



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.

March 2017

Our new pastor— Rev. Jeanine Alexander

Rev. Jeanine Alexander has been appointed pastor at First United Methodist Church, Duluth. Her first Sunday here will be June 25, 2017.

Pastor Jeanine began her career in ministry in 1993 at Lake Harriet UMC in Minneapolis, where she was associate pastor. From 1999 to 2012 she served Cross Winds UMC in Maple Grove, MN. She has been at Minnetonka UMC for the last five years.

Like David Bard, Jeanine is coming home to Duluth. She is a graduate of Duluth Central and UMD, and the daughter of Pat and Sharon Alexander of our church. In fact, "My entire family lives in Duluth," she said "including my 99 year old grandmother; my parents; a brother who is co-president of Amsoil, his wife (a writer) and daughter/son-in-law; a brother who is Chief of Police in Superior Wisconsin, his wife (a teacher) and two sons ages 7 and 13 (whom I am deeply invested in); and a miniature long-haired dachshund."

Pastor Jeanine has already sold her home in the Cities, with four offers on the first day it was listed.

Read more at fumcduluth.com, where she shares her vision of the church and her call to, mission for, and gifts for ministry.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Ash
Wednesday

Worship service 7pm March 1
with communion and imposition of ashes



Our First Family

Church Lighting

Sponsored by Carol & Dennis Healy for the week of February 19-25.

Baptism

Marley Mae Mattila, daughter of Tyler Ballavance and Mathew Mattila on February 12

Hospitalizations

Barb Bennett, Linda Quade, Lowell Fermenich, Barb Fermenich, Carla Hansen (daughter of Nancy Hansen)

New Members

Aaron & Hilary Fezzey, Matthew Hunter, Jim & Nancy Westman, Bailey Olson received on February 5, 2017

Lenten Simple Suppers start March 1. Families or groups are needed to provide soup & bread for Wed Night Meals during Lent. Team up & sign up in the church office.

Blood Drive: Mark your calendars—a blood drive is coming up on Tuesday, April 18 from 3 to 6 pm. Your opportunity to sign up will be at the end of March.

Operation Teddy: Seek out old toys, books, games, puzzles, and outdoor play equipment in good condition to donate to families in need. You can bring them to the Chapel any time between 4:30 and 7pm on Ash Wednesday.

For What It's Worth

Give up a habit for Lent

The season of Lent begins on March 1 or Ash Wednesday. (We do have an Ash Wednesday Service!) Lent is the season during the Christian calendar when we are encouraged to take a deep, long, hard look into our souls and identify those areas and sins which keep from being close to Jesus Christ and to each other.

I offer you this Lenten parable as a way of better understanding this season of Lent and what it means for us.

Long, long ago, an old teacher was walking through a forest of trees with a pupil by his side. The old teacher suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants beside the path. The first was just beginning to peep above the ground, the second plant was big enough to have a solid root system, and the third was a small shrub, while the fourth was a full-sized tree.

The teacher said to his young student: "Pull up the first." The boy easily pulled it up with his fingers. "Now pull up the second." The youth obeyed, but found the job to be harder. "Now the third." The boy pulled and pulled with both arms and all his strength before he was able to uproot it. "And now," said the master, "try your hand at the fourth." The boy could barely make the leaves of the tree shake when he wrapped his arms around the trunk.

"This, my son, is what happens with our bad habits. When they are young, we can cast them out more easily with the help of God; but when they are old, it is hard to uproot them, though we pray and struggle ever so sincerely."

Lent is often described as a forty day journey of the soul. It is a time of self-examination and preparation when we look at our faithfulness and commitment to living as Christ's disciples.

Sometimes we "give up" something for Lent . . . chocolate or desserts or junk food . . . usually something rather trivial. The 'giving up' part is meant to remind us of the cross and sacrifice that Jesus made that we might all be forgiven.

But a more appropriate Lenten sacrifice may be to give up some

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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: **March 24**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Looking to Lent Soup Lunch Sunday

After worship this Sunday, Feb 26, come together to enjoy fellowship, a simple meal, and a preview of Lent themes.

Soup and bread prepared by Chef Paul Sapyta will be served and you are invited to bring a favorite sweet treat for a dessert pot-luck.



Shared jail cell with MLK

Bishop Melvin Talbert, who spent 3 days/3 nights in a prison cell with Martin Luther King Jr. and who now extends his civil rights work to the LGBTQ community, will be preaching at Minnetonka UMC on Sunday, March 5 at both the 9 and 10:45am worship times. He will also speak at the Minnesota Reconciling Ministries Network Lunch (potluck at 11am/ program at 12:45pm) on Saturday, March 4 at Spirit of Hope UMC in Golden Valley. All are invited.

Habit, continued

hurtful or harmful behavior, some habit that stands as a hindrance to our discipleship or relationship with Jesus. Perhaps, at this time, the behavior or sin is just a sprout or a little bush. But maybe, there are some full-fledged oak trees you need to work on this Lent.

May your Lenten journey include the living Christ.

Together with you in Christ,
Pastor Rick

Getting Ready for New Leadership

When was the last time you were the “new kid on the block?” Maybe you can remember your first day on the job or a first day in a new school. What was that experience like for you?

For many of us, this is a situation that might cause panic, or at least some mild uneasiness. No matter how excited we are at the prospect of starting something new and interesting, the challenge of getting to know a large group of people in a short period of time is enough to make our head spin. And one of the earliest challenges in a scenario like this is getting to know people *by name*.

It won't be long before we welcome our new pastor, Jeanine Alexander, to the Coppertop. As a way to welcome her, we are preparing an informal church directory to include photographs of as many church members and friends as possible, so that she might be able to learn our names and faces as quickly as possible. She is excited about this project and is grateful for your participation!

Please plan to have your photo taken after worship on **March 19, March 26, or April 2**. This will be a simple process that will only take a few minutes. Our church photographers, Doug Buell and Steve Mattson, will capture your smiles of welcome for Pastor Jeanine.

If you prefer, you may email your own digital photo to MaryAnne Korsch (deacon@fumcduluth.com) for inclusion. This is one tangible way you can participate in a smooth leadership transition and help Pastor Jeanine get off to a great start here at the Coppertop.

Fun and Games at the Coppertop

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the SECOND ever FUMC Fun and Games Night on Friday, March 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Lakeview Social Hall. There is no cost for this fun evening but participants will have the option to donate any amount of their choosing to a church mission or program.

Games of Cribbage, Scrabble, and Yahtzee will be available or you may bring your own favorite game from home.

Families of all sizes are welcome and child care will be provided for children too young for the games. Free snacks of popcorn and s'mores will help make this a fun, family friendly event.

This event, sponsored by the Hospitality Team (with a little help from friends) was postponed from January 20 due to bad weather.

Fire pit to go?

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

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

Sound Tech

Best wishes, Nick!

Nick Gosen has resigned his position as Sound Technician at First UMC as of the end of February. Nick started working at FUMC in November of 2011. Those of us who have worked with Nick have appreciated his expertise with sound systems, musical background, good humor, patience, and willingness to help as needed.

Nick also was invaluable during the process of choosing and installing our new sanctuary sound system, offering his advice and recommendations.

Nick's future plans include working with more sound productions in Duluth, as well as in the Twin Cities. He also hopes to pursue graduate studies in the fall. Thank you, Nick, for all you've done for us and all the best in your future plans!

Welcome Alec!

Alec Iorio has accepted the job as Sound Technician at First UMC. Alec studied music composition at Concordia College in Moorhead for two years and now works in Duluth mixing and mastering music. In the fall, he'll be pursuing a Media Studies and Production degree at Lake Superior College. We look forward to getting to know you, Alec. Welcome!

Save these Dates:

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Worship,
7 pm
Mar 3 FUMC Game Night!
Mar 12 One Great Hour of
Sharing Bake Sale
Apr 27 Spring Roast Beef Dinner
May 14 Confirmation

Ash Wednesday for families with young children

• Operation TEDDY

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.

• Dirty Hands & Foreheads - Introductory Ash Wed worship

JAM, JAM Jr and all families with young children will celebrate in a relaxed, kid-friendly, hands-on version of this special holy day. Optional Operation TEDDY offering of toys, books, puzzles, games, outdoor play equipment will add to the experience of living the way of Jesus. 5:00 to 5:30 pm in the Chapel on Wed, Mar 1.

Mar 5 & 12 : Treatmaking for One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year 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, Mar 5 and Sun, Mar 12. OGHS Bake Sale items will be offered after worship on March 12. Adults and kids of all ages are welcome to assist in this fundraiser that truly makes a difference in the world.

Baking ingredient donations—4 lbs butter, 4 lbs cane sugar, 1 gallon whole milk, 2 pints (or 1 quart) heavy whipping cream, 2 dozen eggs, 5 lbs all-purpose flour—are needed by Thursday, March 2.

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date January 31, 2017

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$ 32,501.54	\$ 33,446.28
Other Operating Income	<u>32,807.71</u>	<u>34,516.66</u>
Total Income	\$ 65,309.25	\$ 67,962.94
Expense		
Total Expense	\$ <u>43,854.40</u>	\$ <u>49,304.01</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 21,454.85</u>	<u>\$ 18,658.93</u>

All apportionments, taxes and payables YTD have been paid.

Lenten Prayer Vigil

FUMC will host overnight prayer between 8 pm Maundy Thursday (April 13) and 12 Noon on Good Friday (April 14). Please consider signing up to pray for one hour during this time.

Come and pray at church or pray at home. Ideas on how to pray and what to pray for will be provided. Some people talk out loud, some meditate, sing, or read the Bible -- whatever you are comfortable doing is fine.

Many find this hour to be very meaningful and heartfelt. Please join us in one continuous overnight prayer.

Prayers for Prayer Vigil

Please write your prayer requests on the purple paper provided and put in the prayer request box that is located in the narthex. During the overnight Prayer Vigil, your requests will be added to the prayers of the people. Thank you.

Coming up in Faith Forum

March 5 **Lynn Millikan**
The Rich Fool

Wealth Management -
Biblical Style
Luke 12:13-21

March 12 **Allen Anway**
The Hidden Treasure

The Cost of Not Knowing
Matthew 13:44-52

March 19 **Geoff Bell**
The Two Builders

"Decisions, decisions,
decisions..."
Matthew 7:21-29

March 26 **David Peterson**
The Unforgiving Official

Do the math: 7 X 70
Matthew 18:21 - 35

Alzheimer's, A Guide in Two Voices

From Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

Greetings! I would first like for you to put on your calendars the **Blood Drive** coming up on Tuesday, April 18 from 3 to 6 pm. Your opportunity to sign up will be at the end of March.

Also, anyone is invited to come and observe the **3rd and 4th Grade Health Fair** which will occur here in the Social Hall, 8 am to 2 pm from Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31. This fair is put on every other year by the Lake Superior Medical Society Alliance. All third- and fourth-graders from the surrounding area arrive to go from station to station learning about bones, safety, immunizations, world health, CPR, dental hygiene, and other health related topics.

I want to let you know that I have also read a very good book, *Through the Wilderness of Alzheimer's, A Guide in Two Voices* by Robert and Anne Simpson. Bob, a UCC pastor was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and his wife Anne thought that a book telling their story of their journey into the life of Alzheimer's would offer families accurate, firsthand information about the disease, as well as support and practical help for those with the disease and their caregivers. Their story is told from both of their perspectives, using journal entries, conversations, letters and prayers to trace the onset, diagnosis, and treatment of Bob's condition.

Dr. Steve Miles, professor of geriatrics and Center for Bioethics at the University of Minnesota, states, "This is a wise and unique journal of a loving couple's journey into the wilderness of Alzheimer's. Many families take this journey alone. Now they have an insightful, faithful, and experienced personal guide."

Nearly 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's, and other forms of dementia raise that number even higher. *I will be giving a seminar based on this book in May with the DTBD. In the meantime, I will be placing two copies of the book in the library for your perusal.*

I thank these two for writing about their journey. We can learn from them, love those who have dementia and those whose lives are ending. As Ecclesiastes 3:4 says, "for everything there is a season ..., a time for mourning, a time for dancing."

But as Henri Nouwen observes, mourning and dancing are never fully separated. A success can be celebrated and in the midst of that a feeling of deep sadness can penetrate our soul. "Mourning and dancing, grief and laughter, sadness and gladness—they all belong together as the sad-faced clown and the happy-faced clown, who make us both cry and laugh.

"Let's trust that the beauty of our lives becomes visible where mourning and dancing touch each other." *Through the Wilderness of Alzheimer's, A Guide in Two Voices* is an insightful illustration of this.



First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
9:00am Family Faith Formation
9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
10:00am Worship - S
Wee Wonder - 105
3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
3:00pm Spirit Yoga - TBC
5:00pm Young Adults - Lib
7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St
6:00pm Moms' Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays

4:45pm 5Guise - BR
Kids' Club Art - L Nur, MR
5:00pm JAM & PB Band - TBC
Parent2Parent - St
5:15pm Ringtones - BR
5:30pm Bible Study - FSL
Dinner - LSH se
Explorers - St
JAM Jr. - TBC
5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
6:00pm Confirmation - 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

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

Saturdays

9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we

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

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Sunday, February 26

11:30am Looking to Leent soup lunch-
LSH we
2:00pm Minnesota w/o Poverty - LSH

Tuesday, February 28

2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Wednesday, March 1

5:00pm Operation Teddy - TBC
7:00pm Ash Wednesday service - S

Thursday, March 2

5:00pm Trustees - FSL

Friday, March 3

6:00pm Game Night - LL

Wednesday, March 8

9:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, March 9

1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

Saturday, March 11

9:00am Community Reiki Circle - TBC

Monday, March 13

7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, March 14

2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Wednesday, March 15

9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, March 16

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

Monday, March 20

10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Thursday, March 23

5:00pm Finance Committee - FSL

Tuesday, March 28

2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL



