

The Lynnhurst Voice

February 2017

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 51, No. II

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

Dear Beloved Community,

What a joy and privilege to march in the MN Women's March this past Saturday. To pray with our feet, to link arms with women, men and children committed to creating a more just and equitable world. It was incredibly challenging and life-giving. One of my favorite professors in graduate school, often reminded us, "We had the experience, but missed the meaning." If you marched, what meaning have you gleaned from this powerful and empowering experience? And as a church, how can we be a people of prayer, resistance, and action? What is Spirit placing on your heart as a way forward?

As we move forward together, I share with you the wisdom of my mentor and colleague, Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, "The social issues that are arising in our country reflect the painful realities of racism, bigotry, Islamophobia, homophobia and anti-Semitism. Already, signs of hate and fear are affecting our neighbors, and potential new policies will strip people of protections and benefits that their families depend on."

"And so, our work continues. Our work for peace and justice done in love. Our work to build the beloved community. Our work to proclaim an inclusive and liberating gospel and an extravagant welcome."

"Fortunately, we stand on the shoulders of courageous saints who have gone before us, and like them, we remember we are not alone."

If you missed last week's worship, you are invited to listen to the sermon [here](#).

In gratitude to our God who calls us together to engage in life-giving, hope-stretching, justice-seeking, mutual ministry. Please be gentle with yourself and one another.

Blessings, Pastor Cynthia

Weekly eNews & Newsletter Under Construction

We heard you! In an effort to improve our communication and create the best tools for telling our amazing Lynnhurst story, we will be working on a new, cleaner format for the weekly eNews and the monthly Newsletter. There won't be electronic communication for a few weeks while we update these systems. For information about what's happening at Lynnhurst in the meantime, please refer to the website and look at the inserts in the bulletin. Thanks for your patience during this process, we look forward to rolling out our new communications in the next few weeks. Stay Tuned!





January 29, 2017 – Embody Beatitude Living

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Two of the most powerful and poetic lessons for life appear in the scripture readings this Sunday. The definition of beatitude is “supreme blessedness and happiness.” In our search for happiness among the “stuff” of life, have we missed the point? What difference would it make to embody a love for justice and kindness in our everyday lives?



February 5, 2017 - Live with Integrity

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Communion

Isaiah 58:1-12, The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose water never fail.

Matthew 5:13-20, You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot...Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Something with “integrity” is stable – all parts are supporting the whole. We are invited to examine all the parts of our lives to see if they point toward the fulfillment of our identity, vocation, and call. When all things work together for good, the parched places in our lives become watered and our saltiness never loses its taste. Are you a self divided?

February 12, 2017 - Create Right Relationships

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Confirmation youth in worship

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Choose life so that you and your descendants may life...

Matthew 5:21-37, So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave our gift before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Who we are cannot be fulfilled in isolation. We were made for relationship and for passing on the life and love given to us by God. We’ve all experienced the pain of broken relationships and the joy of restored ones. How does our relationship to others define us? How does living in right relationship with friend and stranger send reverberations into the world and into the future?

February 19, 2017 - Go Beyond

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1,2, 9-18, You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

Matthew 5:38 – 48, ...and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile...For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

Living fully into who we truly are produces such abundance that the fruits of the fields of our lives overflow. Offering this bounty with others is the command of God. But even more than that, the scriptures invited us to go beyond just what we have to offer, and also move into giving what we must strive to offer on behalf of love. How can we go the extra mile as a church?

February 26, 2017 - Proclaim Transformation

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Confirmation Youth in worship

Exodus 24:12-18, The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain...Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

Matthew 17:1-9, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves...suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

We have walked in the light, we have heard the assurance of belovedness, we have named and claimed our place in the world, our passion, our vocation, our mission. Now it is time to proclaim to the world from the mountaintop that transformation is possible. How have you changed in the last 9 weeks?

Save the Date

Join with us for an Adult Education opportunity to learn more about our own white privilege as we engage the national United Church of Christ curriculum, *White Privilege: Let's Talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue*.

Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of UCC, shares this, "Greetings, gentle soul, I want to thank you for committing to an ongoing Sacred Conversation on Race, and for your willingness to enter into this particular aspect of the conversation that focuses attention on White Privilege in its manifestations and impact.

We don't promise that this will be easy to discuss. It will challenge basic assumptions about race that help white communities maintain a system of privilege that, while prevalent, often goes unnoticed by even the best-intentioned of white advocates for justice. Nonetheless, the work we do to deepen our awareness of how privilege is made manifest, and the commensurate work of unmasking and dismantling that privilege, is among the most important work we white leaders can commit to."

After worship, 11:30 – 1:00 pm, Sunday, Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. Format will be shared potluck lunch, large gathering, and small group discussion. We'll have an opportunity to write our spiritual autobiography through the lens of race. Sign-ups start Feb. 5. Questions to see Pastor Cynthia

Coming Up

Recurring Meetings

Men's Breakfast (7a)

Bible Study (9:30a)

Art Class (9:30a)
(7:30p)

Choir (7p)

Spiritual Circle (9a)

Book Club

Confirmation (11:30a)

Faith Exploration

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Thursdays

Wednesdays

Feb. 2, 17

Feb. 9

Feb. 12, 26

Feb. 18

Committee Meetings

Church Leadership Council (6:45p)

Jan. 31

Personnel Committee (8:30a)

Feb. 5

Christian Education (11:30a)*

Feb. 5

Diaconate (11:30a)*

Feb. 19

Music & Arts (11:30 a.m)*

Feb. 19

Missions (11:30a)*

Feb. 19

Trustees (11:30a)*

Feb. 19

*After Worship



THINK 3
February 19th

Prayer Requests & Prayers of Celebration

- ✠ **Prayers for our nation**, it's elected leadership, and that justice for all will prevail.
- ✠ **Prayers of healing and peace for the humanitarian crisis in Syria.** May kindness and love win out and may peace prevail.
- ✠ **Prayers for the Welbaum family** at the passing of Susan Wellbaum, former member of Lynnhurst and friend of Lori Nicol's family.
- ✠ **Welcome baby Hillman!** Emilio Ernest weighing 8 lbs 11 ounces, 21 inches. Mom, baby & big sister are all doing great!
- ✠ **Mary Kay Willert and Paul Olson** celebrate the birth of their newest grandniece, Zooley Elizabeth. All are well. Please keep her and her parents, Keith and Gwen, in your prayers.
- ✠ **Prayers for Carolyn and Jim Parson's Sister-in-Law Gwen** for healing and strength
- ✠ **Prayers for Beckett Petersen, the Peterson Family and all the students who were enriched by teacher Mrs. Lorretta Main, who recently passed away.**
- ✠ **Christmas Gift Gratitude** Thank you church for your wonderful Christmas gift! Blessings, Pastor Cynthia

Let us know your special dates so we can celebrate with you.

February Faith Formation

learn

- 2/5 Meals on Wheels Bookmark Offering during Time w/ Children
**Sunday School: children & youth*
- 2/12 *Sunday School: children*
11:30 Confirmation: Seasons of the church
- 2/19 *Sunday School: children & youth*
- 2/26 *Sunday School: children*
11:30 Confirmation: What's the UCC?
- 3/4 **Saturday: Parent Mini-Retreat and Youth Lock-In** ★
- 3/5 *Sunday School: children & youth*
Planning to Lead Worship 3/26

do

SATURDAY, 3/4, 3p
Parents of Youth Mini-Retreat & Youth Lock-In

A little time out to reflect on where we've been, where we hope to go in the future, and what resources can most help you as a family do the adventurous work of faith formation at home.

Did I mention that youth (6-12 graders) AND FRIENDS are invited to stay for a lock-in?!

Parents and youth arrive by 3p. Youth play in gym during parent mini-retreat. Parents kiss their beautiful angels goodbye at 6p. Youth lock it in until 9a.

****Please consider donating dinner and/or breakfast for the lock-in. Contact nicole@lynnhurstucc.org**

reflect

Wow! What a January for living out the Vision of LUCC. We **worshipped** by mourning and hoping, clapping and singing at the MLK Day Service at Living Spirit UMC. We **put our faith into action** by praying with our feet at the Women's March. And kids and youth are looking forward to **lovingly building community** on January 29 by making bookmarks to brighten the trays of our brothers and sisters served by Meals on Wheels.

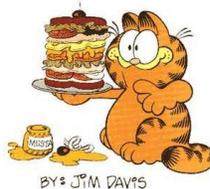
You know, sometimes it's hard to hold a vision. There are so many bright and shiny objects out there vying for our attention. So many activities vying for priority. So many forces vying to name and claim us.

And yet, at its core, church is all about holding a vision. We help each other state our priorities loudly and proudly and let go of what doesn't matter as much. We help each other shout our collective name, "BELOVED," from the rooftops and get into the flow of those forces that spread hope, build up, comfort, and make us feel excited to fully live our one, precious life.

And when we can hold this vision together, we not only change ourselves, but we also change our world. And that sounds just perfect for 2017.



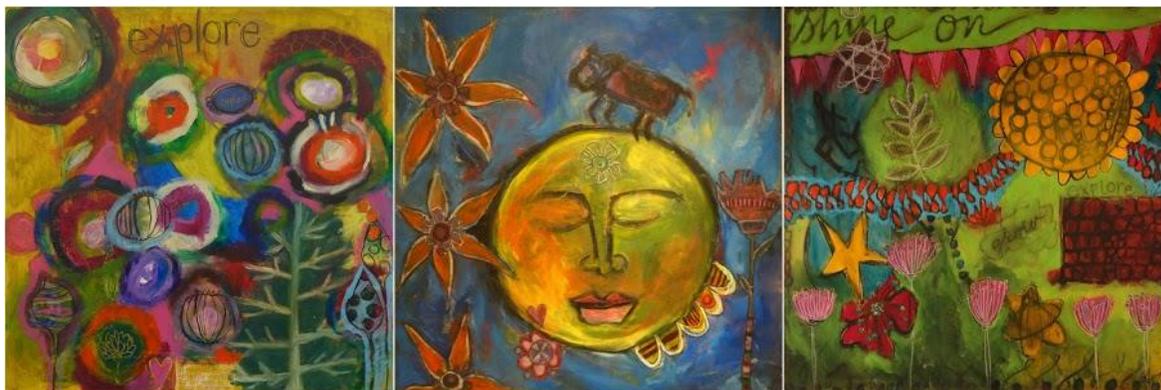
- **We're still looking for folks to provide lunch for our confirmands** (6 youth and 2 adults) the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, for the rest of the year. There is a sign-un sheet in the lounge.



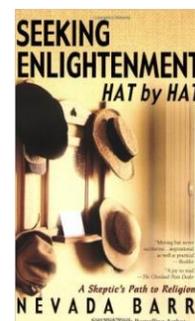
NEWS AT LYNNHURST

Music & Arts

The Music and Arts committee is pleased to host a showing of the colorful, uplifting paintings of Celeste Douville. Celeste uses a combination of painting, collage, and text for her pieces. She has been teaching, creating, and blogging for many years. The show runs through February 12.



Faith Exploration will be meeting on Saturday, February 11 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss "Seeking Enlightenment Hat by Hat" by Nevada Barr. Come for discussion and pot luck breakfast.



Housekeeping Items

- **CAN YOU HELP WITH A SMALL TASK?** The church provides eco-friendly dusting cloths for the cleaners of the church. They use 4-5 week. I am looking for someone who would be willing to take them home to launder them every week or two. If you can help, would you please let me know? I will show you where they are conveniently kept. Thank you very much, Mary Kay Willert, Trustee"
- **Committees and Group Schedules** – Please let Ace know in the office what your ongoing meeting times are, and especially if they change so we can keep the calendar accurate and up-to-date.
- **Thank you for wearing your nametags** in church on Sundays! What a wonderful form of hospitality to new and visiting folks. Just a reminder to take them off before you go home. There are baskets by the doors if you forget to take them off in the sanctuary.

Thanks for your help!

NEWS IN THE COMMUNITY

We the People: A Community Conversation on the U.S. Constitution



Recent events have exposed challenges to our constitutional democracy. How we elect our Presidents, the role of the branches of government in checking and balancing each other, voter manipulation and suppression, and the power of states vs. the power of the federal government are being discussed by people in all corners of our communities. The consequences of how these issues play out, to our human and civil rights, to our environment, and to the future of our democracy, are tremendous. It's important for each of us to understand the document that guides our country, how it got us to the situation we see today, and how we can use it to get to a stronger... democracy. What does the U.S. Constitution and its amendments say? How has it been interpreted and changed over the last 225 years? How does it give us opportunities to protect ourselves, our communities, and our collective future? "We the People... A Community Conversation to Understand the U.S. Constitution, in 10 Acts" will explore these topics.

WHAT: Bi-weekly Study Sessions on specific topics will be held on Sunday afternoons from 1-3pm, beginning January 15, also at Solomon's Porch.

WHEN: **Sunday, January 29, 2017, 1pm-3pm**

TOPIC: **My Wiccan Sisterhood Wants to Hold a Rally:
Freedoms of Expression (1st Amendment)**

WHERE: **Solomon's Porch**

100 W 45th St, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Kingfield Empty Bowls – Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 4pm – 8pm



Kingfield Empty Bowls is an event that brings the community together to share a meal of homemade soup and bread donated by local restaurants out of handmade bowls donated by local artists. At this event we accept a donation from all diners and all the proceeds from the event are given away to help an organization in our neighborhood. This event was created to support Nicollet Square, a housing option for formerly homeless youth that provides both efficiency apartments and optional onsite mental health care and emotional support. For a suggested donation of \$20 community members eat dinner with us and take the bowl home as a reminder of our many neighbors that are in need of food and shelter. For more information, click [here](#).

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 Nicole Urbach
nicole@lynnhurstucc.org
Choir Director Peggy Swalm
Organist Jay Bruns
Office Manager/Editor Stacey Gassman
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Church
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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Publications:

Lynnhurst Weekly eNews

The weekly eNews is sent at 1pm each Thursday. Information to be included is due by **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.**

Sunday Bulletin

Bulletins are printed Thursday afternoon. Information for the bulletin insert is due in the church office by **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday.**

The Lynnhurst Voice (the monthly newsletter) information is due in the church office by end of day on Thursday, February 16.

****Please note items submitted after this date will not be included****

Office Hours:

Minister's Office Hours: Pastor Cynthia work week is Sunday – Thursday. Her office hours are Monday by appointment, Tuesday 9:00am 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's email is pastorcynthia@lynnhurstucc.org and office phone is (612) 827.6157. For pastoral emergencies during non-office hours, please call the church office at (612) 827-6157 and push #4 to be directed to Pastor Cynthia. 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 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.