

APRIL CHURCHLETTER



Greetings to you all!!!

As most of you receive this April newsletter, we will be coming upon Holy

Week. This week, of course, leads up to Easter...one of the most holy days in the life of the church. I've been reflecting on Easter and came across this devotion for such a time as this: "He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen...by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead." Acts 10:41

What are some of the mental images of your life? What are those images that our minds return to again and again...those memories that never seem to fade with time? Undoubtedly for Peter there were many memories of Jesus that could not be forgotten...memories of Jesus' miracles, memories of His teachings, memories of His wonderful presence. But there was one indelible image of Jesus that took hold of Peter that was unlike any other...Jesus' resurrection. Peter had, with his own eyes, seen Jesus risen from the dead. Peter had eaten and talked with the risen Lord. The resurrection had truly happened and Peter would lay down his life for that truth.

Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is to be held in our minds and hearts as a living image of life and hope. "In His great mercy," Peter wrote, "He has given us new birth into

a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead."

Gracious God, we want to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection as a personal gift to us, not just as a historical fact. Help us to live a victorious life in Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.

Happy Easter to you all...Pastor Gary and Brenda

The office phone number is 651-280-0150

You can also reach the churches by email

at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the

list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

Faribault Senior Living

Gerry Erickson

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Norma Meyer

The Emeralds

Judy Smith

At Home

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Mill City Senior Living

Kaye Spike



Joys and Concerns

A belated "Thank You" to the St. John's Choir for providing special music at Sunday morning worship services since last Sept. Their last Sun. to sing was Feb. 22.

A big "Thank You" to all the men who sang in the Nerstrand Community Men's Chorus. Your special music during the Lenten mid-week services was much appreciated. The last service was March 25th.

The Nerstrand Community Men's choir has again produced a video for all to listen to, especially for our friends in nursing homes, assisted living and homebound. The video is available after March 29th and can be viewed any time at <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info> and click on men's choir. It can also be viewed on our Youtube channel-St John's UCC Faribault MN. Please pass the word so many can have the opportunity to watch.

Palm Sunday evening, March 29th at 8 pm

The Last Supper Drama at St. John's will once again be presented as a meaningful start to Holy Week. Please join us for the annual drama featuring a live presentation of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper.

For anyone wishing to participate in this annual event, please contact Gordie or Pauline Wiegrefe.

NUMC annual **Easter breakfast** will be held April 5th at 8 a.m. with worship service to follow. All are Welcome.

Sunday School at St. John's

St. John's Sunday School meets weekly from 9:30-10:20am. Students PreK through grade 8 are welcome, as are any adults interested in being a teacher or substitute. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions: 651-775-5594 or littlehesshouse@gmail.com.

Wednesday Wear

Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon
Remember that donations are welcome!
Any questions about being open or on donating,
Call-Linda 507-789-5376
Or Marlene 507-334-2143
Church phone 507-332-4089

Mark Your Calendars:

St. John's annual Vacation Bible School will be held June 22-26. Registration form & more details will be coming at a later date.



St. John's U.C.C. Council Meeting Notes

Council meeting called to order by Brian Bauer at 7:00 p.m. on 2.12.26. Brian welcomed new council members Matt Schwake, Deb Purfeerst and Joan Schwake (new position).

Pastor Liker opened with words of reflection regarding Lenten season, followed by prayer.

Reports:

SPRC - No report

Secretary - Minutes from 12.8.25 read and approved

Treasurer - January financial report presented and approved

Trustee - Doorbells installed at north and south entrances; will ring in Pastor's office. Seeking bids for lawn mowing which will be due April 1 st . Can be mailed to church or trustees. Michelle will also post on Facebook. Preliminary discussion about need for dead tree removal in 2026.

May consider use of outside vendor to down trees.

Old Business: Will have property insurance carrier present at future council meeting regarding costs/possible areas for savings. Michelle to follow-up regarding attainment of special giving envelopes.

New Business: Approved implementing QR code usage, as suggested by Steve Wille, to simplify giving for both donations and events. Reviewed Lenten schedule. Suggested consult with events committee regarding coffee time at St. Johns for Ash Wednesday service and also coffee time or meal for the March 11th Lenten service. Next council meeting March 8 th at 11:30 a.m.

Motion made and approved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Deb Purfeerst, Recording Secretary

Subject to approval

St. John's U.C.C. Council Meeting Notes 3.8.26

Council meeting called to order by Brian Bauer at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Liker opened with devotional reading from "Our Daily Bread," followed by prayer.

Reports:

SPRC - No report

Secretary - Minutes from 2.12.26 read and approved
Treasurer – February financial report read and approved. Discussion about usage of non-designated donations from non-members. Motion made and approved that such funds be placed in the general fund.

Trustees report – Still collecting bids for 2026 lawnmowing, until April 1. Exploring bids for robotic mower. Tax exempt paperwork completed and approved for Menards purchases; trustees/elders have documentation. Thank you to Mark and Jay Kindseth for building a large storage box for the Christmas tree/garland.

Old Business: QR codes for donations in use. Suggestion that QR image in bulletin be slightly enlarged to improve functionality.

Church supper prior to Lenten service on March 11th has been coordinated by events committee. Gordie reported everything is in place for Last Supper Drama on March 29th. Ash tree removal project discussed. About 70 trees in need of downing with stump removal. Matthew Schwake will obtain bid from Joe Petricka. Trustees will reach out via email to congregation, to determine what equipment and manpower available, if work were to be completed by church volunteers.

New Business: Deb Wille suggested use of memorial money from her mother, to replace kitchen counter curtains with pull down screens. Council thankfully accepted that offer and gave approval to proceed. Brian received request for recipes from Rice County Historical Society for a Rice County cookbook that is being planned. They are seeking recipes for inclusion from churches/organizations. Discussion that recipes from the 150th anniversary church cookbook could be included, particularly German Fest recipes. Email will be sent out to congregation with more information. Due date for recipe submission to RC Historical Society is April 1.

Next council meeting April 12th at 11:30 a.m.
Motion made and approved to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer
Deb Purfeerst, Recording Secretary
Subject to approval

Elders: Brian Bauer, Michelle Otte, Joan Schwake
Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Miles, Deb Purfeerst
Trustees: Zach Hertle, Jay Kindseth, Matt Schwake
Cemetery Board: Al Meyer, Kyle Keller, Steve Becher

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee



The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the months of March/April is: Jay & Trudy Kindseth and Mark & Mary Kindseth

Nerstrand UMC Administrative Board

Chairman-Duane Bailey
Secretary -Debbie Kerr

The 58th Annual meeting of the **Methodist Memorial Knoll Cemetery Association** will be held on April 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the Nerstrand Methodist Church.



QUILTING GROUP

Second Saturday Quilters

Second Saturday Quilters
There will be no April

meeting.

Contact Deb Wille 83159deb@gmail.com or 507-323-4813.

Wood Carving!



Steven Wille
507-323-481

St John's carving group will meet April 18th at 10:00. All are welcome to attend our sessions. No experience required.

UPCOMING EVENTS

-- The Combined **Maundy Thursday Service** will be at the Nerstrand UMC on Thursday, April 2nd, at 7pm. The Combined **Good Friday Service** will be at St. John's UCC on Friday, April 3rd, at 7pm.

Sunday, April 5th- Easter breakfast at 8:00 a.m.- NUMC

Wed., April 8---Nerstrand UMC Ad. Board meeting, at 11am.
Methodist Memorial Knoll cemetery Assoc.-N-1PM

Sunday, April 12th, -St. John's Council meeting at 11:30am.

Wednesday, April 15th-Coffee and Conversation at 10am at the Nerstrand UMC.

Sat., April 18- woodcarvers- 10:00am-SJ

Sunday Church Service Schedule for 2025:

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone:507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

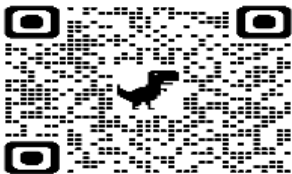
Website:<https://stjohnsunitiedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 651-280-0150 (Pastor Gary-personal).



Pastor- Gary Liker

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YS4K/home>



"Scan the QR code to give electronically-St. John's UCC"

