

# NEWSLETTER

## BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
Sundays at 10am



SHORELINES  
June - August 2022

# PASTORAL UPDATE



On Memorial Day Weekend, I preached about letting go of our need to be productive all the time. The kids and I talked about what a slow summer would look like, with a “likey-like” list (what they wanted to name it) instead of a “to-do” list. We remember that Jesus took time to go to deserted places, away from people, in order to think and pray and reflect. We know that he took naps, in the middle of storms, and wasn’t afraid to say “no” to people.

In a few weeks, I will be off on a six-week renewal leave, where I hope to focus more on my “likey-like” list instead of a laundry list of chores. It’s a good time for me to reset and focus on what actually brings me renewal and refreshment. I plan to do a lot of reading, writing, napping, running, and walking around the Arboretum. I’ll take a trip to New York City with my mom and daughter and listen to the waves on Lake Superior on a getaway with Jeremy. Mostly, I will try to waste time in some of my favorite places, reminding myself what it’s like not to worry about what has to get done or what comes next.

While there will certainly be a lot of activity happening at church each week, with walls coming down and new spaces being made, I encourage you to think about how you might find renewal this summer. Where can you slow down? What makes you feel rested and full? What will you put on your “likey-like” list?

The pandemic forced us to slow down. A little too much, maybe. But it’s a bit startling to see how quickly we’re able to forget the pieces that benefitted us during that time. I recently heard someone who had to stay home because they were sick tell me how much they *enjoyed* it, because it meant they could cancel all their plans for the week. (They obviously weren’t too sick.) They were overscheduled and being sick was the only way they would have thought about not doing everything.

Let’s not wait to get sick in order to rest and slow down. Let’s take our cues from Jesus, who knew that he needed to take breaks and enjoy God’s creation if he was going to keep trying to heal it. If you need some prompting for a slower summer, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Go on a picnic
- Hike on a trail that is new to you
- Cook a new recipe
- Paint kindness rocks and leave them around your neighborhood
- Doodle
- Write a card to a friend or family member
- Sit on a bench and people watch

I look forward to hearing your stories of slowing down and resting this summer!

With gratitude,  
Pastor Brooke

**BROOKE HEERWALD STEINER**  
LEAD PASTOR

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BUILD. SERVE. STAND.





# CURRENT SERMON SERIES

## What Makes Us Cry

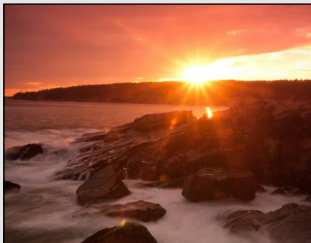
June Sermon Series on Joy, Sorrow, and Beauty



**June 5:** Joy and laughter can bring tears to our eyes. Join us as we celebrate the ways and times we cry out of delight.



**June 12:** We cry when we are overwhelmed by the sadness and pain in our lives and world. This Sunday, we will hear stories of congregation member Bob Sherman, who recently spent time in Poland working with Ukrainian refugees.



**June 19:** In the midst of joy and pain, there is great beauty to be seen. This worship service will focus on the beauty that moves us throughout our lives. We will also share in the beauty of important milestones, as we bless those who have recently graduated.

## OFFICE HOURS

M-TH  
F

9am-1pm  
Closed

# SUMMER WORSHIP

While Pastor Brooke is on renewal leave (June 20-July 31), we will be fortunate to hear from a few guest preachers. Rev. Melanie Homan, Rev. Lauren Rheingans (Univ. of MN Wesley Foundation) and Rev. Terry Benedett-Farmer will be leading us in worship. Please welcome them warmly and enjoy hearing new perspectives on our ancient text.

## Save the Date!

Outdoor worship at Lake Auburn Campground  
Sunday, August 14 @ 10am

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy God's great creation as we sing camp songs at a campground.



*Excelsior*  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

It's starting! Beginning June 6, construction will officially begin on Phase 1 of our remodel. Phase 1 includes the lobby, offices, upstairs kitchen, and children's spaces. This is scheduled to run through September. We hope to have access to our main doors and lobby for most of that time. Worship will remain in the sanctuary until Phase 2 begins, and coffee has moved downstairs. Staff offices have been relocated to the ICA room at the bottom of the stairs. Pastor Brooke's office has been relocated to the middle school room (directly below the old toddler room).

Phase 2 will be the sanctuary, and that is scheduled to happen September thru December.

During the construction period, please call ahead to make an appointment to come into the church building during the week. Staff hours will be flexible, depending on the construction process and noise levels.

A big thank you to everyone who helped us move at the end of May! We could not have done this without you. Many hands make light work!







## LEADERSHIP

Welcome to summer! Summer is an exciting time, especially this year at EUMC as we begin our church remodel! The goal of the remodel is to help us better meet our mission to Build Community, Serve Others and Stand for Justice. The Leadership Team is excited for all new possibilities the building changes will offer. Here are some spring highlights and things to watch for moving forward:

- Easter weekend was exciting with over 60 kids participating in the Saturday egg hunt and 110 people from our congregation and the community sharing time at our community lunch. Services included 50 more in-person participants than in 2019 with 97 families watching virtually.
- We continue to oversee the funding and construction details for the remodel. See the Building Team article for more information.
- In May, we celebrated Jordan Harper's time in ministry with us as Youth Ministries leader, Director of Community Engagement, and Financial Treasurer. We wish him and his daughter, Magnolia, well in their next adventure.
- Beverly Eckhardt joined the staff to fill the Financial Treasurer position. Welcome Beverly!
- We continue to search for a new Youth Minister and Community Engagement liaison. If you know anyone with skills in these areas, please direct them to any member of the leadership team.
- We're planning a "Keep EUMC Beautiful Day" clean up (June 18 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM) and a time to paint the annex (sometime in July). Watch the church emails for details.
- SO-HI Community Playground. After receiving approval from the City of Excelsior to place this community playground on our property, we're now working on securing 501c3 status so the park can be a separate entity from the church and receive funds for the project. Currently, we are waiting to hear back on some grant funding to kick off the fundraising portion of the project. Updates can also be found on the church website under the "About Us" tab.

As always, feel free to reach out to any of us on the Leadership Team with your questions or concerns.

Jill Jewell (Communications)

Julie Newell & Tyler Cronk (Finance)

John Fischer & Jim Lee (Trustees)

John Peichel (Chair)

Kaitlin Holm & Phil Pulitzer (SPRC)

Ann Marsh & Jason Fleck (Ministry Teams)



### Welcome Beverly

We are very happy to announce that Beverly Eckhardt joined our staff in May as the Financial Treasurer. Beverly will work closely with the Leadership and Stewardship teams in her role that includes responsibility for bookkeeping and tracking of offerings and other gifts. Prior to joining us Beverly had a successful corporate career in accounting and later in information technology. More recently she has leveraged her background in accounting to launch a bookkeeping business. Beverly enjoys spending free time with her husband, adult children and grandchildren. She will be in the office a day or two a week so please feel free stop in and welcome her.

# BUILD. COMMUNITY



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Kids Do Amazing Things!

This summer in Sunday School we will be learning stories from the Bible where kids are the main characters and who were called by God to do amazing things. We will also focus on the amazing things we can do, too! We will read Bible stories, sing songs, work on crafts, and play games related to the lessons. Summer Sunday School begins June 5. Volunteers are always welcome.



### Vacation Bible School

At WEIRD ANIMAL VBS, children will discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind! Registration forms are available on the church website.

**Dates:** August 1 - 4

**Time:** 5:30- 8pm Daily, dinner provided

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



### EUMC Young Families Camping Weekend August 12 - 14

Join in the fun at Carver Park Reserve on Lake Auburn! Each family is independent with their own campsite, tent/camper, meals and supplies. Reserve a campground today. Go to [threeiversparks.org](http://threeiversparks.org), search Lake Auburn Campground and click "Reserve a site online" link to book.





## YOUTH MINISTRY

On May 15, seven students confirmed their commitment to become members of Excelsior United Methodist Church. This ceremony capped off two years of service events, mentor conversations, and Sunday School lessons for the students, and they were excited to officially become a part of our congregation!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, cooked for, mentored, and taught our students! The confirmation process is over, but their time as members of the church has just begun. This should encourage us all to support them in their faith journey, include them in our ministry work, invite them to service events, and do everything we can to ensure they know this church is a welcoming home for them regardless of what they are going through at school and at home.



L to R: Natalie Black, Leanna Sorley, Emma Jacobson, Keegan Foote, Thomas Schenk, Addie Rouse, Marley Flower

## Celebrate Juneteenth



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. June 19, 1865 marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. To Black Americans it is their Independence Day.

EUMC's Anti- Racism Team notes that Juneteenth is for us both a day to remember what happened to Black Americans during slavery and the Jim Crow era and to celebrate what they have overcome. Let us truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Take time to listen to the voices of those who lived this history.

# SERVE. OTHERS



## OUR COMMUNITY

### Outreach Team Demonstrates Love for Neighbors

The Outreach Team is the driving force behind several EUMC programs—the food shelf, Little Free Pantry, and Community Lunch—that demonstrate how our church strives to show love for our neighbors. The free pantry is located on the east entrance to the church parking lot. A sign on the pantry door invites everyone to take what they need or leave something to share.

Steady use of the pantry, started in spring 2020, has required the Outreach Team to refill its shelves seven days a week, explains team member Wendy Judd.

She said the manager of the apartment building across the street told her she noticed a person getting stuff from the pantry late one night, and “thought, How does that little church provide that service every day? She was *amazed*.”

The food shelf has a dedicated room in the church, complete with refrigerator and freezer, where clients pick out food and household necessities. The program, run in partnership with the ICA, is offered twice monthly.

“Every pickup, we hear comments like ‘I don’t know what my family would do without this,’ ‘This is how we make ends meet at the end of the month,’ and ‘God bless you,’” Wendy says.

She tells of one client, “a wonderful woman whose husband died a couple of years ago,” who, in order to ease her loneliness, cooks food for her neighbors and takes it to them.

“At Christmas, we gave \$20 Target gift cards to every family that came,” Wendy says. “They were so grateful, you would have thought the cards were worth \$200.”

The team keeps close ties with His House Foundation, a local nonprofit agency that serves families in need. Martha, one of its founders, “has a knack for showing up right when people need her most. She lines them up with the appropriate resources that make a huge impact on their lives.”

Recently, a food-shelf client received a call from her son who was being treated in an emergency room. Martha, with help from a Spanish-speaking interpreter, walked the woman through the steps she would need to pay the hospital bill.

“Working with the Outreach Committee has been a real blessing to me,” Wendy says, but the biggest blessing is the members of our church.

“Every time we ask for help, you provide it. People will go online and donate \$50 for the Little Free Pantry. Food, hygiene supplies and money are just a request away. Thank you! Through you, we are ‘Loving Beyond Ourselves’.”



# STAND. FOR JUSTICE



FIGHT TODAY  
FOR A BETTER  
TOMORROW

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Caring for the planet and for one another

Excelsior United Methodist is all solar! Since April 5, 2022, the solar panels on the church rooftop have been generating more than 100 percent of the electricity that our church uses.

The process of converting to solar energy took several years of work, with members studying contracts, talking to other churches, consulting energy/utility experts, finding and securing alternative financing when the first option became unavailable, and working with the installation contractors and the energy company to make “Solar EUMC” become a reality.

It began in 2019 when members of the Social Justice Team learned about a program run by Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) to help faith communities finance the installation of solar arrays on their facilities.

Members of the Social Justice Team believe that using solar energy fits with EUMC’s purpose statement, “Loving Beyond Ourselves” and its mission, “to share God’s love by building community, serving others, and standing for justice.”

Through MNIPL, the church was connected to a special loan program to fund the panels. The annual payment for the loan is less than the church’s previous yearly electricity costs. In addition, over the next 20 years, the church is projected to save \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year over previous electricity costs. Over the 30-year expected life of the panels, the total electric cost savings is expected to be \$100,000.

“Saving money isn’t why we went solar,” says Bill Lester, chair of the Social Justice Team. “The real money savings are 20 years down the road. But reducing our fossil fuel use to zero begins today; the impact we have on those most affected by climate change begins today; EUMC’s commitment to climate justice continues, today.”





# CALENDAR

**Sunday, June 5**  
10am- Communion Sunday  
Summer Sunday School begins

**Monday, June 6, 13, 20, 27**  
7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast

**Wednesday, June 8**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

**Thursday, June 9**  
1pm- Lydia/Sarah Circle

**Saturday, June 4, 11, 18, 25**  
8am- Men's Support Group

**Sunday, June 12**  
10am- New Member Sunday,  
Summer SS  
11am- Social Justice meeting

**Sunday, June 19**  
10am- Graduation Sunday,  
Summer SS

**Wednesday, June 22**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

**Thursday, June 23**  
1pm- Cover Girls  
6:30pm- Anti-Racism meeting

**Sunday, June 26**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS  
11am- Twin Cities Pride March

**Saturday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
8am- Men's Support Group

**Sunday, July 3**  
10am- Communion Sunday  
No Summer Sunday School

**Monday, July 4**  
Building closed

**Monday, July 4, 11, 18, 25**  
7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast

**Sunday, July 10**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS  
11am- Social Justice meeting

**Wednesday, July 13**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf  
5:30pm- Outreach meeting

**Sunday, July 17**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS

**Sunday, July 24**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS

**Wednesday, July 27**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

**Thursday, July 28**  
6:30pm- Anti-Racism meeting

**Sunday, July 31**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS

**Monday, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast

**Monday, August 1-4**  
5:30 to 8pm- Vacation Bible  
School

**Sunday, August 7**  
10am- Communion Sunday,  
Summer SS

**Wednesday, August 10**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf  
5:30pm- Outreach meeting

**Friday, August 12-14**  
Young families camping at Carver  
Park Reserve/Lake Auburn

**Sunday, August 14**  
10am- Worship at Lake Auburn  
11am- Social Justice meeting

**Sunday, August 21**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS

**Wednesday, August 24**  
3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

**Thursday, August 25**  
6:30pm- Anti-Racism meeting

**Sunday, August 28**  
10am- Worship, Summer SS



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIVING

## Stewardship Update

Starting with Q1, quarterly giving statements will reflect progress towards both capital campaign and 2022 operating estimates for those who returned estimate of giving cards. We are off to a great start on our 3-year journey towards the \$1.6 million in capital campaign commitments, with over 45% already given. The stewardship team will continue providing regular updates on how we are progressing towards our goals.

We are pleased to see people continue to take advantage of the online giving page to set up and manage recurring gifts. If you have questions about giving please reach out to a member of the stewardship team and we will handle it confidentially.

The Stewardship Team: Kaitlin and Nate Holm, Bill Lester

## 2022 Is Off To A Great Start

We are on track to meet our operating fund pledges for the year which provides the ability to fund our ongoing operating expenses as well as our 2022 program initiatives. In addition, we have already collected nearly half of the pledged Capital Campaign commitments. A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the mission of our church, and for your extra support in the efforts to upgrade our church space!

We recently voted on acquiring a bridge loan to allow us to begin construction on the building in early June, and that money will be accessible as of June 1. We will also be reaching out to those who made a Capital Fund pledge and have not yet begun their payments. There is plenty of time to get your donations in, and several ways to do so. If you have questions about fulfilling your pledge, please contact Kaitlin Holm at kaitlin.j.holm@gmail.com. As of June 1, we also have a new treasurer! Her name is Beverly Eckhardt and can be reached at bev@excelsiorumc.org.

Julie Newell, Chuck Welle and Jordan Harper



## 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.

## CONTACT US

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**DIANE BAYSINGER**

*Nursery Childcare*

**KATY GLICK**



*Nursery Childcare*



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