



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 2015

Capital campaign in our future?

As we approach the 50th anniversary of our building on Skyline Parkway, our Church Council is exploring the possibility of a capital campaign. To that end, we have engaged the services of the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation (MUMF) to conduct a Feasibility Study in January and February of 2015.

Our representative from MUMF is Val Walker, who is a familiar face among long-time FUMC members; Val's husband, the Reverend Tom Walker, was pastor here for many years, and Val is excited to work with us on this project.

Part of the Feasibility Study involves conducting private, confidential interviews with many church members. These interviews will be scheduled for early January.

Letters inviting participation in an interview will be sent to a broad cross-section of our membership, and interviews will be scheduled based on availability. If you don't receive a letter inviting you to an interview but would like to participate in this process, please contact Pastor David, and you can be added to the list.

The Feasibility Study report will be shared with the Church Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 10, 2015. The Council will then determine how best to proceed, based on the recommendations of MUMF.

If you have questions or would like more information, check in with Pastor David, Mike Donahue (Council Chair), June Kreutzkamp (Trustees), or MaryAnne Korsch (Lay Leader).



All Church Conference January 18

Our annual meeting, where we mark the joys of ministry together this past year and look forward to the new year, will be held January 18 immediately following the worship service.

Officially called a Church Conference, it's a time to celebrate and to vote on matters such as nominations and our budget. Among our celebrations will be the successful completion of our three-year \$20,000 pledge to Imagine No Malaria.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Confirmed members of First UMC have the right to vote.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Death: Dorothy Ottinger, age 96, on December 26, 2014. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Hospitalizations: Alice Marks, Don Whitby, Nancy Gibson, Gloria Erickson

Birth: Andre Terrance Clark, son of Lindsey and D'Andre Clark of Sartell, MN. He was born October 10, 2014. Grandparents are Terry and Patty Wallin.

Baptisms: Cameron Ray Lawrey, son of Nichole & Adam Lawrey, on December 14, 2014; Gavin Cruz Montoya, son of Taylor & Winter Montoya, on December 28, 2014

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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: **Jan 23**

Submit to

connect@fumcduluth.com

fumcduluth.com

Pastor's Pen

Hopeful Realism

When I was given the opportunity to share in the Fall Faith Forum series about a book that had been meaningful to me and helpful to me in my life, I chose what might be considered a rather dry book of theology. I confessed to the group that a part of who I am is that I like abstract thinking.

There is something about that kind of thinking that calls forth something in me, something that is part of my make-up, and I am not really sure why. In college, I majored in philosophy, and one course required for the major was a course in logic. The subject came easily to me. When I recommended the course to a friend as a way for her to fulfill a general education requirement, she did not find the subject quite so natural. Typically my sermons begin with a broad idea or concept, which I then hope to make more real for our lives.

Philosophy and theology are often written at a rather abstract level, and I enjoy reading them. A number of years ago I encountered a book of theology that I have continued to go back to again and again, particularly because I think it contains the best essay I have ever read about theology and the literature of leadership. I also like the title, *Hopeful Realism*.

Douglas Ottati writes that the title of his book describes the basic stance of a "practically relevant vision of God, world and human existence" (3). He goes on

Hopeful realism refuses both easy optimisms and cynical pessimisms. It suggests we do not really know ourselves when we concentrate on our abilities apart from our limits and our faults. However, it also claims that we do not truly know ourselves when we consider our limits and faults apart from our abilities and apart from the traces of true communion in community that we encounter in God's world. (3)

Pretty abstract. Let me try and make it more real.

The world we live in, which is just turning the clock on another year, remains a complicated and difficult place. We are rediscovering that issues of race are more deeply embedded in our culture than we might have hoped. We still live in a world where young men are attracted by violent and militant ideologies, and where sometimes a lone person so taken by them can cause a lot of harm. We live in a world where a movie, a satire, stirs up enough animus that a country threatens moviegoers.

In our own lives we struggle with issues that we had thought

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The world we live in remains a complicated and difficult place. But as people of faith, we are a people of hope.

Our First Family, continued

Church Lighting for the week of January 4 -10 honors Nancy Eaton, Susan Downs, and Ruth Brickell, from Annette Nygard to benefit the Food Shelf.

Discovery kids in published book: Last year Jude Ling's friend Heaven Leigh invited First UMC children in Discovery to create pictures to be included in a book she was writing on Michael Jackson and his work on behalf of children. Heaven's book *Heal Your World for Children* has been published and includes drawings by Avery Collins, Jacob Jeannette, Niklas Jeannette, Lindsay Johnson, Elaina Mattson, Saige Mattson, and Mayson Whitlock.

Jude has donated a copy of this lovely book to the First UMC Church Library. Please stop by the library to borrow this or other books, or to see the powerful drawings by First UMC kids.

Community Healing Day: On the second Saturday of each month, Reiki practitioners from the area offer free sessions in the Three Brothers Chapel from 9am to noon. Reiki is a gentle Japanese technique that allows for stress reduction and relaxation. All are welcome to these complimentary sessions.

2015 Offering Envelopes: For your convenience, new envelopes are now available in the narthex. If you don't see a set with your name, speak to the volunteers in the church office, who will see that one is made for you.

Hopeful Realism, continued

more easily overcome. How many of our new year resolutions are similar to previous years' resolutions?

But as people of faith, we are a people of hope. We look at the world with eyes wide open, not denying its pain, difficulties, complexities, and tragedies. Yet we also know that beauty, kindness, generosity, compassion, tenderness, and love are possible and real.

As a church, we want to nurture the hopeful realism of the Christian faith in each of our lives. God still loves the world. God still loves each of us. God still works in the world toward beauty, kindness, generosity, compassion, tenderness, and love. As a church we want to do what we can, in the name of Jesus Christ, to make our world and our community a little more compassionate, a little more caring.

There are limits to what we can do. We cannot solve every problem or engage every issue equally – that is realism. We can do something, and that is hope. I am excited to see how we each grow in our faith this year. I am excited to see how we as a church grow in living out the hopeful realism of our faith.

Grace and Peace as We Journey Together in the New Year,
David

Good-bye to Morgan

As you may have heard, youth director Morgan Dobberstein has left her position here at First UMC to accept an internship with a financial planning firm in the Twin Cities. She expresses gratitude for the support of the congregation for youth ministry and to the youth themselves who she so enjoyed working with.

A search for a new youth director is underway, and if you know anyone who may be interested, please have them speak to Pastor David. Until then, the youth group will continue to meet on a weekly basis beginning again Wednesday, January 14. Linda Wiig, Laura Stahl, and Pastor David will provide leadership for the group during January.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date November 30, 2014

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$346,088.43	\$351,987.50
Other Operating Income	<u>139,493.46</u>	<u>172,165.38</u>
Total Income	\$485,581.89	\$524,152.88
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$536,548.56</u>	<u>\$529,978.51</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 50,966.67)</u>	<u>\$ 5,825.63</u>

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

Coming Up This Month

Getting to Know You: New Member Orientation

Are you interested in joining First UMC, or do you know someone who is? Would you simply like to discover more about the church, its work, and its history? Pastor David will be leading a "Getting To Know You" session on Sunday, January 25, following the morning worship service.

This will be an informal conversation with opportunity for plenty of questions and conversation. The session will be held in the chapel.

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Events

"Infinite Hope, Meaningful Action" is the theme for this year's celebration here in Duluth of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events taking place January 15-19 include a community breakfast here at FUMC on Monday, January 19, beginning at 7am.

Other events

- Mayor's MLK Reception, Thursday, January 15
- Twin Ports' Got Talent, Friday, January 16
- An Evening with Dr. King, Saturday, January 17
- Ecumenical Worship Service, Sunday, January 18, Christ Temple Victory Center
- March & Rally, Monday, January 19

Watch for more information in the bulletin and at fumcduluth.com.

Meetings

The Nominations Committee will meet at 6pm Monday, January 5, in the Fireside Lounge.

First UMC Church Council will meet Tuesday, January 13, at 7pm in the Fireside Lounge.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry for January will be held Thursday, January 15. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the food with them. You may volunteer anytime between 3pm and 8pm, and can come for as little as an hour to help out.

Ruby's Pantry Coppertop is now on Facebook. Like the page at facebook.com/rubyspantrycoppertop. Let's hope the truck arrives on time in January!

Faith and Film: *Twelve Years a Slave*

Our Faith and Film series continues in January on Sunday evening, January 25. We will meet at 6:30 in the Movie Room on the lower level of the building. We will be viewing the film *Twelve Years a Slave*.

This powerful film is based on the true story of a free black man who is kidnapped and sold into slavery in the United States in 1841. The film is an unflinching look at the treatment of slaves. It is rated R.



Learn More About: The Steve O'Neil Apartments

The new Steve O'Neil Apartments in Duluth's Hillside neighborhood will provide housing for fifty families who have otherwise experienced homelessness.

The good news is that the first family has moved into these apartments. However, not all the needed furnishings for these apartments have yet been secured. The gift registry remains open.

The registry is designed in the manner of a wedding or shower gift registry, where anyone can access the website to select and purchase their gift. Individuals or groups could furnish entire rooms or apartments, or purchase lamps, tables, beds, flatware, and the like. You can also contribute to the on-going costs of construction.

CHUM is building a new six-unit emergency family shelter in conjunction with the Steve O'Neil Apartments and will also provide social services for the families living there.

Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important and significant community effort. **The need is significant and the need is immediate.** You can access the registry and look for volunteer opportunities at the Steve O'Neil Apartments at the CHUM web site, www.chumduluth.org.

Cards of Thanks

- Thank you for all the love, support, and prayers you gave our family during Bill Wolden's cancer journey. He had so many health problems and kept on going. His life was all about church, church activities, church friends, and a God-filled life.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the church, to the Solvay Hospice House, and to feeding bars to all! Thank you for the help at the Celebration of Life, too. What a glorious day and what an amazing church family! Bill loved his "new church." Blessings and love, *Bill Wolden's grateful family*

- Thanks so much for allowing us to hold our "Have a Heart, Help a Neighbor" fundraiser for Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank again this year. We raised at least \$7,608 and 1,141 pound of food, enough to provide 38,953 meals. *Shaye Morris*

- Dear Children at First United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$35.03 to Pawsitivity Service Dogs. This money will help offset the costs for service-dog-in-training Harley, a Golden Retriever who will be helping a former UMC pastor who has a post-traumatic stress disorder following a brain injury that he suffered in an explosion. We couldn't do what we do without the support of wonderful people like you. Thank you for your kindness. *Tom Coleman, Pawsitivity Service Dogs*

- Dear Bill and Cindy, What a wonderful day we had December 14 with you and your two handbell choirs! The music was glorious! We were so impressed with Class Ring, their competence and obvious enthusiasm. We were completely swept away by the artistry of Strikepoint.

Please convey our deep thanks to all the ringers who invested the better part of a Sunday during this busy season to come and perform for us. Their music and the joy they have as a group have made an indelible impression. The bells are still ringing in our ears! *Pastor Kristin Foster, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mt. Iron*

Book Read: *Making Sense of the Bible*

Many of us are reading or have read Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*.

Adam is the pastor of Church of the Resurrection, the largest United Methodist church in the United States.

His book invites honest conversation about the Bible, with the goal of helping people rediscover its power to shape our lives and deepen our relationship with God.

Pastor David will lead another discussion about the book following worship on January 11 in the Three Brothers Chapel. We hope that it will continue to be widely discussed in many groups in the church.

First and Ten

The First and Ten Men's Group will meet on January 12 and 26. We will be working our way through Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible*. First and Ten, a group for discussion and service, is open to all men.

Shiny Paper

First UMC continues its shiny paper collection. Our Finance Committee has been coordinating this project. Thanks to all of you who have saved your paper and brought it to the church. Keep up the good work.

This past year we raised nearly \$1,200 for Imagine No Malaria. Proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser will now be supporting the church budget.

FUMC Concert Series

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the first two concerts in our 2014-15 Concert Series. Both the Tapestry concert in October and the "Five Golden Rings" handbell concert last month were delightful concerts that showcased the talents of FUMC musicians.

Our Sanctuary Choir presents the next concert, on Sunday, February 8 at 3pm. Together with the Northwestern High School Chamber Singers, they will perform *Gospel Mass*, a choral work written by Robert Ray that combines the traditional Mass setting with the sounds of contemporary African-American music.

You won't want to miss this concert!

Faith Forum: What a Character

The Winter/Spring Faith Forum series is entitled, "What a Character." Each week a different presenter will share something of the story of one of the characters from the New Testament as a means to discuss contemporary issues of faith and life.

January 11: Diane Bean as Zachariah

This father of John the Baptist doubted the Angel's message that his wife would bear a son who "would be great in the eyes of the Lord."

January 18: Bob Sherman as Luke

Thought to have been a Greek physician and a Gentile, Luke wrote the Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles.

January 25: Sarah Maddy as Elizabeth

The mother of John the Baptist, Elizabeth is revered by Muslims as a wise, pious, and believing woman.

February 1: Cindy Hedlund as Joseph of Arimathea

This man is thought to be the one who fulfilled Isaiah's prediction that the grave of the "suffering servant" would be given by a rich man.

February 8: Shelley Gruskin as Paul (Saul)

Paul is one of the most important persons of the Apostolic age. His influence was both profound and pervasive.

February 15: Tom Wiig as King Herod

This man was known as the evil genius of the Judean nation. He had unbounded ambition to be the greatest builder in Jewish history.

February 22: Karen Jeanette as Judas Iscariot

Judas is most notorious for his betrayal of Jesus to the Sanhedrin. Could he be praised for his role in triggering humanity's salvation?

March 1: Anne Miller as Mary Magdalene

Some think of Mary Magdalene as the second most important woman in the New Testament. There is a mystery that surrounds this woman.

March 8: Dale Stahl as Barnabas

An evangelist to the Gentiles, Barnabas was known as "the son of encouragement."

March 15: David Craig as Andrew

Stories abound about how the relics of St. Andrew, a fisherman and the brother of Simon Peter, have been located and preserved.

March 22: Ron Yardley as John the Baptist

Some scholars have Jesus being a disciple of John the Baptist. But mostly his story centers around his foretelling of the coming of Christ.

March 29: Allen Anway as Thomas

This Apostle was a disciple of Jesus and is best known because he questioned Jesus' resurrection. There will be a good life lesson here.

The series continues after Easter.

Health Notes Roundup

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

This month, first and foremost: Do you know where the church AED is? Would you know how to use it, remembering that every minute counts? Please consider and sign up for the AED, CPR class which will be held on Saturday, January 31 at 1pm in the East Lounge.

If you attended the first class two years ago, it is time for you to renew. Your cost for the training will be \$20; the parish nurse fund will cover the remaining cost up to 20 people.

A sign-up sheet is in the office or you may call to register. Treats will be provided after the class! Our trainers make this educational, but also enjoyable. What better way to spend a cold, frigid January afternoon!

Thanks go to all of you who participated in last month's blood drive. We met our goal of 19 people able to donate blood. Each unit of blood has the potential of helping up to three different individuals. What a blessed gift to those who are in need!

Guess what the week of January 19 - is? It's Healthy Weight Week! I think many of us could benefit from this idea and decide to get fit and healthy.

Dieting has led many astray by making their struggles with weight worse, negatively affecting their health and keeping them from living the lives they want. Healthy Weight Week encourages people to improve health habits in lasting ways by eating well without dieting, living actively, and

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What is a Healthy Weight?

A healthy weight is your natural weight supported by healthy living that includes mindful, intuitive eating, enjoyable physical activity, effective stress management, adequate sleep, and more. It is not a weight that is achieved through restricting what you eat to lose weight, which causes most people to gain weight instead. from fitwoman.com

Health Notes, continued

feeling good about themselves. Many of us experience “mouth hunger”—we eat to satisfy emotions or our spirit when we are not hungry at all. There is a good website at fitwoman.com/support that contains podcasts, blogs, recipes, videos, and information about eating and exercise. Although it is geared to women, men can gain great information too.

For all of you that want a little gentle exercise and stretching, join us on Thursdays for “Faithfully Fit” from 9 to 10am for activity and then a half hour for sharing, devotions, and tea. We have a lot of fun: we even do a little tai chi, play/exercise with balls. We have even been known to break out in song!

Also, if there is enough interest I will schedule a “brown bag” medication information time with the Pharmacy school at UMD. They would come to meet you here at church; bring along your brown bag of medications and get your questions answered as well as getting other information.

May the love shown by the birth of Jesus sustain you and bring you peace in this New Year.

Family Ministry

See *Willy Wonka, Jr* in live theater outing for families

Families and individuals from First UMC can travel to the magical land of the eccentric Willy Wonka and his Chocolate Factory on Sunday, Jan 25 at 2pm. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us at Marshall School’s Fregeau Auditorium. We’ll meet in the lobby by 1:30pm for the show. Contact Laura Stahl for Group Ticket pricing and to secure your tickets for this fun children’s theater outing.

Laura suggests—

Read *Making Sense of the Bible* with your teen

The church is currently having a Congregational Read of Adam Hamilton’s book *Making Sense of the Bible*. Laura Stahl, our director of Children’s and Family Ministries, encourages parents to read this book with their teens.

Adolescence is a time when most youth begin to question their understanding of faith, and many other topics as well, Laura explained. This is a normal development period in their growth AND in their faith development, she emphasized.

“Many times these questions and doubts cause youth to back away from the church as they grapple alone with their faith questions and doubts,” she said. “Ideally, we would love them to stay engaged with their peer group in Exploration as they go through this time, but that isn’t always a workable solution for families.”

As difficult as it may seem for teens and their parents, this challenging time is a great opportunity for parents and leaders to encourage adolescents’ questions and to affirm them as they seek to find their spiritual legs.

“As they begin to develop their own identity and ideas based on their experiences and understanding of the world, adolescents *should* be moving away from the more literal understanding of Bible stories and scripture.

“This is a time for them to question and wrestle with the deeper meanings of the cultures represented in scripture, with the nuance within the stories, and even with the structure of the Bible,” Laura said.

Making Sense of the Bible offers a concise overview of the Bible along with some basic theology using easy-to-understand metaphors. Reading Hamilton’s book together could be a significant step to help you lead your child to grow into an adult understanding of God and how he/she connects to the overall story of the Christian faith.

Pastor David will lead a discussion of this book following worship on Sunday, January 11.

Doubt and questioning represent an important phase in a young person’s spiritual development.



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

- 8:45am Confirmation - CW
- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL (starts 1/11)
Discovery & Exploration - LL
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 10:00am Worship - S
- 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

- 4:45pm 5Guise - BR
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
JAM - EL
- 5:45pm Supper - LSH se
- 6:00pm Tapestry - S
- 6:30pm Cast In Bronze - BR
Youth Group - CW, 112
- 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - TBC
- 7:40pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
Zumba - LSH we
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 1/15)

Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

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

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Thursday, January 1

Office closed for New Year holiday

Sunday, January 4

- 10:00am Communion

Monday, January 5

- 6:00pm Nominations Committee

Thursday, January 8

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

Saturday, January 10

- 9:00pm Reiki Community Healing - TBC

Sunday, January 11

- 8:45am** Confirmation begins - CW
- 9:00am Faith Forum resumes - FSL
- 10:00am Bible Sunday
- 11:00am *Making Sense* book discussion

Monday, January 12

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

Tuesday, January 13

- 2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
- 7:00pm Church Council - FSL

Wednesday, January 14

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, January 15

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

Sunday, January 18

- 11:00am Charge Conference - LSH
- Noon Donahue Scholarship Soup Luncheon - LSH

Monday, January 19

- 7:00am MLK Breakfast - LSH
- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Wednesday, January 21

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, January 22

- 5:30pm Finance Committee - St

Sunday, January 25

- 6:30pm Faith & Film - Theater

Monday, January 26

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL
- 7:00pm First & Ten - FSL

Tuesday, January 27

- 2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Saturday, January 31

- 1:00pm CPR/AED Training - EL

This calendar includes only those events open to Church members or the general public.

