



# 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.*

July 2014

## Summer Day Camps for Kids July 28-31

Adventure Day Camp for area UMC kids and a new, FUMC-only program for little ones are only weeks away. Registration forms are available from Laura, in the church office, and at the Welcome Center in the atrium. Sign up soon!

### Adventure Day Camp

*The Magical, Marvelous World of God*

Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31

Adventure Day Camp, a cooperative camp held by Duluth-area United Methodist Churches, is for kids who have completed kindergarten through seventh grade. ADC is held at Horace Johnson Boy Scout Camp at Island Lake from 10 am – 3:15 pm. Duluth area UMC kids and their friends are bused to and from the camp, where they have a full day of Bible learning and fun.

Watch for a Message Center (Spark online) email to download a registration form and get the bus schedule.

### New Camps for Little Kids

*Little Guys Can Do Big Things, Too*

Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31

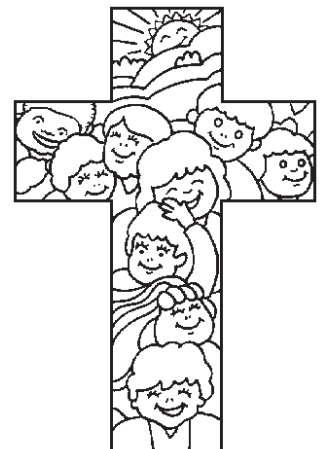
- **Preschool Camp**, 9:30 - 11:30 am at FUMC

This *active* camp will keep your active kid (age 3 years through pre-kindergarten) hopping, jumping, and dancing while focusing on the smaller guys of the New Testament who made a big difference. Preschool families with younger children can attend My Family Camp at the same time. Cost: \$7 for the week. Space in this camp is limited, so sign up soon!

- **My Family Camp**, 9:45 - 10:30 am in the Toddler Room

Parents and caregivers, toddlers and twos have their own camp experience. This camp for shorter attention spans will focus on the same Bible stories as Preschool Camp. Toddlers and twos will interact with their parent/caregiver and learn through play in the familiar comfort of the First UMC Toddler Room.

After the one-on-one session with your child, adults can relax and connect with each other while the little ones enjoy the playroom. If you are waiting for your preschooler, stay and enjoy



**First United  
Methodist Church**

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



## Our First Family

**Married:** Michael Alexander and Allison Akins, June 14, 2014, in Lee's Summit, MO.

The Alexanders will be living in Minneapolis. A Duluth reception is planned for later this summer.

**Hospitalized:** Luella Dettmann, Linda Sherman

**Died:** Rena Link on June 3, 2014; JB Adamec, on June 23, 2014

**Pastor David's ninth anniversary at FUMC**, along with his birthday, were celebrated after church on Sunday, June 22. Happy birthday and anniversary from all of us, David. You are a blessing, and your dedicated ministry helps make our First United Methodist Church a brighter place every day. Thank you! — Staff Parish Committee

**The next Blood Drive** will be held on August 19 from 3 to 6 pm. Please mark on your calendar and sign up soon.

## First Family

**First United Methodist Church**

Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

230 E Skyline Parkway  
Duluth, MN 55811

218/727-5021

info@fumcduluth.com

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

Next First Family deadline:

**July 22**

Submit to [connect@fumcduluth.com](mailto:connect@fumcduluth.com)

## Pastor's Pen

# Leave room for Granny

On Sunday, June 15, Tom King shared with us his essay, "Granny Knot or Square Knot?" (which you will find reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter). TK reflected beautifully on how, as a Boy Scout, he learned that square knots were the appropriate knots and he did not want to be caught tying the dreaded granny knot. If any of you were ever in Boy Scouts, as I was, his words ring very true.

The only problem is that there are times when a granny knot works better.

There are many times in life, and in our life together as the church, when we need to be willing to be flexible, to try new things, to experiment a little. Programs that once worked so well, or work so well for some, may not be as effective under new circumstances or with new people. The trusted square knot still has its uses, but there are times when we may need to give the granny knot a try.

The conundrum we are often presented with in life and in the life of the church is that we don't always know ahead of time whether the square knot or the granny knot will work best. Some things we try won't work well, but we need to keep trying and we need to stay open to experimentation.

I am reminded of Paul's words in I Corinthians:

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

I am grateful for your willingness to try new things and be flexible. Thank you. I pray, and I hope you will join me in praying, that we can continue to be open to God's Spirit, and continue to be willing to try those granny knots.

Grace and Peace,  
David

"Once upon a time the term "Christian" meant wider horizons, a larger heart, minds set free, room to move around. But these days "Christian" sounds pinched, squeezed, narrow.... What was true once upon a time can be true again and should be true always: curiosity, imagination, exploration, adventure are not preliminary to Christian identity, a kind of booster rocket to be jettisoned when spiritual orbit is achieved. They are part of the payload." Patrick Henry, *The Ironic Christian's Companion*

## Roast Beef Dinner: What do you think?

Our Roast Beef Dinners have become a success as both a fundraiser and a community builder. As we met to de-brief (de-beef) after our last dinner, we came up with a couple of questions for which we would like wider congregational input.

For our fall dinner, we are considering moving the day from Wednesday to Thursday (we are specifically looking at October 8 or 9). Thursday would avoid conflict with all our ordinary Wednesday activities, may help attract more persons from other churches who have their own Wednesday commitments, and may help with those who work — leaving them with only one work day in the week after the exertion of working at the dinner.

However, we need to know that volunteers would still be willing and available to help with a dinner on Thursday. If you have thoughts about this, please speak with Pastor David, Cindy Hedlund, Linda Wiig, or Laura Stahl.

We also discussed the possibility of moving toward an all drive-up meal in the spring, and would love to hear your thoughts about this. Thank you.

## Spring 2014 Roast Beef Dinner: Thank you for all your help

*Cindy Hedlund*

Thank you to all who helped at the spring roast beef dinner. Everyone pitched in where needed to for another successful event.

We served 650 dinners, down a bit from 692 last fall. Spring numbers typically are

## Granny Knot or Square Knot?

*Thomas Wayne King, as shared in worship June 15, 2014*

Our Icelandic sheep can untie Square knots. Really. I've seen it happen. Short ropes we use to secure temporary fence panels sometimes become mysteriously and inconveniently untied.

Flock members "mouth" the ends of our sweaty-hand-tasty Square-knotted ropes on fence posts...then pull hard. The knot quickly slips apart. Square knots are great in first aid and back packing, yet they're not so fine when you need other secure fastenings.

But Granny knots?

As an Eagle Scout in a family of Eagle Scouts, I learned from my parents and youth leaders to always tie Square knots. "The Best knot...", I was taught.

Later, in my intense rock climbing and National Ski Patrol adventures, I found that Square knots can be dangerous. They may work well in many tasks, but can also pull out, untie, and let go of a load if you use them to join lines.

It turns out that Granny knots — those dreaded errors of attempted Square-knot tying for which Scouts, skiers, and climbers receive reprimand — can be more secure, even safer in some applications.

And our sheep can't unite them.

A well-tied Granny knot will hold more reliably than a Square knot in certain situations. The knot user must be alert and aware. Flexible thinking is good.

Square knots — doing things the "right" way — can sometimes get you into deep trouble. Knowing when to use Granny knots — when to safely bend the usual rules — may work better. That knowledge could save your life.

So, Granny knot or Square knot? "Best way" or another more flexible, perhaps better way? Knotty issues to ponder for our daily sheep-engineering decisions.

And for all the other things of life.

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lower, in part because many of our snowbirds are still down south.

Profit was \$3,958.71 (last fall \$4,662.26), and volunteers numbered 130, compared with 140 last fall.

Leftovers fed guests at the two Harbor House shelters in

Superior, and the leftover beef scraps will make awesome sandwiches for the Wild Fire! Youth Mission campers this summer.

Thank you for your time and energy to support FUMC ministries.

## Strikepoint home 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!

Handbell musicians in Strikepoint this year are Jeff Finlon, Erin Martens, Cindy and Bill Alexander, Jen and Parker Hinnenkamp, Abe Diaz, Nancy Eaton, Ramona Radosevich, Libby Gaalaas, and Bret Pedersen.

## Age Well at Home seeks volunteers

Do you have a passion for serving older adults needing assistance? The Age Well at Home program is looking for individuals, families, or groups to “adopt” a Grandparent or an older adult.

Many older adults in our community need supportive services to help them live safely and independently in their homes. Supportive services may include friendly visiting—regular check in by phone or in person—along with light home maintenance/housekeeping, local transportation to appointments, grocery shopping, and yard work.

For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Rosie Loeffler-Kemp through [www.agewellarrowhead.org](http://www.agewellarrowhead.org) or at 218-348-1654.

## Youth Trip to New York

Six youth from First UMC, accompanied by Pastor David and youth director Morgan Dobberstein (along with the pastor from Moose Lake UMC and his daughter), traveled to New York City June 10-14 to participate in a United Methodist seminar on the issues of hunger and economic justice.

The seminar program in New York is sponsored by the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Some of our seminar sessions were held at the Church Center for the United Nations, located across the street from the UN. We also heard from community groups at their sites, and participated in a food shelf program on the Upper West Side, housed in a United Methodist Church.



During our time together we learned about the connections between hunger and poverty. We learned about economic injustice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We saw how we might help others through feeding

programs and invite discussion through the use of theater. We learned more about UNICEF and United Methodist missions.

In addition to all our learning we had fun exploring the Big Apple. We visited some museums, attended the Broadway play “Matilda,” toured the United Nations, saw New York from the top of Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building, visited the 9-11 Memorial site, and visited the Statue of Liberty.

The group — Hans Arvidson-Hicks, Sannah Arvidson-Hicks, Jimmy Falk, Parker Hinnenkamp, Shelby Johnson, Nakiah Lanthier, and their leaders — would like to thank all the people of First UMC for their support of our youth program and your prayers for this trip.

We want to say special thanks to those who offered some specific financial and spiritual support for this trip and to our United Methodist Women who paid the basic cost of the seminar program.

We look forward to sharing more with you later in the summer.

“ *An eye-opening, thought-provoking, and empowering journey of faith, the United Methodist Seminar Program is a new kind of mission trip, one that encourages youth to look beyond quick fixes and gives them the tools to address the systems that allow injustice to exist.* ”

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church

# New: FUMC Prayer Team

*MaryAnne Korsch, lay leader*

As a family of faith, we recognize the power of prayer. Prayer gives us the opportunity to praise God in times of joy, to plead with God in times of need, and to be comforted by God in times of sorrow.

Our prayers help us to be more connected with God on a daily basis as we go about our lives. And the transformational potential for prayer cannot be underestimated—as we pray, we are changed.

This fall FUMC will be starting a Prayer Team—a group of people interested in covenanting to pray daily for our church, its members, and its mission.

This Prayer Team is slightly different than our existing Prayer Chain, in that the Prayer Chain is activated only when there is a specific request or need. The Prayer Team will agree to pray on an ongoing, daily basis for the work of FUMC, and will also meet prior to each worship service for a brief (5-10 minutes) time of prayer in which we lift up all worship participants to God.

Are you willing to take this bold step of faith and be part of the FUMC Prayer Team? No special skills are needed, but we will hold a one-hour orientation session for those interested on Monday, August 25 at 7:00 pm.

For more information, contact MaryAnne Korsch ([maryanne.korsch@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.korsch@gmail.com) or 218/343-8813). I hope you will consider this opportunity to flex your praying muscles.

# This month at First

## Church Council

Typically, the Church Council takes the month of July off from meeting, but this year we have scheduled a meeting for Monday, July 7. Our agenda will be limited to following up on the church-wide survey done this spring and using that to plan for the coming program year.

The meeting will begin at 7 pm in the Fireside Lounge.

## Faith Forum After Hours

If you have ever felt there was more to say about the morning sermon, here's your chance. In summer's experimental Faith Forum After Hours, you are invited to come to the Three Brothers Chapel after worship and discuss the morning's sermon with Pastor David and others.

Inserts with key points and questions will be included in the morning bulletin. All sessions will end no later than noon.

Here are the hosts and Scripture readings for July:

6: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Dorothy and Allen Anway host.

13: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Brian and Jan Kundinger host.

20: Romans 8:12-25 – Creation Care Sunday. Dick and Peg Wallin host.

27: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. Carol and Mike Donahue host.

## Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry for July will be Thursday, July 17.

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.

FYI, when we have leftover food, it is sent to such places as CHUM, the Damiano Center, the Union Gospel Mission, Life House, the Salvation Army, and Harbor House.

## Wildfire Meal

On Monday evening, July 21, First UMC will host the Wildfire Mission group from Faith UMC in Superior. Wild Fire has offered youth groups in the Upper Midwest an opportunity to connect with each other and to be in mission together.

For a number of years, area United Methodist Churches have helped make this event happen by hosting the group for an evening meal. We will be serving barbequed roast beef sandwiches.

If you can help prepare, serve, or clean up, please sign up in the church office or speak to Pastor David.

## Apply now for Donahue music scholarship

Music students 12 to 18 years old are encouraged to apply for a Carol M. Donahue Music Scholarship to help pay for their music lessons, instrumental rental, and equipment needs such as reeds, organ shoes, or resin.

Applicants must have had three years of music lessons and provide two letters of reference, one from a music teacher.

A brief audition and interview serves to measure progress but is not a deciding factor for receiving a scholarship.

Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by July 28. Auditions and interviews will be held in August.

If you have questions, please see a committee member: Sarah Sapyta, Oliver Houx, Nikki Hill, Brooke Ballavance, Peg Lee, Pastor David Bard, or Carol Donahue.

## Mission: Family Fun

Families of all ages and kinds are welcome — friends and neighbors, too!

Here's the basic info; get more under Ministries > Family Ministries at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com).

### Wednesday, July 9, 5-7 pm

- Spirit Mt Adventure Park  
Mission: CHUM Backpacks  
Cost: Meal + Activity cost

### Tuesday, July 22, 5-7 pm

- Wheel Fun Rentals in Canal Park and dinner at Amazing Grace Bakery.  
Mission: Kid's Closet  
Cost: Rental fee (opt), meal

## Highlights from 2014 Annual Conference

Minnesota Annual Conference meets every year to worship and enjoy fellowship; receive reports, adopt goals and programs; determine budgets; take stands on key issues; ordain clergy; and receive the bishop's appointments of ordained ministers.

Attending the 2014 annual conference from FUMC were Pastor David Bard, lay delegate Dale Stahl, and lay leader MaryAnne Korsch, who attended as an equalization delegate.

Here are some highlights of the annual conference:

- **Delegates to General Conference:** Pastor David was elected in the first round of voting to the Minnesota delegation at the 2016 General Conference. As one of two clergy in the four-member delegation he will lead Minnesota's representation.

General Conference, which convenes every four years, is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church; delegates at those gatherings adopt official positions on various current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. The 2016 General Conference is scheduled for May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

This will be David's fifth time to serve at General Conference.

- **General Conference petitions on homosexuality:** Members approved General Conference petitions calling for the global United Methodist Church to remove all "discriminatory language about homosexuality" from The Book of Discipline. One petition calls for a change that would allow clergy to perform same-sex marriages and for such ceremonies to be performed within United Methodist churches — when authorized by vote of the annual conference where the clergy person is appointed or the church is located, or by a two-thirds vote of the church conference where the clergy person is appointed.

Members who supported and opposed the legislation had a respectful and productive discussion about the legislation before the votes were taken.

- **Imagine No Malaria:** On Wednesday, conference attendees celebrated having raised \$2.7 million to date for Imagine No Malaria, a denomination-wide effort to eliminate malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa by 2015.

The Minnesota Conference has raised more than any other annual conference to date and far exceeded its initial \$1.8 million goal. Just a few years ago, malaria claimed a life every 30 seconds. That rate has been cut in half, thanks in part to the generous support of the state's United Methodist churches.

- **Million Meals Marathon meal packing:** Minnesota United Methodists have collectively packed over two million meals to date for Feed My Starving Children, more than doubling the goal of the "Million Meals Marathon" that launched in February. Thousands of volunteers took part, enabling the program to potentially feed 5,728 children once a day for a year.

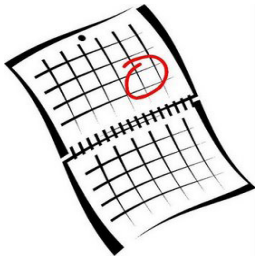
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## Annual Conference, continued

### • Adam Hamilton

**teaching sessions:** Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas—which has grown to become the largest United Methodist Church in the country—led three teaching sessions at this year’s conference.

Key takeaways: We must do whatever it takes to make people feel welcomed at our churches, inspire them and teach them something new when they come to worship, and be able to articulate and share why we love the church we attend and what difference it has made in our lives.



## Quick Look at July

- 4: National Holiday; office closed
- 6: Communion Sunday
- 7: Church Council planning meeting, 7 pm
- 12: Open House at the Islamic Center of the Twin Ports
- 17: Ruby’s Pantry
- 20: Creation Celebration Sunday
- 21: Youth Mission Group meal
- 28-31: Day Camps
- 31: Strikepoint concert, 7:30 pm

## Coming in August

- 3: Communion Sunday
- 12: Church Council
- 21: Ruby’s Pantry
- 26: Communion service for our homebound members

## Health: Communication, end-of-life planning

*Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse*

There’s a big difference between being talked at and being understood. The root of the word “communication” means “to bring near,” and it’s related to words we often use such as community, common, and communion.

Communication requires willing hearts, time, someone to listen, and someone to share ideas, feelings, or information. Today, many communication modes exist, from the old-fashioned writing of letters to texting, twitter, and instant messaging. The key to communication in any mode is listening carefully to everyone’s point of view. As it says in Proverbs 24:3-4, “by wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.”

Good listening means being attentive to what is said or written, clarifying to make sure you understand, and affirming the message. When it’s your turn to speak, talk directly to the person you have a concern with, accept feedback and responsibility for your actions, and balance messages of concern with praise and encouragement.

These communication skills are helpful in discussing our plans for our future with our families. If we go on a journey, we plan for it; we make preparations. So, too, must we plan and make preparations for our end of life journey—now, while most of us are healthy and doing well.

Who will speak for you if you are not able? Making end-of-life decisions and having conversations with your family is most important and will be very helpful to all as the end nears.

We’ll be offering some educational sessions this fall to help you with this process. Make plans to attend our first session after church on Sept. 14. A light lunch will be available.

Come with questions and concerns. Come with the intent of doing yourself and family a favor. Plan ahead.

Look for more information in our next newsletter about the end-of-life workshop to be held later in the fall.

Have fun this summer and enjoy our great outdoors. Be safe and remember to protect yourself from ticks!

## FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date May 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$165,448.66	\$160,962.50
Other Operating Income	54,554.01	81,750.75
Total Income	\$220,002.67	\$242,713.25
<b>Expense</b>		
Total Expense	\$268,358.08	\$240,899.45
Net Income	(\$ 48,355.41)	\$ 1,813.80

All taxes are paid for 2014. Three apportionment checks are being held.

Expenses continue to show the effect of the first quarter’s extreme winter weather, but giving is up—thank you. Please remember your pledge over the summer. The bills keep coming even when you’re at the cabin.



# First United Methodist Church

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## **Weekly** Our regular schedule

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

### **Sundays**

- 10:00am Worship - S  
Wee Wonder - 105
- 11:00am Faith Forum After Hours - TBC
- 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**

- 6:00pm Strikepoint - BR

### **Thursdays**

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 9:00am Zumba - LSH we
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 7/17)

### **Fridays**

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

### **Saturdays**

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

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

### **Friday, July 4**

National Holiday; office closed

### **Sunday, July 6**

10:00am Communion

### **Monday, July 7**

7:00pm Church Council - FSL

### **Monday, July 14**

4:00pm FUMC Foundation - FSL

### **Thursday, July 17**

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

### **Sunday, July 20**

10:00am Creation Celebration Sunday

### **Monday, July 21**

5:00pm Wild Fire meal - LSH

5:30pm Ruby's Committee - Lib

### **Saturday, July 26**

9:00am Women's Art Fair - LSH

### **Monday, July 28 - Thursday, July 31**

8:00am Vacation Bible School &  
Adventure Day Camp

### **Thursday, July 31**

7:30pm Strikepoint Home Concert - S

## Open House for end of Ramadan

Our Muslim neighbors at the Islamic Center of the Twin Ports, 145 W. Winona Street, invite you an open house at 8 pm Saturday, July 12, that will feature a traditional Ramadan *iftar*, or fast-breaking meal.

Ramadan is the month of the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. The fast is performed to learn compassion, self-restraint, and generosity. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the "five pillars of Islam."

This open house has been organized by the Minnesota Council of Churches. To register, visit [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

Check out our new website!  
[fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)