



The KEY

... TO OPEN WIDER
THE DOOR OF THE
CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

June, 2018

Pastor's Page

Beginnings

I love beginnings. They represent endless possibility, hope, anticipation, even perfection.

When my eyes functioned better (another way to say I was younger), I did a lot of counted cross stitch, a craft that uses a special evenweave cloth, charted patterns, and color coded thread or floss. I loved choosing the elaborate picture to be stitched, gathering all the right thread colors, and anticipating both the fun of the stitching and the beautiful finished product that would emerge on the plain, blank piece of cloth.

Sometimes I threaded the needle and started immediately but there were times when all the enticing supplies would sit there for a few days although not necessarily because I lacked time. It was as though I felt that once I started, the pristine cloth and its endless possibility would be compromised. With each stitch, a pattern would emerge but the possibilities would be narrowed. And because it took a long time for all those x's to actually look like more than a blob of color on a plain cloth, it was easy to put down the piece and let the excitement and newness die away. I had to hold on to faith and vision to sustain the excitement of the new beginning.

Beginnings lie ahead for me and for this church community but they are different beginnings because now our paths are diverging. Even so, for you and for me, the beginnings bring possibility and hope. I pray that faith and vision will sustain us, keeping alive the excitement of this new beginning and all the possibilities it brings.

For you I look forward to new leadership to help find ways to share the community you have created and sustained with a greater number of people. I believe that the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the spirit will continue to mark you as a congregation and that gives wonderful potential for new and good things under new leadership.

See the next page!

2 *From the front...* As you know, I look forward to retirement, which you tell me will mean that I am busier than ever. With Steve retiring later in the year, I hope for more travel to new places as well as time for increased visits to my parents in Illinois and our children and grandchildren (a 7th is due in August). I will be knitting, reading, gardening, playing tennis, and starting a few other projects. I will also continue my service on Conference committees – Church and Society and Finance and look forward to visiting a variety of worship services although Prospect Park UMC will become my primary place of worship. Wherever my beginnings take me, they will be better and richer because of knowing you, the people of Newport UMC. I thank you for your openness to my ideas, for your prayers and faithfulness, for your stewardship of this beautiful place of worship and history, and for the friendship you have extended so generously. Thank you.

Linda



FLOCK WATCHER asks that you keep these people in your prayers:

Karen who is still in transitional care following a stroke; **Bob's brother Lee** who has heart trouble and is awaiting test results; **Oneida** whose husband **Dale** passed away recently; **Our church neighbor Bud** who fell while walking down the hill and broke his nose and cracked a vertebra– he will be in rehab for a while; friends from Hebron, IL UMC, **Bob and Deanna**: she has new cancer after fighting cancer for two years; **Catherine and Jim's friend Greg** whose cancer has returned. Two of **Doug's** brothers need our prayers: **Gary** for continued recovery from cancer surgery, and **Ted** for diagnosis and treatment of cancer; **people and families dealing with mental illness**; **people displaced by the eruption of Mt. Kilauea**; **victims of the school shootings in Kentucky, Maryland, Florida, and Texas, and the shooting in Antioch, TN**; **everyone** who faces **financial crisis** for various reasons.

We share our joys too: **Leanne, Timm, and the Be the Tool mission team** returned safely from Texas! **Jodi's son Tom and fiancée Nicole** will have their wedding here! (**first here in years!**) **Donald** has decided to attend **Hamline** this fall!

The **LEADERSHIP TEAM** meets on Monday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Martha Circle meets in the Fireside Room on Monday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m.

The **Red Rockers** will hold their luncheon on *Thursday, June 21 at NOON* at the North Pole Restaurant in Newport Center. If you are attending please contact Ruth Pommerening at 459-1970.

...Angel Closet has moved to Thursdays! The last regular opening was on *January 4* but you can call the church office with individual needs in the meantime. We will do our best to take care of families needing school supplies. Consult the list of supplies furnished by the school and grade your child will be attending. Church office phone: 459 2747.

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April, 2018 Financial Report

FUND BALANCES REPORT

The April 30, 2018 checkbook balance was **\$10,536.67.**

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

April envelope and loose plate giving was **\$4805.00.**

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

April income from all sources was **\$14,398.68**

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

April expenses were **\$8,402.48.**

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for April, 2018 was \$5,996.20.

Nothing major to report regarding the budget this month.

Please mention any projects you feel need doing or any concerns you have about repairs to Mike in written form. He will pass them on to the appropriate person.

Everyone is encouraged to maintain good stewardship.

Any suggestions for improving this financial report will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

John Brenneman

Church Bulletin Follies

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Don't let worry kill you off...let the church help.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The ladies of the church have cast-off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The eighth graders well be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

A warm Newport thank you to Gale Campbell! He'll be here every week.

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Red Rock Manor CRAFT SALE

Thursday, June 7th from 7am to 2pm

1421 10th Ave. Newport MN 55055



# JUNE 2018



## *Birthdays*

6-Esa Bay

Don Christensen

Don Strege

11-Catherine Groh

13-Sandy Erickson

14-Timmothy Clouse

17-Forrest Bailey

Butch Heidenreich

Kasey Stewart

19-Marilyn Campbell

26-Dalton Aery

28-Nancy Bonanno



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mon                                                                                                         | Tue       | Wed                                                                                          | Thu                                                                           | Fri                                          | Sat                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>NEWPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br><b>1596 ELEVENTH AVENUE (AT GLEN ROAD)</b><br><b>NEWPORT, MINNESOTA 55055-1649</b><br><b>JESUS CHRIST, HEAD; THE CONGREGATION, MINISTERS;</b><br><b>REV. LINDA GESLING, PASTOR</b> |                                                                                                             |           |                                                                                              | <b>Room Use Designations</b><br>C – Classroom<br>FH – Fellowship Hall         | <b>1</b><br><br>1:30 pm United Church of God | <b>2</b><br><br>1:30 pm United Church of God  |
| <b>3</b><br><br><i>2nd Sun after Pentecost</i><br><b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>4</b><br><br>9:30am Martha Circle<br>-FR<br>6:30 pm Leadership                                           | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br><br>7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH                                                    | <b>7</b>                                                                      | <b>8</b>                                     | <b>9</b><br><br>1:30 pm United Church of God  |
| <b>10</b><br><br><i>3rd Sun after Pentecost</i><br><b>9:30 am Worship Service-stay after to honor Pastor Linda!</b>                                                                                                          | <b>11</b><br><br><b>6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP @ CG Library</b><br><br><b>2nd meeting to be announced-</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br><br>7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH                                                   | <b>14</b><br><b>Head Start FLAG DAY program</b><br><b>10:30a-S-AllWelcome</b> | <b>15</b>                                    | <b>16</b><br><br>1:30 pm United Church of God |
| <b>17</b><br><br><i>4th Sun after Pentecost</i><br><b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>                                                                                                                                            | <b>18</b><br><br><b>2:00 pm Key</b> articles due                                                            | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br><br>Think about and volunteer for <b>special worship music</b> for Anthem time! | <b>21</b><br><br>Noon<br><b>RED ROCKERS EVENT</b><br>North Pole               | <b>22</b>                                    | <b>23</b><br><br>1:30 pm United Church of God |
| <b>24</b><br><br><i>5th Sun after Pentecost</i><br><b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>                                                                                                                                            | <b>25</b>                                                                                                   | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b>                                                                                    | <b>28</b>                                                                     | <b>29</b>                                    | <b>30</b>                                     |



Most people envision a garden when it is completed, with the desired plants flourishing in their places. But before that happens, the plot needs to be cultivated and the young plants planted, and the whole thing watered. Here you see Chris, Don, and Jill enjoying the benefits of modern technology. (*I thought that machines were there to make things easier...Ed.*)



## Flag Day



**What:** Flag Day Ceremony with the ROTC

**Where:** Newport Head Start, 1596 11th Ave.

(Newport United Methodist Church) Newport, MN

**When:** Thursday, June 14th at 10:30 a.m.

**Why: to show respect for our flag, its designers and makers.**

**\*\*\*Please come and participate; children will be singing songs and marching in a mini-parade.\*\*\***

Cookies and juice will be available after the ceremony.

**\*\*Remember to dress in red, white, and blue!\*\***

## -a Retreat in the City-

Founded 1861 — Celebrating 156 Years of Ministry

Newport United Methodist Church  
1596 Eleventh Avenue (*at Glen Road*)  
Newport, MN 55055-1649

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*The Key* is a monthly publication of Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 Eleventh Avenue, Newport, Minnesota. News items to run the following month are due in the Church Office by the 3rd Monday of the current month.



*A warm welcome  
awaits you . . .*

EACH SUNDAY:

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is available during worship. Adult Study follows at 10:45.

WEDNESDAYS:

Voice Choir at 6:30 p.m. - Handbell Choir At 7:30 p.m.



Voice and Handbell Choirs  
Adult Bible Study  
United Methodist Women  
Martha Circle  
Fellowship Dinner Groups  
Pastoral Care  
Pastor: Rev. Linda J. Gesling  
Cell Phone: 651-226-2738  
**Church Telephone: (651) 459-2747**  
**Fax: (651) 769-1216**  
Church e-mail: [newportumc@gmail.com](mailto:newportumc@gmail.com)  
Web address: [www.newportumc.org](http://www.newportumc.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Newport United Methodist Church is people of God dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus because we want to set an example so that we and others can grow in our faith.*