

# NEWSLETTER

BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
Sundays at 9am & 10:30am



SHORELINES NEWS  
JULY AND AUGUST 2021

# PASTORAL UPDATE



As I write this, I'm sitting on my front porch. I hear birds twittering, delivery trucks driving, and a lawn mower cruising. The sun is shining and the day is warm, but it's very comfortable in the shade with a nice cold glass of water. I'm on my lunch break from Annual Conference, a three-day virtual/hybrid event.

It's hard not to realize how different this feels from two years ago. Normally, I'd be in St. Cloud for this week. There are parts of that experience I miss—seeing my colleagues in person, staying in a hotel *by myself* (a luxury with four kids), hearing the sound of 500 voices singing together.

There are also parts of this new experience that I love. Being able to join in from my home, which has much more comfortable chairs and temperatures than the convention center. I was able to see my kids off to camp in the morning and enjoy lunch with my husband. During the morning break, I went for a quick walk around the neighborhood. And to be honest, I got some cleaning done as well while I listened.

I don't know what Annual Conference will look like next year, but I wonder if it couldn't try to learn from the best of the virtual experience and incorporate some of it moving forward. It is certainly what I've been thinking and reflecting on when it comes to our church life: what things from this past year do we keep? Do we let go of? What do we make sure we remember?

We know that we simply aren't able to just go back to the way things were. Pandemic or not, we never have that choice. Things are different and will continue to be different as we move forward together. It won't always be easy. It won't always work the way we thought it would. We'll have to adjust and tweak and change course as we go.

Some changes are well underway. Virtual worship continues, so that we can continue to engage a variety of people in our community. Updated worship lighting will be installed this summer. We have an updated logo, a new website, and a new format for the newsletter. We are moving forward in exciting and promising ways.

What changes will we implement in the way we worship? In the way we do small groups? In the way we show up in community? In the way we serve others? What have you learned this past year that the church would do well to implement?

I hope that you will share with us your thoughts and reflections on those questions. I hope we will all be gracious and understanding with one another as we forge ahead on this new path, doing things in new ways with new people. I am always so grateful to be doing this alongside all of you.

In gratitude,  
Pastor Brooke

**BROOKE HEERWALD STEINER**  
LEAD PASTOR

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## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

This month, we wrap up our sermon series on Courage and welcome Rev. Melanie Homan as guest preacher.

July 4: The Courage to Witness, with communion

July 11: The Courage to Seek Truth

July 18 & 25: Rev. Melanie Homan preaching

## Worship Update

Thanks for your positive feedback on our summer services! Many of you shared your delight in our schedule and the new family-friendly service, so we will be continuing it a bit longer this summer. Here is our summer calendar:

July 4: worship @9am, with communion

July 11: worship @9am & 10:30am

July 18: worship @9am & 10:30am

July 25: worship @9am & 10:30am

August 1: worship @9am & 10:30am, both with communion

August 8: worship @9am & 10:30am

August 15: worship @9am

August 22: worship @9am

August 29: worship @9am

September 5: worship @9am, with communion

September 12: worship @10am

September 19 and on: worship @10am

Masks are optional and we will continue to be aware of people's needs as they choose to social distance and/or mask.

The 9am service will be livestreamed.

## OFFICE HOURS

M-TH  
F

9am-1pm  
Closed

## AUGUST SERMON SERIES



In a world with infinite options and possibilities, it takes intentionality to ensure we carve out space for things that really matter. This last month of summer, as we prepare for the hustle and bustle of fall, we will take time to make space--for ourselves, one another, and the aspects of our life that matter.

August 1: Making Space for Learning\*

August 8: Making Space for Grief

August 15: Making Space for Community

August 22: Making Space for Rest

August 29: Making Space for Faith

\*Guest preacher Rev. Lauren Rheingans, Campus Minister at Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota.





# BUILD. COMMUNITY



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Register for Vacation Bible School Today!

At TREASURED VBS, children will discover they are priceless to God! They will have an amazing time gathering for dinner, and then trying out new games, songs, crafts, hearing awesome Bible stories, and more! Register on our website ([excelsiormc.org](http://excelsiormc.org)) or pick up a registration form in the church office.

**Dates:** August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

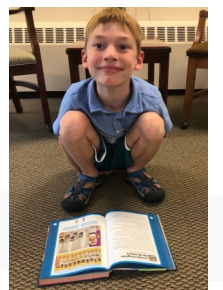
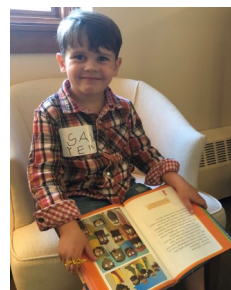
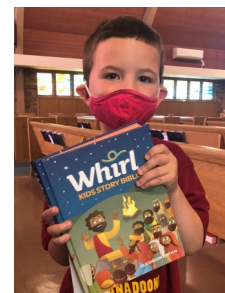
**Time:** 5:30-8:00pm daily, includes dinner

**Ages:** 4 years – completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade



### Story Bible Presentation

Sunday, June 27 *Whirl Story Bibles* were presented to children ages 4 to 8 year-olds.







## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Celebrating a Crazy Year

What a year of Youth Group and Confirmation we had! In June we wrapped up the school year, celebrating with S'mores and a bonfire. Throughout the year our youth rented out a movie theater, went to Buck Hill for skiing and tubing, and learned about microfinance, investing in several small businesses around the world through our Easter Kiva donations. We had a Zoom Christmas Party, planned a Youth Sunday worship service, and supported MCEE (the Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education) as they worked for just and equitable education in our local school district.



### Puppy Shower Drive-Thru

We held a puppy shower drive-thru, collecting items for Can Do Canines as they birth and train support dogs for people all over the Twin Cities! Thanks to your help, we provided a van-load of birthing items they were in great need of.



## Primetimers

Fall Retreat - October 8-10, 2021  
Ackwood Lodge in Hayward, WI

If you think you are in the prime of life you qualify to go on the Primetimers retreat! Join us for a two-night retreat on a beautiful lake with facilities for up to 24 people. We will begin the trip on Friday, October 8 and depart after lunch on October 10. Go to [www.ackwoodlodge.com](http://www.ackwoodlodge.com) to view the resort. It is cranberry harvesting season while we are there and that is a beautiful sight to behold. Join us for a relaxing weekend of sharing, fun, food, music and getting to know your EUMC friends better. Contact Kristie Lester or Sue Dragsten for information.



Ackwood Lodge

## Sarah/Lydia Circles

Sarah/Lydia Circles will not be meeting in July.

August's event will be hosted by Barb Ten Clay at her home on August 12 at 11am.

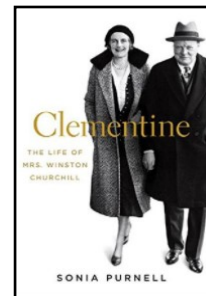
We will enjoy a luncheon and a tour of the Ten Clay's extensive Hosta gardens. More details to come. If you're not a circle member but would like to attend, we'd love to have you join us. Contact Joyceln Hughes or Barb Ten Clay for more details.

## Cover Girls

Monday, August 23 at 1pm at EUMC

*Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill* by Sonia Purnell

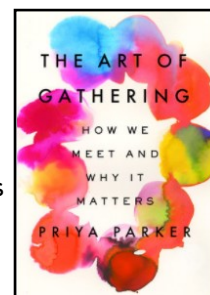
Author, Sonia Purnell gives a well researched and interesting account of Lady Clementine's life story and exceptional marriage/partnership with Winston Churchill. Everyone is welcome! Contact Chris Stone for more information.



## Book study with Pastor Brooke

4 weeks: August 3-24

Join Pastor Brooke on Tuesdays in August to talk about the book *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*. As we start to gather in person again, let's have some intentionality around what makes for a meaningful and productive gathering. We have learned just how important it is to come together and how much we miss it when we're not able to. But too often, our gatherings are around routine and convention. Group is offered at 2 times: virtually at 12pm and in-person at 2pm. Minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 people per group.



Please get a copy of the book ahead of time.

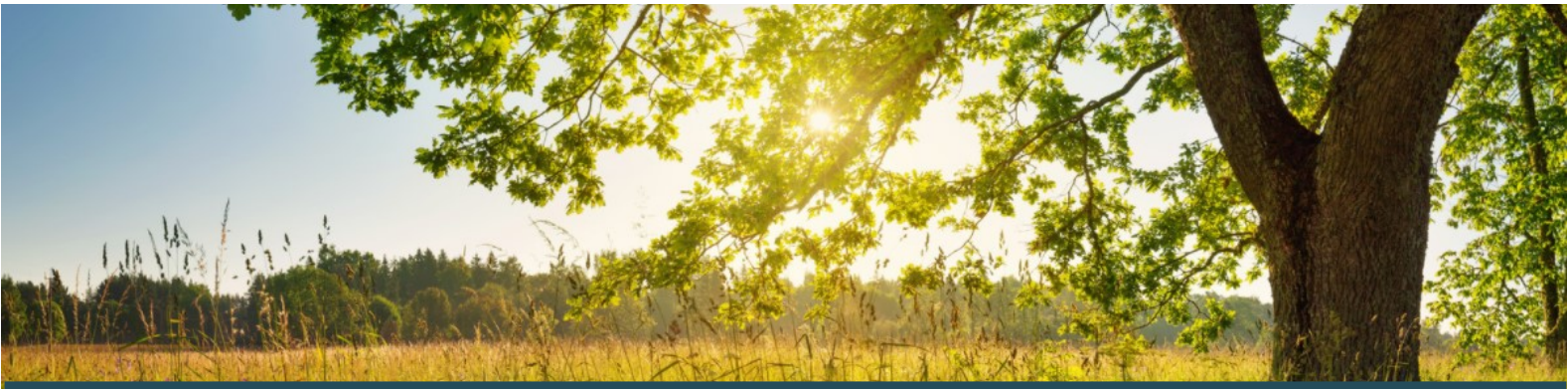
## Esther Circle

Esther Circle has exciting plans for the 2021-2022 year and we welcome new members!

September 18- 10:30am to 12pm  
Help supply food and serve the EUMC Community Lunch held in the upper narthex at church.

Contact Jill Jewell more for information.





## LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Team wants to thank everyone who worked so hard to help make the transition back to in person happen.

All worship services in-person and livestream have been successful. We are still working through a learning curve with live streaming and hope that everyone will be patient. We do need volunteers on Sunday morning so if you wish to help in any way, please email the office. We do need greeters, ushers, scripture readers, building closers, sound board operators and someone to clean the pews during the week.

### **Capital Campaign:**

Leadership Team met to hear the report from the survey and based on the positive results decided to move forward in planning a Capital Campaign with the consultant from Horizon. We are currently forming the team and you will hear more in the weeks and months ahead. Here are some of the observations from Horizon's that help shape our decision about the probability of a successful capital campaign. Leadership also revised the scope of the campaign to 1.3 M.

- The evaluation of study responses is a combination of statistical analysis, listening insight, and broad experience in church capital projects.
- a very positive response to the plan tested, coupled with some fear of both the \$2,100,000 proposed congregational campaign goal for the various projects and potential failure in reaching a financial goal of that perceived magnitude
- a strong 91% agreement/acceptance regarding the needs of the church
- support for tangible upgrades to the facilities especially the nursery and toddler areas
- 81% of respondents find the proposed plan either "exciting" or "good"
- a genuine appreciation and admiration for pastor Brooke
- personal philanthropic inclination to make a gift of some amount to the campaign (over and above regular giving to the church)
- a general sense that the congregation will be receptive to the concept of a capital campaign taking place yet acknowledging a level of concern and fear at the scale of the total project
- a stronger than normal desire from church members to volunteer in the campaign concerns regarding the outcome of the impending United Methodist separation vote

### **Finance:**

We continue to stay ahead on our income for the year and we are slightly below in expenses.

### **SPRC:**

Jane Kuhn will be leaving us at the end of summer as she is moving to South Dakota. We will celebrate her time with EUMC on Sunday, August 1 between the two services.

### **Trustees:**

Solar panels work began in June and it is almost done.

### **Ministry:**

Ministry leaders had a zoom meeting in June which was well attended and helpful as they looked forward to summer and the coming fall.

~Kristie Lester, Leadership Communications

# SERVE. OTHERS



## OUR COMMUNITY

We are so grateful to have more volunteers helping out now that Covid regulations have been relaxed. Our Food Shelf continues to serve our neighbors in need, **most recently serving 51 families with 2,579 pounds of food last month!**

Our Free Little Pantry continues to serve anyone needing food or essentials, 24/7. Thanks to your generosity, we now have a small budget for keeping the pantry stocked. If you'd like to donate toward this project, please consider donating to the church and marking "Free Pantry". The list of needs changes often, so financial donations are the easiest way to keep the pantry filled with the most needed items.

In both May and June, our church hosted Covid Vaccine Buses! Thank you to our volunteers who helped us get free shots to those looking for them, making it as easy as possible for those in the community to get vaccinated.

If you'd like to volunteer for our upcoming community lunch or our food shelf, or would like more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities, please contact Denise Foote.

### Community Lunch Resumes

August 21 will be our first Community Lunch. We will also be offering free backpacks and school supplies to our families in attendance. If you'd like to help this effort, the best way is to donate to the church and mark "backpacks".



Covid Vaccine Bus



ICA Food Shelf





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Introducing Nina Stark! Many of you may already know her, as she believes she is the member who has been here the longest. She was baptized at Excelsior Methodist Episcopal Church in 1930 (before the church became The United Methodist Church) and has been here ever since. On why this church is so important to her, she shared that she has had to bury a 3-month-old daughter, a 42-year-old son, and a spouse, and this church has always been like a second family to her. The support and friendship Nina has always felt from this community has made it another home for her. She said her favorite things about the church are the dandy people and the wonderful ministers we have had.

Her past volunteer roles include almost everything: choir, Rummage chair, President of United Methodist Women, Builder's Club, and membership, where Nina went around town with others to people's homes who were new to the area and invited them to come to church.

Nina currently volunteers by recruiting people for Meals on Wheels, knitting hats for ICA and Head Start (though she says this is not work but something she just loves to do), chairing the Deborah Circle, and writing cards to people with prayer requests or going through grief and loss.

Nina continues to bring a lot of joy and love to our community of faith, and we are grateful for all the ways she has shaped this place. She is always up for some fun, like the one time she organized an egg toss between husbands and wives, where all the eggs were hard-boiled except for one. (She gave that egg to Bill and Kristie Lester, who were unaware.) Thanks to Nina for bringing a smile to our faces and making this community a brighter and stronger one.

# STAND. FOR JUSTICE



FIGHT TODAY  
FOR A BETTER  
TOMORROW

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Dismantling Racism: What Can We Do?

As allies of the Black community, white people frequently don't know where to begin helping beyond educating ourselves on their history and present struggles. We ask, "What can we do?" Here is one example of a local organization to partner with: **180 Degrees**. While recognizing the impact of racism and working to end systematic racism, this organization creates safe spaces and services to teens in crisis in the Twin Cities. It also provides shelters, support services and community re-entry help for men with criminal records and has ways to help beyond monetary donations.

For other opportunities, we encourage you to pick up a copy in the church office of an **Action Resource Guide**, developed by the St. Luke Presbyterian Dismantling Racism Team. After a monthly series of meetings throughout the year, this guide was created. It highlights ten different dismantling racism issues and includes a list of action opportunities. From health care, employment, education and housing to laws relating to incarceration, immigration, and voting, there is a place for you to match your interests with action. Stop in the office or email for us to email you a copy of the guide.

### Simpson Shelter Supply Needs

- Bath towels and washcloths (gently used or new) - urgent need
- Women's small (size 5 & 6) and XXL (size 9 & 10) underwear
- Men's M, L, and XL boxers
- Men's L, XL, and XXL white t-shirts
- Hygiene products- deodorant, bar soap, Q-tips, razors
- Shower shoes (all sizes for men and women)
- Travel size body wash, shampoo, conditioner
- Combs and brushes, especially for textured or curly hair
- Phone chargers: iPhone, USB-C, Micro USB
- Donate through Amazon Smile Charity List- Simpson Housing Services, Inc.





# TREASURER'S REPORT

We've had a very successful year so far, both in terms of supporting our ministries and financially, all thanks to your incredible generosity.

Your tithes and offerings have helped our church install new video equipment to livestream our worship serves to people all over the country and support our ongoing ministries as they help us prepare to worship, serve, and engage in fellowship as we return to in-person church events.

You've allowed us to host Vaccine Busses, serve people at our Food Shelf and through our Little Free Pantry, host a Drive-Thru Puppy Shower for Can Do Canines, support an MCEE Year-in-Review Event, plan VBS for later this summer, install solar panels on the roof of our church, and so much more!

In addition to our church's growing programs, this year we have supported:

- EUMC's ICA satellite food shelf
- EUMC's Free Little Pantry
- EUMC's Social Justice ministries
- Simpson Shelter
- His House
- Housing Assistance to those losing their apartments (through our nonprofit partners)
- Kiva Loans
- ICA
- WeCAN
- Can Do Canines
- Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education

Our congregation continues to step up and support the needs in our community. Thank you to all who have given toward these ministries!

If you have a pledge to fulfill or would like to donate to support the mission of the church, please visit [excelsiorumc.org/give](https://excelsiorumc.org/give). You may also mail checks to the church.

If you would like a full set of our monthly Financial Reports, or have any questions related to the church's finances, please contact one of the leaders of our finance team.

Thank you,

Jordan Harper (Treasurer)  
Julie Newell (Finance Co-Chair)  
Chuck Welle (Finance Co-Chair)



## PURPOSE

Loving Beyond Ourselves

## VISION

To be known as a nurturing, inclusive and courageous Christian community.

## MISSION

Sharing God's love by building community, serving others, and standing from justice.

## CONTACT US

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