

# Livewire



**Hillside United Methodist December 2023**

**WORSHIP 11 AM EVERY SUNDAY!**

## Pastor's Message

**Greetings friends,**

Thanksgiving is behind us and now we look forward to the season of Advent! The church worship calendar is filled with times of fasting and times of feasting. This cycle of reflection and celebration reminds us that both are necessary as we seek to follow Jesus well.

Advent is a season of fasting that is followed by the Christmas season of feasting. It isn't traditional to do any physical fasting during Advent; we usually save that for Lent, but one of the other aspects of the next four weeks of church life together is to focus on repentance. As we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world, we recognize that the sole purpose of his incarnation was and is to overcome sin and death so that we may live by faith.

During Advent we will be focusing on Jesus' incarnation and using John 1:14 as our guide during our, 'A Neighbor Like No Other' series. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (NIV). But it is the Message version of John 1:14 that brings the true meaning home, literally, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood" (MSG). During Advent we will be considering what it means that Jesus brings hope, love, joy, and peace to the neighborhood and how we make these things a reality in our neighborhood by imitating Him.

I hope you can join us for this exciting time of looking, "with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2, NCB).

Breathe Peace,  
Rev. Jeremy Woodley

*'The Word became  
flesh and blood,  
and moved into the  
neighborhood.'*  
... Message Version

### HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Website: [hillsideumchurch.com](http://hillsideumchurch.com) Email: [hillsideumcduluth@gmail.com](mailto:hillsideumcduluth@gmail.com)



**January 2024 Livewire deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 14 2023**

# Christmas Eve Service: Welcome to the Neighborhood

You, your family and friends are invited to the 4 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at Hillside United Methodist Church. There will be a message, Christmas music, including singing along to Christmas carols, a children's message and the lighting of candles.

Pastor Jeremy will present the message, "Welcome to the Neighbor," the culmination of his Advent sermon series on "Advent 2023 "A Neighbor Like No Other."

Pastor Jeremy will present a sermon series this month on Mr. Rogers idea of a neighborhood and will set up a living-room space in the altar area, complete with the Christmas tree and a "fireplace" for children hanging their stockings. Children can take their "stockings" with them after the Christmas Eve service. Sounds like fun!

On a serious note, this special worship service celebrates the birth of our Savior, Jesus



Christ entering our neighborhood. Please join us Christmas Eve. We usually have a wonderful turn-out.

## Church Conference

### Participate in Business of Our Church

Our annual Church Conference will be 7 PM, Thursday, Dec. 7 here at Hillside. This is our opportunity to meet with our District Superintendent, Rev. Laurie Kantonen, in conducting the official business of Hillside United Methodist Church.



Please make every effort to attend this meeting and celebrate the ministry of the church and look forward to what is next as we follow God's leading.

Business will include members voting on the church budget and leadership board for 2023.

## Think Red: Do You Want....

...to help Hillside Church look more festive this year? Are you willing to buy a poinsettia to do so?



If you are, just place your check (or cash) for \$13 for an 8-inch plant, in an envelope and either drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church by Dec. 15.

We will then buy the plants and place them around our building. The more the merrier! Quite festive.

***From your Fine Arts Committee!***

## Donate New Toys for Christmas

Hillside UMC's focus this fall is Union Gospel Mission. We continue that momentum by collecting new toys for UGM's Christmas toy drive. You may drop off donations at church anytime between 9 AM-2 PM Tuesday and Thursday or Sunday mornings. We need your toy donations by noon Sunday, Dec. 10.



## Christmas offering Goes to Union Gospel Mission

This year's Christmas offering will be given to The Union Gospel Mission (UGM). For more than 100 years, UGM has provided food, shelter and hope to neighbors in need.



In the past two years, UGM has distributed over 200,000 meals. UGM recently started up their hot meal program again offering warm lunches and dinners during the week.

In addition to their meal program, UGM operates the Martin Inn, located upstairs of the dining hall. The Martin Inn provides low-income, transitional housing. UGM works with other housing entities to ensure rooms are filled. Short-term residents are connected to resources to secure permanent housing options.

## December 2023 Worship

# Advent 2023 "A Neighbor Like No Other"

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

### The Big Idea

Jesus brings hope, love, joy, and peace to the neighborhood. We make these things a reality in our neighborhood/home by imitating Him.

### Chancel Area Setup

The series is based on the Mr. Rogers idea of a neighborhood and entering into a living-room space with the Christmas tree in the corner and a fireplace in front of the altar table with stockings hanging on it for the kids to take with them after the Christmas Eve 4:00 service.

- December 3: Sermon: "Hope joins the Neighborhood"  
*Matthew 17: 24-27* (the Message translation)
- December 10 – Sermon: "Love Joins the Neighborhood"  
*John 5:19-29* (Message Translation)
- December 17 – Sermon: "Joy Joins the Neighborhood"  
*John 8:23-30* (Message translation)
- December 24 – (11 AM Service) – Sermon: "Peace Joins the Neighborhood"  
*Luke 7:36-50* (Message translation)
- December 24 – Message: "Welcome to the Neighborhood"  
*Luke 2:1-20 & John 13:34-35*
- December 31 – Christmastide



### Call for Cookies

## Request from St. Louis County Jail

St. Louis County Jail Chaplain Kathryn Bell is asking for donations of a dozen cookies (homemade or from bakeries). Frosted cookies, chocolate chip cookies – the choice is yours. Bring your cookie donations to Hillside church by Sunday, Dec. 10. Chaplain Bell requests that **no cookies contain nuts**

**or coconut**, please. The cookies will be served for Christmas parties in units at the jail. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board of the Fellowship Hall.

Jail is not the best place for the Christmas spirit. No Christmas trees, lights or ornaments. However, cookies for Christmas seem to help. Reports from the jail indicate that in passing out cookies to inmates, their smiles were genuine. Christmas parties in the units will also include reading the Christmas story, singing carols and playing Christmas bingo.



## Still Time to Fill Out Giving Cards

Thank you to everyone who has turned in "estimate of financial giving commitment" cards for 2024. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please do so as soon as you are able.

The commitment cards will enable us to better plan for our mission and ministry in 2024. Pledge cards are available if you need one. Just email or call the church office. Your offering goes toward an investment for the care and upkeep of our church building, our Sunday services, and our outreach to the community.



*Tithes and offerings*

### FINANCIAL GIVING FOR NOV. 5 - 26 AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH \$8,177.83

Nov. 5	giving	\$ 1,215.00
Nov. 12	giving	\$ 2,251.00
Nov. 19	giving	\$ 1,079.00
<u>Nov. 26</u>	<u>giving</u>	<u>\$ 814.00</u>
	Total	\$ 5,359.00
	Balance –	\$ 2,818.83

## Seeking Custodian; Thanks Kiki

For the past several years, Kiana Langdon-Larson has done a great job at keeping our church clean and the lawn mowed. She will be graduating in the spring, off on a couple of vacations and then college.



We are looking for a replacement for Kiki who can work a few hours a week, beginning in the spring. If you are interested in this position at Hillside Church, please see either Sandy Wilmot, Chair-Staff, Pastor Relations Committee or Carole Hawkinson, Chair, Board of Trustees.

We wish you well in your senior year, Kiki, and all the adventures you have lined up following graduation.

## Thinking of Our Staff Members...

Dear Church Family,  
The holidays are coming, and we are hoping you would like to contribute to Christmas bonuses for Emma, Kiki, Jeannette, Brenna and Pastor Jeremy. If so, please place your contribution in your giving envelope and write "Christmas Bonus" in the "Other Offering for..." section. We request that you send your offering envelope with this designated contribution by Dec. 15.

Thank you for thinking of our support staff and pastor during this holiday season.

## If You Have an Emergency

Please call Pastor Jeremy on his cell at 281-825-2174. If you cannot reach him, contact Carole Hawkinson at 218-606-1236 or Carolyn Dahl at 217-727-6342. They usually know how to reach the pastor!

## Happy December Birthday to Hillside Friends!

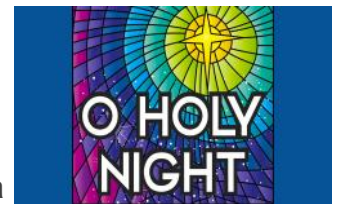
4 Joanne Holmes	18 Amanda Pederson
8 Doug Wendland	19 Linda Tomasek
14 Christine Lindgren	31 Julie Manisto
15 Karen Bailey	31 Sue Patullo

If you don't see your name here, please call the church office so we can add you to the birthday list. Hillside UMC's phone number is 218-727-4257.



## College of St. Scholastica Concert Good Music for a Good Cause

Every year, the College of St. Scholastica's Music Program hosts its "O Holy Night" concert. During the concerts, they pause and call for a donation to Chum. This year's concerts will be at 7:30 PM Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, at The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, 2801 E. 4th St., Duluth.



Expect to be filled with Christmas spirit during the concert that features choirs, brass ensemble, and string ensemble from the College of St. Scholastica. This group is incredibly talented, and tickets are highly sought after. Obtain tickets online at the College's website:

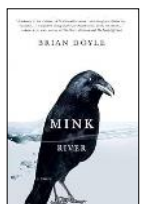
[thecollegeofstscholastica.ticketspice.com](http://thecollegeofstscholastica.ticketspice.com)

The College St. Scholastica and the a local nonprofit human services agency, Chum, partner to raise donations for their work with low income and homeless community members.

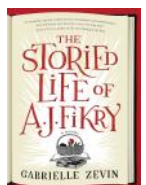


## Hillside UMC Book Club

The Hillside UMC Book Club will have a Christmas Party at 6:30 PM Thursday, Dec. 7 and then a zoom meeting at 7 PM to discuss December's book, "Mink River" by Brian Doyle. If we don't have your email, we won't be able to connect via Zoom. Let Sandra Wilmot know another way to reach you so a Zoom connection can be made.



The book for the January Hillside UMC Book Club meeting will be "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin. That meeting will be 7 PM Thursday, Jan. 4.



If you would like to join the book club or have any questions, please contact Sandra at 218-348-2712.

## Please Keep Us in Your Prayers

Marge Dahl, Claren Suomala, Bea Jacobson, and Shirley Olson.



## Street Outreach Needs Your Help

Chum writes: "We're reaching out with an important request. Homelessness in Duluth is a pressing issue, and we need your help... Our Street Outreach Program, led by Deb Holman, is on the front lines, offering shelter, food, and support. But just one person cannot do it alone. One person cannot serve the needs of our entire community. This is why we are expanding our Outreach team so that we can better serve our neighbors forced to sleep in tents, behind buildings, or any other place no one should have to live.

"We're setting a bold goal of recruiting 500 compassionate individuals - one person for each of the 500 people routinely sleeping in places unfit for human habitation. Can you be one of those 500? Your contribution will bring one of them in from the cold of Duluth's harsh winter.

"And here's a challenge to change we're asking you to contribute \$100 and rally 5 like-minded friends to do the same. Your generosity will bolster our Street Outreach Program, making a significant impact in our community. With your support, we can end Duluth's rising homeless crisis. Let's offer vital support to those who need it most." To donate, visit the website:

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Chum>

## CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil

Join Chum Saturday, Dec. 24, at the Minnesota Power Plaza in Duluth for the CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil – sign in at 5 PM and the vigil service at 5:30 PM.



The event provides an opportunity to remember those who have died in the past year who have also spent much of their lives homeless or advocating for those who are homeless. This is a sacred moment in time when we pray and remember.

CHUM Contact Information:  
Administration 218-720-6521  
CHUM Center 218-726-0153  
Food Shelf 218-727-2391  
[chum@chumduluth.org](mailto:chum@chumduluth.org), [www.chumduluth.org](http://www.chumduluth.org)



## Loaves & Fishes

I give thanks to God every day, but the month of November is a special month when we all remember what we are thankful for.

On Tuesday Nov. 14, we were able to make a one-pan Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless men at the Dorothy Day house. We put sliced turkey with gravy, cranberries, Stove Top dressing, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes and more gravy on top. We made a cranberry jello salad with cranberries, pineapple, mandarin oranges. For dessert, we sent four homemade pumpkin pies. Along with that, we sent rolls, butter, milk, green olives, common black olives, a can of coffee, toilet paper, whipped cream for the pies, and a big bag of candy that was not used for trick or treat on Halloween.

During this holiday season be sure to remember and pray for all of the hungry and homeless.

*Blessings from Carolyn Dahl*

## Chum Thanks Hillside Church

Thank you Hillside United Methodist Church for your donation of \$355. Your gift will allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy, and a caring community for some of the Duluth's more vulnerable residents.

Chum started in 1973 with the purpose of overcoming the increase of hunger, poverty, homelessness, and isolation in Duluth Central Hillside neighborhood. Fifty years later, we are still here, providing life-saving services to our most vulnerable neighbors. The needs are great and growing, and our services are expanding to meet those needs.

Chum is proud to be a diverse community that celebrates together and welcomes all comers, stands in solidarity with our neighbors, demonstrates generosity, practices fellowship and spreads love in the world. Thank you for being a part of our community.

*Gracia Swenson, Chum Development Director*

# Hillside United Methodist Church

## Administrative Council Meeting – Nov. 1, 2023

In attendance: Carolyn Dahl-Chair, Sandy Wil-mot, Jim Leland, Dave McKowski, LeRoy Brit-ton, Pastor Jeremy Woodley, Carole Hawkin-son

Carolyn opening our meeting with prayer. MSC (McKowski, Wilmot) to approve the minutes of the October meeting.

Jim presented the treasurer's report, noting that we are approximately \$2,000 short on our giv-ing vs. expenses in October and about \$14,000 short for the year. The total profit for the Sep-tember Swedish Meatball Dinner is \$3,816.57.

Finance Committee Chair Dave will be calling a meeting to get the budget ready to present at the December Administrative Council meeting. Stewardship/pledge letters went in the mail on October 31, 2023.

Pastor Jeremy acknowledged that he is doing "OK" following his recent surgery but finds that it is taking more time to do tasks than previ-ously. There is a "New Pastors Retreat" in the Cities from November 6-7, 2023 but he is not sure he will be attending. He will try to keep office hours to match our Administrative Assis-tants schedule.

LeRoy presented the Lay Leader's report noting that the Minnesota Charge Conference will be on Zoom, November 13, 2023, and that Pastor Jeremy and LeRoy are the voting members. The purpose of the meeting is to ratify the dis-association of about 20 churches from the Con-ference. He wants to take the necessary course to become a Lay Speaker and that his wife Kathie would like to take the Lay Servant's course.

SPRC Chair, Sandy had the following to report:

- A budget setting meeting will be held preced-ing worship on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- She asked that the upcoming nominating session include an invitation to Phyllis Peterson to become a member of the SPRC Committee.

- The new Sick and Safe Time will be effective January 1, 2024 and will relate to our employ-ees. She asked that a copy of the new rules be included in the next paycheck envelopes to our staff.

- We agreed to ask the congregation if they would like to contribute to Christmas bonuses for our staff again this year. This will be pub-lished in the December Livewire with a due date of December 15th.

- Sandy and Pastor Jeremy will meet to dis-cuss staff evaluations.

- Carolyn and Carole have visited with Shirley Ol-son and asked for any others we know of that would like a visit from our Lamp Lighter Committee.

We have no Mission Committee Chair but the following are missions in which we currently participate: Loaves and Fishes, CHUM Food Shelf, warm clothes, etc. for Union Gospel Mis-sion, toys for the Union Gospel Mission to dis-tribute at Christmas time, homemade cookies for the St. Louis County jail.

Our worship schedule for Christmas Eve will include our normal morning service as well as a 4:00 candle-lighting service. Pastor Jeremy will check with Emma to make sure she is availa-ble. We will again ask folks to contribute the price of a poinsettia to grace our altar for the Holiday.

All Saints Day will be celebrated November 5, 2023 – Jeannette has contacted the families of those deceased members from the past year, to participate by lighting a candle in their memory. The church has a Zoom contract and Pastor Jeremy will get the contact information from Pastor Cynthia so we can use it this win-ter, if necessary.

Pumpkin and apple pies will be made available just before Thanksgiving – a signup list will be posted in the fellowship hall.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Decem-ber 6, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Jeremy closed our meeting with prayer.