



The Window

January 2018 Newsletter

First United Methodist Church

974 6th Street
Windom MN 56101
507-831-3284



Pastor: Mike McInnis umcpastor@windomnet.com

Christian Education & Youth: Robin Snyder umceducation@windomnet.com

Treasurer: Jody Derickson umctreasurer@windomnet.com

Volunteer Coordinator: Becki Wormstadt umcvolunteer@windomnet.com

Nursery Coordinator: Tammy Crowell umcnursery@windomnet.com

Office Manager: Laura Williams umcoffice@windomnet.com

Community Bible Experience: Read. Discuss. Grow. Repeat.



Many of us make New Year's Resolutions that don't last until January 15th. We lose our focus, or our resolve (or our scale!). Then we go back to our old ways feeling hopeless about ever making significant positive changes in our life. Ugh!

But what if you made a New Year's Resolution with over 100 other people? All "in it" together, resolved, committed to reaching the same goal? And what if you met weekly and encouraged each other, listened to each other, and learned from each other?

I'm inviting you—all of you; everyone at First UMC—to make a New Year's Resolution with me to read through the New Testament as we start 2018 together. We will read it over 8 weeks, and we will read it in a way that is simple, fresh and life changing!

This New Year's Resolution is called **Community Bible Experience**, and it is being successfully done by churches large and small all around the country and overseas.

Community Bible Experience (CBE) is a different way to read the Bible: less like a reference book, more like a story. CBE is a lot simpler than most Bible studies or church-wide campaigns. It consists of a few basic ingredients—a Bible unlike any other, a 40-day reading plan, and five discussion questions:

1. What's something you noticed for the first time?
2. What questions did you have?
3. Was there anything that bothered you?
4. What did you learn about loving God?
5. What did you learn about loving others?

That's it! You don't have to have any prior knowledge of the Bible. You don't have to know any theology or church history or doctrine or anything else overwhelming!

You just read the Bible in a story format, around 10-12 pages, five days each week (which gives you two days each week to catch up if you miss a day or two).

Then, you meet with a group of around 12 people each week and discuss the five questions above. Everybody simply shares as they feel led in response to those five questions. There are no wrong answers. Instead, new observations and fresh insights as we listen to one another, and the opportunity for God to speak directly to you, just as he always intended.

When you learn in this way, it's personal, practical, and applicable to your life today as the Holy Spirit transforms you with biblical wisdom and insight.

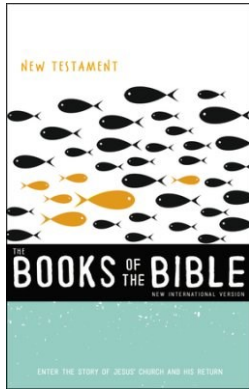
You can pick up your CBE New Testament at the church during office hours during the week or on Sunday, January 7th to get started. We will be sharing more information that Sunday and through e-mail to answer your questions and help you get started.

Not only is this a New Year's Resolution you can keep, it's one that can change your life forever!

Pastor Mike



January



The **Community Bible Experience** is here! Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate in this fresh approach to understanding the New Testament. Pick up books at the Welcome Center weekdays and Sundays.

Many groups are meeting: Sunday morning (3 different groups to choose from), Wednesday morning, and men are meeting Thursday morning at Hardee's. Signup sheets are at the signup center.

Church Redecorating

will begin Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00am. Men and women are needed and appreciated!



Potato Bake Fundraiser

By United Methodist Women

Sunday, January 28 at 11:30am
Free will offering. Join us!



You can make a difference!

Windom Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 3
1:30–6:30pm
Windom Community Center

To schedule an appointment:
call 1-800-733-2767
or sign up online: www.redcrossblood.org, and enter sponsor code: WindomMN

Thank you,
Windom Women of Today



Give Blood
for
Life!

There's a shortage—
can you help?

Thank You

Many heartfelt thanks for your love gift to us on Christmas Eve! We were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity! We are grateful to be here with you and look forward to what is ahead in 2018. May God richly bless you in this New Year and may we all continue to keep our eyes on Jesus, the One given to us!

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Mike & Kathy Jo



All-Church Potluck

Sunday, January 7 @ 11:30am
In honor of Pastor Mike's birthday (January 4th)

First Things Radio Broadcast



on KDOM is a great community outreach ministry by First UMC!

Thank you to all who have sponsored this outreach in 2017. Sponsorships for 2018 are available, with openings starting in March. We thank KDOM for keeping our cost low at \$34 for each 30-minute program. Please provide the following for each sponsorship:

- Who is sponsoring the broadcast
- Who it is in memory or in honor of
- Payment of \$34 for each broadcast

Once again, thank you so much to all who sponsor this outreach ministry!



Friendly Fellowship

Tuesday, January 23 at Noon

Someone from the Minnesota Highway Patrol will present a program for us. All are welcome.

Wanted: Kind souls to offer a ride to those who need it on Sunday mornings to come to church. Typically there would be one or two people or families who need a ride. Most volunteers like to drive their own vehicles for this ministry, but the church van is also available. For information, or to volunteer, please contact Becki at umcvolunteer@windomnet.com.



Work As Worship

A 1 Day Retreat for Business Owners and Leaders
Friday, February 23, 2018 at First UMC Windom
\$25 per person, includes catered lunch

Join other Christian business owners, CEOs and leaders who want their faith to impact their work. Nationally known speakers and leaders will speak at this live event, broadcast to us, and around the world. For more information, please contact the church office, or see www.workasworship.org. Posters and flyers showing the speakers will be in the lobby.



Wanted: Sound Tech Volunteers!

Do you enjoy music and technology? We are seeking someone who would like to be a part of our Sound Team. New team members would have plenty of training time with current techs, and would go on a rotation with the others. Please contact Becki Wormstadt at umcvolunteer@windomnet.com if you are interested, or if you have any questions. Our current sound team members would be happy to talk with you, too. Stop by the booth!

Because we are an integral part of our community, our church is a member of the **Windom Area Chamber of Commerce!** We will host the Chamber Coffee on February 2nd, and we look forward to hosting more of these events to invite people into our church. The dates of future events that we host will be announced in advance. The congregation is always invited to come and be a part of those gatherings. *Rethink Church Team*



Contact Info

Does the church office have your current address, phone numbers and email address? If you have a change, or if you aren't sure if we have your current contact information, please provide your info to the office. It can be emailed, phoned in, or written on a yellow pew card and put in the offering plate. Cell numbers are appreciated! See the newsletter cover page for the church's contact information. Thanks very much!



Church Office Hours



Monday—Friday
9:00am—Noon
1:00—4:00pm
Closed Holidays



Epiphany is the 12th day after Christmas. We celebrate the visit of the three kings (or wise men) to the Christ Child, signifying the extension of salvation to the Gentiles. Epiphany falls on January 6th.



Thank you from the Mission Team!

The Mission Team wishes to thank the congregation for your support, prayers and gifts for the year of 2017. Many wonderful projects happened this past year. The most memorable was our journey to The Banquet in Sioux Falls to serve an evening meal. The Missions Team packed food for the Backpack program at Winfair School, made Caring Bags for the SW Crisis Center, and “30 Ways to be the Neighbor” for Senior Dining. But there was much more mission work done by our church family: working at the sharing center, delivering Meals on Wheels, visiting and delivering bulletins to the Sogge Home, Mikkelsen Manor and Pine View, and many more things. Below is a copy of the Missions Report to the Conference.

Thank you for supporting the Noisy Collection; approximately \$1,080 was collected. And our six Special Sunday collections brought in \$500.

The Mission Team appreciates your support. Thank you, thank you. Have a Blessed New Year.

Remember Jesus' words “whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me.” Matthew 25:40.

2017 efforts to “heal a broken world” and to reach our neighborhood:

- Cable broadcast of our Sunday service each week
- Radio ministry outreach program we produce airs each week to a large area
- Sponsored children and finances to Hope 4 Kids International
- Vacation Bible School provided to all in the community who want to come
- Served Meals on Wheels 2 months
- Supported Coats For Kids for children in poverty
- Supported Christmas Cheer Program for children in poverty
- Provided McPrayer program for all community youth weekly during school year
- Our Youth program, involving area youth who are not from our church
- Supported the county Food Shelf throughout the year
- Provided cookies for UMC Lakeview Health System in Fairmont MN
- Provided a Pie & Ice Cream Social at the local nursing home
- Filled food bags for the backpack program for children in poverty
- Collected labels for Busy Bee Preschool located in our church building
- Collected Labels for Education for Red Bird Mission
- Provided Caring Bags for the SW MN Crisis Center
- Supported Emma Norton Services with supplies and monetary donations
- Supported local Senior Dining and Nutrition Program
- Supported Cottonwood County Salvation Army
- Supported Child Safety, Drug and Crime Prevention Education Program for children 4-18 years
- Supported Operation Kid 2 Kid
- Provided visitation to care facility residents
- Supported UMCOR
- Served at the Banquet, a food serving mission
- Provided jail ministry
- Supported Chen student ministry in Japan
- Supported high school senior Eagle Project

Giving Made Easy

Did you know that you can provide your financial gifts to the church by automatic withdrawal? You control the amount and how it is directed (church ministry, missions, roof loan, etc), and you can change it at any time.

We can set up the transaction with any bank in the United States. The form is available from the church office, or by mail, email, or church mailbox.

You are also welcome to use the yellow pew cards to let us know if you are interested.

First UMC Finance Committee



Weather Announcements

Here are some weather notes as they apply to church activities:

When Windom Area Schools close due to weather, all church activities are also canceled, including all children's activities.

If an adult group leader decides to hold their group's activity during a closing, they will notify their group members of that decision (otherwise the default is cancellation).

If you have a question about whether a group will meet or not, please contact that group's leader.

The church office has the option to close during a school closing.

For severe weather on Sunday mornings:

Please check with the following media for weather-related service cancellation announcements. KKOJ broadcasts live on Sunday mornings.

Windom KDOM radio 1580AM

Windom TV cable channels 3 and 24

Jackson KKOJ radio 1190AM

Closing announcements will also be posted at www.windomfumc.org



Find us on:
facebook

[Facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom)

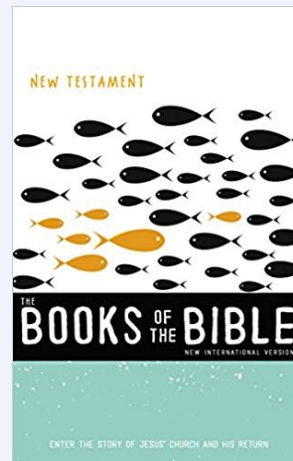
'Like' the church's Facebook page to receive postings on closures.'

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JANUARY 2018

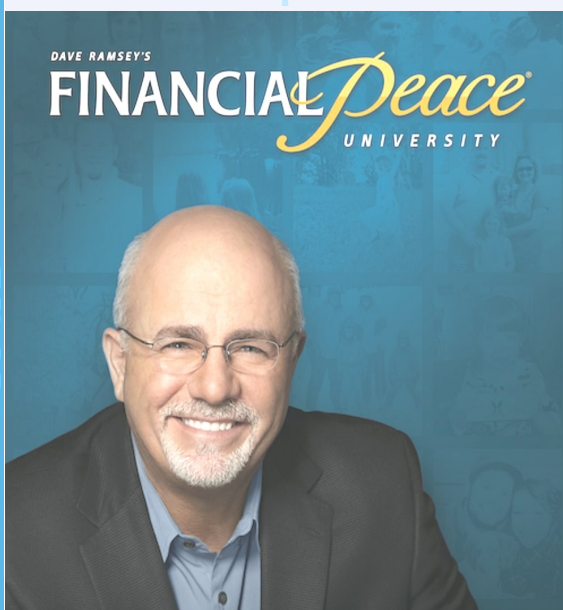
Jesus is the Reason for the Season! The children shared the "Journey to Bethlehem" by telling of Jesus' birth and the reason for this wonderful season on December 10th. What a great job they did! Thank you to everyone who helped in the preparation of this program. So many people to thank! Thank you!

Please join one of our many small groups available for the Community Bible Experience! Many days and times to choose from. Sign ups are in the church lobby, with a 12 person maximum for each group. Sign up today!



Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ KFC meets on January 3rd at 6:30 in the art room.
- ◆ Sunday School & Life groups start back up on January 7th for all ages.
- ◆ Youth groups meet Sunday, January 7th from 3:00-5:00. This will be for **BOTH** groups.
- ◆ January 7th at 4:00pm Financial Peace University meets in the Fireside Room.
- ◆ January 10th confirmation begins the new year at 6:30.
- ◆ Wednesday Bible study begins on January 10th at 9:00am. We will be discussing the Community Bible Experience.
- ◆ Youth groups meet January 28th. 5:00 for Junior high ~ 6:30 for Senior high.



Join us for *Financial Peace University!* Beginning Sunday, January 7th at 4:00pm in the Fireside Room. This is a 9 week study. The cost is \$109.00, but you will be so glad you invested in your future with this class. We will be led by Joel Luitjens. Please see Robin if you have any questions. You can call 831-3284 or e-mail umceducation@windomnet.com



Our 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School Class!



Our first and second graders have been a busy class at FUMC. They just finished with the Christmas program *A Journey to Bethlehem*. Many in the class were angels, shepherds, stars, and barnyard animals. Look for their smiling faces as they go up and down the hallway on the way to music class. This class really adds sparkle to our congregation!



Renee Green and Rhonda Elston
Our 1st & 2nd grade teachers.





What a great time the carolers had at the Sogge Home Campus! Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and vocal talents!





Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

All United Methodist churches are connected through shared mission and ministry and united in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Check out these news tidbits from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which serves all 350 United Methodist churches in the state.

- **Accelerating our rate of launching new congregations:** The Minnesota Conference has been reproducing (or launching new congregations) at a rate of about half of 1 percent annually. "We aren't reproducing at a rate fast enough to take advantage of opportunities or to offset our own decline," explained Rev. Ben Ingebretson, Dakotas-Minnesota director of new church development. Ingebretson is working to accelerate that growth rate to 3 percent. There are about 350 churches within the Minnesota Conference. So, growing by 3 percent of that number annually would translate to starting roughly 10 new congregations each year. The plan is to ramp up growth gradually over the next 9 years until the conference is starting 10 new church plants or new services at existing congregations each year.
- **Volunteer in Mission Opportunities:** Our hearts go out to people who are affected by disasters across our country. Many United Methodists in Minnesota want to help. First responders, local authorities, and trained United Methodist Early Response Teams are at disaster locations right now, but clean-up efforts will continue for many months. That's when Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams will be needed. If you feel called to start planning a VIM trip, visit tinyurl.com/minnesota-vim to find contact info for people coordinating recovery efforts underway in eight states.

BRIGHT SPOTS IN OUR MIDST

- **New City Church launches with packed house:** Launching a weekly worship service is like throwing a birthday party and not being sure if anyone will come. In mid-November, 15 minutes before New City Church's first service was set to begin, the room was empty. Earlier that morning, Rev. Tyler Sit had texted his leadership team, "Whatever happens today and whoever shows up, I see God in the work we have done and I am proud of us!" Then the room started filling, and it *kept filling*. The first service of the new church ended with 127 adults, plus kids. Sit thanks all the churches who have prayed for and supported New City Church. He reports seeing the Spirit at work in the first few weeks of worship.
- **The Event 2017 brings together 320 youth:** The weekend of Nov. 3-5, over 320 middle school youth and their leaders gathered at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd for the statewide Jr. High Event. The theme this year was Named and Claimed. Pastor Rachael Warner spoke about how we are children of God and the ways God has made each of us unique. Boiling Point band offered music at all of the large group gatherings. Through art, games, and role playing, youth explored what it means to be named and claimed children of God and how they are called to live that out in everyday life. The communion service offered youth a chance to remember their baptism and celebrate being the body of Christ. The weekend provided many opportunities for youth to grow in faith and fellowship with friends from all over the state.
- **Minnesota UMC congregations donate thousands of pounds of relief kit materials:** As of last count, Minnesota UMC churches and individuals have donated 18,860 pounds of materials for relief kits in response to this fall's three hurricanes.

STAY CONNECTED!

"Like" the Minnesota Annual Conference on Facebook, follow the conference on Twitter and Instagram (@MinnesotaUMC), and sign up (at www.minnesotaumc.org) for e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit www.minnesotaumc.org.



We are looking for volunteers in your area!



Volunteers are a vital part of the Community Transit program of United Community Action Partnership. They provide needed transportation to people from all walks of life when bus service cannot accommodate their request.

Volunteers use their own vehicles and are reimbursed for their mileage. Trips vary from short, in-town trips to out-of-town trips to places like Minneapolis, Willmar and anywhere in between. Volunteers can choose their days and hours of availability, and always have the option to decline a trip.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer driving, return the bottom half of this page to: **United Community Action Partnership, 1400 S Saratoga Street Marshall, MN 56258.**

Please send information about Community Transit to:

Name _____

Address _____

I am interested in receiving:

_____ Information about the services provided by Community Transit

_____ A volunteer application

First United Methodist Church ~January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! Church office closed today week	2 9a Redecorate Church 9:30 UMW Executive Meeting 6:00p Worship Broadcast Ch 3	3 3:30p Lois Circle 6:30 Kids For Christ 7:00 Finance Team 7:00 ReThink Team	4 Pastor Mike's Birthday 6:30a Men's Breakfast	5 6:30a McPrayer	6
7 9a Sun School 9:00 Coffee 9:00 Adult Groups 10:30 Worship 11:30 All-Church Potluck 11:30 First Things 3:00p All Youth 4:00 Financial Peace	8	9 12:30p Missions Team 6:00 Worship Broadcast Ch 3	10 9:00a Bible Study 2:00p Friendship Circle 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Trustees 7:30 Staff Parish 8:30 Ad Council	11 6:30a Men's Breakfast	12 6:30a McPrayer	13
14 9:00 Sun School 9:00 Coffee 9:00 Adult Groups 10:30 Worship 11:30 First Things 4:00 Financial Peace	15 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Holiday - Church office closed	16 6:00p Worship Broadcast Ch 3	17 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	18 6:30a Men's Breakfast	19 6:30a McPrayer	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee 9:00 Adult Groups 10:30 Worship 11:30 First Things 4:00 Financial Peace	22	23 Noon Friendly Fellowship Potluck & Program 6:00 Worship Broadcast Ch 3	24 9:00a Bible Study 10:30a Remick Ridge Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Bible Study	25 6:30a Men's Breakfast	26 6:30a McPrayer	27
28 9a Sun School 9:00 Coffee 9:00 Adult Groups 10:30 Worship 11:30 Potato Bake 4:00 Financial Peace 5:00 Jr Hi Youth 6:30 Sr Hi Youth	29	30	31 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation		Corrections? Please let the office know – 831-3284 or UMCOffice@windomnet.com	

First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Rhonda Elston Ron Flatgard Pastor Mike Nick Raverty	5	6 Mick Christians	7 Claire Fast Sam Fast
8 Darris & Sharon Snelling	9 Paul Buhler Sue Frederickson Ally Hodkin	10	11 Terri Jones John Roll	12 Brian Hedman Barb Hunter Brittany Knigge	13	14
15 Nathan Luitjens	16 Rachel Derickson Lakota King	17 Robyn Berghorst	18	19	20 Jerome Smith	21 Emma Larsen Todd & Darla Deutchman
22	23 Shelby Mattson	24	25	26	27 Steve Fresk Wayne Jeffrey Sharon Snelling	28 Ava Caviness Keith Schroeder Ava VanNorman
29 Jody Vanderwerf	30	31 Goody & Audrey Youngren Anniversary		Black: Birthday Blue: Anniversary	Please let the office know if we are missing anyone: 831-3284	