The Journey Begins!

On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Director of Ministries Cindy Gregorson challenged us as a congregation to “get out there and walk, better yet, run! – on the road God called you to travel” (Ephesians 4:1, The Message). Together we made a promise to be open to God’s vision for us, and we received a token reminder that we are guided by God on this journey toward becoming a healthier and more missional church. I encourage you to keep a copy of this covenant where you can see it and pray over it daily!

A Covenant of Openness to Visions

Declare your readiness to “Let Go.”
We are ready to risk our heritage, our tradition, and our survival in order to discern the new directions in which God would lead us.

Declare your readiness to “Let God.”
We are ready to be surprised or dismayed, challenged or judged, changed to new ways or confirmed in ancient ways in any way God addresses us.

Declare your readiness to consider all options.
We are ready to consider any change or sacrifice, any opportunity or cost, for the sake of our walk with Jesus.

Declare your readiness to focus on priorities.
We are ready to entrust the relative trivialities of institutional management to a gifted few and to concentrate our energies on what is truly important to our faith and our future.

Declare your readiness to share all ministries.
We are ready to free our clergy and equip our laity to share equal responsibility for ministry so that all may have the time to deepen spirituality and listen for the callings of God.

Declare your readiness to stretch your imagination.
We are ready to listen to crazy ideas, consider the impossible, taste the distasteful, converse with strangers, and experiment with what is nontraditional so God can help us grow and change.

Declare your readiness to laugh.
We are ready to tolerate odd personalities, go to extremes of diplomacy, and offer maximum generosity. We are prepared to laugh at ourselves and laugh with each other. We are eager to try, fail, learn, and try again.

I promise to help create a climate of openness to receive the visions God would reveal to us.

Amen! Let it be so!
Pastor Jo Anne
Mission Outreach Evangelism Update

Operation Christmas Child – No one has volunteered to be OCC coordinator, but 4 people have volunteered to help.

For May, try to find toys that light up or make noise, and flashlights – don't forget the batteries! Keep in mind that items must be small enough to fit in a shoebox, but not so small as to be a choking hazard.

Love Offering – Your gift to the 2016 Love offering for Missions supports refugee response, international child care in the Dominican Republic, and scholarships for volunteers in missions. Look for a bulletin insert in May.

NUMAS Haus – Inside construction is scheduled to be finished the first week of May. Volunteers will be helping paint the inside walls clean and work on the yard. The shelter coordinator position is open. NUMAS Haus is registered at Herberger's and Target; items are being collected in the choir room.

Please pray for those under Doctor’s care

Phil Davis, Lois Fromm, Lois Fromm’s sons-in-law Ted Brown and Rob McArdell, Shirley Goering, Jana Makela, Paul Walden, Lou Klein, Irma McLean, LaRonda Bourn, John Bourn, Cherry Jeske, Ron Albright, Mark Koons, Ellen Miller, Jill Curry’s father Odell Barduson

Thank you!

As many of you know, I have been dealing with a back condition for many months and have been through two surgeries related to the condition. Through it all the only way I have been able to receive the appropriate medical care, endure all that goes along with the surgeries and associated recovery and heal is by the grace and will of God. During this time the members of First UMC in New Ulm have consistently and selflessly lifted me up in prayer. It is truly a blessing to have so many faithful people praying for me every day. I want you all to know that your prayers have been felt by me, and answered by our gracious loving God and Father! I want to thank each of you in the name of our holy Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,
Rob McArdell

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all First UMC members who have supported me throughout the illness and passing of my dear husband Mike McLean. May God bless you for your kind thoughtfulness.

Irma McLean
At the Southern Prairie District meeting on April 15 our unit was awarded a Five Star Award. A unit contributes to five different channels of mission giving to become a five star unit.

We also received Mission Today recognition by completing specific mission activities. A copy of the certificates and requirements are posted on the bulletin board.

Coming Events:
- Tuesday, May 3 – 7 PM, board meeting
- Tuesday, May 17 & Wednesday, May 18 – Cash Wise Brat Stand – please sign up to work on the bulletin board
- May 20 – church cleaning – watch for a bucket list of cleaning "jobs" – take a job and complete it on your own schedule!
- June 14 – Day apart at hector United Methodist – a circuit rider will present the program – watch for more information in May
- July 12-15 or July 16 – Mission U – the studies will be climate Justice, The Bible & Human Sexuality, and Latin America

**April Circle Meetings**
- Joy Circle  May 11 at 7:30 PM  Hostess: Sue Gluth; meet at church to carpool
- Ruth/Elizabeth Circle  May 18 at 10 AM  Hostess: Betty Kohlhepp  at the church

**Memorial Fund Report**

**Undesignated**
- In memory of Susan Olson
  - From: Cleo Bolduan
  - John & Jane Gray
- In memory of Brent Maidl
  - From: John & Jane Gray
- In memory of Wm. Burkhart
  - From: Bob & Sue Gluth
  - John & Jane Gray
- In memory of Bob Byrom
  - From: John & Jane Gray
- In memory of Mike McLean
  - From: John & Jane Gray

**NUMAS Haus**
- In memory of Carol Beck, Wm. Burkhart, Bob Byrom, Brent Maidl & Al Porter
  - From: Louie & Linda Anderson

**Lord’s Laborers**
- In memory of Mike McLean
  - From: Louie & Linda Anderson
  - Luverna Schultz

**In memory of Johnnie Faye Hatcher**
May 2016

**May 1, 2016**  
*Communion/Worship Service at 9:30 AM*
- Greeter: Shirley Goering
- Lay Reader: Bruce Taylor
- Communion Stewards: Dave & Jill Curry
- Coffee Servers: Kris & Jerry Sandmann
- Counters: Bill Day & John Bourn
- Ushers: Louie & Linda Anderson, Phil & Carol Davis
- Nursery: Sue Loose

**May 8, 2016**
- Greeters: Russ & Mary Jane Radenbaugh
- Lay Reader: John Bourn
- Coffee Servers: Sue & Bob Gluth
- Counters: Lou Ann Smith & Konnie Jensen
- Ushers: Jim & Konnie Jensen, Ann Contag
- Nursery: Laura Sievert

**May 15, 2016**  
*Pentecost/Confirmation*
- Greeters: Bill, Connie, & Stephanie Smith
- Lay Reader: LaRonda Bourn
- Coffee Servers: Worship Committee
- Counters: Connie Smith & Floyd Alwin
- Ushers: Bob Fullerton, Luverna Schultz
- Nursery: Jo Grosklags

**May 22, 2016**
- Greeters: Paul Walden, Sue & Savannah McDuffie
- Lay Reader: Phil Davis
- Coffee Server: Luverna Schultz
- Counters: Corinne Day & Joyce Shrinier
- Ushers: Bob Fullerton, Luverna Schultz, Bob & Sue Gluth
- Nursery: Mary Beth Kauffman

**May 29, 2016**  
*Graduation*
- Greeters: Scott, Gigi & Kaye Rysdahl
- Lay Reader: Cleo Bolduan
- Coffee Server: Worship Committee
- Counters: Carol Davis
- Ushers: Bob Fullerton
- Nursery: Sue Loose & Megan Benage

**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
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<td>9:30 AM Book Club</td>
<td>10:00 AM Lord’s Laborers</td>
<td>5:30 PM Family Night</td>
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<td>8 Mother’s Day</td>
<td>9:30 AM Worship</td>
<td>10:30 AM Fellowship Time</td>
<td>8:30 AM Lord’s Laborers</td>
<td>3:30 PM Trustees</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Mission Outreach Evangelism</td>
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**Bible Study**
Sunday @ 5:30 PM at Rysdahl's
Tuesday @ 7:45 AM at Church

**MOPS**
May 4 & 11 @ 9 AM

**Confirmation**
May 1 & 8 @ 10:45 AM

**Classical Conversations**
Tuesday 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

**Family Night**
5:30 PM Meal
6:00 PM Worship
6:30 PM The Story