

The Lynnhurst Voice

January 2016

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 50, No. 1



FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

Dear Lynnhurst UCC Members and Friends,

One. Word. One. Word. In this New Blessed Year what One Word - One Theme - is God offering to you as a gift? Joy? Peace? Forgiveness? I invite you in this New Year filled with such amazing potential to be in prayer about what your heart and life needs to attend to as you move about your days. During worship on January 10 you will have an opportunity to engage in a spiritual practice of allowing a Word to choose you and then carry it with you for the entire year. I also need your help in compiling an assortment of Words – an assortment of gifts to offer folks in the congregation - such as peace, hope, transformation, re-new, re-fresh. Please email or call me with your Words to be added to the list of possibilities.

Our worship theme for the Epiphany Season is “May I See Some Identification, Please? Known and Called.” In our world today we hear much about identity – who we are. And we hear much about who is in and who is out based on our identity. Whether it is “Black Lives Matter” or people fleeing the war and violence of Syria seeking a better life, our identity matters. After the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we move into a season of hearing the stories of people discovering and recognizing the identity of Jesus. In the time from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent, we too will discover the depth of who Jesus is, and by extension who we are called to be as his followers. How are we known as Jesus’ followers? What identifies us in such a way that others see an unmistakable likeness in us?

As we continue celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, may we take to heart and action the wisdom of Howard Thurman:

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.”

Happy, Blessed New Year!

See you in worship.

God’s peace, joy and grace to you,

Pastor Cynthia

*Thank you so much for the
generous Christmas gift.
It is deeply appreciated.
- Pastor Cynthia*

Prayer Requests

- **For Bill Cutler** recovering after a fall and illness
- **For Steve and Christine Wold**, prayers for Jenna & Ben, as they grieve the loss of Ben’s mother Debbie

If you missed the
Christmas Eve Reflection,
[click to listen here.](#)

Blessed New Year (Office Closed)	January 1
Artists Reception, Tracy Hudson	January 8
Faith Exploration (8:30a)	January 9
MAPC Mary Faulkner (Fireside)	January 12
Book Club (7p)	January 14
Spiritual Circle (9a)	January 15
Congregational Meeting	January 31
LifeTouch Photo Sessions	February 18-20
Home Companion Rehearsal	February 20
Home Companion	February 27

Committee Meetings:

M & A Committee Meeting (7p)	January 12
Church Leadership Council (7p)	January 14
Christian Ed (8:30a)	January 17
Trustees (11:30a)	January 17
Diaconate (11:30a)	January 17

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Sharon Decker	22	Tristen Lindemann
2	Lila Madson	22	Abby Syverson
5	Meg Parsons	24	Samuel Brimacombe
5	Jackson Arndt	24	Ed Picard
8	Dan Lucas	24	Craig Smith
11	Cory Pepper	24	Jo Wold
11	Ruth Fothergill	25	Thomas Shaw
12	Max Lindemann	30	Clark Meyer
16	Haydn Brockman	30	Karen Reisch
18	Michael John Everett		

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE



If you have questions, please contact Nancy Erstad, RN, MA, FCN
Cold weather is now upon us, and the indoor air is relatively very dry. Our body needs more moisture to function effectively. You probably already have noticed your skin feeling dry, and are taking action. You probably are more thirsty, and are taking action. Less noticeable is if you breathe in dry air. Your respiratory system needs moister air as well. Nosebleeds? Dry air is likely a factor in winter. A humidifier adds needed moisture into the air which will help a great deal. Linger in the moist air after a shower, taking in deep breaths. Take action to counter all the effects of dry, winter air. Your body will thank you. Questions? Contact Nancy Erstad, your Parish Nurse.



THINK 3
January 17!

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.

Specific verbage of the bylaw changes will be emailed or mailed out in early January so members have time to review the proposed changes prior to the meeting.

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

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 lynnhurstucc.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 19, 20 and if more times are necessary on the 18th as well.

Opportunities for Christmas Giving The Agape Home in Mpls provides housing opportunities and compassionate care for HIV/AIDS residents. They are in need of paper products such as toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, kleenex, etc. Please wrap the paper products in white tissue and place under the Mitten Tree donated by Ron and Mary Faulkner in our vestibule. Other items on the coordinators wish list are glassware (not plastic) for milk and water, a metal strainer for pasta, and an electric griddle.

The Mitten Tree also loves to be decorated with warm hats, scarves, and mittens or gloves for all ages. Simply hang them on the tree. These gifts will be delivered to the Division of Indian Work which provides temporary assistance to Native American families relocating to the Twin Cities.

All gifts will be accepted throughout the entire Month of December. Thank you for remembering these worthy organizations during our season of giving.

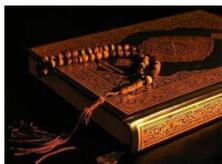
Save the Date for Midwinter Merriment at the Lynnhurst Home Companion Show Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 27 for the 30th edition of our unique entertainment revue, the Lynnhurst Home Companion show. Far more than just a simple church talent show, it's an easy-going variety 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

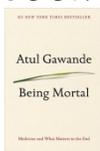
All members take turns leading the group. The leader facilitates our time for that day and leads an activity that explores themes in spirituality, often involving music, art, movement, and humor. This has not proven to be an onerous job, but rather is done in the spirit of fun, curiosity and support. 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

FAITH EXPLORATION



Faith Exploration meets on January 9 at 8:30 AM (note the time change) in the upstairs conference room to discuss a selected book over a potluck breakfast. January's discussion will be on Islam and Terrorism. We will consider how home grown "Islamic" terrorism may best be combatted by welcoming our Muslim neighbors and new immigrants, and abating both fear of Islam by Americans, and fear of Americans by Muslims. Pertinent excerpts copied from "The Qur'an" by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem and "Inside Terrorism" by Bruce Hoffman are in the back of the church. Mark your calendars for participating in a lively conversation on matters of faith.

BOOK CLUB



Please join in discussing *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, on Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Tristen Lindemann's home (1470 Minnehaha Parkway West). Bring an appetizer to share.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified. Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

THE MUSIC AND ARTS COMMITTEE PRESENT AN EXHIBIT BY ACRYLIC ARTIST TRACY HUDSON, OPENS FRIDAY, JANUARY 8.

PRAYER SHAWL MAKERS MEET THURSDAY JANUARY 21 AT 7:00 P.M.

Ruth Fothergill's home: 4537 Colfax Ave. S.



Beginners and seasoned needle workers all are welcome. Come for instruction, for fellowship, for prayer, and for lively conversation as we sit around the fireplace and work our needles.

A Huge Thank You A special thanks to all the musicians: choir members, singers, youth singers, pageant actors, parents, instrumentalists and the Music Staff, for sharing your gifts of music, theater, and more throughout all of the Advent/Christmas Season this year! Our worship services were filled with a rich variety of the arts from the first Sunday of Advent, through Christmas and continuing on to Epiphany! Lynnhurst is truly blessed to have so many wonderfully talented folks right here in our church community! Thank you all once again!

HAPPY, BLESSED NEW YEAR

May you experience God's
Love, Peace, Hope and Joy in this New Year.
Pastor Cynthia and Lynnhurst Staff

LYNNHURST YOUTH NEWS



January 10, all youth are invited to gather upstairs in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday school. We will watch the entire pageant video and have a brief post-News Years Party. Snacks will be provided, Sunday school teachers, please plan on attending that day to help supervise children and youth. If you would like to bring snacks, please contact Kim Graff (faithformation@lynnhurstucc.org).

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

Martin Luther King Celebration Service and Supper

Join us for fellowship and music at TRUST's annual Martin Luther King Celebration on Sunday, January 17 ~ 5:00 p.m. at Living Spirit United Methodist Church, 4501 Bloomington Avenue. There will be a soup and sandwich supper following the service. Free will offering.

NEWS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

[Church on the Move:](#) Saturday, January 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton. Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC, will be our keynote speaker.

Come and hear what he has to say about the future of the UCC. [Registration is now open.](#) This event is \$10/person (sign up 5 people and the 5th one is free).

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** – 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)

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.....

2014

2015

2016

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 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, ****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 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon

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.			

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
Temp. Office Manager/Editor Celeste Douville
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Church Fax (612) 827-6158
Church Website www.lynnhurstucc.org
Church E-mail church.office@lynnhurstucc.org

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