



# The Key Newsletter

January 2022

Volume 9 Issue 1

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>  
Immediately following worship



*More Details on Page 14*

### Worship Times

Adrian UMC  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

First UMC  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Church Office  
408 11th Street  
Worthington, Minnesota  
56187

Phone: (507) 372-2939

Church Office email:  
[methodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:methodistoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.firstumcworthington.com](http://www.firstumcworthington.com)

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I think there was a song from the mid-70's by the Steve Miller Band called "Fly Like an Eagle" that has the first line "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future".

I'm not certain what the lyricist meant when he first wrote that line, but I know what it means for me as we embark upon another year - 2022. I remember years ago those older than I talking about how time goes by so quickly. You can't really know what that means until you actually get older. Yes, time is slippin' by into the future.



So many verses in Scripture talk about time. One of my favorite verses is from Psalm 90:12 - "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." What that means for me is this: with the days I have in front of me, I hope to learn all that I am able to so that I can use that learning in wise ways. I've always believed that I am a life long learner. I loved school when I was a kid. I enjoyed going to college and attaining a doctorate. But I still yearn to learn more - to know more about how God's grace and love is working in the world... how I can be a part of it... how we can be a part of it.

In 2022, my high school class will gather to celebrate our 50th year since graduating. I know I've learned so much since 1972. Some of those lessons I learned the hard way. Many of them were gleaned with study and intentional time devoted to learning. And some of the lessons learned were gifts from God, helping me to stay the course as I tried to walk in faith. It's been a journey of learning and it isn't over.

I invite you to join me in this new year to learn. I am hoping to provide various opportunities to study and grow in our faith from in person study to Zooming as well. Watch for those opportunities and say "Yes!" to those moments when you can increase your wisdom as "time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future"!

Blessings to you in  
the coming new year...

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Happy  
NEW  
Year  
2022

*"Worship the Lord with gladness..."* - Psalm 100:2a

## *January Worship: "Come and worship the Lord!"*

**Sunday, January 2**

Epiphany Sunday - Holy Communion

### *"The Star of New Beginnings"*

"A new year - are we searching for prosperity and security, love and harmony, peace and joy in our lives? We could be searching for a star of new beginnings."

- based on Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, January 9**

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

### *"The Perfect Storm"*

"The answer to the storms of life is the perfect love of God - always near - always here."

- based on Isaiah 43:1-7

**Sunday, January 16**

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

### *"Under Construction"*

"God keeps working with us so that as we respond to our calling and spiritual vocation, we might enjoy the blessings of the kingdom of heaven right here on earth"

- based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Sunday, January 23**

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

### *"True to the Mission"*

"We are called to make a difference in Christ's name. Stay true to the mission."

- based on Luke 4:14-21

**Sunday, January 30**

4th Sunday after Epiphany

### *"Did You Mean..."*

"We may not always be certain what God means when He calls us to do something. That's where trust comes in."

- based on Jeremiah 1:4-10



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## *Give to Ride:*

The church bus project is moving forward! The Trustees have ordered a new church bus. With a large majority of funds already secured (see the article on page 16 for more information) we only need to raise about \$10,000. The new bus will be delivered anywhere from 3 to 6 months from now. Please prayerfully consider how you can help the "Give to Ride" bus fundraiser!

## *Education - Youth Group Update...*

The Youth Lock-In on November 19th went well with about 24 youth participating. 4 adults were all nighters while Lisa Gerdes, Amy Shirbroun and Pat Grimmus helped at First Church. We served pizza, played Minute to Win It games and then played pool, etc. downstairs. The group went from First Lutheran to American Lutheran to First Methodist then back to First Lutheran. Methodist workers were cleaned up and home by 1:30 a.m..

Education Committee reports that Sunday School is going well with good attendance. Middle School Youth have pizza on Wednesday nights but others have volunteered to "cook". Sunday evening Encounter at HyVee has seen small attendance numbers, but it has been fun for those who have come. We share the cost of food and drink with First Lutheran. This will continue when Youth Pastor Jon (from First Lutheran) leaves for his new post. Kari Meyer, Pastor Jeanette McCormick and other volunteers will lead until a new Youth Pastor (First Lutheran) or a Family Life Coordinator (First Methodist) is hired.

Middle School Youth will have their Christmas party next Wednesday (December 22nd). They have chosen to stay at church rather than go somewhere else. We're glad they are comfortable and have fun here! The Sunday School Christmas Program, "A Super Christmas" will be Sunday, December 19th. The young people have been practicing during Sunday School the last two weeks. They will practice Saturday from 10-11 a.m. and again on Sunday at 9 a.m.. The Youth will also do the

prelude music. Deb and John Steinle will also come to practices to help with the video/audio. We're grateful to them. There will be a lunch served after church ordered from Hy-Vee - everyone is welcome. Third Grade Bibles will be given to two students on Sunday, January 9th. We will find a Sunday to bring Sandi Meade back to thank her for her years of work with the Senior High Youth. Galen Benton will work with the children to play bells in church sometime in February. Thanks for the continued support of our youth programs!

If you have questions or concerns at any time about the education or youth program, please feel free to contact us.

Blessings,

The First Church Education Committee

Pat Grimmus	(Chair)	507.360.1400	pagrimmus@gmail.com
Randy Shirbroun	(9th-12th)	507.360.1009	randydvm@iw.net
Lisa Gerdes	(6th-8th)	507.329.2162	lgerdes67@gmail.com
Melissa Geertsema	(3rd-5th)	507.329.6867	missygeert@hotmail.com
Amy Shirbroun	(Pre-2nd)	507.360.8503	amyshibr@iw.net
Amber Nielsen	(Substitute)	amber_blume@yahoo.com	
Pastor Daren Flinck	(Adult)	507.372.2939	dflinck@gmail.com



### *Encounter Youth Group at Hy-Vee:*

All middle and senior youth groups are invited to come to Hy-Vee from 6:30-8:00 p.m. every Sunday evening for fun with your friends from First United Methodist, First Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian churches. Named "Encounter", all youth are invited to come and encounter renewed friendships, making a new friend, or even bringing a friend! There will be games, drinks, snacks, fellowship and devotion led by Jon Wendt, First Lutheran youth pastor. See you Sunday!

### *God First...*

Our G1 class (God First) meets each Wednesday at Adrian UMC starting at 6:15 p.m. G1's focus is on building the relationships between God and kids. Each night the classes run until about 7:00 p.m. Questions, please contact: Heidi Klingenberg or Diane Honermann.

### *Family Life Coordinator Position at First Church:*

First United Methodist Church is looking for a dynamic, faith-filled person to serve as the full-time Family Life Coordinator. The person will work in coordination with the pastor and the church leadership to meet the faith development needs of all ages and levels of our parishioners. Specific responsibilities will focus on providing overall leadership for Children's Ministries, Christian growth and direction to team volunteers who are committed to discipling and shepherding children from birth – fifth grade. The Family Life Coordinator also provides overall leadership for Youth Ministry and provide Christian growth and direction to youth, staff, and team of volunteers who are committed to discipling and shepherding youth from sixth – twelve grade.

In addition, the Family Life Coordinator provides leadership for family ministry events which include the above groups. Evening and weekend work required. Previous ministry experience preferred. To fill out a job application and/or to submit a resume, contact the church office (507.372.2939 or email to [methodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:methodistoffice@gmail.com)). Contact James Jenson or Pastor Daren Flinck if you have any questions.

#### **First United Methodist Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck  
**Office Manager:** Susan Noerenberg  
**Youth Leader:** Lisa Gerdes

**Choir Director:** Jeanette Jenson  
**Bell Choir Director:** Brenda DeSmith  
**Custodian:** Sarah & Chad Nickel

Office: (507) 372-2939      Fax: (507) 372-2404  
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[methodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:methodistoffice@gmail.com)      [www.firstumcworthington.com](http://www.firstumcworthington.com)

## *Former Member News:*

We received the following communication regarding former members of First Church Jacob & Verus from Pastor Gordon Orde:

(Recently) we attended Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church in Faribault because we knew that Jacob and Verus Kandakai were baptizing their youngest daughter, Joyce Praise (attached is a picture of their family with us). Many will remember Jacob and Verus as former members at Worthington. Verus sang in the choir. Their children's names are Jakelyn Ma Hawa, Jake Tboy and Joyce Praise. The little boy is other family and wanted to be included... so cute! We especially remember that when Jacob first came to Worthington. He needed to learn to drive and get his driver's license. Paul Schilling taught him and we all gave Jacob a standing ovation on his first Sunday after passing his tests!



Shalom to all, Gordon and Dorothy Orde

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We received sad news this past month, learning that former members of First UMC Chuck Moser and Bill Hofer had passed away. In addition, we pray for the families of Ron Geertsema (Bill's brother and Kurt's father) and Gerald Pommer (Jan Heidebrink's brother) who have passed away as well.

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## *Men's & Women's Breakfast Group:*

All gals are invited to come to Coffee fellowship every Tuesday at Hy-Vee at 9:00 a.m.. Guys are invited to come to breakfast every Wednesday at the Blue Line Café at 7:00 am - start your midweek day with a dutch treat of good food and great fellowship!

## *Live Streaming!*

Each Sunday we live streaming our worship services from First UMC. If you are going to be out of town, you can catch the live broadcast on our church app (download to your device) or any one of four different online locations:

The Boxcast TV Channel

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/qikol6fqes2qwhperl2l>

First UMC YouTube Channel

[Go to YouTube: First United Methodist Church Worthington](#)

First UMC FaceBook

[Go to FaceBook: Worthington: First United Methodist Church](#)

First UMC Website

<http://firstumcworthington.com/>

## *Broadcast on Channel 3...*

Worship services for First UMC are scheduled to be broadcast on public access Channel 3 in Worthington. The broadcast times are Monday at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. for the current week and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. for the previous week.

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## *Live Stream and Media Tech Schedule...*

Our adjusted worship schedule has made changes to each church's Sunday volunteer list. Here are the persons who are scheduled to help with the live stream service:

First UMC	Sound/Video	Media Shout
Sunday, Jan 2	James Jenson	Kip Jenson
Sunday, Jan 9	Deb Steinle	John Steinle
Sunday, Jan 16	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday, Jan 23	Kari Meyer	Claire Meyer
Sunday, Jan 30	Not Yet Filled	----->

## *Media Tech Volunteers:*

If you are still willing and available to help with either sound or media tech on Sunday mornings we would truly appreciate the help. Training is always available. Please contact the church office if you can help with these important ministries. Thank You!



*Here are the highlights from the First UMC Council meeting held on Thursday, November 18th*

**Celebrations:** Education Committee reports that Sunday School is going well with good attendance. Middle School Youth have pizza on Wednesday nights but others have volunteered to "cook". Sunday evening Encounter at HyVee has seen small attendance numbers, but it has been fun for those who have come. We share the cost of food and drink with First Lutheran. This will continue when Youth Pastor Jon (from First Lutheran) leaves for his new post. Kari Meyer, Pastor Jeanette McCormick and other volunteers will lead until a new Youth Pastor (First Lutheran) or a Family Life Coordinator (First Methodist) is hired.

The Youth Lock-In on November 19th went well with about 24 youth participating. 4 adults were all nighters while Lisa Gerdes, Amy Shirbroun and Pat Grimmus helped at First Church. We served pizza, played Minute to Win It games and then played pool, etc. downstairs. The group went from First Lutheran to American Lutheran to First Methodist then back to First Lutheran. Methodist workers were cleaned up and home by 1:30 a.m..

The Missions Team reports that we collected 140 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 105 of those boxes were packed from donations given from March to November. The Sunday School kids, teachers, and the Night Lights Circle helped to pack the boxes. We also received \$1800 in financial donations which were used to purchase more items and pay for shipping. \$200 was donated to the Pop-Up Food Pantry at Minnesota West. The Night Lights Circle distributed 50 flowers and gifts to various members of the congregation. Rick and Pat Bretzman are in the process of moving to Windom - the Night Lights expressed well wishes to them.

**Challenges:** We are trying to manage the temporary imbalances that sometimes occur when we are heating the church. We can still use volunteers for money counters, the live stream and sound system.

**Current Focus:** The Mobile Meals will take place in April 2022. The leadership of Mobile Meals is in flux at this time.

Middle School Youth will have their Christmas party next Wednesday (December 22nd). They have chosen to stay at church rather than go somewhere else. We're glad they are comfortable and have fun here! The Sunday School Christmas Program, "A Super Christmas" will be Sunday, December 19th. The young people have been practicing during Sunday School the last two weeks. They will practice Saturday from 10-11 a.m. and again on Sunday at 9 a.m.. The Youth will also do the prelude music. Deb and John Steinle will also come to practices to help with the video/audio. We're grateful to them. There will be a lunch served after church ordered from Hy-Vee - everyone is welcome. Third Grade Bibles will be given to two students on Sunday, January 9th. We will find a Sunday to bring Sandi Meade back to thank her for her years of work with the Senior High Youth. Galen Benton will work with the children to play bells in church sometime in February. Thanks for the continued support of our youth programs!

(Continued from page 10)

Missions encourages donations for the food shelves, the Pop-Up Food pantry, and the Coat Closet (collecting new or gently used winter items - a Love INC., gap ministry at located at First Lutheran). The annual Souper Bowl Soup Cookoff returns on Sunday, January 30th. The Missions Team is discussing ways to involve Adrian UMC with missions. The Team sent funds to Sharing Seeds program (\$200), the Coat Closet (\$200) and to Project Morningstar (\$200).

The PSPRC is working on holiday gifts for staff (full time and part time). The Sunday School teachers who are helping out and the custodians are being included this year as well.

The Trustees have been busy completing the purchase of a new church van. The 14 passenger van will be delivered within three to six months. The Finance Team is putting together a campaign to raise the needed funds. (Here's a quick look at what will be needed: The purchase cost is about \$60,000 and we have already raised \$50,000. We will put together a funding campaign that is looking to raise the remaining \$10,000. Watch for more on this in January.)

### **Cutting Edge Issues:**

**Item #1:** The PSPRC brought a proposal to create a new staff position - Family Life Coordinator. As reported earlier, the Foundation has committed funds over a four year period to assist in the development of this position. The Council approved the proposal to create this position. More details will be forthcoming.

**Item #2:** The Council discussed the past year and the blessings we have received as we have maneuvered through the challenges of the pandemic. We have been blessed with so many good things. We are grateful to the Lord for these blessings.

**Item #3:** The Council was made aware that in 2023 we will observe our 150th Anniversary since becoming a church. We will discuss ways to celebrate this milestone.

**Item #4: 2021 Financial Update:** We are grateful for the faithful giving from the members and friends of the congregation. We are halfway into the month of December (our final month of the financial year) and the church financial status continues to look strong. We are current on our apportionments through this month - our final apportionment payment for 2021 will be sent it next week. Overall, the church is sitting in a strong position for this time of year. Thank you to all for your faithful giving!

The next council meeting is set for  
**Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m..**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

## *Missions Team Year End "Thank You!"*

The Missions Team was able to accomplish many things in 2021 (even though we were not completely back to normal). Thank you to the generous and caring congregation of First United Methodist for their donations along with the Foundation for their generous donation. With your help and donations we were able to accomplish:

March FoodShare – the following donations of food and money were given to the two food shelves in town: Manna Food Pantry: \$1,103.33; Worthington Christian Food Pantry: \$651.57 and 130# of food.

Food Shelves – both food shelves received non-perishable food items throughout the year - a total of 175# to Manna Food Pantry and 75# to Worthington Christian Food Pantry. Also volunteers from our church helped out at Manna Food Pantry.

\$195.00 was collected for the Annual Conference Love Offering.

Nobles County Backpack Program was given a \$200.00 donation to help purchase supplies along with volunteers from our church helped with the distribution.

Ag Grad Program at the U of M was given a \$200.00 donation to help students in that program with their studies.

The Banquet in Sioux Falls was given a \$500.00 donation to help with the cost of a meal.

A donation of \$1,500.00 was given to the New Life International Mission, a non-profit mission started by the Groves in Zambia, Africa.

Operation Christmas Child was very well supported. Many items were donated to put in the boxes which were collected from March - November along with \$1,800.00 in financial donations used for extra items and shipping costs. 105 boxes were packed with the donated and extra purchased items with 35 boxes being packed by individuals.

Many pieces of warm winter clothing (coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves) were collected and brought to The Coat Closet at First Lutheran Church, a Love INC gap ministry. Also a \$200.00 donation was given for them to purchase what they need.

A \$200.00 donation was given to Sharing Seeds at First Lutheran Church to help purchase food for their food program. There were also church members who packed food to be distributed to families.

\$200.00 in gift cards were given to Minnesota West for their "Pop-up Food Pantry" to help purchase food, toiletry items and baby items which students can take as needed.

Project Morning Star was given a \$200.00 donation for their program.

Thank you for helping the least, the last, the lost and the lonely.



## *Adrian Council Highlight Reel:*

**Celebrations:** Certainly one of the celebrations we have is paying our apportionments in full for the fourth year in a row. This means the Conference will erase the final amount (just over \$19,000) from our past debt. Nice work, everyone! The G-1 Christmas Program went well - we had a lot of people to watch the kids. Caleb Hornstein will be cleaning the church grounds of the snow this winter.

**Challenges:** We still have not heard anything from the City regarding the public access channel. We will continue to upload the worship video to the YouTube channel (it is usually uploaded on Sunday night).

**Current Focus:** It was decided that the Christmas Eve offering will go to the elementary school to provide clothing for any youth who are needy.

We discussed checking the fuel level to make sure we have a full tank for the winter months. Dave has checked the furnaces and one of the furnaces may need some belt repair or replacement (Dave will attend to that).

The renters at the parsonage will be making their six month payment at the end of this year. We will send an addendum agreement to have them sign for the next calendar year (2022). We extended our agreement to renew the use of the camper parked by the neighbor on our church property.

Ann received a letter from the Adrian Fire Department for educating the elementary kids. We donated \$180 last year. The council agreed to send the same amount for a donation for this year.

## **Cutting Edge Issues:**

**Item #1: 2021 Financial Update:** We are grateful for the faithful giving from the members and friends of the congregation. Through the month of November the church financial status continues to look strong. We have paid ALL apportionments through December. Ann reports that overall, the church is sitting in a strong position as we near the end of 2021. The council approved the 2022 budget. The total amounts are slightly higher than last year's numbers. The proposed budget figures to be an additional \$60 per Sunday (or approximately an additional \$3 per giving unit per Sunday).

The next council meeting is set for

**Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

# Happy Birthday!

1 Ashley Hoefker	14 Ryan Lee	23 Phillip Geertsema
3 Laura Johnson	15 Brooke Grussing	Adam Blume
5 Chad Nickel	16 Braden DeSmith	24 Leola Weets
8 Ginny Tate	17 Jan Heidebrink	Jill Spiegelhoff
9 Agnes Johnson	Cory Klingenberg	25 Parker Barrie
Kristen Monthei	18 Ashley Hendel	28 Deb Geertsema
10 Richard Schlichte	Dana Heidebrink	Iris Pierce
Wayne Jones	Debra Geertsema	29 Carolyn Beerman
12 Brian Hokeness	19 Spenser Nickel	30 Sara Berte
Ron Lawrence	Darlene Miller	Khanh Bui
13 Alycia Lyons	21 Steve Jeppesen	Nancy Galland
	Abby Erlandson	

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# Happy Anniversary!

4 Ceta & Mark Zebe	14 Galen & Sherry Benton
5 Craig & Madonna Carlson	16 Ryan & Naomi Hill
6 Terry & Darlene Miller	

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## *Souper Bowl/Soup Cook-Off:*

The Mission Team is sponsoring the annual Souper Bowl Soup Cook-off immediately after church on Sunday, January 30th. Everyone is invited to participate! To enter the competition, prepare a double batch of your favorite soup or chili for the congregation to sample. For a freewill donation for missions, tasters will be able to enjoy a soup lunch and vote for their favorite recipe. Prizes will be awarded to the winning recipes. Register to enter the competition with the church office by Tuesday, January 25th. For more information contact Pam Soderholm, Dianne Dalrymple, or the Church Office.

## *Please pray for:*



Persons impacted by COVID 19:  
Persons who are long haulers

Persons recovering/dealing with health issues:

Mary Rydeen	Irv Flinck	Elaine Mess
Nancy Hyink	Bob Shore	Claribel Grussing
Mary Prins	Diane Yanke	

Prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Laurie Blume	Connie Bramer (Betty Taarud's daughter)
James Krosch	Anthony Tate (Corky & Ginny's grandson)
Scott Klooster	Kristi Johnson (Dave/Linda Reese's daughter)
Sheryl (Thelma Yager's sister)...	Makenzie Gist (Nancy Galland's niece)...

These persons with health concerns:

Weston Erlandson	Gerald Fisher	Henry Mess
Brian Bretzman	Tom Feit	Phil Glembin
Ariana Lopez	Casen Hotzler	Aiden Remme
Bill Carlberg	Mike Miller	Marlene Wieneke
David Carstensen	Emma Schnyders	Shellie Williams
Albert Matthiesen	Steve Timmons	Bruce Lease
Ken Bipes	John Clease	Monica Veil
Ajulo Ochala		

For those dealing with grief and loss...

The family of Ron Geertsema	(Bill's brother / Kurt's father)
The family of Gerald Pommer	(Jan Heidebrink's brother)
The family of Chuck Moser	
The family of Bill Hofer	
The family of Tom Feit	

## *Prayer Chain*

Please send requests to our  
email or phone prayer chain:

**[email prayer chain]**

Church Office  
methodistoffice@gmail.com or  
(507) 372-2939

**[phone prayer chain]**

Janelle Johnson  
(507) 376-5479.

Also watch for prayer updates  
in the Prayer Corner of the

## *Care Centers:*

**South Shore Care Center**

**First UMC:**

Lois Carlberg, LaDee Grant

**Mary Jane Brown Center**

**Adrian UMC:**

Mary Prins

**Minnesota Veteran's Home**

**Adrian UMC:**

Marvin Klooster - Luverne, MN

**Adrian Country Living  
Cottage**

**Adrian UMC:**

Margaret Loger

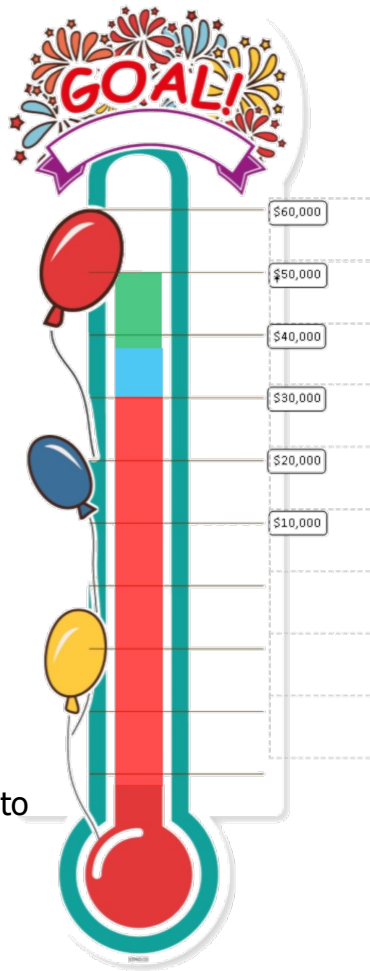
*Give to Ride:*

The church bus project is moving forward! Since March of 2020, we have not been using the church bus service. Mostly due to COVID guidelines, the old church bus has been sitting dormant for nearly two years. The Trustees have been considering replacing the church bus with a newer model.

In late November, the Trustees ordered the new church bus, which will be delivered anywhere from 3 to 6 months from now. The new van is a 14 passenger van with a sliding side door, A/C and heat throughout the van, and a running board to allow for easy access. The van will be used primarily for transporting parishioners to worship on Sunday mornings and for church outings such as special events for the youth.

The Trustees were able to trade in the old van for \$8,800. With that trade in, plus a generous gift from the Foundation (\$30,000), and almost \$12,000 in a dedicated account already, we only need to raise about \$10,000 to complete this purchase for our transportation ministry!

Please prayerfully consider your gift over the next few months to support this ministry offering to help others secure a safe and comfortable ride to church!



Give to Ride!



Designated Gifts	\$12,000
Trade In Value	\$8,800
Foundation Gift	\$30,000