



Willmar United Methodist Church

# DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



*Fall 2017*

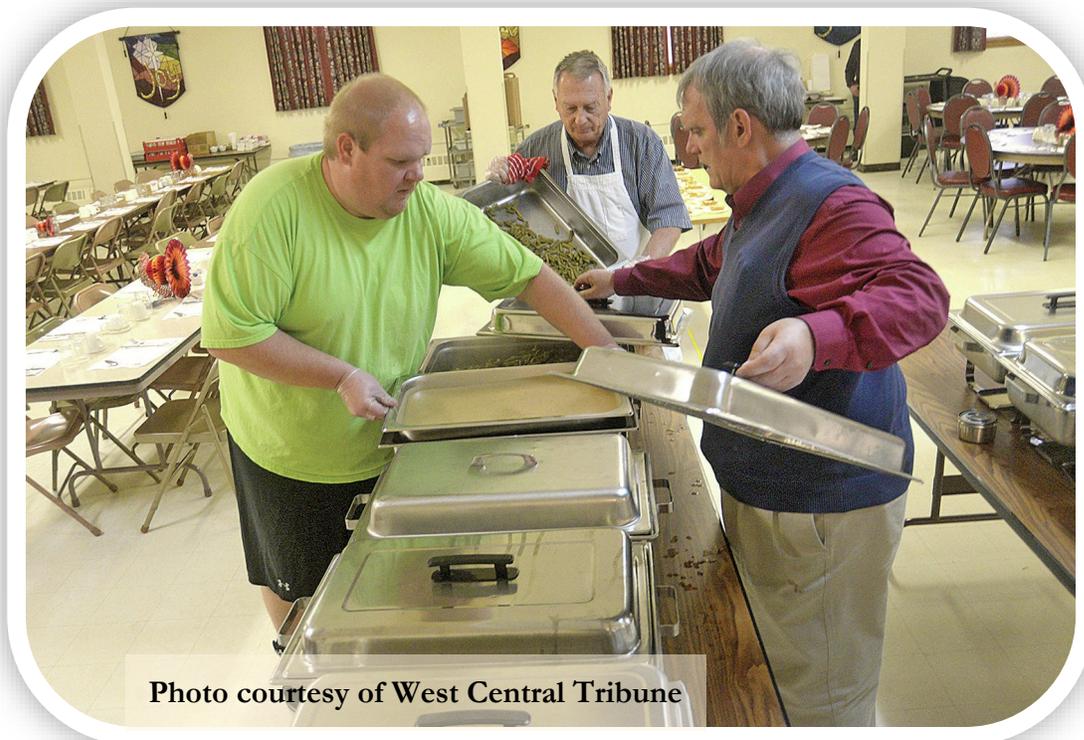


Photo courtesy of West Central Tribune

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September – November 2017





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## Welcome

### What is discipleship?

By participating in the life of Willmar United Methodist Church, you have started on a journey. It isn't a physical journey like a trip to Jerusalem, but a spiritual journey to learn about and connect with the loving God we find in Christ. We call this journey "discipleship" and want to welcome you to continue on the journey with us. You may have been on this journey for days or decades, but we believe that there is always room for growth and encouragement.

Discipleship happens in a variety of ways. It happens as we gather for worship, as we pray for each other, as we give to the ministries of the church, as we share our faith with others, and so many other times and places. Our membership vows as United Methodists state that we will support the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These vows tie in to various elements of the journey of discipleship as we learn how to go deeper into a life filled with God. We encourage you to take the time to find new ways to grow in your journey of faith.

### How to use the Discipleship Guide

On these pages, you will find steps for the journey. From worship and prayer to service and learning, there are ways to dig deeper into faith and discipleship for all ages. Our hope is that you will use this guide to discover the many possibilities for you and your family at Willmar United Methodist Church and connect with others on the journey in meaningful ways. Together, we can continue on the journey, learning and growing in our understanding and love of God.

# Worship

One of our core acts of faith is to gather as a community to worship God. During the school year, we have two worship services: 8:15am and 10:45am with time for Sunday School at 9:30am.

<b>September 3</b> Labor Day — Rev. Dennis Hier preaching	<b>September 10</b> Rally Sunday A Child Like Faith	<b>September 17</b> Confirmation Sunday	<b>September 24</b> I will be a Functioning Church Member
<b>October 1</b> I will be a Unifying Church Member	<b>October 8</b> I will be an Uplifting Church Member	<b>October 15</b> I will be a Praying Church Member	<b>October 22</b> I will be a Healthy Church Member
<b>October 29</b> I will a Grateful Church Member	<b>November 5</b> Our Seeds - God's Harvest Parable of the Talents	<b>November 12</b> Our Seeds - God's Harvest Parable of the Rich Young Ruler	<b>November 19</b> Our Seeds - God's Harvest Parable of the Sower
<b>November 26</b> Christ The King Sunday			

## ***I Am a Church Member Series***

Beginning September 24, this study takes an in-depth look at Paul's words to us in Romans 12 of how to be a community of love and forgiveness. Each week will focus on a different pledge found in Thom Rainer's book *I Am a Church Member*.

If you are interested in the *I Am a Church Member* series, see Pastor Jeff.

## **Ushers and Greeters**

Ushers and greeters help to set the tone for worship by welcoming individuals into our sanctuary, answer questions people may have, and assisting with the offering during worship.

If you are interested in helping to greet or serve as an usher, see Susan Cafferty.

## **8:15 Contemporary Service**

Our 8:15 service is characterized by praise music, played on guitars, drums, and piano. Contemporary music opens up our hearts and minds for the message the Holy Spirit has for us.

If you are interested in the 8:15 Contemporary Service, see Pastor Jeff.

## **10:45 Traditional Service**

Our 10:45 service is designed to provide a traditional worship experience with music played on the organ from the hymnal, choir anthem and responsive readings. Using time-tested ritual and liturgy, we are brought closer to God.

If you are interested in the 10:45 Traditional Service, see Pastor Jeff.

## **I missed worship, but I want to hear the sermon!**

It's actually easier than you think! Audio files of all of our sermons can be found on the church website. Go to <http://www.willmarumc.org>, and click on "worship" and then "sermons."

If you don't have a computer but would like a copy of the sermon, call the church office and we can make you a CD recording.

## **Choir**

The Chancel Choir sings for the traditional service and is always looking for anyone who wants to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7pm. The choir will also perform special music for Christmas, which may have practices outside of the normal time.

If you are interested in joining the choir or participating in the Christmas special, even if you don't sing but want to play an instrument for it, see Thomas Roderick.

## **Handbell Choir**

The Jubilation Bell Choir plays when scheduled during the 10:45 Traditional Service. This 2 octave handbell choir is always looking for new members. They practice every Wednesday at 6pm.

If you are interested in the Jubilation Bells, see Lois Propp.

## **Praise Team**

The Praise Team is looking for individuals who can fill in on weeks when members are missing. Practices are scheduled for Saturday mornings at 9am.

If you are interested in joining the Praise Team as a sub, see Becky Lippert.

## **Worship Where You Are**

Every week, we prepare first thoughts for the sermon for people who might not be able to be present on Sunday morning but wish to still participate in the worship experience. Each Worship Where You Are contains scripture, the sermon text, a few questions to ponder and a closing prayer. It is then e-mailed to individuals on the mailing list, and delivered in hard copy to our shut-ins. We hope this helps you in your faith journey.

If you are interested in receiving Worship Where You Are, contact the church office.

## **We Can Drive**

We have a newly formed carpool that can help you with a ride to worship on Sundays. If you would like to help by being a driver, please call Susan Cafferty.

If you need a ride for Sunday, please call the church office no later than Thursday afternoon. Let us know which service you prefer to attend and we will arrange a ride for you.

If you are interested in the car pool, see Susan Cafferty.

# Missions

## Aid Program

The Aid Program is in its 9th year, the time has just flown by. We founded the Aid Program to provide for short term urgent needs for those who are not covered by other helping agencies. There is great need in our community even if we can't (or won't) see it. Many families struggle to pay everyday bills and many are short of food from time to time.

As a faith based aid program, our goals are to: work closely with other agencies, listen carefully, give fairly and offer all clients some type of help, offer help to anyone from Kandiyohi County without regard to ethnicity or religion (membership in our church is not a requirement to receive aid) and be accountable to our church members. Our monthly budget is \$810 per month. Gifts and suggestions are always appreciated.

During the second quarter of 2017 we provided aid to 21 households. Our assistance included help with food, rent, emergency housing, gas, utilities, and clothes.

If you are interested in the Aid Program, see Susan Cafferty.

## Meals on Wheels

Individuals who are homebound really appreciate a hot meal delivered to their door accompanied by a smile and conversation. Our next turn for Meals on Wheels is November 13-17 and 20-24.

If you are interested in helping with Meals on Wheels, see Elaine Henry.

## Family Promise

Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Family Promise is a national organization that allows people of faith to work together to provide help for homeless families with children. Our affiliate here in Kandiyohi County has been operating since August 2, 2015. We began serving families with children but we have added to our mission by serving homeless married couples and women. Congregations host 4-5 times per year providing overnight shelter, hospitality and meals. Our day center provides showers, laundry facilities and care for preschool children. Heidi Kohls, our wonderful Director helps families find housing, jobs, or other assistance as needed. Our next scheduled week to host is October 22—29.

If you are interested in helping with Family Promise, see Susan Cafferty.

## Milk for the Children

We continue to work with the Willmar Area Food Shelf (WAFS) and our local Cub Foods to provide milk for children in our community. We purchase milk from Cub to provide to the WAFS for distribution. Our goal is to donate 15 gallons each week, which costs approximately \$40. Last year we donated 545 gallons of milk and our goal for 2017 is 600 gallons. We have already donated 480 gallons.

If you are interested in the Milk Program, see Susan Cafferty.

## Children

### Missions of the Month

Each month, there is an opportunity for everyone to give funds and get involved in missions!

In September, we will support Africa University. It is a fully accredited United Methodist university in Zimbabwe. It offers bachelors and master's degree programs and the students come from many different African nations. The university administration would like to increase their on campus student housing from 900 to 1,200.

October's mission will focus on providing help to African families by providing animals such as goats or sheep. For this effort we work through The Heifer Project, one of the best non-profit aid organizations!

In November we will prepare Christmas shoeboxes, working with Spirit Lake Mission to distribute to children living on reservations in the Dakotas.

If you are interested in helping with Missions of the Month, see Susan Cafferty.

## Children

### Rally Day

It's time to kick off a new school year! Come September 10 between services as we rally together to discover God's Galaxy. There will be games, crafts, and snacks for kids to enjoy while parents register for this year's Sunday School classes.

If you are interested in Rally Day, see Becky Fordyce.

### Nursery Care

Professionally staffed every Sunday from 8am—12noon, the nursery provides a safe and welcoming space for children to play and experience the love of God while parents attend worship and Sunday School. The nursery is located in the library.

If you are interested in nursery care, see Becky Fordyce.

### Sunday School

No one is too young to learn about God's love. Starting September 17th we will have Sunday School classes for all children ages 0—grade 5 from 9:30am—10:30am using the Deep Blue Kids curriculum. The Wobblers class, children 0—3 will meet in the nursery for an age-appropriate time to interact with each other and learn that God loves them. Children ages 3—grade 5 begin with an introductory music time before dividing up into smaller classes.

If you are interested in Children's Sunday School, see Becky Fordyce.

### Junior Youth Group

Beginning in October, students grades 3—5 are invited to explore the fun of faith at Junior Youth Group. The day and time for sessions have yet to be determined, so keep an eye on *The Spire* and Sunday morning bulletins for more information.

If you are interested in Junior Youth Group, see Becky Fordyce.

## Children

### Milestone Ministry

Join us as we celebrate the growth and development of our children and youth through our Milestone Ministry. Each month during worship we will celebrate a new milestone of life and faith. September 10th we will commission our kindergarten students, October 8th third grade students will receive their first full Bible, and November 26th our confirmation students will receive a student Bible to help them on their journey of faith.

If you are interested in Milestone Ministry, see Becky Fordyce or Pastor Marianne

## Youth

### The Event

Looking at the theme #blessed, The Event is a gathering of United Methodist youth grades 5—9 from across Minnesota, on November 3—5 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. The Event is a wonderful opportunity to hang out, have fun, participate in a service project, hear the music of Boiling Point and worship God. There is also a leadership internship available for students grades 10—12 to help lead The Event.

If you are interested in The Event or the leadership internship, see Becky Fordyce.

## Youth

### Youth Group

Beginning September 27, youth group meets Wednesday from 5:30—7:30pm for youth entering grades 6—12. This time is for youth to come play some games, have a snack, and learn about faith. This fall we will be focusing on John Wesley and why we are Methodist.

If you are interested in the Youth Group, see Becky Fordyce.

### Confirmation

This September, a new class of students will begin to explore claiming their own faith through the confirmation program. Taking the time to learn about and develop a life of faith and discipleship with an adult mentor, confirmation students will seek to confirm the faith of the church as their own. Confirmation is open to students entering grades 7 and above who have not yet been confirmed.

If you are interested in confirmation, see Pastor Marianne.

### 5th Quarter

September 15th and October 6th following the football game, the youth grades 6—8 from the local area youth groups will gather together for a 5th Quarter event at Vinje Lutheran Church. This will be a safe and fun place to hang out after the game. Each 5th Quarter event costs \$3 which includes food, prizes and games.

If you are interested in 5th Quarter, see Becky Fordyce.

## Youth

### Sunday School

There are two youth-aged Sunday School classes. Students in grades 6—8 meet upstairs in room 3. This year, they be grappling with how our faith intersects with our everyday life. Students grades 9—12 meet downstairs in room 6 and will continue to look at Bible stories for youth. Both classes begin September 17.

If you are interested in participating in Youth Sunday School, see Becky Fordyce.

## Adults

### Care Ministries

Care Ministries provides visitation to United Methodists who are homebound, recovering from illness or coping with grief. We also provide Holy Communion at sites outside of the church, using elements that have been blessed by a pastor. Volunteers are always welcome. You can deliver a bulletin and recording of worship service to a homebound person, serve on the prayer chain, or just stop by and visit with someone who needs a little love. You will help our members realize that they are always children of God.

If you are interested in helping out with Care Ministries, see Susan Cafferty.

## Adults

### *I Am a Church Member* All-Church Study

This fall, we invite you to participate in our all-church study of Thom Rainer's book *I Am a Church Member*. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this study, which will meet at a variety of times throughout the week, beginning the week of September 24th. The study will last six weeks, each week looking at one short chapter focusing on a different commitment we all make as church members. Sign up sheets will be available on Sunday mornings, or through the church office.

If you are interested in the All-Church Study, see Pastor Jeff.

### Teaching Sunday School

We are looking for individuals who are interested in helping raise others up in faith. The Children's and Youth Sunday School programs use set curricula, while Adult Sunday School teachers set their own plan and are resourced by the pastors.

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School for children or youth, see Becky Fordyce, for adults, see Pastor Marianne.

# Adults

## Tuesday Book Club / Coffee Group

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at Lulu Beans from 4:30pm —5:45pm. Activities include short devotions followed by a lively discussion of the book for that month. September's book is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, October's book is *The Diary of Anne Frank* and November's book is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

If you are interested in participating in the Book Club, see Wendy Nelsen or Linda Saunders.

## Coloring Club

As individuals of faith, coloring can be a meditative process of praying or connecting to God in a new way. We will continue to gather to practice the meditative art of coloring. We meet the first Wednesday of every month from 5pm-7pm in a come-and-go format (come when you can, for as long as you can). Supplies will be available, but feel free to bring your own as well.

If you are interested in joining the Coloring Club, see Pastor Marianne.

## Love in Stitches Crafting Time

New this fall, individuals who enjoy crafting are invited to come on every third Monday of the month (September 18, October 16 and November 20) from 6—8pm and craft alongside others. Bring whatever project you are working on! All crafts and skill-levels welcome.

If you are interested in Love in Stitches, see Pastor Marianne or Melany Souther.

## Bazaar

Saturday, October 14 will be our 44th annual Bazaar. We sell crafts, jams, and jellies. The pastry and candy centers are filled with pies, cakes, lefse, cookies, breads, chocolate goodies, caramels and krumkaka. Sweet rolls are served with the morning coffee. Our noon lunch has three different meal choices. The Farmers Market will have plants and fall produce and face painting is a treat for our young visitors. It is a Saturday that is the culmination of a year of fun and fellowship from the Bazaar Workshop. Come for the fun between 9am and 1pm.

If you are interested in helping out with the Bazaar, see Suzanne Wilson.

## Turkey Dinner

The 40th annual Turkey Dinner will be November 9 with serving starting at 4:15pm. This yearly event is a way for us to reach out and connect to the broader Willmar community, and needs as much help as possible. There are a range of volunteer opportunities, particularly in the kitchen, dining room and dishwasher room.

If you are interested in helping out with Turkey Dinner, see Dave Parker.

## Men

### Men's Fellowship and Study Group

Throughout September and October, the Men's Fellowship and Study Group will be participating in the *I am a Church Member* All-Church Study. Regularly scheduled meetings will resume at the home of Don Donato (2006 Prairie Lane SW, Willmar) in November.

If you are interested in joining the Men's Fellowship and Study Group, see Don Donato.

## Women

### Quilting Bible Study

Pastor Marianne is continuing the Women's Bible Study with the incredible women of the New Testament. Based on Carol Honderich's quilt pattern, each session will focus on a different woman of the Bible and the lessons that we can learn. Participants are then encouraged to express their learning through the creation of a quilt block designed for the session.

The group will meet September 7 & 21, October 5 & 12, and November 2, 16 & 30 from 5—6pm. The optional quilt pattern costs \$10. Everyone is invited regardless of Bible knowledge or quilting experience.

If you are interested in joining the Quilting Bible Study, see Pastor Marianne.

## Women

### United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW is an organization open to all women of the church. We are continuing with our theme "Beacons of Light" for our fall events.

We meet for regular circle events on the first Thursday of each month. Rebekah Circle, led by Dee Foster, meets in the Wesleyan Room at 9:30am and is studying the book *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Phillip Yancey. The Mary Circle, led by Jan Hier, meets in the Fellowship Hall at 2pm and is studying *Cast of Characters* by Max Lucado.

Our Fall Gathering will be Thursday, September 21 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and an interesting, timely program. While this program is sponsored by UMW, all are invited and welcome.

If you are interested in UMW, see President Judy Boll, or Circle Leaders Jan Hier and Dee Foster.

### Bazaar Workshop

Bazaar Workshop meets every Tuesday morning at 9am at the church. We have many different projects we work on that include hand sewing, paper crafts, and any projects suggested that may be good sellers for the annual Bazaar. Anyone may bring their own projects to work on. We invite those who would like to spend two or three hours in great fellowship to help make our bazaar a success and every skill level is needed. Also, if the time does not work, projects can be done at home and donated for the Bazaar. We also break for coffee and treats.

If you are interested in joining the Bazaar Workshop, see Suzanne Wilson.

## Women

### Women's Fellowship Study

In September and October, the Women's Fellowship Study will be participating in the *I Am a Church Member* All-Church Study. Regular Women's Fellowship Study members are encouraged to sign up for the All-Church Study using the sign up sheet available at the church.

Beginning November 14th, the Women's Fellowship Study will revert to an every other week rotation, meeting at the home of LaDonna Hebrink (2006 Prairie Lane SW, Willmar). The new book this fall will be *Perplexing Proverbs for Women*. Everybody loves the Proverbs. They are easy to read and are often quoted as valuable life principles. Yet most of us seldom actually apply them and they don't seem study-able. Susanne Scheppmann has done a masterful job of weaving the life-changing principles and concepts of the Proverbs into an easy to study format. You are encouraged to use the study's captivating stories, real life examples, and practical application to make a change in your life. Books will be ordered in October.

If you are interested in the Women's Fellowship Study, or need help obtaining the book, see LaDonna Hebrink.

## All Ages

### Community Meals

We serve a free meal to anyone in the community who wishes to join us every 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Diners are encouraged to enter through the courtyard doors close to the elevator. Workers should enter through the door by the kitchen.

The Community Meal Team consists of master chefs and volunteers who help to set up, cook, serve, and clean up after the meal. Set up happens following the 8:15am service. Occasionally help with the meal is needed at 3pm. Servers are needed at 5:30pm and clean up help starts at 6pm, including 2 people to run the dishwasher.

If you are interested in helping with Community Meal, see Tammy Barnes, Sue Gimse or Damon Jongbloed.

## Church Library

Located at the top of the stairs, the church library has a generous amount of fiction and nonfiction books for all ages — from toddlers to mature readers. The library is open anytime the church is open. Come and snoop around to find the perfect book for you and your family! If you haven't checked out a book before, select a book, sign the card and leave it on the card catalog by the door. Returned books can be placed in the wooden box under the card catalog.

If you are interested in the church library, see Nancy Olson.

## Fun Friday: Movie Night

Come relax with friends and family with a good movie. September 29th beginning at 6pm, we invite you to join us for fall's first Fun Friday as we gather to watch a family friendly movie. Everyone is invited. We will provide the movie, pizza and beverages and ask that you bring your family and your favorite snack to share. Pillows, PJ's and friends welcome and encouraged!

If you are interested in Movie Night, see Pastor Jeff or Pastor Marianne.

## Trunk or Treat

It's tailgating, Halloween style!! October 29 in the church parking lot we will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event for the whole community. Kids are invited to get dressed up for Halloween, grab some friends, and come celebrate at church. Instead of door-to-door, you get to go car-to-car to collect candy and play games. Adults and teens are invited to decorate their cars (trunks) in the church parking lot and hand out candy or help to facilitate games. The more cars we have, the more fun there will be!

If you are interested in Trunk or Treat, see Pastor Marianne or Becky Fordyce.

## Fun Friday: Game Night

November 17 at 6pm, you, your family, and your favorite board or card games are invited to come to church for an old-fashioned game night. We will provide the pizza and drinks and ask that you bring the games and friends.

If you are interested in Game Night, see Pastor Jeff or Pastor Marianne.

# Contacts

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Love in Stitches Crafting  
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UMW President  
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***Dee Foster***

UMW Rebekah Circle  
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***Jan Hier***

UMW Mary Circle  
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***Tammy Barnes***

Community Meal Master Chef  
320-222-8877

***Sue Gimse***

Community Meal Master Chef  
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***Damon Jongbloed***

Community Meal Master Chef  
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***Dave Parker***

Turkey Dinner Chair  
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***LaDonna Hebrink***

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# Notes

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