



# 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 2014

## Anticipation *...and while you wait...*

Advent, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, begins this Sunday, November 30. It's all about anticipation, about waiting, about expectation. But Advent brings celebrations of its own. Here are some of the things happening during Advent at First UMC.

**November 30:** An Advent creativity workshop starts after worship in Lakeview Social Hall. Paint an advent wreath, make an advent calendar, design your own Christmas card, make your own ornaments. Advent devotional materials will be available for you to use in worship at home.

**December 7:** It's time for the annual Christmas Worship led by younger FUMCers. This year there will be no rehearsals or music to learn unless your child or youth will be playing an instrument. All children are encouraged to come to the Chapel on the morning of December 7 to choose a costume to wear to worship. As part of the worship service, the children will be invited to help decorate a tree portraying the nativity characters.

That afternoon the five handbell ensembles of FUMC will take their turn in the 2014-15 Recital Series. You can't help but feel the spirit as handbell musicians from elementary beginners to our touring ensemble Strikepoint ring your favorites. "Five Golden Rings" will start at 3pm in the sanctuary. A free-will offering will go to support music ministries at First.

**December 14:** Decorate cookies in the shape of nativity characters at the 9 am Nativity in a Box Workshop. Take one set home and another to a neighbor or friend to spread the good news of Christmas. Plan to get messy!

Worship on the 14th is built around a special musical offering by the Sanctuary Choir. "The Winter Rose" is a series of readings and songs put together by choir director Mike Goodlet based on a cantata by Pamela Martin.

**December 24:** The waiting is over! Christmas Eve brings two services, at 4 pm and 10 pm. The 4 pm worship service will feature the music of Tapestry, along with others from the congregation. The 10 pm worship will include the Sanctuary Choir, the Extollers, and Velda Graham Bell on organ. Each service will conclude with candle lighting and "Silent Night." Make plans to attend worship with us, and think about inviting friends.

**First United  
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway  
Duluth, MN 55811  
[www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com)



## Our First Family

### Gifts to light the church:

• November 23-29 in memory of Robert Bean from Diane Bean to benefit the CHUM Food Shelf

• December 7-14 in memory of Lucille June Brummer from Brian & Carrie Moe to benefit Life House

### Hospitalized: Tom Ling Sounds & Grounds: On

Sunday, November 30, live music will accompany refreshments after worship. The first Sunday of Advent will bring coffee and tea, Red Velvet cake, scones, crafts, and music to the atrium and Three Brothers Chapel. As

*continued next page*

## Pastor's Pen

# Now and When

In the Christian liturgical calendar, Advent marks the beginning of a new year. Advent is that season of four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The season is named after the Latin word for “coming,” and is a time for reflecting on the coming of Jesus as the Christ. In the weeks before Christmas, we prepare again to mark his birth. This year Advent begins November 30.

Advent is a busy time for most of us. We move from Thanksgiving to Christmas, making our lists of things to do and gifts to buy, checking our travel plans and the weather twice, addressing cards and writing notes. There are year-end reports to work on and new year plans to make. It is a wonderful time, a beautiful time, a hectic time, a time when we are particularly aware of time. The days grow shorter, the nights longer, and there are only so many more days before Christmas arrives.

Our theme for this Advent here at First UMC is “Now and When,” a theme that plays on time. Some of the stories we will read begin with the word “when.” These are stories from the past, stories about events that happened long ago. In some ways, Advent seems like a ridiculous idea. Why prepare for a birth that happened so long ago? Yet when we let these stories speak to our lives now, our lives can be different.

These are not just stories from the past. They speak about our present lives, how even in dark and difficult times, God does something new and special. God drew near in Jesus (a when), and continues to draw near in Jesus, even now. Jesus was born way back when, but there is something about Jesus that can be born in us now, and when Jesus is born in us, we know life at it richest, fullest, and most adventuresome.

Advent also refers to a future “when.” It is a season that points toward a horizon of hope. God continues God’s work in the world—working toward a world of peace on earth and good will, a world where those who have been left out or marginalized find a place. Trusting in that future “when,” we live differently now. We join God’s adventurous work of peace, justice, reconciliation and love.

Even now, Jesus is finding new ways into our lives. Even now, hope is being born, as we look toward a future with joy. Even now, living for peace and love makes life rich and full. Even now, the when of the past and the when of the future meet, and something very special happens.

Joyous Advent, Merry Christmas,  
Grace and Peace As We Journey Together,

*David*

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*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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# First Family



**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: **Dec 26**

Submit to  
connect@fumcduluth.com

[fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)

## Our First Family, continued

people enjoy treats and crafts, FUMC musicians Elsa Lee, Adair Ballavance, and Carol Donahue will offer sounds of the season.

Proceeds will go to the Carol M. Donahue Music Scholarship.

**Annual Women's Retreat** is scheduled for March 6-8, 2015. Mark your calendars now and plan on joining this fun-loving, ever-changing group of women. Come for all or part of the weekend, but be prepared for laughter, relaxation and inspiration. If you would like to help with the planning process, please contact Anne Miller at 525-1555.

**Order a Poinsettia:** Plants may be sponsored in honor, memory or appreciation of an individual or group. Cost is \$15. Deadline to sponsor is Wednesday, December 17.

**Northern Harvest Farm:** Have you seen the vegetable boxes stacked near the FUMC pop machine? Would you like to get produce fresh from the farm? 2015 shares are going fast.

Go to [northernharvestfarm.wordpress.com](http://northernharvestfarm.wordpress.com) to learn more.

**Looking for year-end tax deductions?** Consider an addition to your 2014 giving or a gift to the FUMC Foundation.

All gifts received in the office by 4pm on December 31, 2014 or postmarked by that date will be acknowledged on your year-end giving statement for 2014 tax purposes.

**How's your pledge?** With a year-end deficit possible, we need members who are behind on pledges to catch up. Thanks!

# Faith Forum

## Out with the old, in with the new

"Faithful Reader," this fall's Faith Forum series, is winding down. Here is the remainder of the schedule:

**December 7:** Pat Miller on *Necessary Losses* by Judith Viorst. This book examines growth through changing expectations and losses.

**December 14:** David Bard on *Process Theology* by John Cobb and David Griffin. This book discusses two important issues, "God and human freedom" and "God and human suffering," in a creative way.

Faith Forum meets at 9 am in the Fireside Lounge. You are welcome to come any week to this drop-in series whether or not you have attended before.

The fall series, "Faithful Reader," asked presenters to talk about books that have made a significant impact on their lives. After a break for the holidays, a new series will begin on January 11, 2015.

### **Wanted: Storytellers**

For the next series, the Faith Forum Advisory Committee is looking for members of the congregation who are storytellers.

"Our storytellers will be asked to 'Tell Us a Story' about one of the characters in the Bible's New Testament," explained Dick Carlson of the Advisory Committee.

Each Sunday, beginning in January, those coming to Faith Forum will have the opportunity to learn more about one person whose life was a part of the Jesus story, he explained. "It could be one of the disciples; perhaps it will be Barnabas or Elizabeth or Mary Magdalene, or any one of dozens of other possibilities."

The Advisory Committee wants to enlist your help to tell these stories. Yes, storytellers will need to do some research, but that should pose no problem with the abundant resources available over the internet and in the church library.

Following the telling of each story, our storytellers will be asked to identify a few discussion points that can be used to connect the life and story of this character with modern day situations.

If you have an interest in being one of the Faith Forum storytellers, tell Sarah Maddy in the church office. Dick Carlson will then contact you directly to work out the details.



# Coming Up at First United Methodist

## Fall Stewardship Drive

As a congregation we are:

**Joining hands**

**Weaving our songs**

**Doing the work of God**

**Together**

If you have not yet had the opportunity to return your estimate of giving (pledge) card to the church office, please do so at your earliest convenience.

## Meetings

- The Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm.
- The Nominations Committee will meet Monday, December 1 at 6 pm in the Fireside Lounge.

## Faith and Film

Faith and Film will be taking the month of December off. We will start up again January 25, 2015.

## Discovery & Exploration

Sunday children and youth groups will break for holiday special events from November 30 through December 28. Please join us for Epiphany (Three Kings Sunday) on January 4.

## 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 18.

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.

## Christmas Offering

This year's special Christmas Offering—that is, the offering we receive in response to the Christmas letter and the offerings on Christmas Eve—will be shared equally between the work of First United Methodist Church and Imagine No Malaria.

This will be our final offering for the Imagine No Malaria project as we complete our three-year, \$20,000 pledge for this significant effort. Your generous support will help us as a congregation finish the year strong, but more importantly it will help countless people in sub-Saharan Africa deal with a deadly but preventable disease. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## Confirmation

Confirmation for eighth and ninth grade youth will begin Sunday, January 11, at 8:45 am in the Club Wesley Room on the social hall level of the church. Parents and youth will be receiving a letter this month with more information about the program. Pastor David and Julie Bard will again be teaching the class.

## Church Conference

The annual Church Conference for our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 18, immediately following the morning worship service. Make plans now to attend as we celebrate our faith journey together for 2014 and make some decisions about moving forward together in ministry in 2015. All members of the church have voice and vote at this meeting.

## Fall/Winter Book Read: *Making Sense of the Bible*

For those of you reading Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*, we will have another opportunity for discussion on Sunday, January 11 following the morning worship service.

## First and Ten

The First and Ten Men's Group will meet on December 8. We may also schedule another gathering for the month, depending on schedules. First and Ten, a group for discussion and service, is open to all men.

## Shiny Paper

First UMC continues its shiny paper collection. Our Finance Committee has been coordinating this project; thanks to all those who have helped with it. Thanks, too, to all of you who have saved your paper and brought it to the church. Keep up the good work. Proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser are being used for Imagine No Malaria, until the end of the year. We hope to make one more delivery in 2014.

## Steve O'Neill Apartments

In December, the first residents will move into the Steve O'Neil apartments. These housing units will provide permanent supportive housing to families, many of whom have faced chronic homelessness.

Watch future newsletters, as well as our web site and Facebook page, for volunteer opportunities to work with the families in the Steve O'Neil apartments.

## Have a Heart Food Drive

FUMC will host the WDIO-TV/Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank holiday "Have a Heart" food drive on Friday, December 12.

Bring non-perishable food items or cash donations to the East Parking Lot between 5am and 9am and you might be on TV.

You can also bring donations of food to the shopping cart in the Atrium and cash donations to the office from 9am to 4pm on December 12 or bring them to church with you on Sunday, December 14.

## Hmong New Year Celebration

For a number of years, First UMC has helped sponsor and provided space for the Hmong community in the Twin Ports and Northwestern Wisconsin to celebrate their new year.

Free and open to the public, this celebration is a wonderful time to get to know about the history and traditional customs of some of our neighbors.

The event runs from 9 am to 5 pm, with a program at 11 am and a free lunch following.

# Health Notes: Spiritual Pain

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Wow! It's already December! This month I would like to let you know about a wonderful workshop many of us from church attended. This workshop was part of the Spiritual Companion Series that Essentia Health sponsors. The title was *Embracing and Transforming Spiritual Suffering*, presented by Richard Groves, who is co-founder of the Sacred Art of Living Center.

Mr. Groves has been a hospital chaplain for over 30 years and has graduate degrees in theology, ethics, law, and pastoral counseling. He presented information on pain and suffering and the difference between the two. He also spoke about the four dimensions of spiritual suffering: meaning, forgiveness, relatedness pain, and hope pain.

With Henriette Anne Klausner, Richard has written *The American Book of Living and Dying*. This book covers many of the issues Groves spoke about during the workshop, including the history of the hospice movement, ancient books of the dead, the difference between spiritual pain and suffering, and how can one respond to spiritual pain.

Total pain has four aspects, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual. Pain is defined as biologic—it is a body experience. Suffering is defined as the story behind what is happening. The book also shares stools and techniques that can help to alleviate pain and suffering.

Beginning in May of 2015, a series of programs held in Duluth will address understanding, diagnosing, and transforming spiritual pain. This series is to be presented over two days in May and November of 2015 and 2016. For more each information, you may contact [www.sacredartofliving.org](http://www.sacredartofliving.org) or call 541-383-4179.

It is my hope that everyone can find solace, peace, and hope during this Season of Birth—a New Season.

Give thanks, remembering the spirit of the season, and take hold of new goals for personal health and social justice.

## FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date October 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$307,833.99	\$320,025.00
Other Operating Income	<u>132,084.96</u>	<u>161,601.52</u>
Total Income	\$439,918.95	\$481,626.52
<b>Expense</b>		
Total Expense	<u>\$492,074.20</u>	<u>\$486,798.70</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	( <u>\$ 52,155.25</u> )	( <u>\$ 172.18</u> )

The church financial statements are showing a \$50,000 deficit at this point in the fiscal year and we are facing a year-end budget deficit. All taxes are paid for 2014. Apportionment checks & some benevolences are being held.



## 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.

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### **Weekly** Our regular schedule

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#### **Sundays**

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL  
Discovery & Exploration - LL
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 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** (through 12/18)

- 4:45pm 5Guise - BR
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR  
JAM - EL
- 5:45pm Supper - LSH se
- 6:00pm Tapestry - S
- 6:30pm Cast In Bronze - BR  
Youth Group - CW, 112
- 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - TBC
- 7:40pm Class Ring - BR

#### **Thursdays**

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL  
Zumba - LSH we
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 12/18)

#### **Fridays**

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

#### **Saturdays**

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

### **Day by Day** Monthly & one-time

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This calendar includes only those events open to Church members or the general public. Other events are scheduled in the building, but not listed. For more listings, go to [www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com)

#### **Monday, December 1**

- 6:00pm Nominations Committee - FSL

#### **Tuesday, December 2**

- 3:00pm Blood Drive - East Lot
- 5:00pm Worship Committee - FSL
- 7:00pm Campaign Feasibility Mtg - FSL

#### **Wednesday, December 3**

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

#### **Thursday, December 4**

- 5:45pm Finance Committee - St

#### **Saturday, December 6**

- 9:00am Hmong New Year - LSH, K

#### **Sunday, December 7**

- 3:00pm Handbell Concert - S

#### **Monday, December 8**

- 6:00pm SPRC - Lib
- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL  
First & Ten - St

#### **Tuesday, December 9**

- 2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
- 7:00pm Church Council - FSL

#### **Wednesday, December 10**

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

#### **Thursday, December 11**

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

#### **Friday, December 12**

- 5:00am Food Drive - East Lot

#### **Saturday, December 13**

- 8:00am Breakfast With Santa - LSH, K
- 9:00am Reiki Healing - TBC

#### **Monday, December 15**

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

#### **Thursday, December 18**

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

#### **Monday, December 22**

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

#### **Wednesday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve**

- 9:30am Extollers - S
- 4:00pm Candlelight Worship - S
- 10:00pm Candlelight Worship - S

#### **Thursday, Dec 25 - Christmas Day**

Office closed for Christmas Holiday

