



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 2017

Camping Ministry

Tale Blazers – June 13, 20, 27

Make Tuesday morning the highlight of your child's week. Come to Tale Blazers from 10 – 11:30 for games, crafts, and children's stories. This ministry is designed for preschoolers through early readers. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join the fun!

Coppertop Family Camp - Children of God – June 23-24

Register now!

What makes your family unique? What are your family strengths? Camp Amnicon's Adizokan Village is a great place for adventure. Come for this overnight retreat for families to delve into nature, into family fun, and into Bible stories that give insight into families



comprised of Children of God. Registration forms available at church and at Faithful First Families (Coppertop) FB page. See also amnicon.org

Adventure Day Camp – July 24-27

Register now!

Kids and youth completing kindergarten through 7th grade won't want to miss this annual

summer camping experience offered by area United Methodist Churches. Swimming, canoeing/kayaking, games, crafts, stories, songs, and outdoor fun will fill Monday – Thursday, July 24-27. Kids will board buses and head out to Horace Johnson Boy Scout Camp for a full day of fun. Before and after care available for a small fee. Sibling camper discount.

Preschool VBS/My Family Toddler Camp – July 24-27

Camp is not just for big kids. Preschoolers and toddlers camp too! Toddlers and twos join their parents or care givers for Toddler Camp while Preschoolers (3 yrs through Pre-K) have VBS next door. The fun happens Monday- Thursday mornings, July 24-27 at First UMC. Registration forms are available at church or on Faithful First Families (Coppertop) FB page.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Hospitalizations: Bob Topliff, Jeff Merritt, Barb Hill

New Members: Tim Gilman & Dennis Hogate

Confirmation Sunday May 14: Don't miss this special worship service as Colten Ball, Mitchell Boyson, Charlie Eginton, Ben Hintzman, and Gaige Omdahl are confirmed.

Ruby's Pantry this month will be May 18. Volunteers are always welcome.

Discovery Classroom Makeover – This summer the Discovery Classroom (Room 105) will be refurbished. The room will be painted. New cabinets and countertops will be installed.

Volunteer needs: painters, demolition and cabinet/baseboard installation. This project is being funded by the McCarthy Fund which supports children and youth projects.

Church League Softball: Our Tuesday night United Methodist team plays on fields at UMD and Wade Stadium. No experience required - Players of all skill levels welcome! Get details from Charlie Korsch or Bailey Olson.

For What It's Worth

Get behind the wheel

Do you remember the first time you were allowed to drive the family car on a trip? Alone? Were you scared? Did you know the way?

"But Mom," you say, "I don't think I know the way!"

"Don't be silly," your mom says. "We've been going to Grandma's house for years. You know the way."

And so, you get in the car and you drive away. This is your first official trip in the family car . . . solo . . . alone . . . all by yourself alone. You recognize some parts of the road, but not others. Has that building always been there? Where did this bridge come from? Is this the gas station where I turn? You keep thinking to yourself, *"Boy, I wish I'd paid more attention when Mom and Dad were driving."*

There is a big difference between just sitting in the car listening to your MP3 player while someone else is doing the driving and driving yourself. The driver makes all the decisions. You just sit there.

Early in his ministry, Jesus did most of the driving or work. His disciples were like passengers in a car. They didn't have to pay attention to Jesus. Jesus made all the decisions. He handled all the questions. He made the speeches and taught the lessons. He steered them through the towns and villages and took all the grief and criticism.

His followers were following, but not practicing. They were watching him, but not participating. They were just along for the ride.

One day, Jesus did something new. He looked out at the crowd of people and he had compassion on them. He saw many sick people, confused people, lost people, lonely people and outcasts of every kind. He knew that he could never reach out to all the people who needed help and so he turned to his disciples or his followers and he said, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few"* (Matthew 9:37).

I think Jesus was saying, *"it's your turn now. I need your help. Please, get behind the wheel and help me. Be my followers!"*

In his book, *None of These Diseases*, S. I. McMillen tells a story

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First United Methodist Church

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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Rick Fossum

Next First Family deadline: **May 25, 2017**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Wheel, continued

about a young woman who wanted to go to college. As she was filling out the application, she ran into a question that asked, "Are you a leader?" Her heart sank. She really wanted to attend that college, but she knew she was not a leader.

And so, this young lady, being an honest young lady, wrote, "No," and turned in the application, expecting the worst.

A week later, she received a letter from the college. The letter said, "Dear Applicant: According to all the other applications we have received, our college will have 1,452 new leaders on campus this fall. We are accepting you because we feel it's imperative that they have at least one follower!"

In other words, not everyone is or can be or should be a leader. Followers are also needed! Just ask Jesus!

Any group of people can get together to worship God, study the Bible, pray and sing songs. This is the easy part of being a follower. The harder part is when we take our time and our talents and our money out into our streets and neighborhoods, schools and work places and do what Jesus would do.

Yet, it is our turn today. We have people in this world, in this country, in this community and even in our churches who need what we have to offer. They need us to be followers of Jesus Christ in both word and in deed. Are you ready – to follow?

Together with you in Christ,

Pastor Rick

Capital Campaign Update

Tuckpointing is on track to be completed this construction season. Because of those that found the means to pay ahead on their pledge and those making a new contribution we were able to sign a contract with significant savings. Thank you!

Please attend, spread the word, and bring a friend to attend the May 21 organ recital to benefit the Arrowhead Guild of Organists scholarship fund and the Capital Campaign!

'The Three Organists' recital

On May 21st, three young organists will present a joint organ recital in our church sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. Parker Hinnenkamp, Joshua Peterson, and Jace Jordan have been studying organ throughout their high school years, and they want to share their music with us.

Plan to stay after the worship service on May 21 for a simple lunch prepared by Chef Paul Sapyta followed by the organ recital at 12:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken, with proceeds split between the American Guild of Organists' Organ Scholarship Program and FUMC's Capital Campaign Fund.

Summer music—opportunity for you?

Summer is coming soon and that means there are opportunities to provide special music during our summer worship services. If you would like to share your musical talents this summer, please contact Velda Bell at 218-727-5021 or music@fumcduluth.com.

First UMC Active Logo Wear *Order deadline extended to May 9*

The Hospitality Team offers a variety of shirts, pullovers, and jackets (men's and women's) with "The Coppertop" logo for sale. Stop by the table in the narthex to ask questions, check out the sizes and order your special Coppertop logo wear today.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date March 31, 2017

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$ 92,272.27	\$100,838.85
Other Operating Income	<u>56,581.38</u>	<u>65,195.82</u>
Total Income	\$148,853.65	\$166,034.67
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$150,364.06</u>	<u>\$147,912.03</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 1,510.41)</u>	<u>\$ 18,122.64</u>

All apportionments, taxes and payables YTD have been paid.

Zero Waste Events

Seven Minnesota United Methodists who feel called to environmental justice and creation care were recently commissioned as Earthkeepers and have begun working on projects to transform their communities and the world. FUMC's Naomi Yaeger is one of the seven, and her project will involve teaching groups in our area how to have zero-waste events.

"I found that most people don't know the difference between compost, recyclables, and waste—and I really enjoyed teaching people about it," said Yaeger, a member of First UMC in Duluth. "I thought, 'This is probably a ministry for me.'"

"God created the earth and all the plants and animals," she said. "It's everything on earth we need to protect."

Faith Forum

Our winter/spring Faith Forum series continues Sundays at 9 am in Fireside Lounge.

May 7 Shelley Gruskin

The Story of Job

"So God and Satan were having this conversation..."

May 14 Rick Fossum

The Pharisee and the Publican, Luke 18:9-14

"A contrast: Virtue versus humility"

May 21 Dick Wallin

The Strong Man Bound, Luke 11:14-28

"The one who is not with me is against me."

Preserving clean water

Greetings to you and to spring. As I write this, Earth Day is to be celebrated tomorrow and the weather is glorious! How I relish spring! How I want others after me to be able to relish all of nature.

God's living, breathing gift to us is the earth. Go out and enjoy, and be observant. Smell the pine, be quiet, hear the birds, relish the warmth of the sun, and breathe in the fresh air and now thank God for what you just did, and for laws that help protect what we can enjoy.

Just seeing Lake Superior reminds me of what I shared with third and fourth graders at the Medical Alliance's health fair this year. I told them that WATER is LIFE and we must protect it for our health and the health of animals and the health of the earth. We talked about how the Great Lakes Basin contains 20% of the world's fresh water supply and that less than 2% of all the world's water supply is fresh. We talked about the water cycle---that we can't create more clean water, and we pollute and use it faster than it can be replenished. We talked about how many people in the world drink unclean water and they get sick and can't go to school, and young children die because they have no source of clean water.

Look what has happened in Flint, Michigan. Many children now have high lead levels, which will have an effect on their health. Even low lead levels in children can lead to irreversible brain effects.

Do you know that the Flint water municipality kept charging the people high prices for water even when they were finally told they couldn't use it! Rather than having jugs of water or tanker trucks available for distribution of water, individual bottles of water were and still are being made available to do the cooking, bathing, and drinking. Do we see the problem with this?

The irony in this too is that in 2001 and 2002, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued permits to Nestlé, the largest water bottling company in the world, to pump up to 400 gallons of water per minute from aquifers that feed Lake Michigan. And now they want to extract almost twice that amount. A small permitting fee to the state and the cost of leases to a private landowner was what Nestle had to pay. In fact, the company received \$13 million in tax breaks from the state to locate the plant in Michigan. Nestle is not the only company taking the water from Michigan, and essentially the Great Lakes Basin.

We have not been good stewards, and we must wake up now and each do our part. What is it that will get our attention? How do we reconcile with creation? How can we change the systems to not benefit a few at the expense of the rest? What do we do? Educate ourselves and become more proactive. A good book to read is Maude Barlow's book *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*.

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Got an extra card table?

First UMC would welcome your donation of any stable card tables, round or square traditional size, to replace some of the rickety ones we have on hand.

If you have a good condition card table you no longer need, we would be glad to give it a home at First UMC.

Strikepoint Tour

Strikepoint will tour this summer to Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Minnesota.

Tell your friends in Austin and Rochester (MN), Omaha and Kearney (NE), Denver and Colorado Springs (CO), Garden City and Prairie Village (KS), and Owasso (OK) to keep an eye out for your favorite handbell ensemble in late July.

For details, see Strikepoint.com.

Water, continued

Our church has taken steps to be helpful like replacing windows, LED lighting, recycling, tuck pointing, encouraging people to bring their own reusable containers for coffee, and using china as much as possible. The Garden Committee has held over geraniums for this year's planting and beautified the church with sustainable practices. A monarch festival is being held here again this spring. Camp Sunday was held on Earth Day.

What steps will each of us take? Let us explore creation through enjoyment and action for the health of us all. Shalom.

Garden Sunday May 7

It's beginning to look a lot like springtime. And you know what that means—garden season! FUMC Garden Committee is enlisting interested volunteers for this upcoming season. No experience necessary, as we enjoy all skill levels. Last season we had ~30 volunteers who helped in making our FUMC gardens beautiful!

There are many choices of jobs to share: shopping, planting, weeding, watering...even socializing! We can be very flexible with your schedule. Even if you are only available for part of the summer, or only on certain days, or only request a certain type of work, we will work with you. With last year's great group of volunteers, many were here only once every other week. And they didn't have to take care of all gardens, as we divide the gardens up into teams. We really try to make your garden volunteer experience a fun, workable one. And it's so great to share in the joy and pride of our gardens!

We will have our annual Garden Sunday volunteer signup day after the service on May 7. Or call one of us for more information or to sign up: Marlene Bowen 729-6526, Mary Giese 624-5138, Linda Harper 724-2383, Laura Krumwiede 728-5723, or Carolyn Schroeder 724-3358.

Our first gathering day for spring cleanup is planned for May 23. Our planting day after the service is on Sunday, June 4. Hope to see you out in the gardens this summer!

Monarch Festival May 20

The Duluth Monarch Festival will be held at FUMC on Saturday, May 20 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Get free milkweed seeds and see real monarch eggs, caterpillars, and butterflies. Meet beekeepers, children's book author Linda Glaser, and animals from the Lake Superior Zoo. There'll be face painting and many fun activities for kids. Drop-in sessions will begin on the hour and half-hour.

El Oasis del Norte food truck will be on hand for lunch, and the Love Creamery ice cream truck for snacks. Wear your butterfly wings, antennae, or colors, or buy a monarch T-shirt at the festival. Books, toys, gifts, and milkweed plants will also be available. Admission is \$5 per adult; children 12 and under are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

Duluth Monarch Buddies is a grassroots organization dedicated to helping preserve monarch butterflies. We distribute milkweed seeds and plants and educate the community through schools, city-wide efforts, and other outreach programs. See Carolyn Schroeder or Wendy Williamson for more information.





First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
- 9:00am Family Faith Formation - 112, 105, 106
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 10:00am Worship - S
Wee Wonder - 105
- 3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

- Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 3:00pm Spirit Yoga - TBC
- 5:00pm Young Adults - Lib
- 7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Wednesday Night Activities conclude 5/17/17

- 4:45pm 5Guise - BR
Kids' Club Art - L Nur, MR
- 5:00pm JAM & PB Band - TBC
Parent2Parent - St
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:30pm Bible Study - FSL
Dinner - LSH se
Explorers - St
JAM Jr. - TBC
- 5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
- 6:00pm Confirmation - FSL
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW, 112
Kids' Games - L Nur, MR
- 6:45pm Cast in Bronze - BR

- 7:30pm Tapestry - S
- 7:45pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we
(except 5/18 CW)

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Wednesday, May 3

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Thursday, May 4

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL

Saturday, May 6

- 9:00am Dulcimer Day in Duluth - LL

Monday, May 8

- 4:00pm FUMC Foundation - FSL
- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, May 9

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Wednesday, May 10

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, May 11

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL
- 5:00pm Finance Committee - FSL
- 5:30pm SPRC - Lib
- 6:00pm Church Council - FSL

Saturday, May 13

- 9:00am Community Reiki Circle - TBC

Monday, May 15

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Wednesday, May 17

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, May 18

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

Saturday, May 20

- 10:00am Monarch Festival - LL

Sunday, May 21

- 1130am: Simple Lunch - LSH
- 12:30pm Organ Recital - S

Tuesday, May 23

- 9:00am Spring Garden Clean-up -
East Lot
- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

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