



MASSENA

First United Methodist Church

Following Jesus' call to love our
neighbor, serve others, and
grow in faith.

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June 2026

Message from the Pastor

Greetings Church Family,

As many people are aware, my all-time favorite movie is the "Lion King". There's a scene where Simba, as a cub, gets into trouble and Mufasa, his father, had to save him. Once the danger was over, Mufasa asked Simba why he disobeyed and ended up in danger. Simba's response was "I just wanted to be brave like you." Mufasa responds, "I'm only brave when I have to be. Being brave doesn't mean you go looking for trouble."

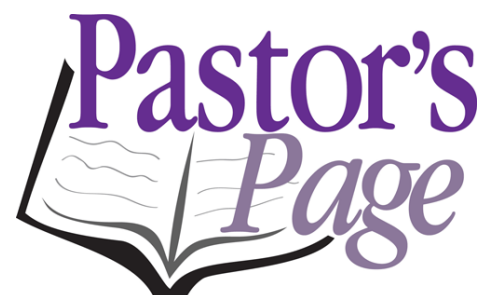


Our world often tells us that being courageous is about strength, bravery and heroic acts. Yet, when it comes to our faith, Jesus challenges that courage is about humility, grace and even being vulnerable.

I'm excited to share that through the month of June we will be diving into the book of Philippians and challenging our thinking when it comes to being courageous. Through this study, we will learn how courage can help us raise other people, transform our communities and face challenges with grace and love.

I will also mention that I will be out of town starting June 17th-June 23rd and will not be here on Sunday June 21st. I wish to thank Sheila Page who has graciously offered to lead that Sunday as I enjoy my vacation. If there is any need for pastoral care, Pastor Brett Johnon (Canton and Grace UMC and Pastor Donna Fichette (Waddington and Ogdensburg) will be available.

Blessed to be your pastor,
Reverend Cori J. Loudon.





JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 9 Charmaine Tusler
June 17 Ralph Bathelt
June 22 Sheila Mockry



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 2 Revs. Gregg/Heather Stierheim
June 24 Jerry/Charlotte Aiken

Mission Outreach-Local

We have been enjoying a quieter month of May as we plan for the upcoming months. We are now collecting feminine hygiene products to provide to the high school and the girls to carry them through the summer months.

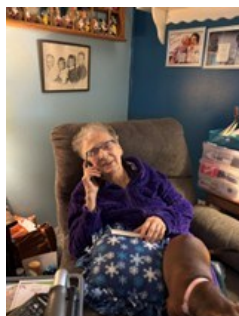
Our next planned event is the Kidz Karnival in August and Ready-4-School also in August. We will work with the Kidz Kick-start team on the Karnival.

We would love more volunteers. If you have an interest and passion for reaching out and serving our community, please see Pastor Cori or Kathy Perry. Together we can make a difference in our community.

Christian Education

Sunday School has been meeting. While our numbers are small, we have enjoyed making a pillow for our homebound members and are thinking of other projects we can take on. Currently we are studying from a workbook that allows for discussion about different parts of the bible. We started with Adam and Eve and are now up to Noah's Ark. The discussions have been lively and very thought provoking.

We will be taking a break through the summer and will return in September to continue our study. If you are interested in being part of the Sunday School team, please see Pastor Cori.



Marlene Wells



Rosemarie Williams

Bells and Choir

We have been singing every week under the direction of Sandy Donaldson and now Nora Darling. Thank you to Sandy for her hard work over the last 9 months and welcome back to Nora, and Mike. Welcome to Nate Darling as he has joined our choir and added his voice to those of the other men in the choir. It has been a pleasure to sing together. We are trying some new music in our rehearsals.

Our bell choir rehearses every week and tries to play at least once per month. We hope to have a few more people to join us. You just need to be able to read music. We can teach you the rest. Please see Sandy Donaldson if you are interested.

Our rehearsal schedule for the adult choir is Tuesdays at 4:00 for bells and 4:45 for choir. However, we also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 10:00, if Tuesday evenings do not work. Come join in the fun. All are welcome to part of our group.

Thank you to all of those who bring bottles and cans for recycling. The money raised goes toward any expenses we have for music or other items we need.



Mission Hub Update

Our next Mission Hub Planning Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6/3 at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, either in person or via Zoom.

Thank you to everyone that joined us for a great workday at Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center on May 9th. We were able to help with a variety of projects to get the camp ready for the upcoming summer programs.

A big thanks to Sam Abourjeily who provided us with our first local missions project. We came together on Saturday 5/16 to help him with some outdoor yard cleanup. It was a great opportunity for service and fellowship and he treated us to a delicious lunch! If you have a project that you are looking for help with, please reach out to Kate Connor with details.

Stay connected with the Mission Hub by following updates on our Facebook page or by emailing us at missionhub.massena@gmail.com. You may also contact Kate Connor with any questions or if you are interested in getting involved.





Congregational Care

We met in April and are happy to report the following:

1. Card Ministry – Is going well. Have heard from so many people who received the card how much it meant to them. Please get to Vicki names of people needing cards either sick, sympathy or just thinking about you.
2. Welcoming - If you would like to be part of the team greeting and welcoming, please see Nancy Manley.
3. Hospitality – Here is the schedule for upcoming events:
June - Fathers' Day Barbecue with a contest about who does the best barbecue. Bring your favorite barbecue side to share
July – Worship in the parking lot.
August 16 – Worship at Barnhardt at the old picnic area with a picnic lunch to follow. This will be held rain or shine.
4. Game night – We decided to postpone continuing this until the fall when people are less likely to have a lot going on.

We are always looking for more volunteers who want to get involved.



Congregational Care

SPPRC Report for Summer

We met in April and May to discuss how everything is going with our employees. Pastor Cori's new hours seem to be working out ok.

We looked at what is going on in the church and talked about what we need to get things accomplished.

Our committee is the conduit between the congregation and the Pastor and the employees of the church. We need to be able to represent all voices within our church community. If there are concerns, issues, suggestions or just a pat on the back for any of our employees, please bring it to any member of our committee.

Working together we will move Massena First in the direction that God is calling us as we are: Following Jesus' Call to Love our Neighbors, Serve others and Grow in Faith.

Committee members are: Kathy Perry, Shirley Lamb, Barb Reid, Charlotte Aiken, Betsy Stout, Carole Norman, Elaine Marschean and Kate Connor.



Words to Ponder

Kind words produce their own image in men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. They soothe and quiet and comfort for the hearer. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used. —Pascal

Twelve things to learn:

- The value of time
- The need of perseverance
- The pleasure of serving
- The dignity of simplicity
- The true worth of character
- The power of kindness
- The influence of example
- The obligation of duty
- The wisdom of economy
- The virtue of patience
- The nobility of labor
- The teachings of Him who said, "Learn of me."

Look for the man whose "education" is finished. He is apt to know too many things that the world is trying to leave behind. —Western Christian Advocate

The aims of Christian Education:

- A body strong and supple
- An intellect able to think
- A heart of love
- A conscience for righteousness
- Appreciation of the beautiful
- A strong will to choose the right

Learn as though you were to live forever; as though you were to die tomorrow.

No man can be wholly uneducated who really knows the Bible, nor can any man be considered truly educated who is ignorant of it.

—Schurman

A sense of humor is the oil of life's engine. Without it the machinery creaks and groans. No lot is so hard, no aspect of things is so grim, but it relaxes with a hearty laugh.

—G. S. Merriam

"Sympathy costs nothing," is only a half-truth. Genuine sympathy always calls forth service that helps. The Samaritan's sympathy cost him a part of two days' time and some money, but it made him immortal as the world's greatest example of neighborly sympathy and helpfulness.

—St. Louis Christian Advocate

Trustees' Update

A BIG thank you to all the Trustees who played a part in the Spring Clean-up, getting the church grounds ready for a new mowing season, and to all those who have volunteered your time to keep our campus looking neatly manicured! The Trustees last met on April 26th with a long list of action items on the agenda.

Pending Projects:

Fellowship Hall Heating- We have received three proposal bids for renovating the heating system in the Fellowship Hall and are thoughtfully considering how they will facilitate use of this building in the future. We are hoping to meet in June to discuss acceptance or modification of one of the proposals so plans can begin for arranging the funding of this major project.

If there is something you see on the church property that needs attention of the Trustees, please report it to Scott Marschean, Molly Hopper, Ralph Bathelt, Randy Stout, Jerry Aiken, Vern Dandrew or Kathy Perry.



Church Council

In May Church Council began to prayerfully reflect on what we each believed to be Our church's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and obstacles as a step in our visioning process. Our next step will be to come up with a survey for everyone in the congregation in hopes to gain further insight. More information will come within the next couple of months.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

— Helen Keller

Finance Update

2026 is almost half over and pledges and other donations are coming in steady. All of our bills have been paid and we are starting to look at themes for our 2027 campaign. However, we will be looking at our financial condition as our utility bills for the winter have been out of sight and the money we budgeted for the year, has been spent already. We will need to look at ways to conserve on utility costs and other expenses for the church.

Half year financial statements will be going out in July. If you have any questions about where you are with your pledge, please see Fae Colby.

Below is the money we have in our savings accounts for targeted purposes. Some of the money indicated is through grants we have written and received.

Kidz Kickstart - \$2719.89
Mission Hub - \$887.79
Mission Trip - \$341.27
Missions Outreach - \$756.27
Memorials - \$1581.32



We are also looking for a few new members on our Finance Team. If you have any interest, please see Barb Reid. The committee meets only a few times a year to set the budget, review our spending and do our year end reports.

Kidz Kickstart

We have been having so much fun with our western theme. The kids have enjoyed investigating bible characters to determine if what they are accused of is wrong do their actions prove they are innocent. For example, we learned that Daniel refused to worship an earthy king instead of God and the kids determined that Daniel was in fact innocent as we are only to worship God.

The kids also enjoyed some fun crafts, entertaining worship music and exciting games. Our Western theme will come to an end in June, and we plan to take a small break for the summer and return in the fall.

I would like to thank all those who have helped make our first year a success. We have made some changes since September, but I am very proud of what the kidz team has done and I'm excited for the future.

This summer the plan is to come up with a schedule from September to June 2027 with all the themes, crafts, games and food. It is our plan to come up with a volunteer schedule with the hope that if anyone would like to help one Thursday, we would love for you to sign up.

Thank you congregation for supporting what has become a different style of service for our church, but I can say in all confidence we are making a spiritual difference in these families lives and it's a blessing to see how God is working through Kidz Kickstart.

