



Livewire



Hillside United Methodist February 2024

WORSHIP 11 AM EVERY SUNDAY!

Pastor's Message

Greetings friends,

As we enter the season of Lent, we are hit with this scripture reading in the Lectionary from Joel, "Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!" Not exactly the most upbeat passage of scripture, but it is a vitally important one that prepares us for a season of fasting.

Beginning on Feb. 14 (yes, Valentine's Day!) with Ash Wednesday, we will step into the 40 days of Lent by engaging in study, singing, and reciting Psalms. The Psalms will carry us through the season as we examine ourselves and our own sinful condition. It is difficult to look honestly at ourselves and admit our own frailty, but it is just as helpful as it is necessary. In order to do this well, we will do it together!

Our Sunday worship series entitled, *SING!* will help us do just that, sing the Psalms. As we put these ancient songs to music, we will not only sing, but look deeply at the message of repentance and renewal found in the Psalms. In addition to worship, we will be using the daily devotional entitled, "*Soundtrack: A Forty-day Playlist Through the Psalms*" as the study material for our weekly Bible Study meetings each Tuesday of the Lent season. In order to make our time together more available to those who are working, we will meet at noon, and everyone is encouraged to make it a brown bag lunch gathering. Keep reading through the *Livewire* to find out more details about Lent happenings at the church. I can't wait to let the Psalms lead us through Lent and into Holy Week!

Breath Peace,
Rev. Jeremy Woodley

LENT: Prepare for a season of spiritual self appraisal.



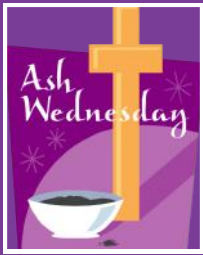
HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1801 Piedmont Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811-3219 Phone 218-727-4257

Website: hillsideumchurch.com Email: hillsideumcduluth@gmail.com

March 2024 Livewire deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2023





**HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST
Ash Wednesday Service
Noon, Feb. 14**

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-13
Sermon: "When the Problem Isn't Really the Problem"
Pastor Jeremy Woodley

Easter Is Approaching...

Easter Lilies: Grace Our Sanctuary with Beauty

As is our custom here at Hillside, we plan to decorate our altar area for Easter with beautiful flowers, given by you, in memory or in honor of a special person(s) in your life. Watch the March *Livewire* for more information on ordering.



Breakfast with Jesus



... and the rest of your friends. On Sunday, March 31, we will be offering an Easter breakfast at Hillside Church with serving from 10 – 10:45 AM. Hope to see you there. **PLAN AHEAD!**

Wanted: Two Greeters Each Sunday

Hillside United Methodist Church shines at hospitality. We need some of that warmth on Sunday mornings as members, friends and newcomers enter the church for worship. It would be helpful if you could commit to at least two Sundays.



Your service as a greeter merely involves arriving at church 15 minutes early, greeting people as they enter, handing them a church bulletin, and answering any questions they may have. We would like one greeter at the lower level parking lot entrance and another at the upper level narthex at the back of the sanctuary. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Simply sign up for the dates you will be able to serve.

Please Keep Us in Your Prayers

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

SOUNDTRACK: A 40-day Playlist Through the Psalms

Join Pastor Jeremy each Tuesday of Lent for a lunchtime discussion of the daily devotional *Soundtrack*. As we focus on the Psalms during this Lent season, it will be a time to reflect together on what God has been revealing to us through the bible's song book.



Soundtrack is available for order at the following web address: store.seedbed.com. The church will purchase a limited number of copies for anyone who would like one. Please join us each Tuesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a brown-bag lunch and time to talk through all we are seeing and hearing from God during Lent.

Thanks from Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission (UGM) Executive Director Katie Hagglund thanked Hillside UMC for our monetary donation of \$760 and our table load of toys we provided to UGM.



Our toy donation helped provide gifts to more than 250 local children during the 2023 holiday season. The monetary donation went to UGM's meal program, food "Joy Bags" for children, housing, support services of warm clothing, personal hygiene essentials, tents, blankets, and Fellowship Fridays where pastors and faith leaders share messages of hope.

In her thank you letter, Katie writes: "Your thoughtful toy drive allowed us to serve local families in a way that preserves pride and inspires belief in a better tomorrow because shelter fills a need and food fills stomachs, but hope fills the soul."

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!

February 2024 Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship with us 11 AM each Sunday morning at Hillside United Methodist Church. It may be cold and snowy or rainy outside, but we work hard to make our space warm with hospitality for all-comers.

- **February 4** – “The Spiritual Side of Twinkies,”
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50
- **February 11** – “Transfigured by Boldness,”
2 Cor. 3:12-4:2
- **February 18** – “Wisdom Seeking,” *Psalms 1*
- **February 25** – “Confidence,” *Psalms 61*



SUPPORT LOAVES & FISHES

Hillside United Methodist Church accepts cash donations for Loaves & Fishes. Your donations are used to purchase groceries for our meals we deliver to the homeless men of the Dorothy Day House, one of four Loaves & Fishes houses that serve the homeless in the city. You may write a check to Hillside United Methodist Church designating Loaves & Fishes as the recipient. Place it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church, 1801 Piedmont Ave, Duluth, MN 55811.



Loaves & Fishes

What can you make when you get eight pounds of Polish sausage donated? A nice meal. We made sauerkraut with sausage for the men at the Dorothy Day house on the second Tuesday in January. We included mashed potatoes, too. The salad was lime jello with fruit cocktail in it, topped with mayonnaise mixed with cool whip. Along with that, we sent pumpernickel and rye bread. The dessert was chocolate cupcakes with cream cheese frosting. Extras that went along were milk, butter, a large can of coffee, and paper towels.

Remember to pray for all homeless and hungry people especially during the cold and dark.

Blessings from Carolyn Dahl

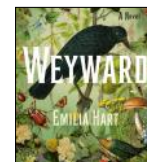
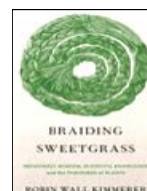
FINANCIAL GIVING FOR DEC. 31-JAN. 28 AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH \$8,686

Dec. 31	giving	\$ 387.00
Jan. 7	giving	\$ 3,075.00
Jan. 14	giving	\$ 405.00
Jan. 21	giving	\$ 1,195.00
Jan. 28	giving	\$ 2,096.00
	Total	\$ 7,158.00
	Balance	- \$ 1,528.00



Hillside UMC Book Club

The Hillside UMC Book Club will meet 7 PM Thursday, Feb. 1 to discuss February's book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you want to read ahead for next month, the March book will be "Weyward" by Emilia Hart.



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

Happy February Birthday to Hillside Friends!

2 Jan Matson 15 Barb Carlson
13 Phyllis Peterson 19 Sandra Wilmot

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.



Food Shelf Down in Donations

Chum is asking us to dig deeper in 2024 because of its marked decline in food donations. In 2023, the Food Shelf distributed 533,152 pounds of food, 39,197 pounds less than in 2022. The biggest hit the Food Shelf took in 2023 was in the number of pounds donated. Our community donated 460,351 pounds of food – that is almost 50,000 pounds less than the previous year!



Empty shelves.

Chum predicts the food need will grow. To help relieve hunger in the Northland, please place non-perishable food donations on the Chum table in the Fellowship Hall or make an offering to Hillside, designating Chum as the recipient.

Lenten Organ Recital Series

The Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents the Lenten Organ Recital Series for 2024 to benefit the Organ Student Scholarship fund. Recitals will be from 12:15-12:45 PM on Wednesdays in February and March. A freewill offering will be taken.

- **February 21:** Duluth: Velda Graham Bell, First United Methodist Church, Duluth, and Jan Bilden, Darcy Reich & Friends, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN
- **February 28:** Brian Kapp, Cathedral Of Our Lady Of The Rosary, Duluth
- **March 6:** Thomas Hamilton, St. Scholastica Monastery, College Of St. Scholastica, Duluth
- **March 13:** Barbara Erickson & David Tryggestad, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth
- **March 30:** Vicki Anderson & Rebecca Hanson, Zion Lutheran Church in Cloquet and Rosemary Guiney & David Tryggestad, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Cloquet.

Hillside United Methodist Church

Administrative Council Meeting – January 3, 2024

Attendance: Diane Boris, Carolyn Dahl, Carole Hawkinson, Pastor Jeremy, Jim Leland, Sandy Wilmot, LeRoy Britton, Dave McKowski

Carolyn opened the meeting with a prayer.

The December Ad Council minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Carole and seconded by LeRoy that the minutes be approved. Motion approved.

Finance Report: Pastor Jeremy is looking into a company that offers online giving. We have looked into this before but the charge the bank took was too much money. We will find out what charges, if any, this company has.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Worship: We had less people at the Christmas Eve service in the morning than at the four o'clock candlelight service. They were both very nice services. Lenten Bible study time will be Tuesdays at 10:30 – 12:00.

Pastors Report: The General Conference is April 23rd – May 3rd in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our Annual Conference is May 29-30 in Bloomington, MN.

Lay Leader: LeRoy gets together with other Lay leaders in the state online. Kathy Gajewski is working on being a servant and needs a mentor.

SPRC: The congregation gave \$445.00 for staff bonuses. We are going to need a new janitor this spring. We have two possibilities lined up. Sandy will talk one on one to the staff.

Trustees: We have an icy parking lot. It would cost a lot to have our plow service come and spread sand. Pastor Jeremy offered to spread sand on the parking lot.

Lamplighters: Ron Mattson is doing well. Shirley Olson had surgery to put a pin in her hip, not a replacement. Both are at Ecumen.

Missions: A dinner for Loaves & Fishes will be made next week. Jim brings food to the Chum Food Shelf each month. We did well collecting warm clothes and toys for Union Gospel Mission.

Other: The potato bake extravaganza will be on January 14. We are asking people to sign up to bring toppings for the potatoes. Our next meeting will be February 7, Wednesday at 10:30 AM.

Pastor Jeremy gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Boris,
Admin Council Secretary