



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.

What's next for FUMC?

MaryAnne Korsch, Lay Leader

In my role as Lay Leader, I've been asking the same question for the past several weeks: "What are your hopes and dreams for First United Methodist Church?" Thanks to several informal conversations and many responses to my question posed in worship on May 18, it's clear that we have a great deal to celebrate, as well as many good ideas for helping us move forward as a congregation. Thank to everyone who has already provided feedback!

We are a congregation that values community outreach, service projects, a wide variety of programming, and our great staff and leadership. There were several very positive remarks made about what people value about our worship and our congregation. Music was high on that list. Kudos to all the FUMC musicians who provide us with such a meaningful way to connect with God week after week.

There were also a number of responses about our church's visibility in the community, thanks to many outreach activities (Ruby's Pantry, mentoring, and Feed My Starving Children being recent examples). Several other people mentioned the availability of our building for significant community events, and how that can provide a witness to our faith as well as serve a need.

We are also a congregation that cares about spiritual development for ourselves and our church family. Many responses included ideas about increasing educational options for adults and youth. Several suggestions centered around ideas such as a new book group, expanding fellowship opportunities, learning more about our Methodist heritage and the traditions we embrace as part of a connectional church, and being more deliberate about supporting members of our church family in times of illness or other crisis.

So, what happens now? All responses and comments have already been shared with Pastor David, and will be included on the Church Council meeting agenda in June. From there, we will prayerfully determine what should come next for First United Methodist Church as we seek to bring hope and healing from the Skyline.

I am open to continuing the conversation if you have more feedback or would like to see any of the compiled response documents. Please feel free to contact me by phone (218.343.8813) or email (maryanne.korsch@gmail.com) if you would like to visit. All voices are welcome.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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

June 2014



Our First Family

Born: Annie Joy Coffin-Langdon, daughter of Cynthia and Joni Coffin-Langdon, Tim Robinson, and Gary Lundstrom, on May 1, 2014

Baptized

• Sophie Marie Hawkins, daughter of Jessica Hansen and Matthew Hawkins, on May 21, 2014

• Lucas James Moe, son of Michael Moe and Elena Von Ende, on May 25, 2014

Died: David L. Miller, on May 15, 2014. Celebration of Life at FUMC this Saturday, May 31, beginning at 11am.

Celebration of Life for Donald W. Davidson at 11am on Saturday, June 7 at FUMC. Don died February 13, 2014.

Church Lighting

• April 13-19, in memory of our parents Raymond Gurske, Lucille Gurske, and Myrtle Wendt, from the Gurske family to benefit CHUM

• May 11-17, in appreciation of our church family, from Wendy and Pete Williamson to benefit CHUM

continued next page

Pastor's Pen

Spirit/Breath

Don't forget to breathe, in and out.

Grover to Big Bird in *Follow That Bird*

With the arrival of June comes the summer season. Regardless of the weather, summer schedules begin to kick in. Life and breath take on a different rhythm.

When the summer season arrives we may speak about breathing easier as school is out, schedules for our children change, work schedules may be more relaxed. More relaxed schedules offer us "breathing space" — time to slow down and reflect. Many take the opportunity to breathe outdoor air at cabins or campsites or on golf courses or in a fishing boat on a lake.

I hope you enjoy the different rhythms that the summer season offers.

Speaking of breath, did you know that in Hebrew, the same word is used for both breath and spirit? That makes sense in a lot of ways. Breath is essential to life, as Grover, the sometimes wise little blue monster from *Sesame Street*, reminds his big yellow friend.

Think of other ways we use the terms "breath" and "breathe." As noted above, we speak of breathing easier, of having breathing space. Sometimes when a new idea or person enters our lives we speak of a "breath of fresh air."

All these phrases have a spiritual connotation to them. Breathing space and a breath of fresh air remind us of the generous grace of God. Is it any wonder that forms of prayer and meditation often focus on our breath, on our breathing?

I hope as you enjoy the different rhythms of the summer season, the extra breathing space, that you truly experience a breath of fresh air, and that you genuinely experience the grace of God in that.

There remains something special about the way God's Spirit breathes into us when we are gathered together for worship, which we will be every Sunday morning at 10am all summer long. I trust that this will be part of the rhythm of your life this summer too.

Grace and Peace,

David

**First United
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway
Duluth, MN 55811

218/727-5021

Pastor: Dr. David Bard

www.fumcduluth.com info@fumcduluth.com

Next First Family deadline: June 20, 2014

Submit to office or to editor at connect@fumcduluth.com

Our First Family, continued

Congratulations to Mary Wright, Port Cities Woman of the Year with 35 years of volunteer work at St Luke's; and Le Ann House, who was awarded the College of St. Scholastica's highest award for teaching excellence, the Max H. Levine Award.

Cards of Thanks

Thank you from

- Mary Wright "for all the cards, newspaper clippings and good wishes. They are very much appreciated."

- Waunetta Averill "for the calls, cards, and visits at Lakeshore."

- Erin DeWitt of the Community Healing Circle "for sharing the chapel with us on second Saturdays for healing circles. This space is so sacred. We feel it amplifies our prayers and lifts the spirits of those that come for healing. It is a place of beauty and power where we may joyfully, safely connect with the Divine."

- Anne Miller, who writes, "This journey is heart-wrenchingly difficult, and it is through your prayers and acts of love that we experience God's presence and grace. You have profoundly touched our hearts through your ongoing prayers, cards, visits and phone calls. We deeply appreciate and thank you one and all."

Trustees ponder capital improvements

Kyle Harriss, Board of Trustees

First, our thanks to those who submitted suggestions for capital (property, building, and durable assets) projects in March and April. On April 28 the trustees met to review their existing project list and the new ideas that had been suggested.

A number of ideas that would properly be considered maintenance were forwarded to John, our building engineer, to implement. An example would be a new lever door knob and an easier-to-use lock to make the restroom near the choir robe closet more accessible.

Regarding capital expenditures, only a few decisions have been made so far. We authorized action (and spending) on parking lot maintenance, removal of loose paint from the playground fence, replacement of the library computer, and \$1500 to support garden work.

At the trustees' May meeting, we also authorized repair of the organ's reed tongue weights and a replacement computer for the sanctuary projector.

The Trustees will continue to consider other suggestions over the next several months.

Join 'great crew' to help plant gardens June 2

Our first work date for the FUMC gardens on May 14 was a great success, with everyone "digging in" to clean up the gardens. We also removed sod and plants, and applied new soil and compost. Thanks go out to Marlene Bowen, Mary and Kent Giese, Linda and Daryl Harper, Julian Leonard, Caroline and Dale Schroeder, and Jim Taylor.... a great, hardworking crew. Welcome, Julian!

On **Monday, June 2**, we will meet at 3pm to continue beautification of the gardens. Plants have been purchased and are waiting to go into the ground, so we'll do a little more cleaning and a lot of planting. Hope to see you all there!

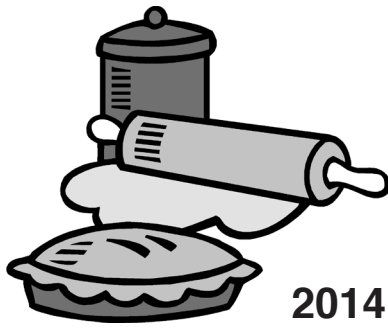
After Hours summer plan for Faith Forum

Thanks go to Dick Carlson for his organizing work for this year's Faith Forum. Thanks, as well, to those who served as the Faith Forum advisory group and to those who made presentations this year. The 9am Adult Faith Forum will resume in the fall. Watch future newsletters for more information.

The advisory group does want to try a summer experiment, a Faith Forum After Hours.

Beginning Sunday, June 15, you are invited to come to the Three Brothers Chapel after worship and discuss the morning's sermon with Pastor David and others. Inserts with key points and questions will be included in the morning bulletins.

If you ever felt there was more to say about the morning sermon, this is your chance. All sessions will end no later than noon.



Help bake pies

Please sign up in the church office for times you'd like to help:

- Tuesday, **June 10**, 9am - 2pm
- Tuesday, **June 17**, 9am - 2pm
- Tuesday, **June 24**, 9am - 2pm
- Thursday, **June 26**, 9am - 5pm
- Friday, **June 27**, 9am - 4pm
- Saturday, **June 25**, for shifts selling pies at the Festival

If you can only come for an hour or two, that's fine — you don't have to stay for the whole shift.

Donations Needed:

Flour, sugar, cash, canning jars
Rhubarb, strawberries,
raspberries, blueberries

Quick Look at June

- 1:** Communion Sunday, Graduate recognition
- 3:** Church Council
- 10-14:** UN Seminar for youth
- 15:** Faith Forum After Hours begins
- 19:** Ruby's Pantry
- 21:** Roadside Clean-up
- 28:** CHUM Rhubarb Festival

Coming in July

- 4:** Holiday, office closed
- 6:** Communion Sunday
- 17:** Ruby's Pantry
- 20:** Creation Celebration
- 21:** Youth Mission Group meal
- 28-31:** Day Camp & VBS
- 31:** Strikepoint home concert, 7:30pm

Coming up at FUMC

Graduation Recognition Sunday: During worship on June 1 we will recognize and celebrate our graduates from First United Methodist Church. High school graduates will be asked to come forward during the worship service. Other graduates will be asked to stand and receive our congratulations.

Ruby's Pantry for June will be Thursday, June 19. All who work coordinating Ruby's Pantry are deeply grateful for those who help make this food distribution program happen. 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. FYI, when we have leftover food, it is sent to places such as CHUM, the Damiano Center, the Union Gospel Mission, Life House, the Salvation Army, and Harbor House.

Roadside Clean-Up: On Saturday morning, June 21, we will meet at 10am in the parking lot of the church at the corner of Midway and Maple Grove Roads to engage in our roadside clean-up project. Bags and attractive yellow vests provided. Please bring gloves and a light-hearted spirit. Thank you.

CHUM's Rhubarb Festival is fast approaching. Larry Long and his American Roots Revue will bring their inspiring blend of gospel, reggae, Cajun, swing, folk, R&B, and rock to the tenth annual Rhubarb Festival Saturday, June 28, from 9am to 4pm at First Lutheran Church. Your help in the kitchen is welcome; see the pie baking schedule at left. Opportunities to volunteer during the festivities will also be available. Watch for more information.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date April 30, 2014

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$130,298.68	\$129,150.00
Other Operating Income	<u>49,874.60</u>	<u>71,336.90</u>
Total Income	\$180,173.28	\$200,486.90
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$211,856.31</u>	<u>\$192,719.56</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 31,683.09)</u>	<u>\$ 7,767.34</u>

The operating budget continues to be impacted by the cold, snowy weather in the first quarter, which made for increased costs for heat, snow removal, and sanding, and reduced income due to lower worship attendance and rental receipts lost to weather-related cancellations.

All taxes are paid for 2014.

Three apportionment checks are being held.

Roast Beef Dinner

Income	\$8,118.27
Expense	<u>4,159.56</u>
Net	<u>\$3,958.71</u>

Health Notes Age Well; get outside to go inside

Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Spring greetings! I hope to see green leaves and flowers upon my return from vacation!

I want to inform you about a new program now available which is being implemented by the Arrowhead Agency on Ageing. Age Well Arrowhead is a care consultant service that equips older adults, their caregivers and families with knowledge, skills, tools and resources to achieve a balanced, healthy lifestyle. The goal is to help older adults live as independently as possible.

Available in Duluth, Proctor, and Hermantown, this service offers counseling, community referrals, financial counseling, care plan problem solving, help in holding family meetings, a Family Memory Care Program, and more.

Services can be provided on an ongoing basis, and there are no income guidelines. Once a referral is made, the client is contacted within 24 hours. If you would like more information about this program or would like to make a referral please contact Becky Perrett, 218-481-3150 or careconsultant@agewellarrowhead.org.



On another note, I read with trepidation the report on the climate damage that is happening and will continue to have dire consequences unless we seize the opportunity we have now to help mitigate these changes. Let us educate ourselves on how we can become more sustainable, and then act on what we have learned.

Did you know that the month of June is noted as a special time to celebrate America's Great Outdoors? National leaders for years have issued proclamations recognizing Great Outdoors Month, a time when America celebrates its natural treasures. This recognition highlights the benefits of active fun outdoors in our magnificent shared resources of forests, parks, refuges, and other public lands and waters.

Go for a walk, for as John Muir said, "I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

As Meister Eckhart, one of our great mystics, wrote, "All blades of grass, wood, and stone, all things are One... Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God."

So go out and enjoy the air, water and sun, the earth, trees and flowers, and let us value and protect our earth treasure.

Blessings,
Linda

"The earth delights to feel your bare feet,
and the winds long to play with your hair."

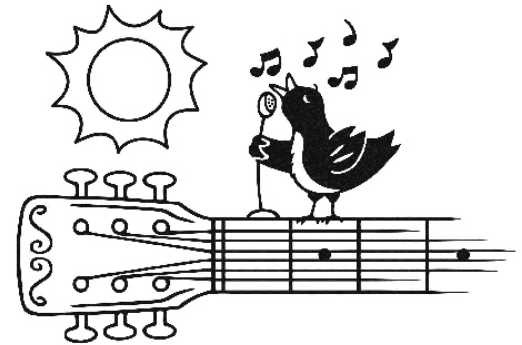
Kahlil Gibran

With gratitude...

A big thank you to all our FUMC musicians who have contributed so much to our worship services this past year. It has been a good year filled with excellent music presented by our choir, Tapestry, handbell choirs, JAM, and many individual musicians.

Special thanks to our directors, Bill, Cynthia and Mike, for their wonderful leadership, creativity, and hard work. We are blessed to have so many people willing to share their time and musical gifts with our congregation. Thank you!

Velda Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist



Choir Notes

Gospel Mass June 1

Thank you to everyone who was a part of or expressed appreciation for the Sanctuary Choir this past season. We are blessed to have such dedicated, talented and appreciated people who share their musical talents on a weekly basis.

Thanks also to the members of the Northwestern High School Chamber Singers (and their families) who joined us in our final anthem of the season on May 18. The gospel-style anthem of Cornerstone was truly alive with energy, and it helped to further share the readings of the day.

The choir will be lending their voices to the summer music schedule by singing excerpts from Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass* on Sunday, June 1. We are planning to present the full piece next year, but thought we would share some of it before then.

If you are just itching to join the choir, please contact Mike Goodlet or Velda Bell for fall start-up dates and further information. Until then, keep eyes and ears open for announcements about our 2014-15 year of music making!

How Can I Help?

Wanted: Creative adult and youth leaders to help plan and lead a new format for preschool Vacation Bible School, to be held at First UMC July 28-31. Preschool Camp will be for ages 3-6 and My Family Camp for toddlers and two's.

Summer Volunteer Hours for students and adults

Does your or your child's school require volunteer hours? Looking for something useful to do, or just want to get out of the house? Check with Laura Stahl to volunteer at church this summer.

Here are some tasks that student or adult volunteers can tackle:

- Repaper bulletin boards
- Reorganize art closet
- Sort and prep classroom materials
- Repaint directional and decorative signs

Would you rather volunteer at a community service agency? Laura and other church staff can help you find an opportunity right here in Duluth and surrounding communities.

Acolyte Training

Students completing grade 4 and up are invited to train as acolytes (candle lighters) on Sunday, June 29 at 9:15 am. Learn how to carry and use the lighting tool, how to light the oil candles, and how to extinguish the candles after worship.

Wee Wonder Helper Training

Students completing grade 6 and up are invited to train as Wee Wonder helpers. Learn about the Wee Wonder worship ministry for 3- to 6-year-olds, explore characteristics and needs of this age group, and experience some teaching techniques used to help young children experience the Bible and worship.

Meet in the Study from 4:30 to 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 18. Can't make it that day? Contact Laura to arrange an individual training date.

Mission: Family Fun Events Schedule

Families of all ages and kinds are welcome — friends and neighbors, too! — for these summertime events combining fun, food, and helping others. See Laura or watch future newsletters and bulletins for more information.

- Saturday, June 21, 11:30-2:30
Split Rock Lighthouse
Children's Day
Food: Picnic at the park
Mission: Planting flowers
Cost: \$9 /adult; kids are free
- Wednesday, July 9, 5-7 pm
Spirit Mountain Adventure Park
Mission: CHUM Backpacks
Cost: Meal + Activity Fees
(Mini Golf \$4, Alpine Coaster or Zip Line \$8.50, or split packs of 10 or 30)
- Tuesday, July 22, 5-7 pm
Wheel Fun Rentals in Canal Park
Mission: Kids' Closet
- Thursday, August 7, 5:45 pm
Duluth Huskies Game and Tailgate Party
Mission: Animal Allies
- Friday, August 15, 8:30 pm
Sound of Music
at Leif Erikson Park
Mission: Life House



Prayer shawl recipients know they're wrapped in love, caring

Prayer shawls have been made for centuries to represent the unconditional love of God. They wrap, enfold, surround, and comfort the recipients as a tangible symbol of love and care.

Last fall, we started a prayer shawl ministry with a small group of women who knit and crochet these symbols of God's love. We gather once a month to work together on our projects, to share ideas, and to bless the shawls that have been completed in the past weeks. To date, **eighteen** members and friends of FUMC have received prayer shawls, lovingly stitched and blessed by members and friends of our congregation.

Shawls have been presented with a short liturgy by our parish nurse, by lay pastors, and by small groups of friends in Three Brothers Chapel or on home visits. Recipients are deeply grateful for the blessings of the shawl and the prayers that accompany them.

The stitchers will continue to meet throughout the summer on the second Wednesday of each month (June 10, July 9, and August 12) at 9:30am in the Fireside Lounge. Newcomers are always welcome. We have several simple knit and crochet patterns available. If you don't knit or crochet but would like to participate in another way, donations of yarn are always welcome.

We also have a collection of completed shawls that are available for anyone who might appreciate or need one. Recipients do not need to be FUMC members. If you would like to request a shawl for a friend or family member, please speak with Linda Wiig, MaryAnne Korsch, or Barbara Carlson.

Million Meals Update: Minnesota United Methodists joined together to package more than a million meals through Feed My Starving Children. This program provides life-saving meals to people who need them most all over the world, from countries affected by natural disaster to places enduring economic despair. Our Duluth packing event, held here at First UMC May 16-17, packaged more than 100,000 meals. Thanks to all who participated.

CHUM launches gift registry for new apartments

The Steve O'Neil Apartments are under construction and will provide housing for fifty families who have otherwise experienced homelessness. To furnish these apartments, a gift registry has been established.

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.

Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important and significant community effort. You can link to the registry through CHUMduluth.org.



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

10:00am Worship - S
Wee Wonder - 105
3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

6:00pm Strikepoint rehearsal - BR

Thursdays

9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
9:00am Zumba - LSH we
6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 6/19)

Fridays

9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we



Day by Day Monthly and one-time events

Saturday, May 31

11:00am Dave Miller Memorial Service- S

Sunday, June 1

10:00am In worship: Communion, Graduate Recognition

Monday, June 2

3:00pm Garden Work - Grounds

Tuesday, June 3

11:00am Rst Beef Dinner De-Brief- FSL
7:00pm Church Council - FSL

Saturday, June 7

11:00am Don Davidson Memorial Service - S

Sunday, June 8 Pentecost

Monday, June 9

6:00pm SPRC - Lib
7:00pm First & Ten - FSL

Tuesday, June 10

9:00am Rhubarb Pie Baking - K

Wednesday, June 11

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Saturday, June 14

11:00am Norman Akervik Memorial Service - TBC

Sunday, June 15

11:00am Faith Forum After Hours - TBC

Tuesday, June 17

9:00am Rhubarb Pie Baking - K

Thursday, June 19

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

Saturday, June 21

10:00am Roadside Clean-up, Maple Grove Rd

Sunday, June 22

11:00am Faith Forum After Hours - TBC

Monday, June 23

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

Tuesday, June 24

9:00am Rhubarb Pie Baking - K

Thursday, June 26

9:00am Rhubarb Pie Baking - K
5:30pm Finance Committee - St

Friday, June 27

9:00am Rhubarb Pie Baking - K

Saturday, June 28

CHUM Rhubarb Festival, 1st Lutheran

Sunday, June 29

11:00am Faith Forum After Hours - TBC

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