meal, or to provide any of the following - salad, bananas, milk, bread, butter, coffee, lemonade, bars or cookies.

Simpson Shelter – We will be providing a meal on June 4.

Church Council Highlights

From the December 22 meeting:

The Finance Committee reported that all apportionments for 2015 have been paid and we are in a good financial position. The Trustees presented a list of property improvements/modifications to be addressed over the next two years. The Pastor announced a charge conference to accept an Investing in Congregations Grant from the Minnesota Conference to be used for NUMAS House, and also stated that Pastor JoAnne and Pastor Ric Jacobsen (Oakwood) will exchange pulpits on January 17. Jerry Kauffman reminded Council members of the Healthy Church Initiative Pre-Consultation Workshop with Cindy Gregorson on January 20, and the Consultation Weekend February 19-21.

NUMAS Haus Update

At a specially called church conference on January 20, led by Cindy Gregorson, Director of Ministries for the Minnesota Conference, the congregation voted unanimously to accept an Investing in Congregations Grant of $20,000, to be used for first year personnel and program expenses at NUMAS Haus. The church Trustees and NUMAS Haus have signed a lease agreement, and NUMAS Haus has its own insurance policy. J.H. Heymann Construction begins renovation work this month! While John works on the interior of the house, there are many things that need to happen before we can actually open the shelter for single-mother families.

First on the list is hiring a shelter coordinator, who can begin arranging for education programs and counseling for clients. The shelter coordinator will also be recruiting and training volunteers to staff the shelter over nights and weekends. We need to purchase new, commercial quality furniture and supplies for the house – things like kitchen items and linens, toys and books, etc.

Please keep NUMAS Haus in your prayers as the Board works to get all the pieces into place for operation in the late Spring. Check with Pastor Jo Anne or Mission-Outreach-Evangelism chair Bill Day for more information.
Southern Prairie District Day - An awesome team of clergy have brought back a district wide day of connection and learning to be hosted by First UMC in Windom on Saturday, February 27th. One of the many fantastic blessings of the United Methodist Church is our strong spiritual connection with other churches worldwide. Methodist churches have been working together for more than 200 years to make disciples of the nations, and our Methodist churches in Southern Minnesota are no different.

This is going to be a really powerful time of gathering together with other churches in our area as we worship, pray, and learn more about how to be the disciples of Christ that we’re each called to be. We’ll hear inspiring messages from both Bishop Bruce R. Ough and District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf. We’ll worship together, and we’ll have the opportunity to choose from several breakthrough workshops on the “whys and hows” of creating Small Group Ministries, Discipleship Plans, Giving Strategies, and more. There will also be information booths and morale events to help connect you to resources that will help your church to reach its fullest potential.

- Date: Saturday, February 27
- Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Where: First United Methodist Church
  947 6th Street
  Windom, MN 56101
- Cost: $15 per person (includes workshops, materials, lunch)
- Deadline to Register: February 19
- Register Online: www.minnesotamountc.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE UNDER DOCTOR'S CARE
Shirley Goering, Paul Walden, Sue Loose's dad Bob Byrom, Lou Klein, Bo and Dru Wright's granddaughter Abigail, Irma McLean, Mike McLean, LaRonda Bourn, John Bourn, Cherry Jeske, Ron Albright, Mark Koons, Ellen Miller, Jill Curry's father Odell Barduson

Weekly Scripture Readings for The Story
February 3 – Lesson 18 - Daniel chapters 1–3 & 6; and Jeremiah chapters 29–31
February 10 - Lesson 19 - Ezra chapters 1–6; Haggai chapters 1–2; and Zechariah chapters 1 & 8
February 17 - Lesson 20 – Esther chapters 1-9
February 24 - Lesson 21 - Ezra chapter 7; Nehemiah chapters 1–2,4 & 6–8; and Malachi chapters 1–4
United Methodist Women is primarily a Mission organization, and especially supports missions that benefit women, children and youth worldwide. Our local unit has 33 members who are divided into two circles. The Circles meet in homes or the church from September to May on the second or third Wednesday of each month. Meetings consist of a little business, a devotional program, and refreshments. Circle members get to know each other well, and become a wonderful support system. All women are encouraged to attend a meeting and see if they wish to join. There are no dues and visitors are always welcome. For information call Joyce Shriner, who is chairman of the Ruth/Elizabeth Circle, at 354-6527, or Eileen Furth, co-chair of Joy Circle, at 359-2366. The other co-chair of Joy Circle is Luverna Schultz, but she is spending the winter months in Arizona.

**FAITH * HOPE * LOVE * in action**

As people of **FAITH**, we trust in the promise of Christ to bring light into darkness and new life to brokenness and death.

As people of **HOPE**, we celebrate and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Together in the world we are partners in God's mission of healing and wholeness so that all might have abundant life.

As people of God, we **LOVE** because God first loved us. It is out of that love that we welcome all the community, unite what is divided, mend what is broken, call for peace where there is war, make just what is unjust, and offer hope where there is despair.

**In 2015 the First United Methodist Women** sent to District Treasurer for Missions:

- Pledge to Mission $3,000
- Emma Norton Ministries $ 359
- World Thank Offering $ 124
- Gift in Memory $ 80

We also.....

- Presented 4 Special Mission Recognition pins
- Cleaned the Church Kitchen & Library Lounge
- Served Ash Wednesday meal
- Served one Community Lenten meal
- Provided 2 baptism flower
- Monthly sent cards to shut-ins
- Hosted Oak Hills Birthday party
- Served 8 funeral lunches
- Purchased kitchen supplies in the amount of $310
- Raised $215 working at the Cash Wise Brat Stand
- Held a Bazaar in November raising in excess of $4,900
- Sponsored two special programs:
  - Burkhart / Ryberg – presented a program on their trip to Mongolia
  - Rea King – presented a program on the Muslim faith

In addition we gave:

- $ 215 to help cover cost of new electronic sign to First United Methodist Church
- $ 600 gift to First United Methodist Church

*(continued on next page)*
News from United Methodist Women (continued)

January 24 was celebrated as United Methodist Women Sunday during the worship service. Jane Starz gave the sermon and many other women participated in the service.

Next Board meeting: Tuesday, February 2

February Circle Meetings please note the dates

Ruth/Elizabeth Circle  Feb 17 at 10 AM  Hostess & program: Betty Kohlhepp at church
Joy Circle  Feb 10 at 7:30 PM  Hostess: Patty Matthews at church after Lenten service

Memorial Fund Report

Undesignated
In memory of Lorene Walden
From: Vern Walden
February 2016

February 7, 2016  Communion/Worship Service at 9:30 AM
Greeters:  Ron & Fran Albright
Lay Reader:  Bill Smith
Communion Stewards:  Bill & Corinne Day
Coffee Server:  Shirley Goering
Counters:  Connie Smith & Carol Davis
Ushers:  Phil & Carol Davis, Lewis & Linda Anderson
Nursery:  Nathan & Jessica Marti

February 14, 2016
Greeter:  Sue Loose
Lay Reader:  Stephanie Smith
Coffee Servers:  Lou Ann & Kirk Smith
Counters:  Marc Burkhart & John Bourn
Ushers:  Phil & Carol Davis, Dale Gluth, Cleo Bolduan
Nursery:  Laura Sievert

February 21, 2016
Greeters:  Marc & Lori Burkhart
Lay Reader:  Bruce Taylor
Coffee Server:  Lori Burkhart
Counters:  Konnie Jensen & Joyce Shriner
Ushers:  Phil & Carol Davis, Lewis & Linda Anderson
Nursery:  Jo Grosklags

February 28, 2016
Greeter:  Fred Hosto
Lay Reader:  Jane Starz
Coffee Servers:  Jill & Dave Curry
Counters:  Lou Ann Smith, Floyd or Carol Alwin
Ushers:  Hunter Lystrom, Jay Marti, Phil & Carol Davis
Nursery:  Mary Beth Kauffman

Can you help?
If you are able to help in any of the following areas, please contact the person in charge:
Greeters:  Carol Alwin - 354-2036
Coffee Servers:  Jill Curry - 354-5041
Lay Reader:  Linda Hansen - 354-3550
Communion Stewards: Cleo Bolduan - 354-6699
# February 2016

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| **Bible Study**  
Sunday @ 5:30 PM at Rysdahl’s  
MOPS  
February 3, 10, 24 @ 9 AM |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| **Holy Communion**  
9:30 AM  
Worship  
10:30 AM  
Potluck | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   |
|     | 10:00 AM  
Book Club |     | 8:30 AM  
Lord’s Laborers  
5:00 PM  
Finance  
7:00 PM  
Mission Outreach  
Evangelism |     | 10:00 AM  
Ash Wednesday  
5:30 PM  
Family Night/  
Ash Wednesday  
Communion Service  
7:30 PM  
Joy Circle |     |     |     | Food for Friends |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   |
|     | 9:30 AM  
Worship  
10:30 AM  
Fellowship Time |     | 8:30 AM  
Lord’s Laborers |     | 10:00 AM  
Ruth/Elizabeth Circle  
5:30 PM  
Family Night |     |     |      |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | “Circuit Rider” News Due |
|     | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   | 25   |
| 21   | 9:30 AM  
Worship  
10:30 AM  
Fellowship Time |     | 8:30 AM  
Lord’s Laborers  
7:00 PM  
Church Council |     | 5:30 PM  
Family Night |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29   |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

**Classical Conversations**  
Tuesday 8:30 AM-3:00 PM  
**Family Night**  
5:30 PM  Meal  
6:00 PM  Worship  
6:30 PM  The Story