



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 2015

Capital Campaign, Annual Budget Report

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, November 22, we celebrated the success to date of our combined stewardship campaigns for the Annual Budget and the Capital Campaign for 2016-18.

We are happy to report a 3% increase in projected giving to the 2016 Annual Budget. The First Phase of our three-year "People, Place, Purpose, Promise for the Future" Capital Campaign concluded with \$400,842 in pledges from 105 members. We want to acknowledge again the \$40,000 additional contribution by the Memorial Committee from the McCarthy Fund.

If you have not yet pledged, you'll find pledge cards by the campaign bulletin board in the Narthex. Remember, no pledge or donation is too large or too small. All are critical to the continued mission of FUMC. Donations for this tax year must be made by December 31.

We will keep you informed about the Trustees' projects and the funding sources with updates in First Family or through the bulletin board by the Lower East Entrance.

Thank you to everyone who has helped on the steering committee and the visitation/information packet delivery committee and with the kick-off brunch. We extend a special thank you to Val Walker, our campaign consultant and former FUMC member.

Anita Zager and Mike Donahue, Campaign Co-Chairs

Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve worship services will be at 4pm and 10pm. Music for the 4pm worship service will be provided by Tapestry, organ, and others from our congregation. The 10pm worship will include the

Sanctuary Choir, the Extollers handbell ensemble, organ, and strings.

Each service will conclude with candle lighting and "Silent Night." Make plans to attend worship with and consider inviting friends.



**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Hospitalizations: Barb Tyacke, David Craig, Erick Kjolhaug, Dorothy Anway, Teri Tangen, Grant Goodlet, Karen Anderson

Death: Mary Ann Olsen on November 20, 2015

New Members: Carrie Dzuck and son Dane; Lauren Giammar & Jeremy Bateman and their sons Nathaniel, George, and Jonah

Church Lighting

Dec 6-12 sponsored by Diane Bean in memory of her grandson, Johnny Bean Botello, to benefit CHUM

Dec 13-19 sponsored by Brian and Carrie Moe in memory of Lucille June Brummer, who would have celebrated her 4th birthday December 13, to benefit Life House

Dec 20-26 sponsored by Jim and Ann Wheeler in appreciation of David Bard to benefit CHUM

Dec 27- Jan 2 sponsored by Dennis and Carol Healy to benefit CHUM

Sound technicians and projectionists needed: If you would like to operate our sound system or run the projection for Sunday morning worship services, contact Velda Bell at music@fumcduluth.com or 727-5021. Both youth and adults are welcome. Training is provided.

Pastor's Pen

Trusting in Peace, Goodwill

It does not look or feel like Christmas as I pen this essay. In fact, today, for the first time in three days I can see the lake from my office. It has been obscured by fog for the past couple of days. Weather or not (slight pun intended), Advent is just around the corner, with Christmas in its wake.

I also write this in the days following the attack by the self-proclaimed Islamic State on the city of Paris. If foggy weather seems to make Christmas feel distant, mass shootings and suicide bombings have an even more devastating effect on the Christmas spirit.

Christmas is about peace on earth and good will. It is about hope, peace, joy, and love, symbolized by the Advent candles we light in preparation for our celebration of Christmas. The Paris bombings, suicide bombings in Beirut, killings by Boko Haram in Nigeria, are all reminders that our world is not peaceful.

That these incidents are part of a longer history of events makes hope seem ever more fragile. We weep in sorrow, rather than shed tears of joy. Love seems so weak in the face of such violence and hatred.

Retired United Methodist Bishop Will Willimon wrote recently that the job of Christian congregations is to “help people reflect on and interpret their lives in light of God’s purpose in Jesus Christ.” God’s purpose, as we see it in the Christmas story, is peace on earth and good will. It is to come near in love. It is hope. It is joy.

The Christmas stories remind us that peace and good will are relevant even when the world is difficult. Jesus was born a Jew in a Palestine occupied by the Roman Empire. The gospels were all written following the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. The Temple was destroyed by Roman armies as part of their response to a Jewish rebellion against Rome that had begun in 66 CE.

Jesus was born into a difficult world. The Christmas stories were told in very difficult times. Hope, peace, joy, and love are always relevant, even when they are difficult. God is always at work for

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First Family

First United Methodist Church

230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
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Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **Dec 26**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com



Peace, Goodwill, *continued*

peace and good will, for hope, joy, and love. The road is not always straight and the path not always smooth, but if we are to understand our lives in light of God's purpose in Jesus Christ, then we trust that in the end peace and good will prevail, and that our lives have meaning insofar as they are filled with hope, peace, joy and love and insofar as they contribute to increasing them in the world.

In John's Christmas story, there are no shepherds or wise men, no manger. He provides only an image. *What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* (John 1:4-5)

Our lives are difficult sometimes – disappointing, filled with pain or grief, confusing. Our world is difficult, often painfully so. We trust that God's life and light in Jesus Christ, that peace and good will, will not be overcome, but instead will shine on. And we can help peace and good will shine.

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

David

Upcoming Music Events

Dec. 6, 3pm: **A Christmas concert at Sacred Heart.** You don't want to miss this concert featuring youth from our community, including Class Ring, First UMC's high school handbell choir; the East High School Sterling Strings Chamber Orchestra; and six young organists, including our own Josh Peterson and Parker Hinnenkamp.

Sponsored by the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, this concert will be held at Sacred Heart Music Center, 201 W. 4th Street, Duluth. Suggested donation is \$10 with all proceeds going to benefit the ongoing restoration of Sacred Heart's historic 1898 Felgemaker pipe organ.

Dec. 13, 10am: **A Service of Lessons and Carols** will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Tapestry, Class Ring, and Strikepoint during our morning worship service. Come hear the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols that has been presented by the Choir of King's College in England for many years. This beautiful and inspirational service will use scripture, congregational songs, carols, and special music to retell Christians' story of faith.

Dec. 13, 3pm: **The Greatest Story Ever Told: Sounds of the Season for Brass, Percussion, Bells and Voices.** The brass and percussion sections of the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra, along with Strikepoint, will present a Christmas concert in our church sanctuary. Free.

Everyone's invited

to these upcoming events in family ministries

Wednesday Night Special—Christmas Movie Night: Adults, parents, youth, and kids have a chance to slow down and relax with a holiday movie at 6pm Wednesday, December 16. If you have a favorite G or PG-rated Christmas movie (DVD or Blu-ray) that you are willing to lend for Christmas Movie Night, please contact Laura.

Nativity in a Box: Individuals and families are invited to a cookie-decorating event in the East Lounge right after worship on Sunday, December 13. 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!

Early morning food drive

WDIO's Have a Heart Food Drive will be held in the FUMC parking lot from 5 to 9 am Friday, December 11. This drive collects non-perishable food items for Second Harvest Food Bank. To sleep in, drop your contribution off in the narthex shopping cart anytime from now until the crack of dawn December 11.

December News at First UMC

Christmas Offering

This year's special Christmas Offering—that is, 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 The Center for Changing Lives, a project initiated by Lutheran Social Services but involving the entire Duluth community.

The Center for Changing Lives will provide needed services for homeless youth in our area. For more information on this project you can check out their web page: www.lssmn.org/FromHereOn/

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Church Conference

The annual Church Conference for our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, immediately following the morning worship service. Make plans now to attend as we celebrate our faith journey together for 2015 and make some decisions about moving forward together in ministry in 2016.

Our newly formed Hospitality Team will provide us with some ideas of how we can build on the welcoming congregation we already are. All members of the church have voice and vote at this meeting.

Faith Forum – When My Faith Kicked in At Work

This fall's Faith Forum series, "Faith at Work," is drawing to a close. We have asked a number of people to share with us about a time when faith has made a difference for them in their work, and it has been a wonderful series.

In the two remaining weeks, we will hear Sandford (Sandy) Hoff on December 6 and Darren Danielson on December 13.

Faith Forum will be taking a break for the holidays. Look for a new series beginning January 10, 2016.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee will next meet Thursday evening, December 10, at 6pm in the Fireside Lounge.

We continue our work of finding persons for various leadership positions in the church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration when asked to consider a position. We appreciate hearing from you if you have an interest in a position. Your prayers for our work would be welcome.

Christmas Costume Fittings

Children who would like to wear costumes for the Christmas Worship led by Children and Youth on December 6 are invited to choose a costume on Wednesday, December 2 from 4:00 – 5:30pm. If this date does not fit your family schedule, please contact Laura to set up a weekday appointment.

The costumes will be tagged with your child's name and will be available in the Chapel on December 6 before worship.

On the Calendar

Faith and Film

Faith and Film will be taking the month of December off. We will start up again January 24, 2017 with "The Imitation Game."

First and Ten

The First and Ten Men's Group will meet on December 14. For more information, please ask Pastor David.

First and Ten, a group for discussion and service, is open to all men.

Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study continues at 5:30 p.m. each week, ending at 6:15 p.m.

We will be studying the Gospel of Luke, basically discussing a chapter per week. You are welcome to come any week you choose.

We will take December 23 and 30 off and start up again after the first of the year on January 6.

Confirmation

Confirmation for eighth and ninth grade youth will begin Sunday morning, January 10, at 8:45am in the Club Wesley Room on the social hall level of the church. Pastor David and Julie Bard will again be teaching the class.

Church Council

First UMC Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 6pm.

Get news, see pictures,
listen to a sermon,
and more at
www.fumcduluth.com

New books in the church library

Nine Essential Things I've Learned about Life

by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

In his newest book, Rabbi Kushner begins to summarize his deepest learning from 50 years of serving as a congregational rabbi.

"This book is a provocation and a balm for the skeptical and the religious, offering persuasive evidence that belief, forgiveness, hope, altruism, and joy are all possible, even in the face of death."

Publisher's Weekly

The Bamboo Sword,

by Newberry Honor winning Duluth author Margi Preus

This is a companion to award-winning *Heart of a Samurai*.

"In *The Bamboo Sword*, readers experience the arrival of the first foreign ships (in 1853 Japan had been a closed society for hundreds of years) through the eyes of a fictional 13-year-old servant boy named Yoshi, who harbors the dream of becoming a samurai, a path not open to someone of his class. But events conspire to put a sword into Yoshi's hand and to intertwine his fate with both Manjiro (the main character from *Heart of a Samurai*, a true historical person) and a young member of the U.S. expedition, Jack Sullivan, inspired loosely by pioneering war correspondent and photographer Timothy O'Sullivan." Bookpage.com

Have you heard?

'Mark' your calendar: Sam Marks will lead the Duluth Community Orchestra in a concert of classical music, including Beethoven, Hayden, and Ravel, on December 15 at 7pm at the Lincoln Park Middle School. There is no admission charge; a reception will follow.

Alice Marks, author of the suspense fiction novel *MISSING*, will hold a book-signing in the church library after worship on January 17. Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to the Capital Fund.

You can light the church: We keep the light burning on the Skyline, and you can help support that symbol. A minimum of \$40 sponsors a week of church lighting from Sunday through Saturday. Donors can designate half of their gift (\$20) to a local charity such as CHUM, Second Harvest, or Harbor House, or to a church program such as music, parish nurse, or the building fund.

You can make your gift in memory, honor, or appreciation of a person or group.

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 17.

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.

Carol Donahue Scholarships awarded

First United Methodist's Carol M. Donahue Music Scholarships have been awarded for 2015-16.

The three recipients are all returning for their second year of the music scholarships.

Elise Hintzman is continuing her vocal music studies with Tanya Moore of the UWS Music Conservatory and Benjamin Hintzman is studying piano with Alexander Sandor of UWS.

Wyatt Okstad of Proctor, a member at St. Lawrence, is studying piano with Mary Wright of FUMC.

All three students will be sharing their talents in our worship services during the year.

Looking forward to other music scholarship activities, the committee has set January 31 as an after-worship "soup lunch" gathering and fundraiser. Mark your calendars for this opportunity to spend time with friends and pass on the gift of music.

This music scholarship is offered twice each year, in January and September. Applications forms for the new year are now available in the church office and the Welcome Center kiosk in the atrium.

These scholarships are available to students 12-18 years old who live in the Arrowhead Region and are making music as an instrumentalist or vocalist.



Hmong

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. This event is free and open to the public. If you have never experienced this celebration, it is a wonderful time to get to know about the history and traditional customs of some of our neighbors. The event is from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, December 5, with a program at 11am and a free lunch following.

Men's Ministry Retreat

A Men's Ministry Retreat will be held Friday, January 29 (5:30pm) until Saturday, January 30 (4pm)

Join other United Methodist Men at Camp Amnicon (25 miles from Duluth near South Range, WI) for a time of faith learning, fellowship, games, food, and a Winter Camp environment.

Our learning time will focus around a DVD, *"When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back In The Box,"* from John Ortberg's book by the same title..

Welcome, New Members

Lauren Giammar and Jeremy Bateman, with sons Nathaniel, George, and Jonah

Lauren, Jeremy, and their three sons recently relocated to Duluth from the Twin Cities.

Jeremy was born in Virginia and raised on the Iron Range, where his parents were teachers. He is a graduate of UMD and has worked in financial planning and advising, but is currently a stay-at-home dad who enjoys fishing and outdoor activities. He and Lauren met in the Twin Cities when Lauren was doing her family medicine residency.

Lauren was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and is currently a family practice physician. She enjoys running, hiking, and outdoor activities. Both enjoy spending time with their children and we are sure the boys enjoy their time with their parents.

Lauren and Jeremy were previously members of Centennial UMC in Roseville, and their pastor recommended First UMC to them.

Carrie Dzuck and son Dane Dzuck

Both Carrie and Dane are life-long Duluth residents. They came to First UMC through friendships with the Venhuizens and MacIvers.

Carrie is a volunteer coordinator at Age Well Arrowhead as well as a clerk at Northwoods in Canal Park. She enjoys volunteering, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Dane is a student who also enjoys volunteering. They both helped with the recent Roast Beef Dinner. Dane also likes baseball, basketball, and hanging out with friends. He has just started golfing.

Notes from CHUM (CHurches United in Ministry)

Outreach Center needs socks, underwear for clients

All sizes of socks and underwear for men and women are needed for the clients at the CHUM (CHurches United in Ministry) Outreach Center. First UMC member and CHUM Nurse Kevin Walsh notes that he needs clean, new socks every day to treat the injured or infected feet of folks who spend many hours walking the streets of Duluth. Most CHUM users are men and women but there are a few children as well. Bring your donations to the office and we'll see that they get where they're needed'

Holiday Concert

The CHUM Holiday Concert, a Twin Ports tradition for many years, will be held Saturday, December 5 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. The concert is free, with an offering being taken for the work of CHUM. Doors open at 6:30 for the 7 pm concert.

Christmas Eve Vigil

The CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil will again be held on the steps of City Hall at noon on Christmas Eve Day. More information about this event will be forthcoming.

Multifaith Thanksgiving: United Campus Ministry News

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was a success! This dinner is open to all students, but we intentionally invite the International students from UMD to come and enjoy food and traditions that we hold around the holiday of Thanksgiving. We cooked up all the traditional fixings; potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, bread, squash, and of course turkey.

We always buy Halal turkeys for our Muslim friends on campus. Halal foods are foods, mostly meats, that Muslims are allowed to eat under Islamic Shari'ah. This is similar to kosher foods in Judaism. When it pertains to meats, it is the process by which the animal

is killed and processed.

In a time where many people make generalizations about Islam and target our Muslim brothers and sisters as having a faith that teaches violence and oppression, it is crucial that we are hospitable and reach out to those in our own community. Islam, just like Christianity or any other religion, is what we bring to it.

Thank you, Hope UMC, for letting us use the Fellowship Hall for the dinner, and thank you to Laura Stahl for being the head chef!

From FUMC, Cynthia Coffin-Langdon is the UCM chaplain; Barb Lindgren serves on the board.

Shiny Paper

First UMC continues its shiny paper collection, coordinated by our Finance Committee. Many thanks to all who contributed paper and time to our recent haul. Keep up the good work!

White bags are available in the church office, but you may continue to bring shiny paper in any kind of container—we will sort, bag, and stack it.

We hope to make one more delivery in 2015. About 100 bags are ready to go, and we need about 50 more for the next load to the mill.

Proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser are used to support our mission and ministry through our church budget.

Snowbirds, itemizers: three year-end notes from the office

- Time is running out to maximize your tax deductions for charitable giving in 2015. Consider an additional gift to FUMC, the FUMC Foundation, and/or the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2015.

- FUMC is transitioning to a new membership database. While our data will, for the most part, transfer quite seamlessly, our seasonal

address data will not. If you are a "snowbird" with a different address for several months of the year, please contact the office and provide your seasonal address so we can stay in touch.

- **December 2 is important:** Providing a pledge amount for the annual stewardship campaign that supports the operating budget of the church allows us to better budget our annual revenues for 2016. If you haven't turned in a pledge card for 2016, please consider doing so by December 2. The finance committee will finalize the 2016 budget for presentation to the Church Council at their meeting on December 3 and data from known pledges allows greater accuracy in projecting the revenue portion of the budget.

FUMC Operating Budget Year-to-Date October 30, 2015

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$329,927.96	\$314,457.50
Other Operating Income	<u>137,030.85</u>	<u>138,699.10</u>
Total Income	\$466,958.81	\$453,156.60
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$472,495.98</u>	<u>\$474,863.96</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 5,537.17)</u>	<u>(\$ 21,707.36)</u>

All taxes and payables YTD have been paid. Three months' Apportionment and benevolences are being held for cash flow management purposes.



First United Methodist Church

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

Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

9:00am Faith Forum - FSL thru 12/13
9:00am Family Faith Sessions - 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
6:00pm Mom's Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays thru 12/16

4:45pm 5Guise - BR
5:15pm Ringtones - BR
Jam & Peanut Butter Band - EL
5:30pm Bible Study - FSL
5:45pm Wed Nt Supper - LSH
6:15pm Tapestry - S
6:30pm Cast in Bronze - BR
Youth Group - CW
7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
7:40pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

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

Fridays

9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Tuesday, December 1

12:00pm CHUM Brown Bag Lunch - LSH we
2:30pm Blood Drive - East Lot

Wednesday, December 2

9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Thursday, December 3

5:00pm Finance Committee - St

Saturday, December 5

9:00am Hmong New Year Celebration

Monday, December 7

5:30pm Capital Campaign Com - Lib

Tuesday, December 8

2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
6:00pm Church Council - FSL

Wednesday, December 9

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, December 10

1:00pm Alzheimers Care Givers - Lib

Friday, December 11

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

Saturday, December 12

8:00am Breakfast with Santa - LSH
9:00am Community Healing Circle - TBC

Sunday, December 13

3:00pm TP Wind Orchestra, Strikept - S

Monday, December 14

4:00pm Foundation Meeting - FSL
5:30pm SPRC - Lib

7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

7:00pm First & Ten - St

Tuesday, December 15

6:00pm Hospitality Committee - FSL

Thursday, December 17

9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - S, LSH

Monday, December 21

10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL
5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Committee - Lib

Tuesday, December 22

2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Thursrday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Friday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Office closed for Christmas Holiday

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

Coming in January

4: Worship with Communion
7: Human Trafficking Awareness event, Noon
10: Confirmation begins
Faith Forum resumes
12: Church Council, 7pm
15: Ruby's Pantry
17: Church Conference following worship
24: Bible Sunday
Faith and Film: "The Imitation Game"