



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

Coming Up in Worship

May 1: Communion Sunday. In the United Methodist Church, the table is open to all. "All who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another are invited to join us in offering our prayer of thanksgiving and receive the body and blood of Christ—regardless of age or church membership."

May 8: Confirmation Sunday. Celebrate the completion of Confirmation Classes with Grant Goodlet, Riley Hinnenkamp, Andrew Hulst, Mullen Johnson, Rebecca Miles, Rowan Racette, Will Smyth, Noelle Stellmaker, and Kiah Walker. Also on that Sunday, the bell choirs will ring a special piece featuring all 32 musicians of our adult, high school, and middle school bell choirs, plus three percussionists.

May 15: Pentecost. MaryAnne Korsch will preach. Celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter, Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, and you are invited to wear red to church that Sunday.

May 22: United Methodist Women Sunday. During worship on May 22 we will celebrate the significant contributions of United Methodist Women to our mission and ministry as a church and as a denomination. Women will take leadership roles in the service.

The sermon will be a father-daughter dialogue between Pastor David and his daughter Elizabeth, who recently spent four weeks in Kosovo, including trips to refugee camps in nearby Macedonia.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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





Our First Family

Baptism: Charlotte Elizabeth Decatur, daughter of Liz & Jake and sister of Ty, on April 24, 2016

New Members: Patricia and Madeleine Monson Geerts on April 10, 2016

Hospitalizations: Margot Kephart, Linda Quade

Needed: 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 (6th grade & up) and must have taken Child & Worker Protection Policy training in advance.

Thank you: The Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Committee sincerely thanks everyone for their attendance and participation at the March 13 "Soup & Such" Lunch. Your financial gifts continue to provide lessons and materials for the students' growth in their musical skills. Many thanks!

First UMC Church Council will meet Tuesday, May 3, 6 pm in the Fireside Lounge. This is a week earlier than usual due to Pastor David's involvement with General Conference.

Pastor's Pen

General, Annual, Jurisdictional

From May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon, United Methodists from around the world will gather for the quadrennial meeting of The United Methodist Church's General Conference. The General Conference is our denomination's highest decision-making body and is the only body that speaks officially for the denomination.

During those ten days, elected delegates, speaking different languages, will make decisions about the content of our *Book of Discipline* (our church rules and structure) and our *Book of Resolutions* (our church statements on broad issues in society), and will decide denominational priorities for the coming four years. Individuals, local churches, conferences, and church agencies have submitted over 1,100 pages of petitions recommending changes to these documents and suggesting direction for the church. It is ten days of intense work, wonderful worship, and building relationships.

If you would like to learn more about General Conference, or follow some of the proceedings, you can find it on the web at <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>. There is also a General Conference 2016 app for cell phones.

It is my privilege to be an elected delegate to General Conference for the fifth time, and this time I am head of the Minnesota Conference delegation. I have said that this will be my last time as a General Conference delegate. I have been working, praying, and studying in preparation for this event.

This is a critical time for our denomination. We will be making important decisions about how we will continue together as a worldwide church, including decisions about where future decisions will be made. We have operated for many years with a *Book of Discipline* voted on by all delegates, but whose provisions are only fully implemented in the United States. There is a growing recognition that this may not be serving us well.

Conversations about training for ordination are very different in countries with more developed economies and educational

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Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **May 27**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Pastor's Pen, continued

systems than in other parts of the world. Conversations about human sexuality are very different in the United States where gay marriage is legal, than in places where homosexuality is criminalized.

Perhaps we need to find some new ways to be a globally connected church. There are some who feel that we have not been strict enough with those who have violated our current denominational rules prohibiting clergy from officiating at same-sex unions or marriages, and they are proposing mandatory suspensions for clergy who engage in such activities. So we will decide if this is a direction we want to go. Please keep me and all of General Conference in your prayers.

Just a reminder, no bishops are elected at General Conference. That happens at regional jurisdictional conferences in July. Our jurisdiction, the North Central Jurisdiction, meets in Peoria, Illinois July 13-16.

As you already know, I have been nominated by the Minnesota Conference to be a candidate for bishop, and if you are interested, a web site supporting my candidacy has been launched:

www.davidabard.org. I am grateful to Doug Buell and others whose pictures are a key part of that web page.

This is a busy time. In the midst of that our work as a church moves on. We will celebrate confirmation this month, always a highlight. We will celebrate United Methodist Women this month. 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.

Grace and Peace,

David

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date March 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$109,362.20	\$100,613.87
Other Operating Income	<u>32,626.71</u>	<u>40,707.13</u>
Total Income	\$141,988.91	\$141,321.00
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$144,235.84</u>	<u>\$145,582.14</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 2,246.93)</u>	<u>(\$ 4,261.14)</u>

All taxes, apportionments, and payables YTD have been paid.

May 1 is Garden Sunday at FUMC

Have you had enough winter? You will be able to dig into dirt soon! The FUMC Garden Committee is enlisting additional interested volunteers for the upcoming garden season.

All levels of skill from beginners to experienced gardeners will be embraced. Last season over 20 people were on duty to make our gardens spectacular.

Design teams, shoppers, planters, weeders, watering teams – you name it, we can use your help. Gone for a few weeks in the summer? "No problem!" Even a short-term commitment would help. We are able to work around your schedule.

Our first date for spring cleaning the beds is May 17 at 9 am. Planting date is June 5 after church service.

Look for us at church May 1, or Call Mary Giese 624-5138, Marlene Bowen 729-6526, Carolyn Schroeder 724-3358, Linda Harper 724-2383 or Laura Krumwiede 728-5723 anytime throughout the next growing season. We will never turn you away.

Galations for summer Evening Bible Study

The evening Bible study has come to a close for the school year. This summer 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.

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, then 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. 10:00 – 11:30 on Mondays in June.

Team Coppertop – Walk for Animals (June 4)

Anyone can use their life to make a difference in the world! In honor of Earth Day and the beautiful creation entrusted to us, Coppertop individuals and families will participate in Animal Allies Walk for Animals on Saturday, June 4. Pick up your fundraiser packet from Laura Stahl and join Team Coppertop.

Laura says, "I'm encouraging my friends to donate a dollar for each pet they have loved in their lifetime."

Some EC ministries continue

Sunday morning school year ministries end for the summer on May 15. Time Out Together Family Faith, Time Out Together Family Prayer Stations, and Discovery for preschool and Kinders will end on May 15.

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.

Fundraiser for Cindy Alexander (June 4)

Cindy Alexander, FUMC's Co-Director of Communications, has been diagnosed with a rare, rapidly progressing neurodegenerative disease, similar to Parkinson's Disease, which has drastically affected her mobility and her ability to care for herself.

A fundraiser planned for Cindy on June 4 will include a chili feed, silent auction, music, and time together. Help is needed for planning, set-up, silent auction, and clean-up.

Funds will be used to remodel Cindy's home to accommodate her increased mobility challenges.

Faith Forum – Life Lessons 101

In our current Faith Forum series, a different presenter each week shares his or her reflections on an important topic, with insights gleaned from the Bible.

May 1: Jan Gibson on Humility

May 8: Ann Gumper on Creativity

May 15: Mark Whitlock on Gentleness

May 22: Sarah Maddy on Freedom

May 29: David Bard on The End of Life

Rhubarb Festival Pie Baking

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival is coming June 25. This is CHUM's biggest fundraiser of the year, last year bringing in \$67,000. LeAnn House has graciously agreed to coordinate pie baking at FUMC for the Rhubarb Festival again. Thank you, LeAnn.

The following dates are currently on the calendar for pie baking: June 7, 14, 21, 23, and 24, 9 am to 2 pm. Scone baking will take place June 23, 1- 5 pm. More information about pie baking and other Rhubarb Festival baking will be coming in the June newsletter.

Other volunteer opportunities for the Festival are available, including putting together a raffle basket (value \$50-\$100). Watch the CHUM Facebook page or the CHUM website for more information.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry this month will be held Thursday, May 19. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the food with them. You may volunteer anytime between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and can come for as little as an hour to help out. Ruby's Pantry Coppertop is now on Facebook. Like the page at <https://www.facebook.com/rubyspantrycoppertop>.

Shiny Paper

First UMC continues its shiny paper collection. Our Finance Committee has been coordinating this project and thanks to all those who have helped with it. Thanks, too, to all of you who have saved your paper and brought it to the church. Keep up the good work. All proceeds from the shiny paper collection support the ministries of First UMC through its budget.

From the Parish Nurse

Women's Retreat, Elder Celebration 75+

• At the Women's Retreat at Camp Amnicon, our theme was grace and creativity. Kate Campbell's excellent program on Grace led to active discussion. For our creativity portion we had small group discussions and wrote Grace poems like these:

Grace

Child's smile
Majesty of creation
Sunshine and light breeze
The unexpected in the daily grind
A wagging tail greeting you with joy
Words of forgiveness
Belly laugh
Grace

Grace

Soothing ointment
Respect, compassion, tough love
A seed of New hope
A family dinner with laughter and love
A walk in the park
Peaceful time alone
Child's Smile
Grace

Grace

Freely given
Coming unexpectedly
Reaching further into Grace
A bidden Treasure
Soul stirring
Grace

Grace

Patience
Honoring yourself
More than a prayer before meals
Accepting things you cannot change
A peaceful glimpse into the unknown
A gift well received
Accept Grace
Grace

• All persons who will be turning 75 sometime this year and those of you who have and are past that age are invited to a luncheon and program. Why, you say? Just because it's time to have some enjoyment and honor those of you who have made it! Feel free to bring a friend who hasn't reached this milestone yet.

Please sign up in the church office or call the office by May 20 to reserve your spot. Please indicate if you would need transportation.

The program will begin at 11:30 with a few words from me. Then you will have a turn to relate a life event in your past with a table partner. **Please bring a photo of yourself as you were growing up**, which will aid you in reminiscing about that time of your life.

Our luncheon will begin by 12:15, and after lunch we will be treated to a wonderful program put together by Tom Ling which will feature his exquisite photos of Italy and England. Tom is part of the camera club and has taken many trips abroad to shoot photos.

Here is part of a poem by residents in a senior care setting:

Aging is what happens to my body while my inner child stays
always young and beautiful
Aging can be delightful and enlightening,
Learning I can change as I get older, never **old**.
Aging is sometimes a slide and sometimes a climb
Amalgamating memories happy, sad, and useful

Hope you all can come! Blessings, Linda

Welcome, Patty and Maddy

Patty Monson Geerts joined the church April 17 with her daughter Maddy. Patty was born in North Dakota, grew up in California, and moved to Duluth over twenty years ago. She has taught French, and worked in the area of project-based learning, doing some of this work online. Her interests include travel, cooking, family, the outdoors, reading, music, and do-it-yourself projects.

Maddy is a high school senior who will be attending the University of Puget Sound beginning in the fall. She enjoys running, spending time outdoors, playing the cello, and any type of exercise.

Patty and Maddy were looking for a church and visited First UMC. They have felt very welcomed by the church community, and have been attending regularly for the past few months. They enjoy the music program here, and the community involvement of the congregation. In addition, Patty writes, "sermons are inspirational, smart, and infused with sincerity; we feel challenged to be better people."



First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
9:00am Family Faith Sessions (thru 5/15)
9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
10:00am Worship - S
10:15am 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 Moms' Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays (*ends 5/18, others end 5/11)

4:45pm • 5Guise - BR
5:15pm • Ringtones - BR
5:15pm Jam & the PB Band - EL
5:45pm * Wed. Nite Supper - LSH
6:15pm • Tapestry - S
6:30pm • Cast in Bronze - BR
6:30pm Youth Group - CW

6:30pm BeTwixt

7:30pm • Sanctuary Choir - EL
7:40pm • Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (except 5/19 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

Sunday, May 2

8:45am Confirmation class, 9th gr only

Tuesday, May 3

5:00pm Cap Campaign Committee - Lib

Wednesday, May 4

9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Sunday, May 8

10:00am Confirmation Sunday

Monday, May 9

5:30pm SPRC - Lib
7:00pm First & Ten - St
7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, May 10

2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Wednesday, May 11

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, May 12

1:00pm Alzheimers Caregivers - Lib
1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

Saturday, May 14

9:00am Dulcimer Day in Duluth - LL
9:00am Community Healing Circle - TBC

Monday, May 16

10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Wednesday, May 18

9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 21

12:00pm Duluth Monarch Festival - LSH
5:00pm North Star Boys Choir Concert - S

Monday, May 23

5:00pm Trustees - FSL

Tuesday, May 24

11:30am Elders' Luncheon - LSH
2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Thursday, May 26

8:00am Homes for All Summitt - LL

Monday, May 30

BUILDING CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY