

NEWSLETTER

BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sundays at 10am

SHORELINES
November and December 2021

PASTORAL UPDATE



“Where words fail, music speaks,” according to Hans Christian Andersen. There is a power to music that we cannot get elsewhere. Whether it is music in the background or music in a cathedral or music in a crowd of thousands, it can move us and impact us. Whether it is sacred or secular music, it can reveal truths to us we hadn’t considered before. Research has shown that music enhances brain functioning.

I was thinking about different aspects of my life and the many ways that music enhances it. There is nothing that unites my family like a dance party in the kitchen to Prince’s “1999” or “Celebration” by KOOL and The Gang. Coffee shops would be eerily quiet without the acoustic soundtracks in the background. Worship would be much shorter and dull were it not for congregational singing and our soloists and instrumentalists. Movies and theatre would be far less dramatic and emotional without the corresponding music.

But music is not easy. There is a lot that goes into it. Just watch any young person learning an instrument, and you can see all the technicalities and skills that must be learned, even by an early beginner. Add to that multiple voices or instruments, changing tempos and rhythms. Anytime I hear a new piece of music, I am baffled by the genius it takes to write music for multiple voices and instruments.

As we enter the holiday season, music will take a forefront to our lives. Christmas music will soon dominate the airwaves and shopping malls. May we take time to pay attention to the gift that music offers us and appreciate those who bring it to us. May you find a way to participate and contribute to the chorus of voices in a way that makes sense for you.

This season, we give our deep thanks to our host of volunteer musicians led by Gail Fisk, our Director of Music. Read further on to hear more about Jeffrey Fawbush, a key volunteer in our music department. We are delighted to be starting a new children’s choir for ages 5 and up led by Jeannie Shubitz. Through these people and so many others, this season will surely be one filled with moving melodies and inspiring music. Even if we don’t find the words, may the music we create together bring us a sense of awe and connection to God.

BROOKE HEERWALD STEINER
LEAD PASTOR

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BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Transforming for Tomorrow

As faithful followers of Jesus our Christ, we aim to nurture and serve others using the best tools that we have. Loving others means that we strive to share our deep faith in relevant ways that make others feel welcome and inspired to partner with us. In worship, we will be fleshing out more about what this means, as we give thanks for the saints who came before us and we prepare for those who will come after us. This is an exciting time in the life of our faith community, and we are grateful to have you with us as we embark on this new voyage together!

- November 7:** "Here I Am"
All Saints Family-Friendly Service
- November 14:** "Sacrificing for Good"
with communion
- November 21:** "Living Our Faith"

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH 9am-1pm
F Closed

ADVENT SERMON SERIES



The Inn: Housing the Holy

The Innkeeper is a figment of our imaginations. Not referenced in the sacred texts, we assume that since Luke said there was an "inn," there must have been an innkeeper. Often he is cast in a negative light, as someone who banished a pregnant woman in need. But what if he were really an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought of a creative solution? Instead of thinking "there's nowhere," what if he said to himself, "there has to be somewhere?"

This Advent we will explore ways we can house the holy in new and creative ways. With a weary world surrounding us, how might we find a place for the Christ child to be born? How might we transform what's right in front of us into solutions to meet our community's needs?

- November 28:** "Making Room"
- December 5:** "A Place at the Table"
with communion
- December 12:** "How Much is Enough?"
- December 19:** Children's Program
- December 24:** Christmas Eve Family-Friendly
worship at 3pm & 5pm and
Candlelight service at 9pm



BUILD. COMMUNITY



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will be in worship on **Sunday, December 19**. Children will rehearse in Sunday School beginning November 28th, and will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 18 at 10am. More information will be going out in Sunday School and the weekly Children's Ministry e-mails.



New Children's Choir

All kids ages 5 through 10 are invited to join! Older kids can help to guide the youngest kids in the choir. Rehearsals will be in the downstairs choir room for 15 minutes following worship services starting November 7, from 11-11:15am.

To sign up email Jennifer in the office (office@excelsiorumc.org) or see the sign up sheet in the lobby. We can't wait to sing with you!



Four year-olds through 5th graders have been meeting each week for Sunday School. This fall we have been learning stories from the Old Testament through reading scripture, videos, music, conversation, games, and art projects.





YOUTH MINISTRIES

Start of Confirmation

We are excited to be back at church, with Sunday School and Confirmation coming into full swing. In the coming months our students will be doing service activities and learning about what it means to be a United Methodist. We will be tying together lessons from Pastor Brooke's sermons, the liturgical calendar, and current events to better understand the Christian perspective and why it matters in today's world. All students in grades 6+ are welcome to join us Sunday mornings and for the events coming up on our calendar!

Looking for Youth Volunteers and Mentors

We have a growing number of students participating in confirmation and would like to pair each one with a mentor from our church community. If you like working with students and can give about an hour or two of your time each month, we would love to hear from you! We are also in need of volunteers to help with Youth Sunday School and Youth events/trips in the coming months. If you are interested, please contact Jordan at jordan@excelsiorumc.org.



Upcoming Events

November 2021

- 7: No Sunday School and Family Service Event after worship
- 21: After worship Stewardship Celebration
- 28: No Sunday School, option to help with Children's Christmas Pageant or stay in worship

December 2021

- 17: Movie Night (Renting out movie theater) **Time TBD**
- 19: Children's Christmas Pageant (No Sunday School) and Family Christmas Event (after worship)
- 26: No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Livestream

Join us for a virtual Christmas! The 5pm Family-friendly service will be livestreamed as well as in-person.



Excelsior 101

Interested in finding out more about our church and how to connect or become a member? Join us for an Information Session and light lunch hosted by Pastor Brooke and the Welcome Team.

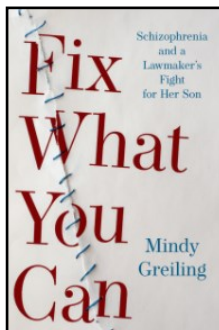
Sunday, November 14 after worship
Light lunch and childcare provided

RSVP:
Church office (office@excelsiorumc.org) or
Pastor Brooke (brooke@excelsiorumc.org)

Sarah/Lydia Circles

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 1pm. New attendees are always welcome!

November 11: We will discuss the book *Fix What You Can* by Mindy Greiling. It tells about Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for her Son. Very compelling!



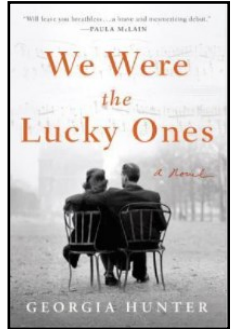
December 9: Winter Holiday Giving and Celebration. Stay tuned for more information.

Contact Joyceln Hughes
(joycelnhughes@gmail.com) for more information

Cover Girls

We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter
Monday, November 22 at 1pm at EUMC

Hunter's fictional story is based on her research of WWII and on the real life stories told by her relatives of escaping Europe during the start of WWII. It is an unforgettable story of three generations of the Jewish and Polish Kurc family who scattered around the world to escape the horror of the Holocaust. The author writes a gripping emotional novel of courage, love, and luck to survive their ordeals of the war.



Cover Girls will not meet in December. Join us in January when we will discuss *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabella Allende.

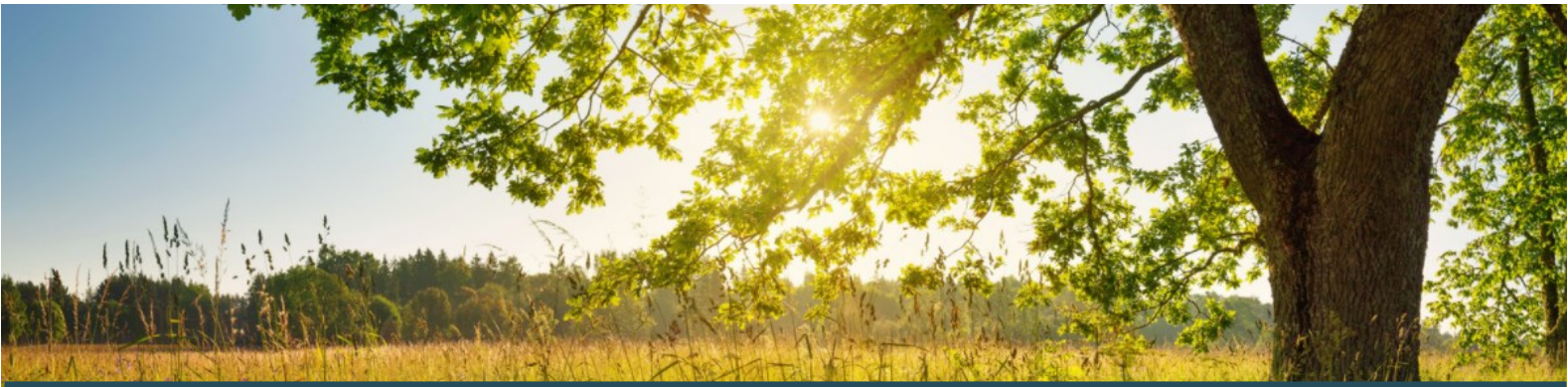
Contact Sue Judd for more information.

Esther Circle Events

Join us in November when we make ornaments and decorate a Giving Tree in Excelsior. In December, we will visit the American Swedish Institute to see their *From Our House to Yours* holiday exhibition. Dates and times for both events are currently TBD.

New members are always welcome! Contact Jill Jewell (952-688-8245) to get on our email list and for more information on these and future events.





LEADERSHIP

Fall is in full swing. The Leadership Team continues to meet monthly and oversee the operations of EUMC. What a blessing it is to be part of such a functional team as we help guide the mission of our church.

Our ministries continue to help us to Build Community, Serve Others and Stand for Justice. The Leadership Team's purpose is to support all the ministries by making sure the staff, the building and our finances are working smoothly. Here are a few items we discussed in September:

- Hired two new nursery staff that started in September
- Held a Church Conference to adjust Pastor Brooke's salary
- The solar panels on the roof
- Working with the Capital Campaign Team
- Continuing to keep track of our budget
- Lighting bid for the sanctuary
- Support the ministry outreach of the church
- Annual Stewardship Campaign running simultaneously with the Capital Campaign

November and December will be busy and exciting months for EUMC, and we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ together. Both the Stewardship campaign for the 2022 annual budget and the Capital Campaign "Transforming for Tomorrow", which will be a 3-year commitment, will be culminating by the holidays too.

The three new goals that Leadership is currently focusing on are:

- Sunday morning experience - in-person and virtual
- Staff and Volunteers - how do we effectively use our resources
- Small groups - grow and start new ones. Also are they ways to have more intergeneration and mixed gender groups. 70% of our small groups are gender based

The Leadership Team met the evening of November 1. Remember that you can always talk with any of us on this team if you have questions. We will also keep you informed in the weekly emails or bulletin if need be. Let's all continue to work together to Love Beyond Ourselves.

Kristie Lester
Communications

SERVE. OTHERS



OUR COMMUNITY

Simpson Shelter

It was great to be back in the Simpson Shelter, serving food in person, after months of sending a check to cover a catered dinner. A woman at the October dinner said, “This is the best meal I’ve had in 18 years!”

Our next two dates to serve are **November 9 and December 14**. Simpson Shelter requests EUMC bring a maximum of 10 workers. We are set with workers but we need your delicious food. There are two ways to sign up to provide food: online at SignupGenius (see weekly email or Facebook page) or the signup sheet located in EUMC’s lobby. Please contact Jane Pole (701-400-8754) or Jill Jewell (952-688-8245) to let us know your plans.

Simpson Shelter is always in need of basic necessities for their clients. Current needs are

- bath towels, wash clothes
- Hygiene products- toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner
- Underwear, socks
- shower shoes

We will take your donations to Simpson Shelter when we serve a meal. An easy way to donate is through Amazon Smile Charity List—Simpson Housing Services, Inc. Thank you for your continued support and contributions to this important outreach program.

Food Shelf and Pantry

Thank you to everyone who so generously supports our church’s outreach efforts. Our Community Meals are off to a strong start this fall, and our Food Pantry and Food Shelf continue to serve dozens of people each week. We are working hard to ensure every family has the food, hygiene products, and household essentials they need.

Our Free Little Pantry continues to serve anyone needing food or essentials, 24/7. 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!

Volunteer

If you’d like to volunteer for an upcoming community lunch, our food shelf, or would like more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities, please contact Denise Foote. Our ICA Food Shelf can always use more volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 1:30-5pm.

Mark Your Calendars

November 7: Church-wide Service Event after worship

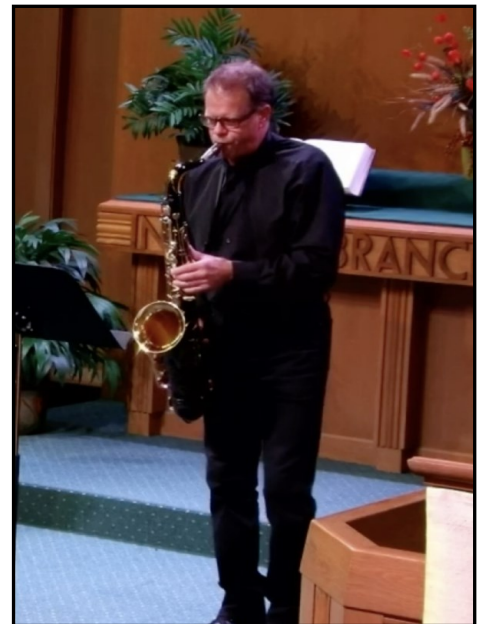
November 9: Simpson Shelter Dinner

November 10: ICA Foodshelf @ 3-5pm

November 10: Outreach Team Meeting @ 5:30-6:30pm at EUMC

November 20: Community Lunch @ 11:30-12:30

November 24: ICA Foodshelf @ 3-5pm



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jeffrey Fawbush is a familiar face up front in worship. He has been involved in the music ministry ever since he first started attending 27 years ago. He shared that what he appreciates about our faith community are the outreach efforts and the welcoming members. You can often find him downstairs in our kitchen practicing, usually about four hours a day. As he says, "practicing my saxophone hasn't always been welcomed by family or roommates so I have been using the downstairs church kitchen for many years. The tall ceiling and hard surfaced walls make the room great acoustically and provide a natural reverberation that makes it very conducive to practicing."

Volunteer roles: Meals on Wheels, Simpson shelter, RUMM, community lunch, music ministry, other projects

Instruments he plays: saxophone, flute, guitar, keyboard

Favorite styles of music: jazz, rhythm and blues, funk and soul

Favorite band: Earth Wind & Fire or Tower Of Power

Favorite musicians: jazz saxophone players from the 50's and 60's: Dexter Gordon, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane

Where he finds inspiration for the songs he writes: "On a daily basis I receive two devotionals and two bible verses online. Occasionally I will read a phrase that could be the basis for a song, and sometimes a melody will come to me that fits the words and I'll develop it from that point. Other times a melody or chord progression will come first then words will follow."

Jeff believes music is a powerful way that we can glorify God and express the message of love for all. To him, it is both a privilege and a responsibility to share his musical gifts with the community. We are so grateful for the ways Jeffrey has shaped our worship and music ministries here at Excelsior UMC. Thank you Jeff!

STAND. FOR JUSTICE



FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Members of the Anti-Racism Team recently visited the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery. Cofounder/Museum Manager, Coventry Cowens, explained each exhibit and Drew Hammond, a contributing social justice artist, walked us through each piece of art, nine of which were his works.

From there we went to Northrup King Building to visit Drew and Beverly Tipton-Hammond's art gallery. Drew is passionate about social justice, dedicating much of his life to sharing historical facts, and a lifetime of his own and other's stories. He continues to encourage all of us to get and stay involved. Drew's final words at the museum were, "There is so much work to do."

"The Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery (MAAHMG) preserves, documents and highlights the achievements, contributions and experiences of African Americans in Minnesota. The mission is carried out through exhibits, programs and events that educate and inform the public about the history, culture, and art of African Americans in Minnesota. "

(Source: The MAAHMG)



Drew and Beverly

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 allowed us to continue serving our Community Meal, send gifts of gratitude to teachers at Excelsior Elementary, plan our Trunk or Treat, bring our Children and Youth Ministries on a Fall Farm trip, and so much more!

We continue to serve dozens of people each week through our Food Shelf and Little Free Pantry, and several students are attending the after-school Program we host each Wednesday.

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)
- Wesley Foundation at the U of M
- 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. 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 for justice.

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