



# 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.*

May 2016

## Rhubarb!

**CHUM Rhubarb Festival** Saturday, June 25, 9 am-4 pm

In and around First Lutheran Church, 11th Ave East & London Road

### Come for the food, stay for the fun!

Get your taste buds ready to tackle the tangy tartness of rhubarb delicacies galore. The 12th annual CHUM Rhubarb Festival is a day for all ages. This FREE event on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior is sprinkled with tasty morsels for the entire family. This is CHUM's biggest fundraiser of the year, last year bringing in \$67,000, and a great community event.

There will be games, crafts, music, auctions, stage shows, and, did we mention? Food. Booths open for visitors at 9 am, and credit cards will be accepted for all purchases.

Food Booths    Stage Show    Bake Sale & Coffee Shop  
Silent Auction & Bucket Raffle

Outdoor Activities, Contests, Arts & Crafts for kids

New this year: Positive Energy Outdoors Climbing Wall

### Rhubarb Pie Baking

- Tuesdays, June 7, 14 & 21, 9 am-2 pm
- Thursday, June 23, 9 am-1 pm
- Friday, June 24, 9 am-1 pm

LeAnn House and Debra King are once again heading up the FUMC effort to prepare goodies for CHUM's Rhubarb Festival. Volunteers (novice kitchen helpers to master pie chefs) are needed in the church kitchen to turn out as many pies as possible in the 5 baking sessions available. Come and learn from the best!

We need lots of rhubarb! Just wash, cut into 1/2" pieces, Ziploc bag it, and drop it off in the church office or kitchen refrigerator. If it has been frozen, please leave it in the church freezer after June 16.

Also needed are donations of berries, especially raspberries and blueberries, and a team to package and move items to the festival on Friday, June 24, from 1-4 pm.

Sign up to help on the CHUM website. Or just come—there is a job for anyone who wants to help. No previous experience or particular skills are needed. Other volunteer opportunities for the Festival are available; check out the CHUM Facebook page or the CHUM web site for more information.

**First United  
Methodist Church**

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



## Our First Family

**Baptisms:** Alex Reed Bellefy and Grace Anne Bellefy, children of Erin & Christopher Bellefy on May 1, 2016

**New Members:** Christopher & Erin Bellefy on May 1, 2016. Members of the 2016 Confirmation Class on May 8, 2016: Grant Goodlet, Riley Hinnenkamp, Andrew Hulst, Mullen Johnson, Rebecca Miles, Rowan Racette, Will Smyth, Noelle Stellmaker, Kiah Walker

**Hospitalizations:** Dorothy Anway, Sam Marks, David Craig

**Death:** FUMC constituent Kim ("Kimmer the Tease") Bourbonniere on May 14, 2016.

**Darlene Brown** will be 90 years young on June 19. Her family is celebrating by having an open house reception in the Lakeview Social Hall on June 25 from 1:00 to 4:30pm. If you're not busy, stop by to say hello or reminisce.

**What a wonderful luncheon** and program we had at church last Tuesday for the Elders! A big "thank you" to Linda Wiig for organizing all the details and for the additional help on Tuesday. We are very  
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## Pastor's Pen

### What happened in Portland?

Here is how I ended last month's newsletter column: *Whatever happens in Portland, we will remain called by God in Jesus Christ to be a church nurturing a thoughtful, passionate and compassionate Christian faith where within people's lives joy, genuineness, gentleness, generosity and concern for justice are nourished. God's Spirit continues to move within us and among us. It is a joy to be part of God's work with you.*

So what happened in Portland? I am going to offer just a few reflections here. For a more comprehensive overview check out the following: <http://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/14-highlights-from-general-conference-4883743>

#### Beauty, difficulties

At General Conference we experienced some of the beauty and much of the difficulty of being a global United Methodist Church. The beauty and wonder are found in the mission and ministry we do together – Imagine No Malaria, deaconesses and missionaries, protecting people in the Philippines, working for peace on the Korean Peninsula, helping people connect with God through Jesus Christ in life-transforming ways. Our church does remarkable things in the name and spirit of Jesus.

Our difficulties are in the way we try to make decisions together as this global church. General Conference considers changes to our *Book of Discipline*, which is fully applied only within the United States, yet 40% of those voting on these matters come from outside the United States where they can make adaptations to the *Book of Discipline*. Frankly, the range of decisions we consider in a two-week period has become too great for the way we try and make those decisions – 860 people speaking multiple languages using parliamentary rules many find confusing.

#### Who are we?

Beyond that we are currently struggling with our sense of who we are as United Methodists. We agree on our mission: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* But how are we to  
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## First Family

### First United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **June 24**

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



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

# Pastor's Pen, continued

understand being a disciple of Jesus Christ in the Wesleyan stream of the Christian tradition?

Some part of us thinks that we need to be more doctrinally defined and that among the doctrines that will define us is a stronger sense of the primary authority of the Bible. For many who share this understanding of who we are and need to be, the Bible is clear in its statements about the incompatibility of "the practice of homosexuality" with Christian faith.

Another part of us thinks that Wesley was less creedal in his understanding of Christian faith, that beyond a few key points about God and Jesus, there should be rather more freedom to think about the meaning of Christian faith in contemporary categories. The Bible remains our primary source for our understanding of God and Jesus, but it must be read more critically in light of our understandings of the history of the writers. Issues around human sexuality, then, are not already defined by the few texts that mention homosexuality in the Bible, but need more discussion and the churches need more ability to minister differently in our different contexts.

## Where are we going?

For now, The United Methodist Church has asked our bishops to lead us in a deeper conversation about the Bible, human sexuality, church unity, and identity. We do not know where this conversation will lead, but I pray for the wisdom and grace of God's Holy Spirit to help us find ways forward. We may find a way forward where unity of mission will also be institutional unity, though we will still need to find better ways to make decisions. Our way forward may mean institutional differentiation with some sense of shared mission yet to be defined.

Leaving Portland, The United Methodist Church continues to ask profound questions about who we are. As **this** United Methodist Church, I think we know who we are, and we continue trying to live into that.

## Thoughtful, passionate, compassionate

We are called by God in Jesus Christ to be a church in the Wesleyan tradition nurturing a thoughtful, passionate, and compassionate Christian faith where within people's lives joy, genuineness, gentleness, generosity, and concern for justice are nourished. It is our way of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and it remains a joy to be part of God's work with you.

Grace and Peace,  
*David*

"A community of churches confesses the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Son and Holy Spirit. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus prayed for his followers, 'so that the world may believe'" (John 17:21).

# Our FF, continued

fortunate to have someone like Linda who doesn't mind making good food and creating memories. We love you, *The Elders "Keen-agers"*

## Cookbook Corrections

Page 23: Green Salad from the 1981 *Sampler* should read "1/2 head lettuce, sliced thin or 3 **bunches** of romaine lettuce."

Page 114: Banana Pudding Poke Cake from Barb Hill should read "Whisk together milk and instant pudding. (Do not overbeat or use beaters.) **Pour over cake.** Refrigerate for 1 hour."

## Received by the Lennon-Berini Scholarship Committee

Thank you so much for the Scholarship and gift of money. I have 2 semesters of school left and I will be a Registered Nurse. This money will go toward my education this next year at Lake Superior College.

Thank you again. I am so grateful.

*Rachel Moe*

I am writing this letter to say "thank you" so much for the gift of money to further my education to be a nurse.

I never knew Mr. Lennon or Mr. Berini, but by this gift of money it is understood that they both were very generous and giving.

I am now a Certified Nursing Assistant at Ecumen Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center. I fully enjoy the position that I am in. It's an honor to be able to help others recover from surgery/illness.

Again, thank you.  
*Emily Wallin*

# Notes on Annual Conference

**Minnesota Annual Conference, June 21-23 in St Cloud**

“Living Generously, Unleashing God’s Gifts” is the theme for the 162<sup>nd</sup> session of the Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Sara Miles, author of *Take This Bread* and *Jesus Freak* will be our conference teacher. Hands-on ministry projects are scheduled. Business will be cared for.

Among the special moments for us at First UMC, MaryAnne Korsch will be consecrated toward ordination as a Deacon in The United Methodist Church on Wednesday evening, June 22.

You are welcome to attend any part of Annual Conference as a visitor. Car-pooling is being set up to attend the Wednesday evening ordination/consecration service.

## MaryAnne to be commissioned

*MaryAnne Korsch*

The formal journey toward my ordination as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church has been in process for the past three years, but I believe that God has been laying groundwork for my new career for quite some time. The sense of “call” has been gradually growing in my heart, and I’m delighted to be taking the next step of this journey on June 22, when I will be commissioned as a Provisional Deacon by Bishop Bruce Ough at the Minnesota Annual Conference session in St. Cloud.

To get to this point, I’ve had to become a student again, which I have greatly enjoyed. After retiring from my education career in 2013, I enrolled as a full-time student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and graduated on May 1 with a Master of Arts in Religious Leadership degree, with emphases in United Methodist Studies and Pastoral Care and Counseling.

During my years in seminary, I was simultaneously working on other ordination requirements: gaining the endorsement of our local Staff-Parish Relations Committee and our Church Conference, working with an ordination mentor and the Big Waters District Committee on Ministry, developing my theology and answering many questions posed by the Board of Ordained Ministry, and undergoing psychological evaluations and background checks.

All told, my weekly commutes to the Twin Cities for class have added up to about 70,000 miles on my vehicle – just imagine how many books and podcasts I’ve listened to while traveling back and forth!

This summer, I accepted a four-month chaplain residency at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, which gives me the opportunity for hands-on practice working with patients and families as they navigate illness, hospitalization, and end-of-life

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## FUMC will send ‘love offering,’ health kits

Each year in conjunction with the meeting of the Minnesota Conference, UMC, a Love Offering is taken to support particular mission projects and ministries.

This year’s Love Offering will support the following ministries: 40% for the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services; 40% to International Child Care in the Dominican Republic; 10% for the shipment of UMCOR

Health Kits, and 10% to Volunteers in Mission scholarships. First UMC will be taking the Love Offering on Sunday, June 12.

In addition, UM congregations have been asked to assemble health kits for refugees and people affected by natural disasters. Kits from Duluth churches will be delivered to the MN Annual Conference June 21.

Want to help? Pick up a list

of needed items at the Welcome Center. You may choose to donate all the items for a complete kit, just one or two items, or simply give offerings to purchase needed items. Drop donated items in the red collection bin in the atrium, or write “health kits” on an offering envelope.



## To be Commissioned, *continued*

experiences. The Spiritual Care team at the hospital is a wonderful resource for learning about the work of a chaplain and how I can best provide tender and competent support at stressful moments. I become more and more convinced that this work is my next calling; it's immensely rewarding and full of challenges.

Unlike ordained Elders who are appointed to their positions by the Bishop, Deacons find their own appointments, so when this residency ends I'll be actively looking for chaplaincy work in the Duluth area. Deacons also have secondary appointments in local congregations, and I look forward to serving at the Coppertop in some yet-to-be-confirmed capacity. Pastor David and I have done some preliminary brainstorming about what this secondary appointment might look like, and as the summer goes on, we'll nail down those details.

I continue to be so, so thankful for the support that this church family has provided on my journey. Your prayers, encouraging words, and feedback have been an important part of establishing my pastoral identity, and I extend my deep gratitude and love to you all. Everyone is welcome at the commissioning service on June 22; if you are interested in attending I'd love to see you there.

*Join us for cake after church on June 19 to celebrate MaryAnne's graduation and commissioning.*

## Reminiscence: Telling our stories

*Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse*

Reminiscence refers to recollections of memories from the past. It is familiar to us all and can be utilized for the benefit of others.

I spoke of reminiscing at our elder celebration and would like to share some of what I said on that day. I think it is so important to share stories with one another to help develop meaning and community and better health.

I'm reminded of a song by Enya, called *Pilgrim*. Here are some lyrics: "Each heart is a pilgrim; each one wants to know the reason why the winds die and where the stories go. Pilgrim, in your journey you may travel far, for pilgrim it's a long way to find out who you are. Pilgrim, it's a long way to find out who you are..."

Yes, we are all on a journey. Many of us have had influences which have helped to shape who we are, such as mentors, parents, relatives, historical events we have lived through, memories through childhood, favorite places, nature, spiritual awakenings...on and on. All of these experiences give our lives meaning and meaning is created by the stories we tell ourselves about why things happen in our lives.

It is a specific human quality that we assign meaning to any life event. Thus, we have a contribution to make--to tell our stories of our struggles, hardships, achievements, and blessings, life's lessons.

Don't we all want to be remembered in some way? If you are a person telling your story or the person receiving a story, celebrate that you are sharing information and each one may be gaining insight to their lives never thought about before.

Stories can take different formats such as biographies, autobiographies, or memoirs. A family can interview each other to gain information about historical events. There are a number of different ways to record your life story or just one specific event in your life. There are even games you can play to help you get started such as "Life Stories," or you can go on line to "Story Corp" through MN Public Radio. There are templates on line, or you can record yourself. An on-line resource called [lifeBio.com](http://lifeBio.com) gives you many options and will even create a book for you.

So take some time to either interview or tell your story. Here are some story starters: What was the naughtiest thing you ever did? Did you have a favorite tree? Do you like your first name? Does it have any meaning? Did you have a favorite stuffed animal? Did you date someone in school? What music do you like? What makes you laugh? If I had it to do over again... I never felt so scared as when... My favorite adventure was...

I encourage you to act now. My family acted, but too late to get the stories from my dad and three of my aunts and uncle before they died, and that's a regret for me. So celebrate stories now, share and learn.

Peace and blessings to you—and be safe as we approach the summer of our lives.

## Evening Bible study to resume June 7

Beginning Tuesday, June 7 there will be a six-week Bible study on the New Testament letter of Galatians. This Bible study will meet Tuesday evenings in the Fireside Lounge at 5 pm on June 7, 14, 28 and July 5, 19 and 26. You are welcome to join us anytime.

## Remembering the Mother Emanuel 9

On June 17, 2015 at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a young white man, motivated by racial hatred, shot and killed nine persons at a Bible Study.

In honor of those who lost their lives and in remembrance of this tragic event, the Minnesota Council of Churches has organized Wednesday prayer vigils through June 2016. First UMC will host one of these vigils on **Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

This will be a service of readings, prayers and remembering. We encourage you to come and be part of this, and encourage you to invite others to attend.

## UMW honors two

On Sunday, May 22, Marilyn Skansgaard presented UMW Special Mission Recognition Awards to Marilew Barnidge and Julie Bard.

The faithful leadership, capable hands, and willing spirit of these dedicated women inspire us all to connect more deeply and more often with those we serve.

# Capital Campaign Update

As of May we have \$440,420 pledged towards our capital campaign. This reflects a recent additional gift dedicated towards the Floor Refurbishment project. We hope the floors will be scheduled sometime before our November Anniversary Celebrations. The roof work is currently in progress but has been slowed by the weather.

Please SAVE the DATE for Friday, September 16 for a special fundraising dinner.

Your gifts and pledges are always welcome. You may use the special pew envelopes or stop by and visit with Paula Davidson in the church office about your gift.

Project updates can be followed on the bulletin board near the East Entrance across from the Kitchen. Thank you for helping us towards our goal!



## Thanks for all your help

### ...with the Roast Beef Dinner

To the salt of the earth, here is a big hug with a huge thank you to the team success of the 2016 Spring Roast Beef Dinner.

As you may remember, we had a record-breaking fall with 900 dinners served. This spring we served 877--only 257 dinners less than last fall and 227 dinners more than last spring.

Profits are \$5,219.52, a little less than last fall but more than last spring. We did up our beef order and our apple pie ingredients, as we made 140 apple pies instead of 120. We ordered 3 more roasts than last fall and we actually only ended up being 7 lbs more than last fall when the roasts were so huge.

We also did portion control on the amount of beef on the plate this spring. We had enough for Julie to bring to Harbor House in Superior, where they were ever so grateful.

We did break a record with the number of volunteers for the three days: We had 148 volunteers compared to the usual 130.

Customer comments: "Well oiled machine" and "This is where we come for the good beef."

Everyone pitched in where needed and worked really hard.

You are all a blessing to this church and community with all the service you do for others. Thank you. *Cindy Hedlund*

### ...with the Luncheon for Elders

I want to thank everyone for their assistance in celebrating our elders at the luncheon and program on May 24. Thanks to Tom Ling for preparing his wonderful show of stunning photographs of Italy and England and staying to answer questions. Thanks to Tom Wiig for his electronic assistance. Thanks to my kitchen helpers and drivers, Linda and Dick Peterson, Linda Rau, Linda Harper, Liz Taylor, Karen Buell, Mike Donahue, Ceci Riehl, Karen Alseth, Anita Zager, and Celeste Dallman. *Linda Wiig*

# Summer time is camp time; registration now open

Registration forms for MN Summer Camps, Splash Adventure Day Camp, My Amazing Body Preschool and Toddler Camps are now available at church and at Faithful First Families (Coppertop) Facebook page.

First UMC has a Foundation Fund (Habicht Fund) that helps considerably with camp costs. Submit a copy of your registration confirmation by Mon, July 11 to be eligible for the 2016 Habicht Fund distribution.

• **UM Camp Minnesota = Summer camps for all ages \$25 Bring a Friend Discount!** Check out the brochures at the Welcome Center or online at [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org). Camperships are also available from UM Camp Minnesota.

• **Adventure Day Camp 2016**  
*Make A Splash With God*  
Mon, July 25 – Thurs, July 28  
10:00 am to 3:15 pm  
Horace Johnson Boy Scout Camp, Island Lake (*bus transportation provided*) For children finishing Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Get registration forms at the Welcome Center or church office. Registration deadline: Wednesday, July 6.  
*Habicht Fund available to help with registration fee.*

• **Preschool Vacation Bible School and Toddler Camp**  
*My Amazing Body*  
Mon, July 25 – Thurs, July 28  
First UMC  
Registration forms are also available at Wee Wonder or Toddler Room Registration Stations.

## Needed: Leaders, helpers, counselors

• **Preschool VBS Leaders and Helpers.** First UMC will offer VBS for preschoolers during Camp Week (July 25-28). Especially needed is help with prep, crafts, and snacks. Leaders/helpers can be adults or youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade & up) and must have taken Child & Worker Protection Policy training in advance.

• **Adventure Day Camp Counselors.** Students 8<sup>th</sup> grade through college are encouraged to help at Adventure Day Camp. Camp Counselors attend to a same-grade group each day, others lead or help with crafts, drama, storytelling, nature, canoeing, or swimming on First UMC Day - Monday, July 25 - or as your schedule permits.  
*See Pastor David or Laura Stahl.*

## Summer Programs for Children, Families

### EPIC Families

Join in the fun this summer as families from First UMC and St Paul's Episcopal Church EXPLORE favorite places, PLAY together, make a positive IMPACT on our neighbors, and CONNECT with each other.

Each EPIC event will be held from 5:30-7:00 pm and include dinner for \$10 a family. On June 28, meet at the Rose Garden Gazebo; bring a cameraphone. Older kids, teens, and adults will do a Selfie Scavenger Hunt while families with younger kids do a preschool picture hunt.

Save the dates for July 20 (Food Box Packing) and August 8 (Geocaching). Pick up a flyer at church or off Faithful First Families (Coppertop) Facebook page.

### Tale Blazers

Young children through early readers will enjoy this summer small group that focuses on children's books. Come at 10 am on Monday, June 13, 20 and 27 to hear guest readers share wonderfully colorful stories. Afterwords, play games, take an Adventure Trail hike, and make crafts that follow the theme of the day.

If your child can focus for a 5 minute book, this group is for you. For ages 3-ish through early readers, in the Church Library 10:00-11:30 am on Mondays in June. Registration forms in your email box or at the Welcome Center.

### Early Childhood Year Round Ministries

Worship ministries for young children – Bible Playtime and Wee Wonder – continue year round, with the same leaders and format. Little Disciples will continue to meet on the first and third Sundays at 9:30 am through the summer.

Bible Playtime serves infants through 35 months. Wee Wonder serves children age 3 yrs through kindergarten. Little Disciples is a parent-child play n learn group for toddlers and twos.



# 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

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

### Mondays

- 10:00am Tale Blazers - Lib (except 6/6)
- 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 Moms' Yoga - TBC
- 5:00pm Bible Study - FSL (except 6/28)

### Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (except 6/16 CW)
- 6:30pm Moms' Yoga - TBC

### Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

### Saturdays

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

## Day by Day Monthly & one-time

### Saturday, June 4

- 1:00pm Cindy Alexander Benefit - LSH

### Monday, June 6

- 5:30pm Cap Campaign Committee - Lib

### Tuesday, June 7

- 6:15pm 50th Anniversary Com - FSL

### Wednesday, June 8

- 6:30 pm Mother Emmanuel Prayer Vigil

### Thursday, June 9

- 1:00pm Alzheimer's Care Givers - Lib

### Monday, June 13

- 5:30pm SPRC - Lib

### Tuesday, June 14

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

### Thursday, June 16

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

### Thursday, June 23

- 5:00pm Finance Committee - FSL

### Monday, June 27

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL

### Tuesday, June 28

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

## Coming in July

- 3:** Communion Sunday
- 4:** Independence Day holiday
- 12-16:** North Central Jurisdictional Conference, Peoria, IL
- 17:** Hymn-sing, Song selection for Worship Service
- 18:** FUMC hosting Wildfire Work Camp for evening meal
- 21:** Ruby's Pantry
- 23:** Roadside Clean-up
- 25-28:** Adventure Day Camp; Vacation Bible School