



The Lynnhurst Voice

February 2016

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 50, No. II

BE THE CHURCH God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Embrace diversity. **Reject racism.** Forgive often.
Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**
Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.*

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

Dear Lynnhurst UCC Members and Friends,

Recently I was asked, "What surprises have I encountered as Pastor at Lynnhurst Church?" I shared with them and now with you, one of the most delightful surprises is the effectiveness and functionality of the Church Leadership Council and the Committees (which I like to call our Ministry Teams). I continue to be inspired as I collaborate with the Committees. I'm also thankful for the ongoing commitment to creating and establishing clarity of roles and responsibilities for our committees, staff and myself. Thank you to our CLC and Personnel Committee for all of your time and energy in helping us understand the importance of the shift in our staff reporting structure. This shift, equips myself, staff, our Committees and the entire congregation with the necessary tools to continue co-creating a relevant, meaningful, vibrant and healthy church community committed to being Christ's hands and feet, mind and heart in this world. Thank you, beloved congregation, for your ongoing willingness to live out Lynnhurst Church Vision Statement "... We lovingly act to build community, develop faith, and to put our faith into action, based on the belief that God is still speaking."

The Liturgical Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10 and continues through Easter. Our Lenten Worship Theme is, *Travelling Essentials*. As we travel with Jesus on the Lenten journey, from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, what will we need to sustain us on the Way? As we prepare ourselves to experience new life and resurrection with Jesus on the glorious Easter morn, what might we need to let go of, to release, to make room for new life? Each Sunday throughout our Lenten journey we'll explore necessary *Travelling Essentials*.

If you missed last week sermon, [listen here](#). Share it with your family and friends.

See you in church.

May God's grace and joy be yours in abundance.

Pastor Cynthia



Save the Date! My Installation as your Senior Pastor, Sunday, April 17, 3pm here at church.
Stay tuned for more information.

Coming Up

Congregational Meeting (11:30)

Spiritual Circle (9a)

Blood Pressure Clinic

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Soup Supper (6-7 p)

Intergenerational contemplative,
meditative Worship Service (7 p)

Book Club (7p)

Faith Exploration (8:30a)

LifeTouch Photo Sessions

Home Companion Rehearsal

Home Companion

Committee Meetings:

M & A Committee Meeting (7p)

Missions

Church Leadership Council (7p)

Christian Ed (8:30a)

Trustees (11:30a)

Diaconate (11:30a)

January 31

February 5, 19

February 7

February 10

February 10

February 10

February 11

February 13

February 18-20

February 20

February 27

February 9

February 14

February 18

February 21

February 21

February 21

Prayer Requests

- ✝ Prayers for Mary Kay Willert's cousin, Lynn, who was injured badly in a multi-vehicle accident in Dallas. Her recovery will be a long one and she needs encouragement and healing energy sent her way.
- ✝ Prayers for Bill Cutler recovering after a fall and illness.
- ✝ Prayers for Gwen Carlson, recovering and healing after a recent medical procedure.



THINK 3
February 21!

February Birthdays

2	Ely Kloker	12	John Christiansen	20	Jeff Kosse
7	Marnee Good	12	Elizabeth Egbert	20	Nathan Roberts
8	Pauline Pepper	12	Henrik Strandskov	21	John Goodrich
8	Mary Kay Willert	14	Jason Brockman	21	Luke McKee
9	Haley Brockman	14	Julia Lofness	23	Evva Parsons
11	Wyatt DeYoung	16	Rob Allen	27	Jackson Van Dyke
11	Paul Solie	16	Linda Hart		
		19	John Parsons Loobeek		

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE



Let's hear it for our wonderful Prayer Shawl Makers who make the Lynnhurst Prayer Shawl Ministry possible! In 2015 we gave 25 prayer shawls out. That number includes 4 which were baby/child sized, and made with the same love and prayers as the adult ones. Thank you, thank you.



Our next **Blood Pressure Clinic** will be on Sunday, February 7th after the service. It will be held in the Choir Room, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. Stop in and have your blood pressure checked or just simply chat. I will also have Honoring Choices advance directive forms as well, and can answer your questions. Contact Nancy Erstad, your Parish Nurse.

Church Leadership Council Update

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Last spring, the CLC directed the Personnel committee to review the employee reporting structure, and determine if changes should be made.

The Personnel committee has recommended that some changes should be made to clarify and strengthen the role of the Committees and Senior Pastor. Both the CLC and Pastor Cynthia fully endorse the changes. As a congregation, we will vote on these bylaw changes at our congregational meeting on January 31. If you have questions regarding the proposed changes, you're encouraged to speak to either John Everett, Chair of the Personnel Committee or Jodie Meyer, Moderator, ahead of time.

Highlights of this change would be:

- All staff will report directly to the Senior Pastor, with input from a supporting committee.
- The Personnel committee will still have an active role in the review of employees, along with the Senior Pastor and supporting committee.
- The organist and choir director positions will report directly to the Senior Pastor with input from the Diaconate, their supporting committee. Formerly, the supporting committee was Music & Arts; however, the shift to Diaconate is due to many of their job duties relating directly to our worship experience. This will not change the function of the Music and Arts committee; the change is merely a supervisory shift.

The purpose here is to balance the roles and to be clear to whom a staff person reports and to whom they are accountable. In the end, the Personnel Committee believes that Senior Pastor has to be placed in a leadership role and that the committees should be in a more supportive role.

What else has CLC been up to since July 1? Thanks for asking!

- Each committee member is liaison to a church committee, and sometimes attends their meetings and/or brings their concerns to the monthly CLC meeting. Much of our meeting time is spent discussing different situations that arise that committees would like additional input on, such as building use, job descriptions, mission programs and more.
- With the help of many volunteers, ran the first (and very successful) Volunteer Fair, encouraging you to share your talents in whatever way you can. Tabulated results are available if you'd like to see them. Your names have been shared with the appropriate committees and individuals.
- Mike Peterson offered to gather volunteers to assist with the members only section of the website. We've discussed ways of storing more information on this site so all members have access to them. Monthly meeting minutes of all committees (including CLC) can be found on this page.
- Helped Pastor Cynthia "find her sea legs" (can we use that expression in Minnesota?). We continually discuss how we can assist her and vice versa.
- Under the direction of Assistant Moderator Mike Peterson, coordinated another extremely successful Fall Festival, bringing over \$10,000 into our general budget. Great job, all involved!
- Worked with various committees on general church policies, which will ultimately be posted on the members only page. This includes such documents as the building use policy, safe church policy, wedding and funeral guidelines and more.
- Started analysis of data from the Conversations for the Future, which we will use to propose to the congregation major priorities which Lynnhurst should focus on. We hope to present this to you at the January congregational meeting.
- Began production of an Estate Planning printed piece that will be available during our stewardship campaign.
- Worked with Personnel and other committees as they hired a Faith Formation Director and an interim Office Manager.

- Developed a new structure for the treasurer position. Currently, three members have split duties, which greatly reduces the time commitment. We also approved funding the outside processing of our payroll system and an online version of our accounting software so it is stored in the cloud and all three treasurers can access the information.
- Worked with the Trustees on the implementation of a badly needed update to our phone system.
- Miscellaneous other items as they came up.

COMING UP AT LYNNHURST

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Mission Board is offering an opportunity to help feed the starving children of the world. On February 6 from 9 to 11 am at the Egan, Feed My Starving Children Center, we will pack meals for children of third world countries. Please be sure to save the date and sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Lounge. If you need a ride call Mary Ainsworth at 612-722-8351.

SOUP SUPPER AND TAIZE STYLE WORSHIP SERVICE: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016.

Soup Supper 6 – 7pm and Worship 7 – 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday. During Lenten season we will gather for Soup Supper and experience a sacred, simple candle-light meditative worship experience. Wed. Feb. 24 and Wed. March 9. Children and Youth welcome. Please sign up to bring soup for the three dates, (February 10, 24, and March 9). A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the 1st Floor lounge.

FAITH EXPLORATION



Faith Exploration meets on February 13 at 8:30 AM (note the time change) in the Sewing Room to discuss a selected book over a potluck breakfast. We will be continuing our discussion of Islam, this time based on a reading of an Atlantic Monthly article "What ISIS Really Wants" along with the first two suras (chapters) of the Quran. A reprint of the magazine article is available at the back of the sanctuary, and the Quran is widely available in many translations. Everyone is welcome, and as always we will have a potluck breakfast. Mark your calendars for participating in a lively conversation on matters of faith.

Pictorial Directory is coming!! The Diaconate along with other members are working with Lifetouch to create a new pictorial directory for our church. It has been five years since we last created a directory. There is no cost to the church or to you to have your photograph taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. We hope everyone will sign up to help make our new directory as accurate as possible.

To make our directory a success we need volunteers. Debi March is coordinating with help from the Diaconate members, Becky Kruse and Michael Peterson. We need volunteers to help during our photography sign-ups, telephoning our members, or serving as a host during the actual photography session. We will have sign ups during coffee hour to help with this very important project. If you can help with any part of the process please contact Debi March 612-247-1087 or debi.march008@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 3 will begin the sign-up process for photography and portrait viewing sessions. You can go on line to our church website lunnhurstucc.org, create an account, and click on the link to sign-up. It is super easy. If you would like help doing this, bring your calendar and stop by the table at coffee hour to sign-up. We will have a couple of folks with computers to help. Early sign-ups will get the first choice of times. We will have sign-ups at coffee hour each Sunday.

Photography dates will be February 18, 19, 20 and if more times are necessary on the 18th as well.

Midwinter Merriment at the Lynnhurst Home Companion Show Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 27 for the 30th edition of our unique entertainment revue, the Lynnhurst Home Companion show. Far more than just a simple church talent show, it's an easy-going variety extravaganza that casts a light on the amazing depth of talent in our congregation's midst – a sure-fire way to brighten up the gray days of midwinter. Steve Wold is scouting for talent right now, both veteran and new – we want EVERYONE who might consider sharing a tune or taking part in a sketch or offering ANY sort of novel amusement for the incomparable warm and welcoming audience at Lynnhurst to step up and join the fun. If you're new to Lynnhurst or just somehow have never seen the show, check with Steve, or ask anyone about how fun it is – it's guaranteed good times both on and off stage. The Home Companion show helps fund the Music and Arts board's ongoing projects and pursuits, so taking part gives back to Lynnhurst in the most enjoyable way possible. One way or another, we hope to see you on February 27 for some marvelous music, comedy and more!

An Invitation to the Lynnhurst Spirituality Circle This group began during the Winter Sabbath gatherings that Lynnhurst hosted in 2008. Our group of 7 women had lively discussions and found a mutual interest in continuing to support each other in our spiritual pursuits and challenges.

We have been meeting two Friday mornings a month ever since and have recently changed our name because we feel Spiritual Circle describes us best. The form and process of our meeting time and our connections to one another have evolved over the years and have emerged as an anchor in our lives. We want to extend an invitation to other Lynnhurst women who might be interested in exploring spirituality in a committed and intimate environment. Here is what you can expect at a Friday morning meeting: The meetings last 90 minutes, from 9:30-11:00 AM, and consist of: •An opening prayer or reflection •Some silent meditation time •Going around the circle to share and connect about our spiritual journey and our lives •A guided activity meant to afford time to connect and go deeper •Closing reflection

All members take turns leading the group. The leader facilitates our time for that day and leads an activity that explores themes in spirituality, often involving music, art, movement, and humor. This has not proven to be an onerous job, but rather is done in the spirit of fun, curiosity and support. We have also enjoyed day long retreats together and have occasionally shared a book that focused our time for several months. We are looking to keep this group small and intimate, but we want to open our hearts to others who might find it a useful anchor in their lives. We'd like to know you are coming so our leader can allow time for welcome and introduction. Please contact one of the women listed here prior, and come join us on a Friday morning. At this time we plan to remain a women's group. You are welcome! Julie Ristau (612)414-1593 Mary Faulkner (612)823-5524 Kim Keprios (612)822-1864 Ruth Fothergill (952)567-3282

A Huge Thank You to all of those who came to the Trustees Winter Work Day on January 23--Carmen Lemay, Sharon Eian, Lori Nicol, John Eian, Dan Kruse, Dirk DeYoung, Tim Anderson, Rob Allen, Paul Olson and Mary Kay Willert. Everyone worked hard and accomplished a lot, the rooms smelled so fresh and clean. And we had the chance to socialize and laugh. It was an afternoon well-spent. ~ Your Lynnhurst Trustees

LYNNHURST YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP SLEDDING

Middle and high school youth group members will be sledding with TRUST on February 7th. We will leave the church at 11:40 am to gather at Judson Baptist for a pizza lunch followed by sledding at Lynndale Farmstead Park. We will return to Lynnhurst at around 2:30 pm. Please bring sleds and dress warmly. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet outside Kim's office.

NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



Every four years the United Church of Christ hosts a National Youth event to empower young leaders. The next event is in 2016 in July and is open to all youth between the ages of 13 and 18. It will feature five days of workshops on how to be engaging leaders, faith and team building exercises and community outreach and service projects. Over the next few months you will hear of fundraisers and events to help pay to send as many youth leaders from Lynnhurst as possible.

[Winter High School CYE](#) - "Be the Good News!" March 11-13, 2016 at Camp Koinonia in South Haven, MN. [Registration is now open!](#) Save the date: Spring Middle School CYE - "Be the Good News!" May 13-15, 2016 at Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria, MN

Regional UCC Events [Recharge - A Ministry of Youth Leadership](#) is a one-day multi-denominational conference to inspire and equip church staff and their volunteers serving in children's, youth, and family ministry. Sign up now for their Twin Cities, Duluth and Fargo conferences that will take place in January.

T.R.U.S.T. NEWS

Mount Olive Lutheran Church is sponsoring a stewardship event on Saturday, February 6th from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. Bob Stize will lead this workshop for stewardship committee members and others who are interested in exchanging ideas. Bob Stize is the author of "Stewardship; An Encomium of Congregational Change." Call the church office to register at 612-827-5919. Mount Olive Church is located at 3045 Chicago Ave So, Minneapolis 55407.

NEWS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

REFUGEE NEEDS The MN Council of Churches is asking for help in gathering items for refugees. The current needs are dressers, sofas, dining room tables, dining room chairs and coffee tables; also, cooking pots and frying pans, towels, twin and full bed sheets and blankets, soup bowls, toilet paper and deodorant. Anything that is useable, not torn; complete, not complicated will be appreciated; but no outdoor items. For a complete list see <http://www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices/geti-involved/donation-needs> or contact Joo Kim (612) 230-3219. Items can be delivered to 122 W. Franklin Ave., # 100, Minneapolis

GETTING INVOLVED AT LYNNHURST UCC

There are many ways to get involved at Lynnhurst and it is a great way to get to know people here, as well as help the ministry of our church. You are invited to:

- **Ushers** – Sign up on Lounge Bulletin Board or on the **Lynnhurst Members site** under Member Resources / Church Sign-Up/Ushers & Greeters.
- **Coffee Hosts** – Sign up on Lounge Bulletin Board or on the **Lynnhurst Members site** under Member Resources/Church Sign-Up/Ushers & Greeters.
- **Liturgists** – Sign up on Lounge Bulletin Board or on the **Lynnhurst Members site** under Member Resources/Church Sign-Up/Liturgist
- **Choir** – Join us! Please contact Peggy Swalm pdswalm@aol.com or 612-824-0600)
- **Sunday School Teachers** – Sunday school teachers are still needed for all grades/age levels. If you have ever thought you might like to take a turn teaching, please know that you do not have to commit to every Sunday or a long period of time. You can sign up to be a teacher for a month, a quarter, or the remainder of the year. We also need substitute teachers who would be available on an on-call basis. Please speak with Kim or Amber Nord for more information. Talk to Amber Nord (612-501-0946 or dactnord@hotmail.com)
- **Christian Education** – Contact Amber Nord (612-501-0946 or dactnord@hotmail.com)
- **Diaconate** – Contact Debi March (612-247-1087 or debi.march008@gmail.com)
- **Bible in a Year** - There is a new Facebook group that is working to read the entire Bible in a single year. It is set up with daily readings and reflections, but is set up so that participants can work at their own pace. If you would like to participate, you can use the following link to join the group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/838097129633273/>

TIDBITS

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Check out our Facebook page, make sure to like” and “follow” Lynnhurst Congregational UCC Church page. Feel free to post on the page; leave comments and observations, photos of church or community events, family, pet, inspiring videos or songs, opportunities for volunteerism or service, pose a question, share a joy, say thank you, ask for prayers. Also, consider inviting FB friends to like the Lynnhurst UCC page; there is usually a sidebar on the left side of your page with suggestions. *Please Spread the Word* ~ Check in on Facebook Sunday mornings to share your excitement that you are part of the Lynnhurst community.

FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE



Sign up to dedicate Sunday flowers to honor a special person or occasion or in memory of a loved one. The calendar is just outside the church office and waits for your special date. Arrangements are \$54.00 and are yours to take home after the service. (They can also provide a vase style arrangement for \$41.00.) Feel free to supply your own store bought or during the summer, we welcome a lovely arrangements of flowers from your garden. Please sign up on the calendar outside the church office, or go to the **Lynnhurst Members site** under Member Resources/Church Sign-Up/Flower Sign-up

PRAYER LIST



The Diaconate would like to remember those who may be hospitalized, recovering from surgery, have a relative or friend in the military or other circumstance, by creating a prayer list as part of our weekly bulletin. Please contact the church office by Thursday morning to have your information in the following Sunday bulletin or weekly e-news.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH PEW POSTCARDS



Postcards, in the pews, offer an opportunity for congregation members to keep in touch with one another, feel free to write a note to a Lynnhurst member or friend and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the Church office. Your postcard will be addressed, stamped and mailed from the office. Please take advantage of this wonderful way to “keep in touch,” using Mary Kay Willert’s beautiful photographs.

SERMONS



If you are interested in listening to the sermon and some of the special music from a Sunday service, go to the church website www.lynnhurstucc.org and click on [Photos & Sermons](#). The web site plays the sermons using Adobe’s Flash Player, which makes it possible for you to listen to the sermon on your computer.

Please scroll down for the budget, directory and notes from the office.....

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Publications:

Lynnhurst Weekly eNews

The weekly eNews is sent at noon each Thursday. Information to be included is due by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.**

Sunday Bulletin

Bulletins are printed Thursday afternoon. Information for the bulletin insert is due in the church office by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.**

The Lynnhurst Voice (the monthly newsletter) information is due in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, ****Please note items submitted after this date will not be included****

Office Hours:

Minister’s Office Hours: Pastor Cynthia workweek is Sunday – Thursday. Her office hours are Monday by appointment, Tuesday 9 am to 3:30pm, Thursday, Noon to 4pm. Due to meetings, sermon and worship study, creation and preparation it is best to make an appointment. Pastor Cynthia email is pastorcynthia@lynnhurstucc.org and 612.827.6157. For pastoral emergencies during non-office hours, please call her cell at 425.273.4952. Her days off are Friday and Saturday.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon

LYNNHURST DIRECTORY

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Church School Activities 10:00 a.m.

Senior Minister Rev. Cynthia Riggin
pastorcynthia@lynnhurstucc.org

Associate Minister Rev. John Slothower
Faith Formation Director Kim Graff
faithformation@lynnhurstucc.org

Choir Director Peggy Swalm
Organist Jay Bruns

Building Mgr. & Cleaning Specialist Eben Pieterse
Parish Nurse Nancy Erstad

Office Manager/Editor Stacey Gassman
Church Office (612) 827-6157

Church Website www.lynnhurstucc.org
Church E-mail church.office@lynnhurstucc.org

Lynnhurst Congregational United Church of Christ
4501 Colfax Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual Summary

Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual Summary			
	YTD Actual		
	July-Oct.	Budget for Year	% of Budget
Income			
Building Use	\$13,074	\$40,180	33%
Holidays	\$0	\$2,000	0%
Other Income	\$4,704	\$10,195	46%
Pledges, Loose, Special Gifts	\$67,149	\$163,643	41%
Total Income	\$50,855	\$216,018	39%
Expense			
Programs	\$2,692	\$11,250	24%
Operating Expenses	\$13,819	\$47,533	29%
Personnel Exp. & Salaries	\$45,682	\$156,496	29%
Trustees and Council	\$8,808	\$7,000	126%
Other Expense	\$101	\$0	0%
Total Expense	\$71,101	\$222,279	32%
Notes:			
1) Budget amounts are for the entire year. Percent of budget is the year-to-date actual divided by the budget amount for the year. We are 4/12 or 33% through year.			
2) Programs include Christian Education, Music & Arts, and Diaconate.			