



Eastside Ministry

The Legacy of Silver Lake United Methodist Church

Newsletter Spring 2022

Pastoral Greeting

Fellow Eastsiders...Friends,

I just spent two days at our Annual Conference in St. Cloud. Our first in-person Conference since 2019. Conference included worship, legislation, various reports, a sermon by the Conference preacher, the Episcopal Address, and renewing collegial connections. It was both wonderful and heartbreaking, touching and difficult. Next year's Conference will be June 20-22, but they have not yet determined whether it will be in-person or remote.

Joe Davis and Rachel Kurtz opened Conference with music and spoken word art. We celebrated the lives of departed colleagues. We honored our retiring friends, one of whom has ALREADY taken an appointment in retirement. And, we participated in a service to License, Commission, and Ordain new clergy. We were blessed to celebrate friends and colleagues who were Licensed, Commissioned, and Ordained in the last couple of years, including me...I was formally Commissioned in October 2020.

We passed some wonderful legislation. The Minnesota Annual Conference will be doing an equity audit on our hiring of Conference staff, we will be intentional about the diversity and representation on the Cabinet, the Racial Justice Organizer position – currently filled by Dana Neuhauser – will shift from half-time to full-time following an official rewriting of the job description and any candidate search deemed necessary by the Bishop. Throughout, worship music was led by Rev. Yolanda Y. Williams.

We also saw some challenging choices. Five congregations were discontinued (they closed) and three congregations disaffiliated with the Minnesota UMC. These three congregations: Crossroads in Lakeville and Inver Grove, Redeeming Grace in Lake City, and HillSpring Church in New Prague have chosen to leave the UMC. Each owes a certain amount of money by October 15 and they will leave

with their buildings. Presumably, they will join the Global Methodist Church (GMC), but they did not reveal their future plans. Pain and mourning followed in the wake of these announcements and the formal vote by the Conference. I must tell you that there is the possibility that additional churches will follow.

The Bishop closed worship with the Episcopal Address. Bishop Bard encouraged us throughout his message to have large souls, capacious hearts, and expansive minds. He reminded us that often cure is a journey of care, not always an instantaneous remedy. He called to mind our Conference Vision of a Methodist movement rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation. He blessed us, calling on “fresh breezes of God’s Spirit” to blow through and over and across us. I couldn’t help but think about our House Church discussion of Ruach (the wind that IS God’s Spirit that breathes life into us). Let us be ALIVE in God’s Spirit, loving our neighbors as we follow Jesus.

Please contact me anytime for conversation, comments, or questions. Email: eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com OR eastsideministrymn@gmail.com OR text/call me 612-708-2466 OR connect via Facebook.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Fellowship

We currently ZOOM for Fellowship on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am**. The link is also on our home web page. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89940144410>

We are considering changing fellowship to 2 times per month, perhaps 1st and 3rd Sunday. We would like to reach out to more people. Please let us know if there is a time that works better for you. Thanks!

NSP Cruzers Car Show

Eastside Ministry will be hosting a photo booth at the car show **this Friday, June 3rd**. The show runs from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. The bands playing are [Any Day Now](#) (By Sidewinders) / [The Surf Riders](#) (By River of God Church).

Stop by and have your fun photo taken by us!

Commissioning

Although Pastor Steve was Commissioned in October of 2020 during the Pandemic, he along with others were recognized at Annual Conference. Here are a few photos from his Commissioning.



Book Launch

We received fabulous news that a book Peggy Stern was collaborating on has been published!!!! The book is illustrated by Peggy.

There was a Book Launch/Signing on Saturday, May 28th at the Gibbs Farm. The website is grasshoppersinmybed.com if you want to check it out and buy the book.

CONGRATULATIONS PEGGY!!!



House Church

Currently we have two House Churches meeting each week. If you are interested in experiencing House Church, we would love to have you join us either in person or via ZOOM.

One group meets on Mondays at 4:00 pm while the other meets Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

Let Pastor Steve or Lisa Mathewson know of your interest and we will make sure you receive the email invitation with location and ZOOM link

Annual Conference



Video: Bishop's Episcopal Address

In his Episcopal
Address to the
Minnesota
Conference,

Bishop David Bard reminded us of the biblical story of Jesus healing a boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:14-29). Somehow if we are really to let these stories speak to us, we also need to grapple with the challenges of such stories in the context of lives where healing doesn't happen or doesn't happen the way we may want it to, he said.

“Holding the gutting, heartbreaking, painful things and the beautiful, soulful things in large souls, capacious hearts, expansive minds; journeying together toward beloved community: May this be the Minnesota Conference.”

[Watch or download Episcopal Address](#)

The link will also be posted on our website under the Conference Links tab.

Easter Service

We held our first in-person worship on Sunday, April 17th at Hause Park in North St. Paul. With our traditional Easter Garden in place, we turned the pavilion into our church home for the morning. We were blessed with scripture, a message and beautiful music. Peggy Stern played our prelude on her harp and Emily Urban accompanied us throughout worship on the keyboard.



Thank you, Steve Callaghan, for the beautiful cross.

Giving/Tithing

Giving, tithing, and offering are still available via online giving at https://silverlakeunitedmethodist.org/?page_id=1247 and by sending checks to Eastside Ministry or Silver Lake UMC at PO Box 10847, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

There are still expenses for us. We still have salaries. We still have communications to maintain. We might need to invest in some equipment for mobile worship or mobile ministry. What dream or what calling might we need to follow in the future? Share your ideas even as you share your gifts, your tithes, and your offerings.

Follow Us

Be sure to “like” and follow us on our Facebook page,



Listen to Pastor Steve on Sunday mornings as he reads through the Psalms. This is a great way to start your day!

If you miss him in the morning you can watch/listen later in the day. The recordings of the Psalm readings are also added to our web site weekly.

Contact Us

eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com or 612-708-2466.

Messages can also be relayed through the church at silver_lake@live.com or eastsideministrymn@gmail.com.

Eastside Ministry (Silver Lake UMC)
PO Box 10847, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

