



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.

September 2014

It all starts this week

This Sunday, September 14, we'll mark the return of a busier church season with a joyful Celebration of Welcome.

The Sanctuary Choir, Tapestry, and handbells will start the new year by combining their efforts along with piano and organ for a grand "Amazing Grace."

Faith formation classes for all ages start Sunday—Discovery for kids and Exploration for youth at 9 am, and a special Faith Forum for adults at an atypical 11:30 (see below).

Also launching this Sunday will be the annual nut, candy, coffee, and chocolate sale, as well as volunteer sign-ups for the fall Roast Beef Dinner.

In a new wrinkle, the big beef dinner will be held this year on a Thursday. The October 9 date should enable more folks from other churches to attend our dinner, as well as avoiding calendar collisions with our own Wednesday night activities. What else is new this year?

FUMC's Prayer Team will pray daily for the work of our church in this community, as well as the wider Church throughout the world. The Prayer Team will meet in the Three Brothers Chapel each
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Faith Forum this Sunday will provide space for end-of-life conversations

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Greetings to all! I'm sorry to see summer pass, but I love autumn and I'm excited to see and greet everyone on the 14th of September when we have our Celebration of Welcome (COW) Sunday!

Please join me for a special Faith Forum that day in the Fireside Lounge **at 11:30 am**. A light lunch will be served that will include milk and cheese (in deference to Cows) and other delectable foods.

The discussion will focus on conversations to have with your families and friends about your eventual demise and how you or your loved ones would want to spend their last final journey on earth. Almost 90% of us have the opportunity to think ahead, plan ahead, and make our wishes known for our unique last chapter.

Having discussions with your family and taking actions such as getting your advance directive prepared, having a will, getting your
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**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Hospitalization: Bill Wolden

Deaths: Chad Larson, son of Terry Larson, on Aug 16, 2014; Richard Laine, on Sept 5, 2014

Church Lighting:

• August 10-16 by Carolyn & Fred Glibbery in appreciation of the Memorial Gardens, to benefit continued care of the gardens

• September 7-13 by Leola Nelson in memory of Rev. Tom Walker, to benefit Ruby's Pantry

Wednesday Night Meals

began this week with the Church Council serving tacos. If your group or you individually or as a couple or family would like to help in preparing or serving a meal on a Wednesday night, please speak to me or just sign up in the church office and I will contact you.

Your help in providing assistance on a meal night will be much appreciated by me as well as all sharing the meal.

Thanks! *Linda Wiig*

Family Theater Outing: Join friends from First for dinner and a show on Friday, September 19. Judy Blume's classic story *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nobody* is on stage at Teatro Zuccone (222 E Superior Street) in a live theater presentation.

Stage and Page is donating a copy of this book for each child at this 7:30 pm performance. Adult tickets are \$14 and

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Pastor's Pen

Ruminations

Be inventive in hospitality.... Discover beauty in everyone.

From Romans 12, *The Message*

Woody Allen, in the movie *Annie Hall*, tells a joke about two older women at a Catskill resort. One morning, at breakfast, one woman turns to the other and says, "The food here isn't very good, is it?" And the other woman replies, "I know, and such small portions!" Our summer weather has not given us much to brag about this year, and now summer is ending all too soon.

Church staff, Church Council members, Church committees, and many others at First UMC have been working diligently in recent days to get fall programming in place as people return from their summer schedules and we move into a busier time here in the church.

One important marker for a change in our church schedule will be Sunday, September 14. We are calling it Celebration of Welcome Sunday. I thought it had a nice ring to it, but as our staff has been working with the day, we couldn't help but notice that the first letters in the phrase spell a word – CoW. We've been affectionately referring to this day as "Cow Sunday." Maybe we have all been working a little too hard getting ready for the fall.

And maybe it is my inner Sigmund Freud, but I figure we should never let a good free association go to waste. CoW Sunday, a celebration of welcome. I thought of the phrase, "till the cows come home."

The phrase generally has to do with something lasting a long time. In Scotland, where the phrase may have originated, cows are put out on grazing lands for the summer, but they return home in autumn when the grass becomes scarcer in the highlands.

It strikes me, though, that there are also echoes of reliability and of home. The cows return, slowly but with regularity. The cows have a place to which they can return.

God's love for us and grace toward us, as we know that in Jesus, is as certain as the cows coming home, either in the morning for milking or in the autumn when the summer grasses have dwindled.

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First Family

First United Methodist Church

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

Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **Sept 19**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Our First Family, *continued*

children's \$6. If you have time for dinner, us at Mexico Lindo (Fitzer's Center, 600 E Superior Street) at 5:45 pm.

Card of Thanks: The 2014 Rhubarb Festival was a great success, bringing in more than \$65,000 in support for CHUM and our neighbors who come to us seeking food, shelter, and acceptance. Your Bucket Raffle contribution to the Festival was just one of the many items that brought in over \$7,000. The three Book Worm Treats baskets you contributed helped us raise more than we anticipated. I hope you will respond positively when we request your help again! *Mary Schmitz, CHUM Development Director*

Ruminations, *continued*

While we are welcoming you all "back" after summer vacations and time at the cabin, the deeper reality of our celebration of welcome is that we are celebrating God's ever-welcoming love and grace, a love and grace that are always there for us. And it is in God's love for us that we find home, a place where we are given roots and wings, a place that affirms our true beauty.

There will be a place for you here on CoW Sunday. There is always a place for you and for all who feel the Spirit moving them our way. We hope that this Sunday will be a moo-ving experience for all.

We hope that as a church we will be welcoming people here in the name of Jesus until the cows come home.

Grace and Peace,
David

Summer Wrap-up

Visit from Ardell and Gordon Graner

United Methodist missionaries Gordon and Ardell Graner, who are currently working in the Dominican Republic, visited First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 3. Thanks to all who were part of this evening. We enjoyed hearing about the Graners' work, an extension of our ministry here at First UMC.

Homebound communion, luncheon

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Our annual homebound luncheon with communion service was held on August 26. Parker Hinnenkamp provided wonderful music on the sanctuary organ as well as piano. Everyone in attendance was in awe of his performance.

The Nurture committee served 30 for lunch, with 14 homebound and their guests in attendance. Everyone was very appreciative of the fine afternoon and socialization among Firsters who had not seen each other for a long time.

I want to thank Pastor David and drivers Keith Ball, Jim Taylor, Laura Stahl, Dick Carlson, and Millie Nimmo; as well as Nurture Committee members Linda Harper, Linda Peterson, Jan Gibson, Barb Kim, Barbara Carlson, and Mary Ann Korsch.

End-of-life conversations, *continued*

legal documents in order and in a place where they can be accessed are all-important items that we all should do.

Give your family a gift and give yourself peace of mind. Give your family Information, tell them what you want, and tell them where to find the information.

We will view a video, which should help people to engage in conversations about end-of-life care. Having these conversations before a crisis enables all involved to have a better quality of life as death approaches. Advance directives will also be available.

New this year, *continued*

Sunday morning at 9:50 am to pray for the worship service and all in attendance.

A new concert series is being planned at FUMC that involves four concerts to be held throughout the year on Sunday afternoons.

Tapestry will play the inaugural concert on Oct. 12, and our handbell program is planning a Christmas concert for Dec. 7. The Sanctuary Choir will present Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" in February, and Velda Bell is putting together an "Organ Plus" concert for April.

Fall Book Read: Later this fall we will be encouraging members of the congregation to read together Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible*. The book invites honest conversations about the Bible with the goal of helping people rediscover its power to shape our lives and deepen our relationship with God.

For now, though: See you Sunday!



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Christians around the world celebrate communion on the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday is a day when many churches want

‘Take, eat’ will be heard around the world to emphasize that the body of Christ shares the sacrament in the rich

diversity while affirming that “there is one body and one Spirit ...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.” (Ephesians 4:4)

This year the worship committee is making plans to help us celebrate this important day in some fresh ways.

World Communion Sunday is also one of six Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. Special offerings taken on World Communion Sunday go toward scholarships for international and ethnic-minority students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Imagine No Malaria: How are we doing?

Now in the final months of our three-year financial commitment to the United Methodist ministry “Imagine No Malaria,” we are nearing our \$20,000 goal and just need some final help from you all.

Until the end of the year, proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser are being used for Imagine No Malaria. Our Finance Committee has been coordinating this project and thanks 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.

If you made a 2014 pledge to this project, we trust that you will fulfill that commitment by year’s end. Proceeds from the fall nut sale will be used for this project as well.

Thank you for helping save lives by your commitment to Imagine No Malaria.

‘Faithful Reader’ focus for fall Faith Forum

For this fall’s Faith Forum series, we asked a number of our members to tell us about a book that has made a significant impact on their life. The “Faithful Reader” series will begin Sunday, September 21.

Here is the schedule for the next several weeks:

September 21: Tom Wheeler on *This I Believe* series

September 28: Anne Miller on Jack Nelson Pallmeyer, *Jesus Against Christianity*

October 5: Shelley Gruskin on Sonia Sotomayor, *My Beloved World*

These classes meet at 9 am in the Fireside Lounge. Find the complete schedule under Ministries > Adults at www.fumcduluth.com.

Date set for fall Roast Beef Dinner

This fall’s Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 9. Volunteer recruitment will begin early in September. We need your help to make this a success, and we are grateful for the on-going support you all provide. Tell your friends about the dinner. Even better, sell them a ticket.

Bishop Bruce Ough to visit Duluth October 5

Bruce Ough, the United Methodist Bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, will be visiting Duluth on Sunday, October 5. An open house to meet the bishop and be with other United Methodists will be held at 3 p.m. at Asbury UMC.

If you plan to attend—and we hope you do—please RSVP in our church office or by contacting them directly at asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com. We hope First UMC is well represented at this gathering.

FUMC Fall Roast Beef Dinner

THURSDAY, October 9, 2014 *New day!*

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Be a part of the fun!

- Sign up in the narthex to volunteer
- Buy your tickets in the church office or at sign up table on Sundays
- Sell tickets to your friends or family, or treat them to a dinner

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP:

Something for everyone! All ages can participate! We have a job for you! Child care provided from 4-9 pm!

Sunday, October 5: Cookie Day **After worship until 3:00 pm**

Make cookie dough. Chocolate chip cookie recipe available to take home. Make a triple batch and bring the dough to church on Sunday, October 5. Leave in church kitchen refrigerator. Bake chocolate chip cookies after worship to sell during the dinner

Wednesday, October 8: Pie Day **9 am-noon**

Peel apples
Set tables and put water in pitchers and freeze
Bake pies (9-3 pm)

Thursday, October 9: Dinner Day

7:30 am - 9:30 am Trim beef, wash dishes
9:30 am - 11:30 am Prepare coleslaw, gravy, coffee
Noon-4:30 pm Set the tables with pickles, bread, butter; fill coleslaw cups; prepare the drive thru serving area with bags and rolls; fill waters and coffee pots
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Cut pies and put on tables
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Meat cutter, potato maker, gravy maker, corn maker, dishwashers
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dining room servers, plate fillers, carry out/drive thru runners and fillers, cooks, dishwashers, traffic controllers, greeters, and youth runners
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm 2nd shift for drive thru and serving line; after 7:00 clean up in those areas
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Clean up crew: dining room, drive thru area, pie room, kitchen and dishwashers, sweeping and mopping of all floors, putting away decorations, tables...

If you show up at different times, no worries, we will find a job for you!

Reminder postcard

When signing up to volunteer, you can take home a reminder postcard or have one mailed to you. Just fill out a postcard with your address and bring a 34¢ stamp (or money for one) and we will mail it the week before the dinner.

ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Parking - Please park on the day care side of the building.

Tickets - Please purchase your ticket in advance or at the door and enjoy the meal before or after your shift. (Only youth volunteers enjoy the dinner compliments of FUMC.)

OTHER WAYS TO HELP OUT:

Sell dinner tickets - Take 10 tickets and sell to family, friends, and co-workers or treat your staff or your helpful neighbors

Flyers - Post flyers around your work (available at volunteer sign up table)

Facebook/email - Invite friends to dinner via Facebook and email

Thank you in advance for signing up to help. We could not do this event without you!

What's your gift?

Mary Anne Korsch, Lay Leader

What are your spiritual gifts? It's an interesting question. We are all gifted in some way, and thankfully, we all have different gifts.

The United Methodist Church has a quick and easy online assessment tool to help you determine where your gifts might be. Search "UMC spiritual gifts" and give it a try—you might be surprised.

Once you've taken the assessment and have your results, I'd love to talk with you about it. How can you use your gifts to help our congregation or our community to move toward healing and wholeness?

UMW circles ready to welcome you

Marilew Barnidge,
UMW President

UMW is getting geared up for a new year, and we invite all women to join a circle. Try it; you might like it!

You will be welcomed at any of these circles:

Rachel Circle, 3rd Monday at 10 am. Chair: Karen Morgan

Naomi Circle, 3rd Wednesday at 9:30 am. Chair: Marilyn Skansgaard

Deborah Circle, 2nd Tuesday at 1 pm. Chair: Diane Bean

Priscilla Circle, 2nd Monday at 7 pm. Chair: Joanna Regnier

On Wednesday, October 15, First UMC is inviting all area UMW to hear a guest from PAVSA speak on sex trafficking and exploitation of women.

Notes from FUMC's Music Program

Velda Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Strikepoint tour and Karl-Oskar concert: Wow! We heard some wonderful concerts this summer at FUMC. Strikepoint played their Homecoming Concert on July 31 after returning from their summer tour to various cities in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

A week later, they joined with the Karl-Oskar Choir from Duluth's Sister City, Växjö, Sweden, to present a concert sponsored by the Sister City Commission. The joint concert on August 8 was just magical.

Thank you to everyone from our own congregation who helped with these concerts. The concert with the Karl-Oskar Choir especially involved extra help, such as providing homestays for these young choir members for five days and hosting a meal for choir members and delegates from the Duluth's Sister City Committee prior to the concert.

Special thanks to Bill and Cindy Alexander for their extra work in making these concerts happen as well as hosting the Karl-Oskar Choir during the time they were in Duluth.

JAM and the Peanut Butter Band: This hands-on music program for our youngest musicians meets on Wednesdays in the East Lounge from 5:15-5:45 pm. Both the kids and their parents enjoy this fun musical experience led by Cynthia Coffin-Langdon. JAM is for ages 4 through 3rd grade, although younger kids are welcome to join if accompanied by a parent. Come for rehearsal and then stay for Wed Night Meal afterwards!

"Make a Joyful Noise" concert CDs: We are very sorry that it has taken so long to edit and reproduce the CDs from our *Make a Joyful Noise* concert this past spring. We were expecting to have this project completed sooner; however, everyone's busy summer schedules have unfortunately caused some delays.

We are expecting to release the CDs by mid-September. Please feel free to contact Velda Bell if you have any questions. Again, please accept our apologies.

FUMC Operating Budget Year-to-Date July 31, 2014

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$221,590.88	\$224,587.50
Other Operating Income	<u>94,533.62</u>	<u>116,469.20</u>
Total Income	\$316,124.50	\$341,056.70
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$363,235.62</u>	<u>\$337,259.23</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 47,111.12)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,797.47)</u>

All taxes are paid for 2014.

Three apportionment checks are being held.

Terri Lynn and Equal Exchange sale begins; proceeds will go to Imagine No Malaria

Place your order in September for the annual sale of Terri Lynn nuts and candy and Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate.

This year proceeds will go toward First UMC's \$20k pledge to end malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. We join the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The United Nations Fund, the United Methodist Church, and other large charitable organizations to end malaria. Invite a few co-workers or friends to join this cause by ordering Terri Lynn or Equal Exchange products.

Products will arrive in early November, in plenty of time for teacher and family Christmas gifts. Order forms available at church, through First Family, and at fumcduluth.com.

On the Calendar for Sept 2014

Ruby's Pantry September 18

This month Ruby's Pantry will see its 50th distribution at the Coppertop site, and we plan to mark this occasion in some special ways.

All who work coordinating Ruby's Pantry are deeply grateful for those who help make this food distribution program happen. Each month, volunteers greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the food with them.

You are welcome to volunteer at any time between 3 pm and 8 pm and can come for as little as an hour to help out.

Faith and Film

Our first Faith and Film evening for 2014-2015 will be Sunday, September 21, beginning at 6:30 pm. Please note, this is a week earlier than we have met in the past.

Our first feature for the year will be the documentary *Inequality For All*. Former Labor Secretary and author Robert Reich shares in an engaging and entertaining way his concerns about a shrinking middle class and income inequality.

Whether you agree with his perspective or not, the film will leave you thinking about important issues. The film is rated PG.

First and Ten

The First and Ten Men's Group will meet on Monday, September 22, starting at 7 pm in the Fireside Lounge. First and Ten, a group that meets for discussion and service, is open to all men.

Confirmation

Confirmation for 2014-2015 will begin in January 2015. We again plan to meet Sunday mornings before church. The program is for eighth and ninth grade youth, with ninth graders being confirmed in May 2015.

Letters about the program will be sent out later in the fall. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with Pastor David.

Million Meal Marathon Results

Meals packed top 2.3 million; opportunities remain to feed hungry children

To date, Minnesota United Methodists have packed 2,305,329 meals for hungry children through our Million Meals Marathon. This meal-packing initiative will continue through the rest of 2014.

Earlier this year, Bishop Bruce Ough reminded us that in Luke, chapter 14, Jesus told two parables about hosting others at the banquet table. In the second, Jesus made it abundantly clear that we are to invite all who are hungry, sick, and poor, and no matter how many are invited, *there is still room*.

United Campus Ministry 50¢ sale Sept 27

United Campus Ministry will again be having a 50¢ sale in conjunction with Hope UMC's book sale on Saturday, September 27. The sale benefits United Campus Ministry so that we may have a presence on campus at UMD.

The 50¢ sale will include items such as household goods, sports equipment, kitchen and garden utensils, tools, and bags—anything except clothing.

We make these items 50 cents (or bundle small items together) to ensure they find loving homes and are affordable for college students and others who might not be able to afford higher-priced items.

If you would like to volunteer for either sale, we would be most grateful. Just let Cynthia know at 218-260-3114.



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

Sundays

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
Discovery & Exploration - 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

Wednesdays

- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:15pm JAM - EL
- 5:45pm Supper - LSH se
- 6:00pm Tapestry - S
- 6:30pm Cast In Bronze - BR
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW, 112
- 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - TBC
- 7:40pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

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

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Saturday, September 13

- 9:00am Camp Tapestry - S, FSL
- 10:00am Children's Ministry - 107

Sunday, September 14

- 11:30am Faith Forum - TBC

Monday, September 15

- 9:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Wednesday, September 17

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, September 18

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

Saturday, September 20

- 9:00am Northland Organizing
Rummage Sale - LSH

Monday, September 22

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL
- 5:30pm Ruby's Committee - Lib
- 7:00pm First & Ten - FSL

Thursday, September 25

- 5:45pm Finance Committee - St

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

For more listings, see the Building Use Calendar at www.fumcduluth.com under News & Events.

Quick Look at September

September 14: Celebration of Welcome Sunday. Faith Formation for all ages begins. Faith Forum will meet at 11:30 am with a presentation by Linda Wiig on end-of-life planning

September 18: Ruby's Pantry

September 21: Faith Forum "Faithful Reader" series begins, 9 am; Faith and Film: *Inequality For All*, 6:30 pm

September 27: Campus Ministry 50¢ sale

Roast Beef Dinner
Thurs, Oct 9

Coppertop Craft & Bake Sale
Sat, Nov 8