



First Family

We welcome all people... are guided by the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus... are inspired to participate as faithful disciples of Christ.

August 2014

Special Fall Faith Forum

Let's have lunch and talk about dying

Please plan to attend a special Faith Forum after church on Sunday, September 14 and begin the process of planning for future healthcare choices.

A light lunch will be served. After a brief video, discussion will involve planning to get ready for life's end.

Whether you are 77, 37, 55, or 28, discussions with loved ones about what you would want toward the end of your life are important. Many questions need to be considered:

What would you want if something happened today? Circumstances change, so discussions need to be repeated and documents updated. Do you have the documents in place that would help the process should you not be able to make decisions for yourself?

What makes life worth living to you? Would you like to be an organ donor? If you have children, what plan do you have for them? What are your goals and values?

Give your family a gift and begin the process of sharing, with the goal of having documentation of your desires in place. It's time to have those conversations.

Catch Strikepoint in concert July 31

Strikepoint, our world-class touring handbell ensemble, will travel to Kansas City, Missouri this year, with stops in Eldora and Sioux City, IA, Sioux Falls, SD, and St. Joseph, MO.

Please welcome them home at 7:30 pm on Thursday, July 31.

The concert will include old favorites and new surprises. Come for the bubbles and stay for the rocket launch!

...and again with Swedish choir August 8

From August 4-10 FUMC and Strikepoint will host the Karl-Oskar choir, made up of young men age 17-21 from Vaxjo, our Sister City in Sweden.

The choir will sing at Lake Place Park on Wednesday, August 6, enjoy time off at Canal Park, Spirit Mountain, and the North Shore, and meet Mayor Don Ness on Friday, August 8 before their 7 pm concert with Strikepoint.

FUMC is providing host homes for most of the 19 young Swedes and use of the bus for the trip up the North Shore. Många tack för det!

**First United
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway
Duluth, MN 55811
www.fumcduluth.com



Our First Family

Hospitalizations: Tom Ling, Camille Como, A. J. Whitby

Deaths: Luella Dettmann on June 28, Richard Synhorst on July 12, Rev. Dr. H. Thomas Walker on July 16.

FUMC Musicians: We will begin our year by gathering for a potluck on Wednesday, September 3 at 6 pm. Members of all musical groups are invited to this gathering, and new members are always welcome.

Thinking of fall: As September approaches, we need to start planning fall activities and events. Please contact the office (727-5021) with your start date for groups that were on hiatus over the summer. We like to make sure that your group is on the calendar so that you can maximize participation.

ALSO, group leaders: please think about helping with a Wednesday Night Supper. We will start our popular Wednesday night meals on September 10. Pick your date early and call the office to sign up.

You can help unlock a world of possibilities for a child, and all you need is a scissor. The United Methodist Women remind you to clip and save boxtops and labels from participating products and bring them to church to help the Red

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Pastor's Pen

Ring out the news — We're alive & well

Earlier this summer I received a letter in the mail that began with the words, *Let your community know your church is alive and well.*

Wouldn't you be intrigued by such a statement? The other night at Ruby's Pantry, one of the people on the Ruby's Pantry board was telling me she had a conversation with a friend who said she had heard that our church was closing. Egad! I assured our Ruby's Pantry board member that we were not closing, though I did say, "Unless the Trustees are just not telling me something." We laughed.

So tell me how I can let the community know our church is alive and well!!

The first sentence of that letter read in full: *Let your community know your church is alive and well by ringing bells daily.* The letter went on, "Few sounds inspire and invite your congregation and community to worship like the peal of bells or a familiar hymn ringing out – inviting all those who hear to join the worship."

So how large an increase in attendance do you think we would achieve by installing bells that rang out in our community? How long before we had people raising concerns about the noise of the bells? While such a strategy may work in a smaller community, I don't think bells of this kind are really the way we let our community know our church is alive and well.

It is important to let the community know our church is alive and well. We can do that in all kinds of ways. We can continue to open our doors to the community for significant conversations about important issues. We can continue to open our doors for community groups. We can offer quality worship, music (including bells), and educational experiences. We can care for each other well, in all the circumstances of our lives. We can reach out into the community in ways that make a difference in people's lives. We can tell our story, through the media, but also individually. You are the best representatives to let the community know that we are alive and well.

Just as you are the best storytellers to let others know that our church is alive and well, so, too, you are the ones who do the best job

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First United Methodist Church

230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
218/727-5021 info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **Aug 29**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

UMW labels, *continued*

Bird Mission in Kentucky.

Hundreds of products participate in the *Labels for Education* program. Look for the *Labels for Education* logo and point value near the product's UPC symbol. Brands include Campbell's, Post, BIC, Pepperidge Farms, Dannon, Glad, Pop Secret, and V8.

You don't even need to be too tidy with your scissors; the UMW ladies are glad to trim them up. A container near the Welcome Center awaits your contribution.

Alive, well *continued*

of inviting people to worship. I don't think I have ever heard a story about someone coming to a church because they heard church bells in the community. I am not saying it has never happened, just that I am not sure it happens a lot. On the other hand, I have heard a lot of stories about people connecting to a church because they were invited by a friend.

I believe we are alive and well as a congregation. That does not mean we don't have our struggles and concerns or that we cannot improve. I believe God's Spirit continues to touch people's lives here. God still embraces people in healing, forgiving, empowering love here. God still challenges us to be about God's redemptive work in the world here. Let's keep opening our lives to the winds of God's Spirit, and let's tell the stories about being alive and well, inviting others to the adventure of following Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

David



Missionaries to visit in September

United Methodist missionaries Gordon and Ardell Graner, who are currently working in the Dominican Republic, will be visiting First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 3. We currently have a 7 pm event scheduled, but may add to this as the date nears. First UMC has supported the Graners' work for a number of years through a line item in our budget.

Church Council

The First UMC church council will meet Tuesday, August 12, at 7 pm. In addition to conducting our regular business, we will continue our conversation about priorities for the next year or two.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry for this month will be Thursday, August 21. All who work coordinating Ruby's Pantry are deeply grateful for those who help make this food distribution program happen.

Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the food with them. You may volunteer anytime between 3 pm and 8 pm and can come for as little as an hour to help out.

CHUM sets up gift registry for Steve O'Neil Apartments

The Steve O'Neil Apartments are under construction and will provide housing for fifty families who have otherwise experienced homelessness. To furnish these apartments, a gift registry has been established.

The registry is designed in the manner of a wedding or shower gift registry, where anyone can access the website to select and purchase a gift. Individuals or groups could furnish entire rooms or apartments, or purchase lamps, tables, beds, flatware, and the like.

You can also contribute to the on-going costs of construction.

Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important and significant community effort. You can reach the registry through a link at chumduluth.org.



Save your stuff* for United Campus Ministry 50¢ sale

United Campus Ministry will again be having a 50¢ sale in conjunction with Hope UMC's book sale on Saturday, September 27. The sale benefits United Campus Ministry so that we may have a presence on campus at UMD.

Save your stuff for UCM! The 50¢ sale will include items such as household goods, sports equipment, kitchen and garden utensils, tools, and bags—anything except clothing.

We make these items 50 cents (or bundle small items together) to ensure they find loving homes and are affordable for college students and others who might not be able to afford higher-priced items.

As you do your summer cleaning, please put aside items for the sale. We ask that you hold on to items as long as possible, but if you need to get them out early, call Hope UMC at 724-2266.

You can bring books to Hope at any time; we will collect them through the day of the sale.

If you would like to volunteer for either sale, we would be most grateful. Just let Cynthia know at ucmduluth@gmail.com or 218-260-3114.

**except for clothing*

Notes from the Lay Leader: Ideas, prayers

MaryAnne Korsch

First United Methodist Church is blessed with many people who care deeply about the work we do as a congregation. The comments you have provided about our programs were thoughtfully considered at a special Church Council meeting on July 7, 2014. We are grateful for all feedback and are open to new ideas as we chart our course for the coming year. Thanks for your creative thinking and passion! If you have more ideas or would like to discuss the work of FUMC, please feel free to contact me (maryanne.korsch@gmail.com or 218/343-8813).

Our Prayer Team is forming and will begin in earnest later this month. FUMC's Prayer Team is convened specifically for the purpose of praying for our church and the work we are doing in the name of Jesus Christ in this community. Our first meeting/orientation will be on Monday, August 25 from 7 to 8 pm.

Our covenant will be to pray daily for our church and its members; in addition, team members who are able will meet for a short (5-10 minute) prayer in the Three Brothers Chapel each Sunday morning right before the worship service. Contact me for more information or with any questions.

Mission: Family Fun Summer 2014

Families of all ages and kinds are welcome – friends and neighbors too. Mark these dates on your calendar, and get directions and details at fumcduluth.com > Ministries > Family Ministries.

- Thursday, August 7, 5:45 pm

Duluth Huskies Game and Tailgate Party

Mission: Animal Allies. Food: Make your own burrito

Cost: General admission \$7

- Friday, August 15, 8:30 pm

Sound of Music movie in Leif Erikson Park

Mission: Life House. Cost: Free

Food: Bring your own snacks, beverages

School Supplies for CHUM Backpacks

The Mission: Family Fun group started four CHUM backpacks for low-income kids. We are missing the following supplies to complete the backpacks. Bring your contribution to Laura Stahl by August 5.

- Grade K-5: backpack, 2 wide-ruled notebooks, 1 box of crayons, 3 pocket folders, 6 pencils (or \$18 donation to CHUM)
- Grade 6-12: backpack, 3 college-ruled notebooks, 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper, 3 pocket folders, 6 pencils, 3 pens (or \$20 donation to CHUM)
- \$30 donation to CHUM for backpack

Still to come this summer

Aug 3: Communion Sunday

Aug 12: Church Council

Aug 21: Ruby's Pantry

Aug 26: Communion Service for our Homebound Members

Sept 1: Labor Day Holiday

Sept 3: Music Potluck

Sept 3: Visit by missionaries Gordon and Ardell Graner

Do you need a kidney health check?

Come to the National Kidney Foundation's new KEEP Healthy program and find out. One in three Americans is at risk for developing kidney disease. KEEP Healthy will help you learn if you're the one.

At this free screening, you will complete a KEEP Healthy survey, receive height and weight measurements to calculate your BMI, have your blood pressure checked, have a clinician consultation, complete a program evaluation, and receive educational materials and NKF information.

If you go, you'll learn about your risk factors and two simple tests your doctor can run to check for kidney function. You'll receive a copy of your results to discuss them with your healthcare provider, and be offered a host of resources and programs from the NKF and others to help you adopt a healthier lifestyle.

In Duluth, KEEP Healthy screenings will be available September 9 from 11 am to 3 pm at Minnesota Power, 30 W Superior Street. Please phone 800-596-7943 or go to kidney.org/KEEPhealthy to register.

Health Notes Communion, lunch Aug 26

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Ties that Bind Project: Quilts, Quilts Quilts!

Opportunity to Help: CHUM is taking steps to equip the Steve O'Neil apartments, which are currently being built, with vital amenities such as linens, chairs, tables etc. for the families who will live in the apartments. In addition, the call has gone out for quilters and those of you who would like to donate time, money, or materials to help fashion quilts for each family. That means 44 quilts!

Peace Church will offer a work site, plus storage for materials and finished quilts throughout the project.

Quilting experience is not required. If you can cut, sort by size and color, pin, sew a straight line on a sewing machine, or tie a knot, you can be a part of this effort. Young and old, men and women — all can be involved.

For more information and times to help, contact Jo Johnson at joajohnson@q.com or 525-3779. All quilts need to be made with cotton tops and backs and poly batting. Donations can be made through Janell at the Peace UCC office or to Jo.

Blood Drive

Please remember that we will be having a blood drive on Tuesday, **August 19**, from 3 to 6 pm. Sign up in the church office or after church in the Narthex. Especially during the summer when donations are less frequent, all donors are much appreciated!

New donors can go the Memorial Blood Center website to gain information about donation. All donors can also go to the website to pre-register on the day of donation, which saves time. The whole process takes about 45 minutes and you always get a snack after your donation and a pretty armband! See me if you have questions.

Annual Luncheon and Communion Service August 26

On Tuesday, **August 26**, at 11:30 am, the Nurture Committee will be holding its annual luncheon and communion service for those individuals who are ordinarily unable to come to church—those in extended care facilities or who find themselves “homebound” for various reasons. Lay pastors and other volunteers help to provide transport. If you would like to provide transportation to someone, please give the church office a call and I will give you more details. All volunteers are invited to stay for the service and luncheon.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date June 30, 2014

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$195,566.14	\$192,775.00
Other Operating Income	<u>66,860.35</u>	<u>92,164.60</u>
Total Income	\$262,526.49	\$284,939.60
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$315,786.47</u>	<u>\$289,079.34</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 53,359.98)</u>	<u>(\$ 4,139.74)</u>



First United Methodist Church

First Family (USPS 349-210) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth MN 55811-2799. Periodicals postage is paid at Duluth MN 55806.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth MN 55811-2799.

Weekly Our regular schedule

This calendar includes only those events open to Church members or the general public. Other events are scheduled in the building, but not listed.

Sundays

10:00am Worship - S
Wee Wonder - 105
3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

8:00am Men's Study Group - FSL
6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St

Wednesdays

Thursdays

9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
9:00am Zumba - LSH we
6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 8/21)

Fridays

9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Sunday, August 3

10:00am Communion Sunday - S

Friday, August 8

7:00pm Karl-Oskar Choir Concert - S

Tuesday, August 12

7:00am Primary Election - LSH
7:00pm Church Council - FSL

Wednesday, August 13

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Tuesday, August 19

3:00pm Bloodmobile - E Parking Lot

Thursday, August 21

4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - S, LSH

Monday, August 25

5:00pm Trustees - FSL
5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Committee - Lib
7:00pm Prayer Team - FSL

Tuesday, August 26

11:00am Homebound Communion & Lunch - TBC, N

Thursday, August 27

5:30pm Finance Committee - St

And coming this fall...



FALL PLANNING

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