

NEWSLETTER

BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sundays at 10am



SHORELINES
January and February 2022

PASTORAL UPDATE



We did it! It is so fantastic to share that we not only reached our stretch goal of \$1.5 million for Transforming for Tomorrow campaign, we **exceeded** it! To date, we have raised \$1.6 million in gifts and pledges. How wonderful it was to come together in hopes for the future of our faith community and inspire one another through loving and sacrificial generosity.

I called to share this news with one of our members who can't join us in person for worship, and she immediately started crying out of joy. She said, "after such a hard year, it feels so good to be part of something positive and meaningful. That's what this campaign is—something that gives us meaning and purpose." Her words have stuck with me ever since. It is so important for each of us to find joy and purpose, not only in our individual lives, but our communal lives as well. Coming together to work towards this goal, having important conversations about what matters and who we want to be, and each contributing what we can—has brought joy and purpose to this community in a renewed sense. Thank you for all you've done to shape that positivity and meaning for so many.

My biggest prayer and hope for this campaign has been that it would be something that unified our church—and that's exactly what it did! From young to old, from new members to veteran members, so many of you backed this with your whole heart and being. Some of our youngest members have been the most visibly excited about it—saving their allowance and tooth fairy money in glass jars or hosting bake sales at the church. Families brand new to our church in the past year or two enthusiastically jumped in to support the campaign. Our veteran members shared that they benefitted from those who prepared a welcoming place for them, and they want to make sure the space is welcoming for others. From a variety of perspectives and life experiences, the participation of this campaign was wide and deep. You make a pastor very, very proud.

2022 will be an important year in the life of this church, with much change ahead of us. I know it won't all go as smoothly as we might plan for (what building project ever does?) but knowing the spirits of the people who make up this faith community, I know we will be able to get through it with the same level of positivity and joy and meaning that we've started it with. There is a lot of work ahead, but first let us take a moment to celebrate the good work that has been done. Thank you!

With deepest gratitude,
Pastor Brooke

BROOKE HEERWALD STEINER
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BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Faith AND Doubt

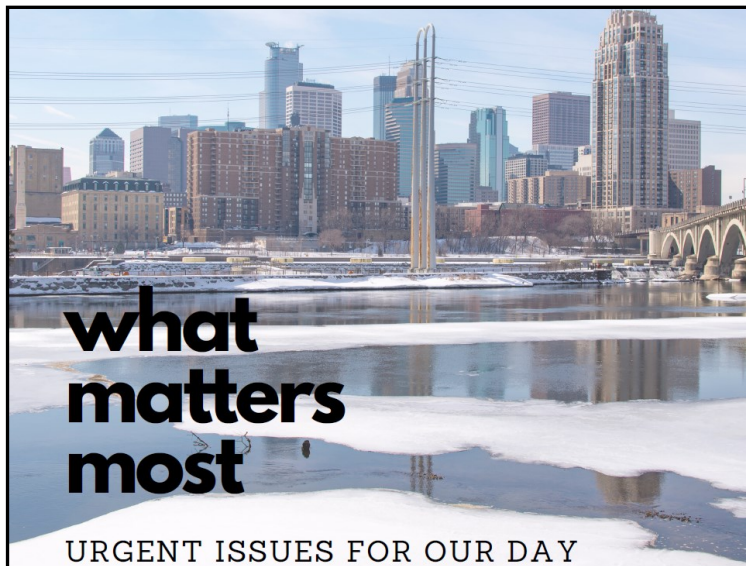
Too often, doubt is described as an enemy of faith. The more doubts you have, the less faith you must have. But what if we could see it a different way? What if doubt was just a natural part of faith, a healthy part of faith? What if it was something we could embrace instead of criticize? Join us in January as we explore the gifts that doubt can bring to our faith and how we can encourage one another to give voice to the questions, ponderings, and doubts that come our way.

January 16	Doubt as Ambiguity
January 23	Doubt as Surprise
January 30	Doubt as Investigating

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH	9am-1pm
F	Closed

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES



What Matters Most: Urgent Issues for Today

We asked Millennials (b. 1981–1996) and Generation Z (b. 1997–2012) to share what issues they thought were the most urgent to address. These two generations are now the two largest generations alive today. Which means they are the future of businesses and the future of our community. The future of our church requires that we understand them, care about them, and connect with them. Chances are that you will resonate with many of the things that matter to them and together we'll examine how scripture can inform the way we understand and engage with these issues.

February 6	Climate Justice
February 13	Racial Justice
February 20	Mental Health
February 27	Economic Disparity



Excelsior
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Capital Campaign Results

We are nearing the end of the Capital Campaign Fund Raising phase of **Transforming for Tomorrow**.

Our stretch goal was \$1,500,000.

As of today, we have commitments for more than **\$1,600,000**, and we still have a few more commitments coming in. This is a monumental achievement!

When we began this journey, Pastor Brooke said, “We are not just trying to raise money! **This campaign is about our spiritual growth as individuals, families and a congregation.**” The dollar total says that we succeeded in raising money. More important, the reason that we were successful is that almost everyone participated in the information and decision process, filling out surveys, attending gatherings, asking questions, raising concerns, voicing opinions, and returning Commitment Cards.

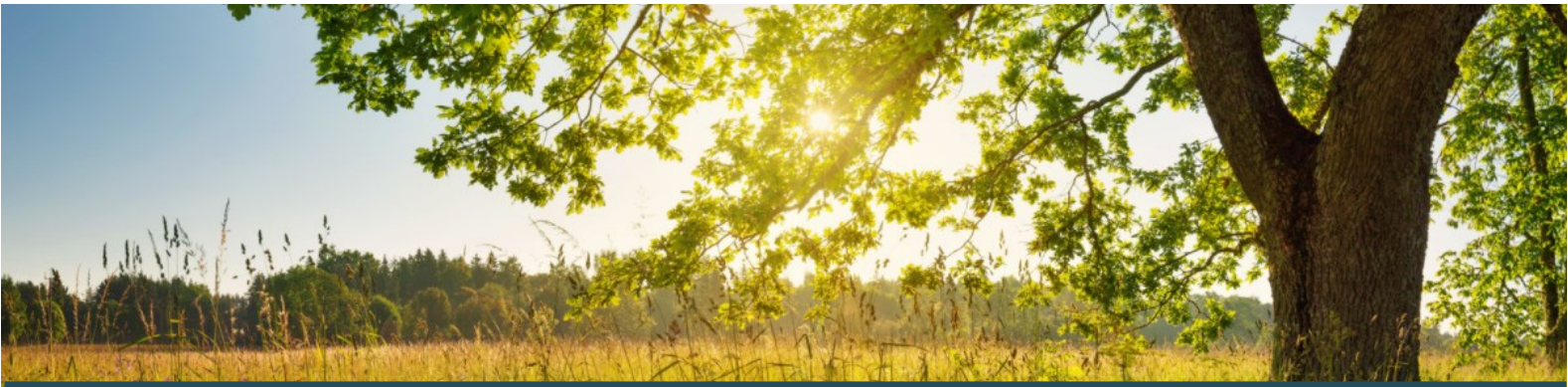
We had a dedicated team of 21 people on the Capital Campaign, each taking on their role and completing tasks, communicating updates and information, and staying on schedule so that the entire campaign ran smoothly.

And once again, the real reason this campaign was successful is because of the support, prayers and participation of the entire congregation.

Thank you!

Kristie and Bill Lester
Campaign Co-Chairs





LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Team has been busy the past couple months and we are currently focusing on the year ahead. Here are the highlights.

- Helped to support the staff in what turned out to be a wonderful Advent/Christmas season for the church. It was great to be “in-person” again for a meaningful Christmas pageant and 3 Christmas Eve Services. If you missed one of these remember that you can always watch later through the EUMC website.
- The Transforming for Tomorrow Capital Campaign wrapped up in December and announced to the Leadership Team that our goal was not only met but exceeded. We were thrilled to know that the members and friends of EUMC helped raise over \$1.6 M.
- So that we can stay on the timeline that was projected in the Capital Campaign the Leadership Team appointed two members to start working with Steve Colby, Property Manager, as quickly as possible to set in process the interviewing of construction firms. They will continue to work with the architectural company Station 19 who did the concept drawings.
- In January we will begin the formal process of selecting a building committee. Some positions on this committee will be for the duration of the project and some may be specific to certain areas. If you are interested in this team, contact Pastor Brooke.
- We are refinancing our current mortgage loan and discussing what bridge financing will potentially be needed during the 3-year timeline of the Transforming for Tomorrow campaign.

As we approach February 2022 EUMC’s Leadership will have operated for two years with this current structure. To rotate positions, we are continuing with the original plan to have 3-4 members rotate off each year. That means that some leaders served for only one year, some for two and now the last group will serve three years. This will allow for a normal rotation going forward of a 3-year term on the Leadership Team. The Nominations Committee will be looking at the open spots on the Leadership Team and all the Ministry Teams in the coming month and will present a slate of new leaders that will begin in March 2022. If you have an interest in serving on any of the committees at church, please let Pastor Brooke know.

We are still looking for help in filling the AV Sunday morning position so if you know anyone, please have them contact the church office.

The Leadership Team wishes everyone a Happy New Year and thanks everyone for their continued support of EUMC.

Kristie Lester, Communications

BUILD. COMMUNITY



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School

This fall in Sunday School we learned about stories from the Old Testament. When Sunday School resumes on January 16, we will be moving into the New Testament. Each Sunday School lesson includes a short video, Bible story, and group discussion, along with a craft, song, game, or group activity. We are always looking for additional volunteers, so if you would like to join us in Sunday School, please contact Kallie Stroh at kallie@excelsiorumc.org.



Christmas Program

We had great participation from our children and youth for this year's Christmas program. The Christmas program was called *Do You Hear What I Hear?* and was focused on the familiar Christmas song as we heard the story of Christ's birth. Thank you to all the children and youth who participated in the Christmas program and thank you to the volunteers who helped it come together.



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir brought so much joy and life to the Christmas Eve service. There will be a two month break for the Children's Choir and rehearsals will resume **Sunday, March 6**. A special thank you to Jeannie Shubitz for her work directing the choir.





YOUTH MINISTRIES

What We're Learning

We have been busy with service activities, like buying gifts for local organizations' Christmas lists, and have been learning about our beliefs and our history as a church. In the next few months, we will be looking at the theology and heritage of the United Methodist Church, and getting ready to make the decision to be confirmed.

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

January 2022

16: Sunday School/Confirmation resumes for grades 6-12 (10-10:45 am)

22: Service Event at Feed My Starving Children 9-10:45 am (meet at 18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen). **RSVP to Jordan by 1/17.**

23: Confirmation Conversation with parents after worship.

February 2022

6: Buck Hill Ski and Tubing Trip. **RSVP to Jordan by 1/31.**

SERVE. OTHERS



OUR COMMUNITY

Simpson Shelter

EUMC continues to support the Simpson Shelter through monthly dinners provided by this church. Our food is greeted enthusiastically with questions such as, “WHO sends us this great food? What organization are you from?”

If you are interested in helping serve and/or providing food, please contact Jane Pole (mpole73@gmail.com or 701-400-8754). February’s meal is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2.

Many of you have asked us when will the old Simpson Church be replaced by the new building that has been planned. The plan is to start construction during 2022. Simpson has opted to build on the site of their current shelter in the Whittier neighborhood, where they’ve been operating for nearly four decades. They intend to build a modern, welcoming space with a bold, comprehensive plan to support people experiencing homelessness - while continuing to embrace the dignity and uniqueness of each shelter guest.” They plan on finding a temporary shelter while the new one is being built.



Food Shelf and Pantry

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!

Mark Your Calendars

January 12: ICA Food Shelf @ 3-5pm
January 13: Simpson Shelter Dinner
January 15: Community Lunch @ 11:30-12:30
January 26: ICA Food Shelf @ 3-5pm

Looking to 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.

February 7: Simpson Shelter Meal @ 5pm
February 9: ICA Food Shelf @ 3-5pm
February 19: Community Lunch @ 11:30-12:30
February 23: ICA Food Shelf @ 3-5pm

STAND. FOR JUSTICE



FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

SOCIAL JUSTICE

During the month of February, as we focus on a variety of social justice issues, we are grateful to welcome two guest speakers. On February 6, Rebecca Buckman will speak on climate justice. Rebecca Buckman is a full-blooded Native Lakota woman. She is completing her BA in Communication Arts at North Central University in Minneapolis, MN.

On February 13, Rev. Dana Neuhauser will be preaching on racial justice. She is an ordained deacon who serves New City Church in Minneapolis and is also the Racial Justice Organizer for the Minnesota Conference.



Rev. Dana Neuhauser

Supporting Black-owned Business



Throughout February we are encouraging church members to read several books to learn more about social justice and the role we can play. We have a few books available at the church, purchased from **Black Garnet** bookstore. We encourage everyone to read from underrepresented voices and stories this month!

Black Garnet is a Black, woman-owned bookstore located at 2836 Lyndale Ave S in Minneapolis and the only Black-owned bookstore in the State. The shelves are primarily stocked with Adult and Young Adult contemporary literature by Black and racially-diverse authors. Bookstore owner, Dionne Sims, is excited to introduce everyone to underrepresented voices and stories, new and old, that support and affirm the cultures they're connected to. To learn more, visit their website at blackgarnetbooks.com.

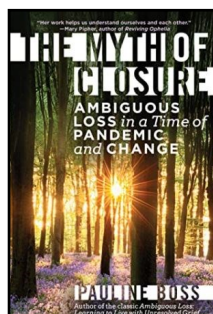


We need you!

This faith community takes all of us. 2022 is a perfect year to try something new and commit yourself to volunteering at Excelsior United Methodist Church. We have some new ways to serve through our building committee for our upcoming construction. We also need some new people to serve on our Social Justice team, Children's and Youth Ministry teams, Adult Faith, and Congregational Care. Maybe you have an idea for a new ministry we could start. What is your passion? What gifts do you have that you could share with us? Contact Pastor Brooke to volunteer yourself or discuss where might be a good place for you to plug in.

New Small Group

Jeffrey Johnson will be leading a class on Thursday evenings at 7p starting this month. A short read, this book looks at the different strategies we can use to cope with ambiguity and live with hope, despite our grief. Class runs on ZOOM from January 20 thru March 17. Contact Jeffrey Johnson to sign up.



Sarah/Lydia Circles

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

January 15 we are scheduled to serve the Free Community Lunch.

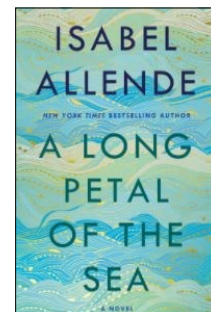
February 10 we will discuss the book *Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for Her Son* by Mindy Greiling.

Cover Girls

Monday, January 24 at 1pm in the Fireside Room at EUMC

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

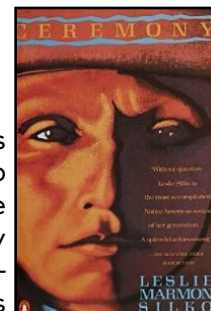
Allende has written an epic novel spanning 40 years and crossing several continents with political upheaval. It follows Roser and Victor who leave Spain after the Spanish Civil War ends and travel to Chile with a thousand other refugees. They make a new life in Chile, where they encounter many hardships, trials, and love.



Monday, February 28 at 1pm in the Fireside Room at EUMC

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

This fictional book is about Tayo, a young Native American who was held prisoner by the Japanese during WW II. A battered veteran, he returns home to Laguna Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico. He heals his mind and spirit by discovering his heritage, storytelling, and ceremonies of his people and culture. The author who was raised on this same reservation, compares Tayo's personal struggle for healing with Native American struggles to find their own paths in the modern world.



Contact Sue Judd for more information.

Esther Circle Events

Our January gathering will be catching a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Date/time TBD.

February we will do a potluck and book discussion of *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh.

Please contact Jill Jewell (952-688-8245, JLL.jewell@gmail.com) for more info on these fun events. All are welcome!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIVING

Making your gifts to the Capital Campaign

The easiest way to set up a reoccurring gift to the capital campaign is directly via our online giving page (<https://excelsiorumc.org/give>).

- Create a profile or log-in with your existing profile (this will include linking a savings/checking account)
- Enter the reoccurring amount in Capital Campaign
- Select the frequency that works best for you (weekly, monthly, etc.)
- Set a start and end date

If you need to make changes you can do so at any time – it's that easy.

Other ways to give:

- Check: Indicate Capital Campaign in the Memo.
- Stock: Contact the office for info on gifting Stock.
- EFT: Contact the office if you would like an EFT (electronic funds transfer) set up.



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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