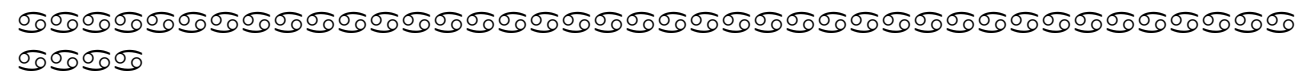


First United Methodist Church
418 North Rock Street
Minneapolis, KS 67467

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THIS ISSUE CONTAINS...

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Article written by Walter E. Jacobson, M. D.

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

The Origin of a New Year's Resolution

The Communicator



Ada - Minneapolis Community UMC

January, 2017

Christ's Ambassadors by Inviting, Sharing, Nurturing and Forgiving

From the Heart of the Pastor!

Happy New Year Church! I hope you are all ready to take the good we gathered in the past into the new year. The new year would be meaningless unless it is grounded on a firm foundation of past history, traditions, solid belief system, sound theology and determination to move forward unafraid! In 1834, Edward Mote wrote the words below, which in 1863 William B. Brandbury turned into music for us to sing today:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace, In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be-found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand!

This is the conviction with which I travel into 2017! I invite you all to join with me singing and reading Edward Mote's inspired words with full knowledge that nothing shall separate us from the love of God. Hear the assurance words of Paul, Romans 8:31 – 39.

"31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

I am ready for 2017. There is a feeling of revival and renewal out there. We must not be left behind..One way or another, it will catch up with us. On your Mark! Get ready! Let's go!

Thank you all. See you all in church!

Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Gary Kay; 2 - Craig Grimes, Isaac Kuder and Taisha Grindstaff; 6 - Ruth Briggs
7 - Leo Baker and Marilyn Baker
13- Elizabeth McDuffee, and Lori Haley
14- D Phillipson; 15- Tamra Lynn
17- Jill Runnion; 18- Dale Henderson
20- Keven Duggan; 23- Cherryl Watkins
25- Kathy McHenry & Braxton Grimes
28- Pearl Young; 29- Reuben Zerger
30- Marsha Griffin and Ashley Constable

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Norman & Denise Fuller
11 - Harry & Barb Kibler
28 - Craig & Kathy McHenry
Eldin & Jane Smith
30 - Lance & Donna Johnson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR JANUARY

1 - Joan Miles
8 - Puppeteers
15 - Cassie Bohl
22 - Dale Henderson
29 - Lance Johnson

LITURGISTS FOR JANUARY

1 - Lance Johnson
8 - Lance Johnson
15 - Tamala Lott
22 - Tamala Lott
29 - Dale Henderson

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

1 - Riley and Ethan Bohl
8 - Connor and Jordan Peck
15 - Braxton and Gracen Grimes
22 - Joel Abell and Brinley Boyer
29 - Paul and Kaleb Ocker

GREETERS

1 - Blythe Atwell and Paul Muller
8 - Blythe Atwell and Doris Davis
15 - Blythe Atwell and Doris Davis
22 - Roger, Diana, Jordan and Conner Peck
29 - Roger, Diana, Jordan and Conner Peck

NURSERY HELPERS FOR JANUARY

1 - _____ & Becky McDuffee
8 - Rosalee Tibbits & Becky McDuffee
15 - Shayla Boyer & Becky McDuffee
22 - Angel Constable & Becky McDuffee
29 - Barb Kibler & Becky McDuffee

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Following are the lessons that will be discussed in January.

1 - Praising God the Creator - Psalm 33:1-9
8 - All Creation Overflows With Praise - Psalm 96
15 - Praise God the Provider - Psalms 64; 67:6-7
22 - Praise God the Creator - Psalm 104
29 - All Creation Praises God - Psalm 148

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

January 7 at 10:00 a.m. UMW officers will meet at the home of Gail Eckart for a planning meeting for 2017.

January 17 at 7:00 p.m. is the UMW monthly meeting the Wesley Room. All women are invited.

SECOND SUNDAY DINNER....

...is sponsored by the PPR Committee. The hosts will furnish potatoes for the POTATO BAR.

Congregation may provide: toppings for potatoes, a side dish or dessert.

Cont. from bottom of page 6

my principles of forgiveness, acceptance, and love. That's the ticket. There's the message again: Want to do 22 impossible things before breakfast? First seek the kingdom of heaven. First be a person of Honor. And then with your faith you'll move mountains, and all things will come to you.

Why? Because when we get our mind focused on Forgiveness, Acceptance and Love, this removes the obstacles to the natural flow of abundance and prosperity which is available in infinite amounts to everyone.

So that's my New Year's Resolution: to first seek the kingdom of heaven. To first be a person of honor. To forgive. To accept. To love. As best I can. As unconditionally as I can. Wherever I am. Without exceptions. Without the need for appreciation or acknowledgment.

To have forgiveness, teach forgiveness to learn it. **Forgive To Win!**

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The Lay Leader's Corner

and the Change the World Conference that Slaughter hosted and she attended, when she spoke about "Unleashing the Laity" on Laity Sunday in October. The book is a call to the church to take the church outside of ourselves and our church walls and engage in mission beyond our comfort zone. Beyond your comfort zone. Pastor does that every day he lives here in the US. Being here is completely foreign to him. What can we do to do that? How can the Minneapolis UMC change the world? Think about it. Our new Lay Leader, Gary Kay, will be challenging you on these subjects in the coming year. Thank you for the privilege of being your Lay Leader these past six years. God bless the Minneapolis UMC and each of you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

P. J. Ocker, Rachel and Alex Kuder, and a friend of Rachel's colored pictures that were taken to the residents at LTC and Good Samaritan Center on the afternoon of December 18th. Accompanied by Melanie Kuder and Sharon Foust, the group caroled at the LTC and Good Samaritan Center that afternoon, before delivering Christmas goodies from our congregation to Rueben Zerger, John Fleming, Eleanora Leech and Pearl Young, our church members over the age of 90. The carolers returned to the church where they had refreshments of mulled cider and Christmas Cookies. A good time was had by all.

THANK YOU...

Pearl Young called the church office expressing her appreciation for the visit from the Christmas Carolers and the goodies they brought her. She was very pleased with the Christmas Caroling they provided her.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Megan Grimes, her helpers and her students in Noah's Ark Preschool need to be recognized in a big way for presenting a wonderful Christmas Message through word and song to bring alive the Christmas Story. Thank you to all involved to present a wonderful morning for the congregation, parents of the students, and any other guests who may have worshiped with us on December 11, 2016 to ready us for the upcoming birthday of Baby Jesus!

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

The Origin of a New Year's Resolution

Walter E. Jacobson, M. D.

Psychiatrist, Speak and Author, 'Forgive to Win'.

I've been asked why I'm passionate about teaching forgiveness. It's because all religious, spiritual and metaphysical roads I've traveled have led me here, to this one Truth borrowed from "A Course In Miracles": I forgive others for my own peace of mind.

In my late 20's I read the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, for the first time. Although I was impressed with the transformation of God's consciousness from the Old Testament God of anger, judgment, vengeance and war to the New Testament God of peace, love, acceptance, charity and forgiveness, I was more impressed with the implications of several thought-provoking biblical comments:

1. From the Book of Matthew: He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

If the above-passage is an accurate quote from Jesus of the Christ, that's pretty awesome and powerful. "Nothing will be impossible for you." That's not a vague and ambiguous assertion. That's a description of how Reality Manifestation works. That's the Secret right there. That's the Law of Attraction, the Law of Abundance. The power of the Mind to transcend time and transform space, and thereby create the reality of one's choosing! "Nothing will be impossible for you." WOW!.. I like the sound of that. And I find it hard to believe that Jesus of the Christ was exaggerating. His word was his bond.

2. From the Book of Mark: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." I don't take the word "rich" literally here. I believe what

was meant instead of rich is the word "greedy". "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a greedy man to enter the kingdom of God."

Greed is the ego. Greed is about competition and separation rather than cooperation and unity. Greed is about judgment, aggression and unforgiveness, not acceptance, tolerance and harmony. Greed is not of God and if you really want to get to God and Heaven and the Garden of Eden, of whatever else you understand to be a place of eternal unconditional peace, compassion and joy, then be of Service to Others. Help others. If you've got two coats, give one away to a needy brother.

3. From the Book of Matthew: "Blessed are the meek" for they shall inherit the earth."

Meek doesn't mean weak. Meek doesn't mean wimpy, Meek doesn't mean sucker or chump. Meek means those who are gentle, those who are nonviolent, those who are compassionate, those who are accepting of others, those who are unconditionally forgiving. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." The implication of this being that those who seek peace through violence and murder are not blessed and will inherit the wind.

4. From the Book of Matthew: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." This is very clear. The message is basically that if you walk a righteous, honest and forgiving path, you will give the life that you want. You'll get the goodies. First be a person of integrity. First be of service to others. First let go of anger, fear, judgment and attack. First forgive. And then "all these things will be added to you." In other words: You win. You Forgive to Win!

5. From the Book of John: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." In other words, All these things that I have done, you can do and more if you have faith in me, if you follow (Cont. top of page 7)

JANUARY, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7 Fellowship Hall reserved from 2:00 p.m. – UMW Officers meet @ Gail Eckart's @10a.m
8 Second Sunday Dinner – PPR Potato Bar	9	10	11 Ad Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Wesley Room	12	13	14
15 Human Relations Day Coffee Hour Starts	16 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	17 7:00 p.m. UMW monthly mtg. – Wesley Room	18 Dist. C FCCLA 12–3:30 p.m./Sanctuary ----- 6:30 p.m. Fin. Comm. Mtg.	19 9:30 a.m. Worship Comm. Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Minneapolis First United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
December 14, 2016

The Administrative Council of the First United Methodist Church of Minneapolis met for their regular scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza; Dale Henderson, Sharon Foust, Tamala Lott, Steve Baccus, Lance Johnson, Patti Bertrand, Colette Henderson, Pat Baccus, Deb Nichols, Tammy Krueger, Blythe Atwell, Al Miles, Joan Miles, and Arlen Bacon from the United Methodist Church of Ada.

Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza opened the meeting by reminding the committee of the Advent Season and the true meaning of the Advent Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. At this time of year, we greet and define family, husband and wife, children, country as we conclude this year, and start a new year and celebrate the one who causes us to be the church.

Minutes of the November Administrative Council Meeting were moved to be approved by Sharon Foust and seconded by Al Miles. All ayes.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Patti Bertrand who advised she will not pay M&M's unless the money is specifically ear-marked to do so. At this point, 76.83% of the M&M's have been paid. The balance will be paid if we come up with the money and then this decision could be appealed. We have opted to use the money toward paying bills to preserve the church. The congregation will be made aware of this decision.

There was no report from the Finance Committee.

Trustee's Report: Chairman Lance Johnson reported he is spending time moving items from our church to the Catholic Church for the Christmas Store. Lance encouraged those present to shop at the Christmas Store.

- The front church automatic door opener for the handicapped is not working. It was suggested that Lance start by checking the fuse above the door and battery in the door opener.

- The humidifier does not do an adequate job for the large sanctuary and that a commercial humidifier is needed. Lance will look into the cost of a commercial humidifier.

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No report from the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

No report from the Education Committee

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee plans to feed the FCA group again on January 25, 2017. Those helping to serve the group should be at the high school by 6:00 p.m. to start serving at 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson of the Worship Committee, Colette Henderson advised "The Hanging of the Greens" Service was well attended, and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Colette also announced starting January 1, we will have a new look to the bulletin for the Minneapolis/Ada Community.

Chairperson of the Missions Committee, Blythe Atwell reported \$520.00 was raised at the Cookie Walk/Christmas Only Garage Sale held at the Blue Store. Blythe also reported that Camp Horizon has a camp for the older children in addition to a camp for younger youth.

It was announced that Dale Parker is still in rehabilitation at St. Francis Via Christi Hospital. The Grand Avenue Methodist Church will be contacted to obtain an address for Dale.

A Letter of resignation of three members on the Board of Noah's Ark Preschool was received from Christi Ocker, Colette Henderson and Joyce Hamm. Some people for these positions suggested for the Nominations Chairperson to contact are Melanie Kuder, Sharon Foust, Angel Constable, and Gretchen Cleveland. Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza will look into how to officially handle the resignation of this committee and nominations of people to replace these positions.

An evaluation of the time to hold Sunday School and Sunday Services was made. Arlen Bacon was at the meeting to represent the Ada United Methodist Church's feelings about the time to have the services. Arlen reported that Ada would be in agreement with Minneapolis with times they choose to use. The consensus was to leave the time as it was for the summer services with the Ada service starting at 8:30 a.m., Minneapolis Adult Sunday School starting at 9:00 a.m., and Church Service and Children's Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

The Committee was encouraged to visit the people who attended the Free Methodist Church and invite them to join us in our church services now that the Free Methodist Church has been closed.

Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza reported there are two in our church family in the hospital, Kathleen Wedel and Ken Wedel, who we need to visit.

There is concern about the Minneapolis worship attendance fluctuating up and down, with the attendance being more on the low side. We need to get more children's activities started and more people involved in the Sunday School and Church Services.

The Church Conference went well.

Looking ahead:

- We hope for a better year ahead.
- Find ways to improve on what was done last year.
- Committees need to meet as often as they can.
- Administrative Council invites all committees to share more than just monthly.
- If Committees have nothing to report, discuss a scripture to help come together.
- Encourage small groups/bible studies to be developed to help the churches grow.
- Possibly have a different service/Valentine Conference the Sunday before or after Valentine's Day.
- We are still looking for Mission and Youth Leader Chairpersons/co-Chairpersons.

Sharon Foust expressed her thoughts about this year being her last year being on the Administrative Board to give her more family time, and travel time with her husband.

The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza.

Respectfully Submitted by
Joan Miles, Recording Secretary

The Lay Leader's Corner

By: Sharon Foust

This is my final column as your Lay Leader at Minneapolis First UMC. These past six years have seen some trials for our church and for me personally, but through it all God has been faithful to us. My goal when I became Lay Leader was to try to get more congregants involved in serving at our church, making our church more noticed in our community, and to get more people involved in Bible Study. These goals have been somewhat successful. Pastor April started projects when she was here, like the Pre-School, which is our most important ministry, I believe. Pastor Kennedy has brought new vigor to worship services and has done

things in the greater community. I have loved serving under them both.

We now have the Outreach/Fellowship Committee serving the FCA kids periodically at the high school. Last month when we were there the leader encouraged any of the kids who did not have a home church to come to ours. We need to do our part in making that happen. FCA athletes who do not go to any church regularly need to be identified and invited to our church. The Noah's Ark Preschool parents and grandparents who filled our sanctuary on the second Sunday of December need to be invited to attend here. (I was so sorry I missed the Noah's Ark Preschool program. I got violently ill that morning and could not come.) The Noah's Ark Preschool program is such a joy. Eleanora, as our out-going Membership Secretary, graciously extended an invitation to the Free Methodist members to come worship with us after their church closed. Thank you, Eleanora for doing that. We are thankful that Melba Bruce is now worshipping with us and will be filling in as our pianist when Parker needs time off. Thank you Melba. We welcome you to our congregation.

Pastor Kennedy has done Advent Bible Studies, Lenten Bible Studies, and a Confirmation Bible Study since coming here. He has started a ministry at our jail and has continued to promote his Zimbabwe mission CCIP with hopes that someone from our charge will accompany him this summer. He is well-known throughout our community because of his doing the prayers at the City and County Commission meetings. He and I go to the LTC & Good Samaritan Center each month with Holy Communion. We are blessed in doing so. He is the face of our congregation to Minneapolis. He would say that we are the face of our church; and that is true, but he is more easily identifiable than each of us as being a United Methodist here. I wonder how? Hmm...

Pastor and I both read a challenging book this past year, Change the World by Rev. Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg UMC in greater Dayton, Ohio. Our District Lay-Leader Susan Higbee referenced this book **Cont. on page 7**