

# 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.*

February 2017

## Moving forward in the midst of change

from MaryAnne Korsch

*Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take.*

Joshua 1:9 (The Message)

It seems fitting that, in preparation for the month of February, I am contemplating the concept of "transition" from a number of vantage points. I am transitioning into a new role as Deacon at FUMC, and learning more and more about what it means to be a leader in a new context. As a nation, we are observing the deep polarity in our government leaders and in people from many walks of life as we transition to a new President. Moving forward in the midst of change is one of the most challenging things we will ever do.

As a congregation, we, too, are in the midst of change. In a short time we will have more specific information about our new lead pastor, but for now we are playing a waiting game of sorts. We all have opinions about how First United Methodist Church can move forward to fulfill God's call in this time and place. It's time to put our heads together in an intentional conversation so that we can be very clear about how we will be following God's lead into an unknown future.

This intentional conversation is planned for Sunday, February 26, from 11:30 (or just after worship) until 2:00pm. A light lunch will be served, and together we will move through a series of structured opportunities for conversation and dreaming as we begin to craft our direction for the coming years. **All** members and friends of FUMC are invited, and child care will be provided.

We will pray together that God's Holy Spirit will guide us into this new future with strength and courage. We will think together about what it means to be a growing church, and we will wrestle with questions like, Do we want to grow? What are we willing to do differently in order to grow? What are we willing to stop doing? Where is God calling us to respond to the needs of our community as a result of our faith in Jesus?

Together, we will start to craft some answers to these questions,

*continued inside*



## Our First Family

**Hospitalizations:** Patty Wallin, Lowell Fermech, Pete Williamson

**Death:** A. J. Whitby, January 7, 2017

**Joining the church?** Pastor Rick will meet with those interested in learning more about First United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 4, at 10 am.

If you or someone you know is thinking about becoming a member of our congregation, this is an opportunity to ask questions or express interest. New members will be received at the Feb 5 worship service.

**The annual group Baby Photo** is planned after worship on Sunday, Feb 12. Families that had babies in 2016 are invited to have their little ones photographed with others from their birth year. The photo will be hung with those from other years outside the back wall of the sanctuary on the east side. (If you haven't seen them, they're worth a look.) This tradition dates back to 2009; babies from that year are now in first grade. Each family will receive a copy of the photo.

*Amen!*

## For What It's Worth

### Check your attitude

Just a note to thank the members and friends of the Coppertop for their cards and gifts during this past Christmas. I appreciated your many acts of love and thoughtfulness. It's good to be a part of this wonderful church. Also, I thank you for your prayers during my recent surgery. I am feeling much better, although I still feel like I lost a ten rounder to Muhammad Ali. But, I am on the road to recovery. Again, I thank you.

Now, back to February!

For me, February was one of those bah-humbug months. February reminded me of a passage from the first chapter of John. One day, Philip ran into Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law—and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth (read 'Bah-humbug')! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

Nathanael had his mind made up. He didn't like Nazareth and he didn't think anything good could come from Nazareth. It was his attitude. It was how he thought. It was what he believed and his attitude would not let him budge.

And then, one semi-warm February day, I had a serendipitous moment when realized that maybe February wasn't so bad. In fact, it might just be one of our better months.

Consider this about February: February has Valentine's Day. It has Groundhog Day. It has a long Presidents Day weekend. February is devoted to celebrating Black history. It's the shortest month of the year and once every four years we get something called a *leap year*. Plus, February is a reminder that spring is just around the corner.

What's not to love about February?

It had to do with my attitude. Like Nathanael, it was my attitude that colored my opinion of February. Once my attitude changed, I was able to appreciate February and its place in our calendar.

It was Winston Churchill who once said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

*continued next page*

## 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: **Feb 17**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

## Moving Forward, continued

and as we work together, more questions will arise.

As you make plans to attend, please be in prayer—for our church as we prepare for new leadership, for Pastor Rick as he serves as a shepherd in this in-between time, for strength and courage as this congregation seeks God's guidance as we move into a new future. If you have questions about this process, I am happy to visit with you ahead of time. See you on the 26th!

—MaryAnne Korsch

## Attitude, continued

Change our attitude and we change how we see ourselves and those around us and even life itself.

Did your mother or someone else close to you ever say, “*You need an attitude adjustment*”? This is what she was talking about. Our problems just might be related to our attitudes!

I would like to propose adding another special day—in February. We could call it “*Attitude Check Day*.” On every February 1st (the day could be flexible) we would schedule an attitude check where we ask ourselves some questions.

Questions like: “Self, what is my attitude like? Self, is my attitude positive and hopeful or negative and miserable? Self, is my attitude hurting me and those close to me? Self, tell me, do I need an attitude adjustment?”

Of course, we don't need to wait for February to make an attitude adjustment. We have the power and the ability to adjust our attitudes at any time and in any month of the year.

I disagree with people when they say, “Well, this is just the way I am. I can't change!”

It's too bad because they miss seeing the better side of life.

William James (1842 – 1910) was an American philosopher and psychologist who was also trained as a physician. Some in his profession have called him the “Father of American psychology.”

James once said, “The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.”

I am not a psychologist, but I believe God doesn't want us to have attitudes that either hurt us or hurt those we love or those we don't even know.

What's your attitude like on a wonderful, beautiful February day? You can choose to make your February a cold, harsh, nasty month. Or, you can choose to make it a month of love and history, beauty and expectation. It's really up to you and me—and our attitudes.

Together with you in Christ,

*Pastor Rick*

P.S. I forget who said it, but someone put it like this: “*A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others—be a carrier.*” Do I hear an amen?

## Cards of Thanks

Your thoughtful remembrance at Christmas-time is very much appreciated, also the visit from the church women at my home. Thank you hardly expresses my gratitude. Again, thank you for the poinsettia plant. God bless you all for your kindness and caring. —*Gladys*

A huge thank-you to our church family for being there for Dave and me over the years and especially these past months. Thanks especially to the pastors, lay pastors, parish nurses, Linda and Linda, 2 x 2 couples club, the Loud Laughing Ladies book group, and those who provided comforting music for the memorial service as well as those who baked and served the meal following the service.

—*Verna Porter & Family*

Thank you for all the gifts of money and donation given in 2016 to the Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Fund of FUMC. Each year our committee is amazed with the young musicians, their commitment and willingness to share their musical talents in the community.

This year we will be supporting Zia and Gabrielle Koepke, Grant and Alex Goodlet, Tommy Kishida, and Joshua and Josephine Peterson through the music scholarship fund. Do you know someone who'd like to apply? Application forms can be found in the atrium on the display counter or in the office. —*Carol Donahue and the Music Scholarship Fund Committee*

*Registration deadline  
is Sunday*

## **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.

## **Goals: Give yourself a gold star**

Have you begun a new diet or exercise program as a New Year resolution? Or maybe you're going to cut out junk foods or quit a habit you don't like?

Many people have done so this year and in years past but an unfortunate reality on those resolutions is that by the middle of February those resolutions are gone—kaput! Here are a few tips to follow to increase your chances of success.

As with any change you make, and want to continue, measurable goals are important to fulfilling that goal of change. Willpower won't cut it. People tend to make lofty goals with no steps in between to reach that goal. Or they make too many resolutions at once. We can't multitask despite what many people think.

In nursing school, we were taught to make measurable goals that were specific, attainable, realistic, and sensitive to time and place. This type of goal setting will help you to attain the change you aspire to. Another item is to make a check-off list with steps that lead you to your goal.

Use gold stars as a reward or set another reward for yourself with each step you achieve. Habits are learned and maintained by rewards. Rewards increase the likelihood of repetition. Having another person as your cheerleader also helps! It is known that it takes at least three months to change a behavior.

To realize a change you must be very intentional. You must be ready to make the change, to reshape your thoughts and expectations. You may need to address social pressures and stress. You may need to practice stress reducing techniques that can work for you as stress can lead to continuing the habit you want to change.

So, I wish everyone success. Replacing bad habits with healthy habits will improve your life. But it's very important to replace bad habits, not to deprive yourself. Just remember to climb the ladder each step at a time until you reach your goal.

Remember, you may struggle, but prayer will also help as our strength comes from God's love for us.

—Linda

## **Area UMW meeting: Crisis Shelters**

Area United Methodist Women will hold a Day of Prayer and Self Denial on Wednesday, February 15 at Norton Park UMC, 436 N 79th Ave W, Duluth. Registration is at 10:30 am.

Amber Male from Lutheran Social Services and Dawn Shykes, Program Director at Bethany Crisis Shelter, will speak about the new Crisis Nursery and the Bethany Shelter.

Lunch to follow program; \$8.00 when registering for lunch. A special offering will be taken for the Crisis Shelters.





# Children, Youth, and Families

## Creative Love Project Jan 29

Koinonia = brotherly love. Share koinonia love with First UMC homebound and hospitalized folks by creating a cheery gift. Kids/families will choose a person and will make a card and gift to remind them of their church family. Join in the fun and make a difference to someone after worship on Jan 29 in East Lounge. If you have something in particular you'd like to make, bring it along or contact Laura Stahl with your idea.

## Bible Presentation & Bible Bookstand Workshop Feb 5

Four 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children will receive Bibles on Feb 5 during worship. Congratulations to Dahlia Boberg, Avery Collins, Ethan Kearney, and Maddie Singer.

Following worship on Feb 5 new Bible recipients – Dahlia, Avery, Ethan, and Maddie – and recent recipients are invited to make a wooden book stand to hold their Bible. Families will help in the assembly and the students can design and decorate their book stands if they wish. Workshop participants should meet in East Lounge following Fellowship Time.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Feb 26 & Mar 5

Annually the children and youth make treats to raise funds for One Great Hour of Sharing, providing funds for administrative and shipping costs that enable UMCOR and other emergency agencies to have supplies ready for any global natural disaster or crisis. Treat making happens at 9 am on Sun, Feb 26 and Sun, Mar 5. OGHs Bake Sale items will be offered after worship on March 1. Adults and kids of all ages are welcome to assist in this fundraiser that truly makes a difference in the world.

**Bake Sale Ingredient donations** – 5 lbs all-purpose flour, 1 lb turbinado sugar, 4 lbs granulated cane sugar, 1 lb unsalted butter (sticks), 1 bag of chocolate chips, 1 dozen eggs, 1 pint heavy whipping cream, ½ c. (4 oz) Gladware-type containers (for ice cream), sandwich-sized Ziploc-type bags

## Operation TEDDY Wed, Mar 1 (Ash Wednesday)

Now is the time to purge your toy boxes, bookshelves, game cabinets and garage. On Ash Wednesday, March 1 bring your donations of toys, books, games, puzzles, and outdoor play equipment to the Chapel anytime between 4:30 and 7 p.m. These donations will be re-homed through local agencies to families in need. This is a great way to have a conversation of self-denial and caring for others as part of Christian Lenten practice.



## Super Saturday of Serving on Feb 4

for Grades 5-12 and their friends

Middle and high school youth from UM churches across the city are getting excited about this FUN service opportunity. The more participation the better, so invite your friends to amp up the fun!

9:30

Check-in at Hillside UMC, 1801 Piedmont Ave, Duluth

10:00

Kickoff Worship

11:00

Travel to Encounter; Share a meal

1:00

Serve at Harbor House, Damiano Center or Encounter

3:00

Worship & sharing time at Hillside UMC

3:30/4

Day finished/Check-out

## Let it shine!

We keep the light burning on the Skyline, and you can help support that symbol. A minimum of \$40 sponsors a week of church lighting from Sunday through Saturday.

Donors can designate half of their gift (\$20) to a local charity such as CHUM, Second Harvest, or Harbor House, or to a church program such as music, parish nurse, or the building fund.

You can make your gift in memory, honor, or appreciation of a person or group.

## Faith Forum

Faith Forum meeets at 9 am Sunday mornings in the Fireside Lounge. Come any Sunday; you don't have to register or have come before.

Theme for winter/spring is "gaining wisdom from biblical characters and their stories."

**Feb. 5** Mark Whitlock,  
*The Divided Realm*  
& *The Mustard Seed*.

"Jesus rubs the people the wrong way..."

Matthew 12:24-35

**Feb 12** Carol Donahue,  
*Ruth and Naomi*.

"Whither thou goest, I go..."

The Book of Ruth

**Feb 19** Brian Kunderling,  
*Daniel*.

Eschatology - The Story of Last Things.

The Book of Daniel

**Feb 26** Sarah Maddy,  
*Esther*.

Yes! A woman can use feasts and banquets to work her will...

The Book of Esther

**Mar 5** Lynn Millikan,  
*The Rich Fool*.

Wealth Management - Biblical Style.

Luke 12:13-21

**Mar 12** Allen Anway,  
*The Hidden Treasure*.

The Cost of Not Knowing.

Matthew 13:44-52

**Mar 19** Geoff Bell,  
*The Two Builders*.

"Decisions, decisions, decisions..."

Matthew 7:21-29

## 2017 CROP Walk, Ski, Sled, Snowshoe and s'mores

On Sunday, March 19, United Campus Ministry will sponsor the Duluth CROP Walk, Ski, Sled and Snowshoe event.

Registration begins at 2 pm at Bagley Nature Center on the UMD campus right off of St. Marie Street. The trail is about 1 mile long and you can walk, or bring your skis or snowshoes. There is a sliding hill for kids, so bring their sleds as well.

There will be a few snowshoes on hand for people try out, and an indoor option through the campus for those who would like to walk inside. UCM will provide an outdoor fire to warm up and roast marshmallows, and cookies and hot chocolate for everyone.

"With the event we raise money and awareness for those who do not have enough to eat around the world and right here in Duluth," said UCM chaplain Cynthia Coffin-Langdon.

"If you can't give any money we still want you to come and just be part of this fun community event. It is a rare time when all faiths, churches, congregations, and campus can join together and be united!"

Pledge forms will be available in the church office. You can also give a donation to the cause the day of the event.

### FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date December 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$402,245.58	\$398,155.45
Other Operating Income	<u>155,301.68</u>	<u>185,628.50</u>
Total Income	\$557,547.26	\$583,783.95
<b>Expense</b>		
Total Expense	<u>\$583,852.17</u>	<u>\$582,328.59</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>(\$ 26,304.91)*</u>	<u>\$ 1,455.36</u>

\* Greystone Foundation grant of \$26,000 usually received in December did not arrive until January. Also, when books are closed for the year, \$10,066.04 net profit from roast beef dinners will be transferred from depository accounts to Other Operating Income. Net income for the year will then be approximately \$9,761.13.

All taxes and payables YTD have been paid. One apportionment payment will be paid in early January.

*Have not received all bank and brokerage statements for the fiscal year 2016. Final financial statement for December 31, 2016 will be available in February.*

# First Church and Gateway Tower 1964-2016

*Working together, FUMC and two other churches built 154 units of low-income senior housing and sustained them for 52 years. With the sale of the property in November, that long commitment is now completed.*

In 1964 three Duluth congregations came together to address the need for low-income senior housing.

The idea was proposed by original developer Roger Bowman, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. St. Paul's, First Lutheran, and First United Methodist churches jointly formed Gateway Tower, Inc. and each congregation appointed volunteers to serve on the board.

Together they bought property that had once been bowery territory from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Bowman Properties, and later Sherman Associates, have served as the only property managers.

The Gateway Tower building was constructed in downtown Duluth and became a superior living facility for senior citizens on low incomes.

Over time, the building's population shifted as anti-discrimination rights broadened to include younger people and people with disabilities. Maintenance and operating costs for the building increased.

In addition, a growing list of alternatives for assistance-based housing in the community made it harder for Gateway to compete for tenants.

Nevertheless, the three churches agreed that the 154 affordable housing units provided by the Gateway Tower Apartments continued to be essential to the community and the current residents.

Over the past several years, the Gateway Tower board, the Duluth HRA, and other community partners worked to improve the financial condition of the Gateway Tower Apartments and to develop a plan to make improvements to the building and grounds so that the Gateway apartments would continue to serve the community well into the future.

After years of hard work, a successful plan came together. On November 23, 2016, Gateway Tower, Inc. conveyed the apartment building to Gateway Properties, LLLP (a new entity formed to carry out the plan).

Over \$17 million in funding was committed by the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the City of Duluth, the Duluth HRA, and investors purchasing low-income housing tax credits allocated to the project by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Among other things, this funding will result in over \$12 million for immediate

improvements and provide reserves for future physical needs and operations.

In exchange for this funding, the new owner agreed to continue to make the units available to low and middle income residents at affordable prices and to keep the building and grounds in good repair.

Because many low income tenants face significant challenges relating to chronic homelessness and mental health issues, the new owner also agreed to provide services to help residents at the Gateway Tower apartments address these challenges. Our appreciation goes to Dan Maddy for his assistance with this transaction.

This effort to provide safe, affordable housing in our community is just one of the many ways that the people of FUMC have worked to improve the lives of our neighbors. We are proud to have had a hand in building Gateway Tower and to have kept it open for the current residents.

It is with gratitude and congratulations that we recognize the long term service of our representatives on the Gateway board: Mike Donahue, Richard Gurske and Richard Peterson. Well done, gentlemen.



## First United Methodist Church

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### 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

- 8:00am Men's Study Group - FSL
- 6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 6:00pm Moms' Yoga - TBC

#### Wednesdays

##### No events Feb 22

- 4:30pm Bible Study - FSL
- 5:00pm JAM & PB Band - TBC  
Parent2Parent - St
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:30pm 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

#### Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

#### Saturdays

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



### Day by Day Monthly & one-time

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#### Wednesday, February 1

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

#### Thursday, February 2

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL
- 5:00pm Worship Committee - Lib

#### Wednesday, February 8

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

#### Thursday, February 9

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL
- 5:30pm Capital Committee - Lib

#### Saturday, February 11

- 9:00am Community Reiki Circle - TBC

#### Monday, February 13

- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

#### Tuesday, February 14

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

#### Wednesday, February 15

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

#### Thursday, February 16

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

#### Monday, February 20

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

#### Wednesday, February 22

- 9:00am CHUM Pie Baking - K  
No evening events

#### Sunday, February 26

- 11:30am Joint Committee Meeting - LSH we
- 2:00pm Minnesota W/o Poverty - LSH

#### Tuesday, February 28

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL