



# 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.*

January 2017

## Who will be our pastor? An update

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like share a note from our district superintendent, Susan Nienaber, updating us on the next senior pastor process for FUMC.

Also, a job posting for the Minnesota Annual Conference website as requested by Susan can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

SPRC has updated the 2016 Church Profile; if you are interested in reading it, you will find it in the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact a SPRC member.

Thank you for your prayers to see how God leads us.

Co-Chairs: Kent Giese and Richard Gurske

Members: Ron Berkeland, Terry Cottingham, Cindy Hedlund, Karen Jeannette, Bob Krumweide, Steve Mattson, Linda Rau, and Pastor Rick Fossum

*Dear Members and Friends of First UMC in Duluth,*

*Blessing to you all in this Advent season. I was asked by the SPRC to provide an up-date on where we are in our appointment process for your next senior pastor. On November 28 and 29 the (Minnesota Annual Conference) cabinet met with 32 people who are considering appointments or appointment changes in the MN Annual Conference. We are seeing lots of very talented pastors and will be experiencing a great deal of movement in the conference this year. Earlier this fall the cabinet took time to begin vetting candidates for your next pastor and we already saw several exciting possibilities for your church. In January the cabinet will have two appointment retreats to begin our time of prayer and discernment about all of the known appointment changes. We may even be able to finalize a couple of appointments during the month of January. At some point after February 1 we will likely finalize our choice for your next senior pastor and then I can begin the introductory work with the SPRC. Do not become concerned if you do not hear immediately in February as we may know who we are going to appoint but we have to follow the chain of appointments and sequence the timing of the introductions.*

**Susan Nienaber**

District Superintendent, Big Waters District  
122 W. Franklin Ave. Suite 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**First United  
Methodist Church**

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



## Our First Family

**Death:** Elladore Leiviska, mother of Greg Leiviska (Mike Goodlet) and grandmother of Grant and Alex Goodlet, on December 23.

**Church lighting** for December 25 – 31 was sponsored by Barbara Carlson in appreciation of the Sunday morning snow removal volunteers.

**Capital Campaign Update:** \$77,000 remains to be raised toward our Capital Campaign goal of \$863,000. Our campaign wraps up in December 2018. Gifts to the campaign may be made using a pew envelope and filling in the line for “Building Fund.” Your gifts will keep our light Shining on the Skyline for many years to come.

Thank you for supporting First UMC Youth Fund! The Terri Lynn and Equal Exchange fall fundraiser raised \$1901.87 with \$210.50 in remaining product for future sales. Expenses were \$5076.13 on income of \$6978.

In preparation for the annual conference on January 15, committee chairs and group leaders are asked to submit their reports by Monday, January 9. Contact the office if you need a copy of the form.

*continued next page*

## For What It's Worth

# Interim Pastor's Report

I am grateful and honored to be the Interim Pastor of Duluth First United Methodist Church. I thank the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church and Duluth First for making this opportunity possible.

As an Interim Pastor, my responsibility is to help build a successful transition between the previous pastor and the pastor yet-to-be-named. This includes identifying and building on our current strengths and naming those areas that challenge us.

Our culture is quickly changing before our eyes. During the past sixty to seventy years, this church, like every church, has been influenced by The Silent Generation (born 1945 and before), Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation Xers ((1956-1976), Millennials (1977-1995), Centennials or Generation Z (1996-present).

How the next generations will influence us, will be anyone's guess.

Your new pastor and staff will need your continued help and support as they steer the Coppertop into the future.

We have many strengths that we can both be proud of and build on.

We have one of the most easily identifiable buildings in Duluth. We are a landmark. As we know, it takes money to maintain a landmark! We are in the midst of a Capital Campaign that targeted certain areas of the building for repairs and renovations. This is important. I expect new Capital Campaigns will be conducted in the near future for further repairs and renovations.

We are a reconciling congregation. We are a church that proudly welcomes all people regardless of their age, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, or language.

Our music ministry is renowned throughout our area. Our “blended services” are a positive way to offer people something old and something new. We also have a wonderful teaching ministry where young people are taught to sing, ring bells, and play the piano and/or organ.

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## First Family

### 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: **Jan 20**

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



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

# Interim Pastor's Report, continued

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We open our doors and host many community groups: Ruby's Pantry, the Hmong New Year Celebration, AA groups, exercise classes, CHUM meetings, and many more.

Our most important asset is our people. We are a friendly church, with a positive attitude, sitting in the heart of a beautiful city. Coppertop people know how to live, love, and serve. We are generous and care about our neighbors. We do our best to serve God by using the gifts and abilities God has given to us.

We do have some challenges. How can we maintain our current ministries while developing new ministries and programs to attract new people? How can we build on our current strengths and use those strengths to increase our worship attendance? How can we change with the changing cultures and still stay healthy and relevant in the years ahead?

Some of the challenges we face are these:

- Consider adding additional programs/groups for youth and children's ministries. We will need to wrestle with the question: What are young people looking for, and is it possible our church can provide it?
- Consider developing an effective visitation program. Studies have shown that first-time visitors need to receive a welcome gift and a visit by a layperson within the first 24 to 48 hours of their visit if they are expected to make a second visit.
- Consider setting aside "first-time visitor" parking spots in convenient places near church entrances.
- Consider studying and improving the signage in our building. Where are our classrooms? Bathrooms? We know, but can our visitors find the sanctuary or nearest bathroom without getting frustrated?
- On Sunday mornings, consider having volunteers behind our kiosk desk near the front entry to help answer questions and give directions. Perhaps add a second kiosk near the east entrance for the same purpose.

• There is an issue regarding the rental of the Coppertop. This is a busy building. Excluding the University Nursery School, there are many other groups that use our building throughout the year. There have been situations where renting the building to outside groups has caused conflicts with church-related activities. It also causes additional work for our staff especially the janitorial staff. Hiring another custodian or custodial service has been mentioned in response to this busy situation.

• Consider adding a second service. This is a delicate subject with both pros and cons. Would a second service provide a healthy option to the new people and families we are hoping to reach? How would a second service affect our current church family?

• Consider our system of governance at Coppertop. Churches across the country are transitioning into single governance systems where the pastor and staff are managing and operating the church

rather than numerous boards and committees. Again, there are pros and cons that need to be addressed.

• The new pastor and staff will need to develop a common goal or vision for FUMC—a vision that will **unite** the staff and congregation and focus their efforts on achieving that vision.

Duluth First UMC has a rich and productive history. We have faithfully served this area for over 147 years. I believe we can add to our rich history in positive and meaningful ways as we face the future with boldness and faith.

The good and great news this: Jesus is with us and will help us march into our future.

*Rick Fossum, Pastor*

## Our First Family, continued

**Creative Love Project:** Plans are forming for a day of artistic expression and outreach on Sunday, Jan 29. Watch for details in your Inbox, Faithful First Families (Coppertop) FB Group and in bulletin announcements.

*"Thank you once again for your generous donation this year.*

*Merry Christmas to you and yours from the inmates and staff at the St. Louis County Jail."*

Coppertop people donated some 24 dozen cookies to the jail for the Christmas season.



# Jan 15 date for annual meeting and review

All members are encouraged to attend our annual Church Conference on Sunday, January 15, after the worship service.

This gathering functions as an annual meeting of sorts, where the congregation receives reports from various mission and ministry teams, reviews the 2016 budget and confirms the 2017 budget, and provides input to the Church Council as they look ahead to new ways of carrying out the mission and ministry of the church. All members of FUMC are eligible to attend and vote.

At this year's Church Conference, we will also receive more information from the Staff Parish Relations Committee about what to expect in our upcoming pastoral transition. While our new Lead Pastor won't formally be appointed by this time, the SPRC will be able to share steps that are underway to ensure a smooth transition.

Your comments and questions are welcome at this gathering.

We will meet in the sanctuary just a few minutes after the worship service ends; grab your coffee and join the conversation. We anticipate that the meeting will be less than an hour in duration.

As you prepare to attend, be in prayer that God will guide us as we make decisions and recommendations to carry out our mission together.

See you on the 15th!

*From SPRC, continued*

## Description for Lead Pastor

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough and the Minnesota Annual Conference appointive cabinet seek to match clergy and congregations in order to fulfill the Gospel Imperatives - To Grow in Love of God and Neighbor, Reach New People and Heal a Broken World. As part of the consultation process in appointment-making, they invite clergy to indicate their interest in those churches known to be open as of December 5, 2016. The churches are listed on the Minnesota Annual Conference website with a description. This is the description FUMC submitted.*

First UMC in Duluth is eager to welcome a new Lead Pastor in the spring of 2017. We are interested in an innovative leader who will serve to inspire our staff (two full-time and about 15 part-time) and congregation by helping us fulfill the Annual Conference's expectation to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. This will require excellent skills in preaching and collaborative worship planning, a well-developed, clearly-articulated and progressive theology, openness and comfort with a congregation who has a wide variety of social and political views, and a willingness to engage in relationship-building, both within the congregation and throughout our community. First UMC is a reconciling congregation. Additionally, the Lead Pastor sets the tone for a positive and supportive work environment for both staff and volunteers, inviting and involving volunteers to participate in various church ministries. Ideally, this person will also have a proven track record in growing worship attendance, setting long- and short-term goals that inspire deep engagement, and encouraging congregation members to strengthen personal and communal practices of intentional discipleship. We are looking for a servant leader who will help us shine God's light into the world as a beacon of hope and healing from the Skyline.

Our new leader will follow an intentional interim pastor (appointed August 2016-July 2017) who replaced our former pastor who served here for 11 years before being elected bishop. Specific challenges include clarifying our sense of where God is calling us to grow, honoring the deep history of two congregations that have merged into one church in 2012, connecting with young adults and families with children in new and innovative ways, and helping us "think outside the box" as we forge a new identity as servants of Christ in a hurting world.

We are a congregation of about 640 members (average worship attendance 220) in beautiful northeastern Minnesota, on the shores of Lake Superior. Our 50-year-old Coppertop building is a local landmark and provides a fabulous facility for worship, ministry, and community gathering. Our annual church budget is about \$570,000. In 2018 we will complete a capital campaign which is on target to meet our goal of \$525,000; this will allow us to address a number of structural projects to ensure the viability of our building for the next 50 years, making ministry in the name of Jesus Christ possible.

# Lennon-Berini Scholars 2016

At the worship service on December 25, the scholarship's Selection Committee presented four \$1,000 scholarships to members of our congregation. The recipients are:

**Adair Ballavance**, a graduate student at Concordia St. Paul majoring in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Laura Hauschildt**, a third-year student at University of Minnesota Duluth majoring in English Literary Studies.

**Gus Kjolhaug**, a third-year student at Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN majoring in Psychology.

**Mary Kate Wheeler**, a graduate student at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services in Boston majoring in Physician Assistant Studies.

All Lennon-Berini Scholarship recipients are members of FUMC, have completed at least two years of college, and are preparing for people-centered careers.

Dick Wallin, President/Trustee of the Fund, encourages church members and others to consider contributions to the Lennon-Berini Scholarship Fund so as to ensure the continued annual presentations to future worthy candidates.

# Fun and Games at the Coppertop Friday, January 20

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the second ever FUMC Fun and Games Night on Friday, January 20, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Lakeview Social Hall. There is no cost for this fun evening, but participants will have the option to donate any amount of their choosing to a church mission or program.

Games of Cribbage, Scrabble, and Yahtzee will be available, and you may bring your own favorite game from home. Families of all sizes are welcome and child care will be provided for children too young for the games. Free snacks of popcorn and s'mores will help make this a fun, family-friendly event.

This second ever event is sponsored by the Hospitality Team (with a little help from our friends) with the goal of fun and fellowship.

## Fire pit to go?

Weather permitting, we're planning on including s'mores on the refreshment list for Game Night. Granted, we could make those in the oven, but wouldn't it be much more fun to roast your marshmallow to a perfect golden brown over a fire?

We are hoping to borrow one or two portable, wood-burning fire pits to be used in the parking lot for that evening. If you have one you'd be willing to lend us, please contact MaryAnne Korsch (218/343-8813) and we'll make arrangements for pick-up.



## FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date November 30, 2016

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$364,917.55	\$362,884.17
Other Operating Income	<u>146,088.05</u>	<u>136,445.22</u>
Total Income	\$511,005.60	\$499,329.39
<b>Expense</b>		
Total Expense	<u>\$541,126.56</u>	<u>\$533,801.18</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>(\$ 30,120.96)</u>	<u>(\$ 34,471.79)</u>

## Area-Wide UMC Men's Retreat February 10-11

Join area men (can include senior high youth and/or friends of yours) for a time of retreating together at wonderful Camp Amnicon for growth in your faith life, worship and prayer time together, fun and fellowship with others, games, conversation, laughter, and delicious food.

Main study will be based on DVD and optional book reading of John Ortberg's *The Me I Want to Be*, focusing on spiritual growth crafting each of us into the person we were meant to be, and how to cross the gap between who you are now and who you want to be.

Cost is \$35 (extra to obtain a study book) which includes three meals, one night of lodging, and group activities.

Get a registration flyer/form from your church office and/or contact Pastor Sam at [umcpastorsam.kautz@gmail.com](mailto:umcpastorsam.kautz@gmail.com) or 218-349-5334 (calls/texts) with further questions.

Deadline to register is Sunday, January 29.

## Faith Forum

Theme for winter/spring Faith Forum will be "gaining wisdom from biblical characters and their stories.

January presenters are

**Jan. 8:** Mary Anne Korsch--  
Jeremiah

**Jan. 15:** Randy Millikan--  
Ezekiel

**Jan. 22:** Mike Donahue--  
Ezra and Nehemiah

**Jan. 29:** Tom Wiig--Jonah

## So, what is a deacon, and what does a deacon do?

from MaryAnne Korsch

This past June, my relationship with the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church changed at the moment Bishop Bruce Ough commissioned me into a new role as a Deacon.

Deacons are clergypersons called to word, service, justice, and compassion ministries; my calling as a hospital chaplain aligns well with these expectations. While my seminary work is complete, I am still finishing up my chaplaincy training program, which requires 1600 hours of supervised practice – I'm wrapping up those hours at St. Mary's Medical Center and will be finished in April of 2017.

For the purposes of the Annual Conference, my work in the hospital is considered my *primary appointment*. In a situation such as this, deacons who are working outside of a church setting must also have a *secondary appointment* within a congregation, which may be a volunteer or paid position, depending on a mutual understanding between the deacon and the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Pending approval at our Charge Conference on January 15, my position will include a small salary. (Yes, I know, it's a lot of details, but I have come to appreciate the Methodist "methodology" and especially trust the folks in the MN Annual Conference Cabinet to enact it fairly and prayerfully.)

Every deacon's calling is unique, based on his or her setting. Starting in January, I will be working (very!) part-time here at the Coppertop, with office hours on Thursdays. My responsibilities will gradually take shape around a project that we're loosely calling Discipleship Ministries, finding old and new ways of how we are being God's people in the world and where our witness can be intentionally strengthened. The metaphor deacons often use when describing our work is one of a *bridge* – we encourage people to live their faith in their families, communities, and workplaces – *bridging* God's people between the church and the world.

I also intend to work with our SPRC throughout the winter and spring season as we prepare to welcome a new Lead Pastor this summer, providing transitional support as needed. As our new Pastor becomes acclimated to ministries at the Coppertop, and also as my days as a student chaplain come to an end and I seek employment in hospital chaplaincy, my FUMC role is likely to be adjusted. We have agreed to be flexible as conditions change.

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## Star Parade & Treasure Trot

*"Your heart will always be where your treasure is." Matt 6:21 (CEV)*

Kids, remember those cute treasure boxes you decorated in the fall? You used them to collect coins and dollars to make the world a better place.

Bring your treasure box on Sunday, Jan 8 for the Star Parade and Treasure Trot as we celebrate Epiphany/Three Kings Sunday.

We will place our stars and treasure on the communion table as worship begins. You can use stars from previous years or come at 9 am to Family Bible Study & Stations/Preschool Discovery to make a new star to use.

## Deacon, continued

For now, though, I am thrilled to be participating at FUMC on a more "official" basis. And I encourage you, as members and friends of this congregation, to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to live your faith more intentionally in your own context. If you have ideas about what this might look like, for you as an individual or for us as a congregation, I welcome a conversation. God needs all of God's people to shine our light in the world, so that we can truly fulfill our calling to be hope and healing from the Skyline.

## Visiting someone with dementia

*from Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse*

About 5 million Americans now have Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. This number is 20 million globally. As you know this disease robs people of language, memory, and thought. Recently a report about a family in Colombia has shown that there is a gene responsible for this family contracting Alzheimer's at an early age.

Dr. Kenneth Kosik for more than 25 years has worked with Dr. Francisco Lopera of Medellín's University of Antioquia in studying the largest known family with inherited Alzheimer's disease. Its family tree goes back 300 years. Hundreds of individuals in this family are fated to get the disease. Their symptoms usually develop between the ages of 45 and 50.

Their research has found that the gene, called presenilin 1 (PSEN1), is responsible for this family's disease. Knowing the gene mutation means that they can now predict which family members will get Alzheimer's. Knowing whom the disease will strike, and when, offers a powerful basis for finding a treatment and determining if it is effective. The Colombian family is now part of a large prevention trial.

It's also been found that another large family nearby has another genetic mutation that causes early onset. Even though research on Alzheimer's has been going on for more than 100 years little is known.

Until more is known about causes and treatments, tips for caring for people with Alzheimer's will help you to decrease the stress experienced when visiting or caring for a loved one.

### **Tips for Visiting**

Language may be affected at different intervals. Use complete sentences and avoid cliché's and/or abbreviated talk.

Conversation needs to be centered on the current time and activity. People with Alzheimer's may not even know what time of year it is or if you were there an hour ago.

Help to orient the person to the now: "it's snowing and cold today." "I'm Linda from church."

Be invitational—even simple decisions can be overwhelming. Say "I made this for you, now let's look at it together."

Be patient—go slow—don't fill in the gaps of conversation—don't rush the person.

Let us pray for all those afflicted with any type of dementia, their caregivers, and those who are doing the research to find the causes and treatments of this debilitating disease.

Blessings, Linda



## First United Methodist Church

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth MN 55811-2799.

### Weekly Our regular schedule

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#### 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
- 4:15pm 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

- 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
- 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

#### Fridays

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

### Day by Day Monthly & one-time

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#### Monday, January 2

CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

#### Wednesday, January 4

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

#### Thursday, January 5

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL

#### Monday, January 9

- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

#### Tuesday, January 10

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

#### Wednesday, January 11

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

#### Thursday, January 12

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

#### Saturday, January 14

- 9:00am Community Healing Circle - TBC

#### Saturdays

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

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

#### Sunday, January 15

- 11:00am 2017 Charge Conference & Foundation Annual Meeting - S

#### Monday, January 16

- 7:00am Martin Luther King Day Breakfast - LSH
- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

#### Wednesday, January 18

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

#### Thursday, January 19

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

#### Friday, January 20

- 6:00pm Game Night - LSH, EL

#### Tuesday, January 24

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

#### Thursday, January 26

- 5:00pm Finance Committee - FSL

#### Saturday, January 28

- 8:00am Citizens Action Workshop - LL