



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.

December 2016

Music & more in December

Concert at Sacred Heart: A holiday concert this Sunday, December 4 will include organists and handbell ringers from FUMC. Sponsored by the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the concert features the AGO's organ scholarship students (including our own Parker Hinnenkamp and Josh Peterson), East High School Sterling Strings, First UMC's Class Ring handbell choir, the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra brass, and a carol sing-along. The concert will begin at 3pm this Sunday at Sacred Heart Music Center, 201 West 4th Street, Duluth. Proceeds of a free-will donation will go to the Felgemaker Organ Maintenance Fund.

Worship this Sunday, December 4 will be led by children and youth, with music by Sunday school kids along with JAM, Tapestry, and youth singers, keyboardists, and percussionists. A reception will follow the service.

Nativity in a Box

On Sunday, December 11, Individuals and families are invited to a cookie-decorating event in the East Lounge right after worship. Decorate a set of cookies representing the people from the nativity. Package it in a beautifully decorated box and take it home or give to a special friend. Nativity boxes, plain sugar cookies, and decorations will be provided; you bring the artistry and love!



**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Service of Lessons and Carols - Sunday, Dec. 18

Based on the well-known Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, this service will
continued



Our First Family

Born: Marley Mae Mattila, daughter of Tyler and Matt Mattila and first grandchild of Brett and Adair Ballavance.

Hospitalized: Bob Krumwiede, Barb Ferme nich, Janet Bye

Died: Nov. 3 – Dorothy Pramman; Nov. 11 – Dolores Boldt; Nov. 21 – David Porter

Church Lighting

- Oct 16-22, Judy and Pete LaTour in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary, benefiting the Capital Campaign.
- Oct 30-Nov 12, in memory of Dr. Winfield S. Haycock, former FUMC pastor, from Naomi & Elliot Haycock.
- Nov 27-Dec 3, in memory of Fred Glibbery from the 2X2s Couples Club to benefit the FUMC Music program.
- Dec 4-10, Elliot & Naomi Haycock, the first couple married in the church after the move to the Coppertop, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Terri Lynn & Equal Exchange Products can be purchased from Laura Stahl. Check the list at Welcome Center and on Laura’s door to see what’s left.

For What It’s Worth

Hospitality at Christmas

“Tis the season to be merry— and hospitable!”

The season of Advent is here.

Maybe you heard the old story about the Christmas pageant a church was getting ready to perform. The director of the play chose a friendly, kind-hearted, well-mannered seven-year-old boy to play the role of Bethlehem’s innkeeper. The poor boy had a hard time getting into the proper mood for him to say to Mary and Joseph, **“There is no room in the inn.”**

He was just too friendly, kind-hearted, and well mannered.

Well, the night of the big pageant finally arrived and the boy’s proud mother and father were sitting in front row grinning from ear to ear. The lights were dimmed and the crowd hushed and the cast of characters marched out onto the stage.

Soon it was the seven-year-old’s turn. He boomed out his line with great authority, **“There is no room in the inn,”** he said to Mary and Joseph.

But then, he couldn’t resist adding, **“But come on in anyhow and have some milk and cookies.”**

He was just too friendly, kind-hearted, and well mannered.

Hospitality. There was some hospitality that first Christmas when baby Jesus was born. Although the Innkeeper had no room in his Inn, he did provide a stable for Mary and Joseph. It wasn’t much, but it was something. And the angels? Do you remember the chorus of angels filling the skies with their music? That was hospitable. The shepherds, hard-working and tired, walked to the stable to see this miracle for themselves. And who can forget the stars that holy night that told their Christmas story and the wise men who followed those stars and brought their gifts? Hospitality.

Yet, there were thousands, perhaps millions, of people who missed this special night. People from every corner of the earth who
continued

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First United Methodist Church

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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Rick Fossum

Next First Family deadline: **Dec 23**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Hospitality, continued

had no idea that their world was about to change with the birth of God's Son.

How many times have we missed seeing him? How many times have we become so full of our own activities, of our own places to go, of our own desires and wishes that Christmas comes and it goes and we miss him—again?

Where is the hospitality in that?

Let's try something new this Advent season. Be hospitable! Be hospitable by saying a special "Welcome, baby Jesus" every time you see a star twinkle or hear a newborn baby cry. Be hospitable every time you hear children laughing or when you see lovers holding hands or when you hear the music of Christmas filling the air or when you see homes and churches decorated with bells and mistletoe.

Be hospitable to the people you greet in church and to the person standing behind the sales counter and to young lady who brings you a cup of coffee.

Be hospitable to the ones you love and to those you know and those you don't know.

Be hospitable and recognize the Christ Child in every person you meet this season of Advent.

And remember to make room for the Son of God in your Inn.

Together with you in Christ,

Pastor Rick

Christmas Services, continued

include scripture readings, anthems and hymns that tell the story of Christ's birth. Our Sanctuary Choir, Strikepoint, Tapestry, and Class Ring, as well as a variety of instruments including organ, strings, percussion and woodwinds, will provide musical selections. We invite you to join us for this special service.

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

We'll mark Christmas Eve with services at 4pm and 10pm. Both Christmas Eve services are candlelight services. Music at the 4:00 service is led by Tapestry. Music at the 10:00 service is led by organ, choir, Extollers, strings.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

Join us in the Chapel on Sunday, December 25 for worship at 10am. This interactive service will include the awarding of the Lennon-Berini Scholarships, the sacrament of communion, some Christmas surprises, and Paul Sapyta's famous scones. The theme of worship will be "Receive the Gift." Start your holiday celebration with your church family, thanking God for the gift of the Christ Child.



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field..."

Capital Campaign Update

\$77,417 remains to be raised towards our Capital Campaign goal of \$863,000. Our campaign wraps up in December 2018. You may make a gift to the campaign today by using a pew envelope and filling in the line for the "Building Fund." Your gifts will keep our light Shining on the Skyline for many years to come.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date October 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$334,319.51	\$330,012.89
Other Operating Income	<u>133,658.79</u>	<u>127,633.30</u>
Total Income	\$467,978.30	\$457,646.19
Expense		
Total Expense	\$480,222.24	\$485,273.79
Net Income	<u>(\$ 12,243.94)</u>	<u>(\$ 27,627.60)</u>

All taxes, apportionments and payables YTD have been paid.

Earthkeeper

Naomi Yaeger has been commissioned a missionary for the care of God's creation — an official designation through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Earthkeepers are United Methodists who are aware of the ecological challenges in our world today and feel called to be part of a movement to transform the world. They participate in four days of intensive training in creation care theology and community organizing, and then commit to 10 hours per month of providing leadership for a community project or advocacy campaign. Each Earthkeeper selects his or her own project.

The forty Earthkeepers commissioned in a November 16 ceremony in Atlanta, GA were the first for this new program.

The Gifts of Advent

from Linda Wiiiig, parish nurse

As Meister Eckhart has said, "Be ready at all times for the gifts of God, and always for new ones."

"Be ready at all times to give those you love the simply abundant gifts of the Spirit. If you do, they'll give you Christmas gifts you'll never forget: happy smiles and contented hearts. And you won't want to exchange them." This is from the book *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all could celebrate Christmas in this way; Calm and collected. To be. What a gift to ourselves and others.

With this season of Advent now upon us let us take time to appreciate what it holds for each of us.

Let us reflect on the meaning of each week: hope, love, joy, and peace. My wish to you is to welcome the light of God into your heart, may it bring joy and healing, blessings and hope for you and our world.

May you have a blessed Christmas.



Cards of thanks from our 50th anniversary

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the opportunity to worship with your huge hearts under the Big Top Coppertop. It was wonderful to be home, and to share that homecoming with my body and heart kin.

What I didn't say adequately in my comments was this: I am most proud of your decision to be a community gathering place witnessing for God's vision for justice.

Through the communal witness of Opening our Doors, dismantling racism, and your ongoing commitment to be in ministry in the city with all of God's beloveds, First UMC has been a big steeple gathering place for the hopeful.

Surely God has blessed you with a stunning opportunity to witness for hope and healing for another fifty years and more.

I am so moved by being forever more bound to your ministry through my prayers and through my desire to be the pastor of a big steeple gathering place for the hopeful here in Rochester.

God's continued blessings be yours,

Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay

Lead Pastor, Christ UMC

Rochester, MN

Let it shine!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all who participated in shining your light during our 50th anniversary celebration November 13. What a glorious and memorable day! We can keep our light ignited and keep sharing the love of God to others.

The 50th Anniversary Committee

Friday is the new Tuesday

The Tuesday morning men's group is now meeting on Friday mornings at 8 am. The intention behind this move is enable Pastor Rick, who is in Duluth only Thursday through Sunday, to participate in the group. Anyone that might be interested in joining the group on Fridays is welcome.

Ruby's Pantry: With the holidays just around the corner, food received through Ruby's Pantry becomes even more important. Ruby's Pantry for December will be Thursday, December 15.

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

Responding to Hurricane Matthew: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is responding in a variety of ways to the destruction and death caused by Hurricane Matthew, including providing emergency supplies, a water purification program in partnership with GlobalMedic, and a food distribution program through the Haitian church. Initial assistance from UMCOR will exceed \$150,000.

You can help too — through prayer, financial contributions, meals, and health kits. Donations may be made to UMCOR International Disaster Response, Advance #982450.

Welcome, new members

Janelle Mostad and Eric Frost moved to Duluth in October of 2015 for a job opportunity. Janelle works as an audiologist for Essentia Health Hospital and Eric is an insurance agent in town. They are recently engaged and excited to become a part of the church.

Marcus Giuliani is a freshman at East High School and enjoys both robotics and swimming competitively. He is very connected to his brothers and sister and enjoys spending time with them over the internet, even though they are far away.

Cindy Giuliani is passionate about children and their families. She and her husband are proud parents of four wonderful young adults. Cindy also has cared for other people's children in her home preschool for the last 17 years. She enjoys spending time playing outside with her new puppy and reading. Very active in her former church, she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir for many years. Cindy is looking forward to growing spiritually and sharing her talents at First UMC.

Courtney Houser was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and has been in Duluth for three years. Previously a 911 dispatcher and a vocational rehabilitation counselor, she is now at home with daughters Alaina and Aubrey. When she gets a chance, she enjoys reading, organizing and hiking. She was drawn to FUMC by David Bard's writings and has been attending for almost a year.

Darren Houser, Courtney's husband, hails from Omaha, Nebraska, and lived for five years in Illinois.

Bob and Vicki Williams arrived in Duluth in 1966. Bob is retired from UMD as a Professor of Music. He still enjoys playing clarinet in the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra under the direction of Mark Whitlock. Vicki worked as the Japan Program Coordinator for the Lake Superior Association of Colleges & Universities. Later she worked for the Institute of Foreign Study in Japan and organized summer programs for Japanese business students at UMD.

They have raised two sons and a daughter in Duluth. David is a mechanical engineer for LHB, and John is a local general contractor. Linda lives in Ely where she is manager of the Gardner Trust, among other things. Bob and Vicki have enjoyed helping to raise two granddaughters in their retirement. They are transferring their church membership from Hope UMC.

Kid Stuff

Coloring Advent Posters: Stop by the table in the narthex to color a section of our Advent Art Posters each Sunday and on Christmas Day. Watch the picture develop as we journey through Advent toward the joy of Christmas Day!

Family Bible Study & Stations and **Preschool Discovery** are on break until Jan 8. The **Toddler Room** will be open for parents to use but will not be staffed for worship on Dec 25 and Jan 1.



First United Methodist Church

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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

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 10:00am Worship - S
- Wee Wonder - 105
- 3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

- Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 4:15pm Spirit Yoga - TBC
- 5:00pm Young Adults - Lib
- 7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

- 6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 6:00pm Moms' Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays

No groups or rehearsals Dec 28

- 4:45pm Kids' Club Art - L Nur, MR
- 5:00pm JAM & PB Band - TBC
- Parent2Parent - St
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:30pm Dinner - LSH se
- Explorers - St
- 5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW, 112
- Kids' Games - L Nur, MR
- 6:45pm Cast in Bronze - BR
- 7:30pm Tapestry - S
- 7:45pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Fridays

- 8:00am Men's Study Group - FSL
- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

- 9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Saturday, December 3

- 9:00am Hmong New Year - LSH

Sunday, December 4

- 11:00am SPRC - FSL

Monday, December 5

- 11:00am Dave Porter: Celebration of Life - S, LSH

Tuesday, December 6

- 3:00pm Blood Drive - East Lot

Wednesday, December 7

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Thursday, December 8

- 1:00pm Alzheimers Caregivers - Lib
- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL
- 6:00pm Church Council - FSL

Friday, December 9

- 6:00am Have Heart Food Drive - E Lot

Saturday, December 10

- 8:00am Breakfast with Santa - LSH, K
- 9:00pm Healing Circle - TBC

Sunday, December 11

- 11:15am Advent in a Box event

Monday, December 12

- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, December 13

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Wednesday, December 14

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, December 15

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

Monday, December 19

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL
- 5:00pm Ruby's Committee - FSL

Saturday, December 24

- 9:00am Extollers Rehearsal - S
- 4:00pm Candlelight Worship - S
- 10:00pm Candlelight Worship - S

