



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 2016

Capital Project Update

Project List

Upper and Front Flat Roofs	\$220K	
Tuck Pointing	\$140K	
Upper Windows	\$ 80K	
Building Maintenance Plan	\$ 16K	Completed
Parapet Roof	\$ 95K	Completed
Sanctuary Sound-Special Gifts	\$ 76K	In Process
Fireside Lounge Flooring	\$ 3K	Completed
Campaign Cost	\$ 22K	
Reach, Renew, Rejoice*	\$ 20K	\$19K On Hand
Floor Reconditioning	\$ 10K	
Restroom Updates	\$ 7K	
Organ Refurbishment	\$ 94K	
Parking Lot Improvements	\$ 50K	
Trustees Building Endowment	\$ 20K	

Total Estimated Costs: \$863,000

Funding Sources

Sound System - Dedicated Funds	\$ 81,167
Proceeds from sale of Chester Park Church	\$195,490
Contribution from McCarthy Funds	\$ 40,000
Campaign Goal from Pledges	\$525,000
"The Lord Will Provide"	\$21,343

Capital Pledges to date

Total pledged: \$424,662 Total pledges: 120

Up \$23,820 from the close of the Capital Campaign fund drive

Stewardship Pledges to date

Total pledged: \$301,564 Total pledges: 123

Up 5% over last year, and topping \$300,00 for the first time in years

*This is a program for congregational development for the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our portion of this campaign is \$20K. As a condition of our merger with Chester Park United Methodist Church 10% of the proceeds from the sale of their building (which amounts to over \$19K) were dedicated to Reach, Renew, Rejoice.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Hospitalizations: Dave Porter, Brian Moe, Marlys Wolden, Linda Quade, Mary Kidder, Barb Fermentich, Joyce Eaton

Baptisms:

- Allie Rose Youngblom, daughter of Karrienne & Adam Youngblom and sister of Reese Youngblom, on December 20, 2015
- Georgia Ray Orman, age 5, daughter of Chris and Megan Orman and sister of Sofia, on December 27, 2015.

Calling All Third Graders and Older students new to

FUMC: On January 24 First UMC will present Bibles to students in third grade and to older students who are new to the church family. Please contact Laura Stahl in the church office or at families@fumcduluth.com to have your child included in this milestone event.

Alice Marks, author of the suspense fiction novel *MISSING*, will hold a book-signing in the church library after worship on January 17. Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to the Capital Fund.

Sound technicians and projectionists needed: Contact Velda Bell at music@fumcduluth.com or 727-5021. Training is provided.

Pastor's Pen

Do Not Be Afraid

A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear. John Lennon, "Happy Xmas (War is Over)"

In love there is no room for fear; indeed, perfect love banishes fear.
I John 4:18a (Revised English Bible)

Do not be afraid. Luke 2:10

Here we are at the beginning of another new year, and as we begin 2016 there is a great deal of fear in the human community.

How can we not be afraid as we watch news of war in the Middle East and of heinous acts of cruelty perpetrated by people who claim to be inspired by God and by Islam or hear stories of other acts of gun violence? How can we not be afraid with the dramatic rise in the use of heroin? How can we not be afraid when the economy languishes and opportunities are lagging? How can we not be afraid when many of our leaders tell us we should be?

Yet fear, while it has its place in the human experience, is not our best friend. Rabbi Edwin Friedman, a person whose work on leadership has become well known in theological education, wrote, "When anxiety reaches certain thresholds, 'reasonableness and honesty' no longer defend against illusion, and even the most learned ideas can begin to function as superstitions."

When we are anxious, when fear predominates, we tend toward what Friedman calls "imaginative gridlock" which entails "either/or, black-or-white, all-or-nothing ways of thinking that eventually restrict the options of the mind." In other words, when fear gets the better of us, our thinking is less creative. I think that applies to our individual lives, to the lives of congregations, and to the lives of nations.

I have long appreciated Parker Palmer's take on the Biblical phrase, "do not be afraid." In his book *Let Your Life Speak*, Palmer writes:

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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: **Jan 22**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Afraid, *continued*

“Be not afraid” does not mean we cannot have fear. Everyone has fear, and people who embrace the call to leadership often find fear abounding. Instead, the words say we do not need to be the fear we have. We do not have to lead from a place of fear, thereby engendering a world in which fear is multiplied. We have places of fear inside of us, but we have other places as well – places with names like trust and hope and faith. We can choose to lead from one of those places, to stand on ground that is not riddled with the fault lines of fear, to move toward others from a place of promise instead of anxiety.

For followers of Jesus, fear is never our default emotional and spiritual mode. As followers of Jesus, we know God, we trust that God loves us, we trust that God continues to work in the world in powerful, persuasive love. Love is our default emotional and spiritual mode.

Yes, there will be times when we feel fear, but we need not become fear. We can live from places of trust, hope, faith, and love.

Happy New Year. Let’s hope it’s a good one, without any fear, or at least with love banishing our “becoming fear.”

Grace and Peace
as we journey together in this
New Year,
David

Church Conference

Annual meeting will be January 17 after church

The annual Church Conference for our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, immediately following the morning worship service. Make plans now to attend as we celebrate our faith journey together for 2015 and make some decisions about moving forward together in ministry in 2016.

Our newly formed Hospitality Team will provide us with some ideas of how we can build on the welcoming congregation we already are. All members of the church have voice and vote at this meeting.

Lennon-Berini Scholars 2015

At the worship service on December 27, the Scholarship’s selection committee presented five \$1,000 scholarships to members of our congregation. The recipients are

Sarah Bard, a third-year graduate student at St Catherine University majoring in physical therapy;

Emily Wallin, a third-year student at Lake Superior College majoring in nursing;

Mary Kate Wheeler, a first-year graduate student at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services majoring in physician assistant studies

Rebecca Peterson, a senior student at Lake Superior College majoring in nursing; and

Rachel Moe, a third-year student at Lake Superior College majoring in nursing.

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

Faith Forum

“Life Lessons: What Can the Bible Teach Us About...”

The winter/spring Faith Forum series will begin on January 10 at 9 am in the Fireside Lounge. “Life Lessons” will focus on using Biblical texts to help us think about important life topics.

January 10: Forgiveness, Anne Miller; **January 17:** Generosity, Geoff Bell; **January 24:** Courage, Gina Diaz; **January 31:** Patience, Ellen Hill

After Hours: Eating for the planet

On Sunday, January 24 following worship, Bonnie Ambrosi will present a Faith Forum After Hours forum on “Eating Plants for the Planet.” Bonnie is a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and a person committed to thinking about the links between Christian faith and the use of our natural resources. She is a delightful speaker who will challenge you to think in new ways about living your faith.

January at First

Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study continues at 5:30 pm each week and goes until 6:15 pm We are studying the Gospel of Luke, basically discussing a chapter per week. You are welcome to come any week you choose. We took December 23 and 30 off. On January 6 we will discuss Luke 11.

Confirmation begins Jan 10

Confirmation for eighth and ninth grade youth will begin Sunday morning, January 10 at 8:45 am in the Club Wesley Room on the social hall level of the church. We would like both parents and students to attend this first session. Pastor David and Julie Bard will again be teaching the class.

Church Council

First UMC Church Council will meet Tuesday, January 12 at 6 pm We will share in a potluck meal and the meeting will include both incoming and outgoing members of the Council.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry for January will be Thursday January 21. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the food with them. You may volunteer anytime between 3 pm and 8 pm and can come for as little as an hour to help out. Just a reminder that Ruby's Pantry Coppertop is on Facebook. Like the page at Facebook/rubyspantrycoppertop.

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Upcoming Family Ministry Events

Bible presentation and event Jan 24

First UMC traditionally presents Bibles to third grade students and older elementary students who are new to First UMC. Third graders receiving Bibles this year are Olive Jeannette and Bella Maxine Serck. Please join us in worship for this special Sunday.

Bible fun awaits individuals and families after worship that Sunday. Students and families will play games or create crafts focused on the books of the Bible. Elementary students who received their Bibles in 2016 and 2015 also will work with their parent or other adult to make a Bible bookstand.

Heart Packages family outreach event Jan 31

Bring a smile to homebound folks and those serving in the military with a mid-winter package of love created by individuals and families. Help out by bringing any of the following: individual sized lotion or mouthwash or body powder, wrapped candies/gum (regular or sugarless), decks of playing cards or card games, personal sized tissue packs, emery boards, small non-breakable picture frames, small puzzle books (word search, crossword, etc), small jigsaw puzzles, lip balm or moisturizer, anti-bacterial wipes, hot cocoa packets, lens cleaning cloths, bubble wrap.

Theater Outing – James and the Giant Peach – Sat, Jan 23, 1 pm

Individuals and families interested in joining a First UMC group to see *James and the Giant Peach* at the Duluth Playhouse should reserve group tickets through Laura Stahl in the church office by Jan 7. Group rate is \$10 each (normal rate is \$14 adult, \$12 kids). The church has reserved 20 tickets.

This is a great event to invite your family and friends to attend. Contact info: families@fumcduluth.com, FB: Laura Morgan Stahl, office 218-727-5021

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date November, 2015

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$373,277.79	\$345,918.25
Other Operating Income	<u>\$170,092.35</u>	<u>\$152,584.02</u>
Total Income	\$543,370.14	\$498,502.27
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$522,063.33</u>	<u>\$522,350.34</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 21,306.81</u>	<u>(\$ 23,848.07)</u>

All taxes and payables YTD have been paid. Two apportionment and two month's benevolences are being held for cash flow management purposes.

January, continued

Faith and Film

Faith and

Film resumes January 24, 2016.

The January film will be "The Imitation Game" (PG-13). Based on the true story of Alan Turing, the film explores his work with others in breaking Nazi codes during WW II as well as some of Turing's personal struggles.

Film rolls at 6:30 pm in the Movie Room.



HealthWise: Be kind

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." - Saint Basil

from Linda Wiig, Parsh Nurse

No matter how old we are, where we live, or what we do, we all have the opportunity to make kindness a priority: to see the positive in a difficult situation, to encourage others, to listen to our friends and family, to treat others with respect and to volunteer our time, energy, and resources to help make this world a better place. As Charlie Chaplin put it, "We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery, we need humanity. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness.

Kindness can truly be a way of living. It doesn't have to be a one-time act; you can be kind in everything you do. Make the choice to make kindness a priority in your life today! Numerous scientific studies show that acts of kindness result in significant health benefits, both physical and mental. Helping contributes to the maintenance of good health, and it can diminish the effect of diseases and disorders serious and minor, psychological and physical.

The promise of new life, of hope, of joy, and love are yours from God. We thank Jesus for showing us the way. May our hearts be open to receiving his love and forgiveness.

Shiny Paper Ministry

First UMC continues its shiny paper collection, coordinated by our Finance Committee.

This enthusiastic team sent another load out to the paper mill Dec 12. Many thanks to all who contributed paper and time to our recent haul.

Proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser are used to support our mission and ministry through our church budget.

Many thanks to everyone who has brought in shiny paper. We raised over \$1,000 in 2015.

White bags are available in the church office, but please keep bringing more in any kind of container.

Drop shiny paper in the grocery cart near the east entrance and our hard-working volunteers will sort, bag and stack it.



First and Ten

The First and Ten Men's Group will meet on January 11 and 25. For more information, please ask Pastor David. First and Ten, a group for discussion and service, is open to all men.

United Methodist Men's Ministry Retreat

What: A time to get away and relax while learning together. We'll have time to play cards/board games/broomball, enjoy a walk outside in nature, eat delicious food, pray together, and talk about "Purpose" in life based on John Ortberg's Book/DVD, *When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back In The Box*.

Who: All men of United Methodist Churches in the area. There are only 28 spots available in the retreat center, so sign-up as soon as possible.

When: Friday, January 29 (5:30pm) until Saturday, January 30 (4pm)

Cost: \$40 per person (includes 3 meals, overnight lodging, and group activities. Add \$13 if you want your own book and want leaders to order for you. Register and send payments by Sunday, January 10. Scholarships are available; see Pastor David.

Checks may be made out to Hillside UMC and sent to Hillside at 1801 Piedmont Avenue, 55811.

Questions? Contact Pastor Sam Kautz at umcpastorsam.kautz@gmail.com or 218-349-5334.



First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
- 9:00am Family Faith Sessions - LL
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 10:00am Worship - S
- 10:20am 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

- 4:45pm 5Guise - BR
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:15pm Jam & the Peanut Butter Band - EL
- 5:30pm Bible Study - FSL
- 5:45pm Wednesday Nt Supper - LSH
- 6:15pm Tapestry - S
- 6:30pm Cast in Bronze - BR
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW
- 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
- 7:40pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (except 1/21 CW)
- 6:30pm Yoga - TBC (starting 1/14)

Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

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

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Friday, January 1

CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS HOLIDAY

Wednesday, January 6

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Saturday, January 9

- 9:00am Community Healing Circle - TBC

Sunday, January 10

- 4:30pm Toning Circle - TBC

Monday, January 11

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

Tuesday, January 12

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
- 6:00pm Church Council - FSL

Wednesday, January 13

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, January 14

- 1:00pm Alzheimers Caregivers - Lib

Sunday, January 17

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

Tuesday, January 19

- 4:00pm FUMC Foundation - FSL
- 7:00pm Skyline Preservation Alliance - LSH

Wednesday, January 20

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, January 21

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

Sunday, January 24

- 6:30pm Faith & Film - MR

Monday, January 25

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

Tuesday, January 26

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Thursday, January 28

- 5:00pm Finance Committee - St

Saturday, January 30

- 9:00am Citizens in Action Workshop - LL

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