



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.

August 2018



Join us for
the Outdoor Worship Service
Wednesday, August 8
from 6:00-7:30pm

Barbecue and worship in the parking lot overlooking Lake Superior, followed by games for children. Come for a spiritually engaging time of food, worship, and play.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Thank you, First UMC Family, for your prayers, care, and concern upon the June 15th death of my husband, Jerry, following his brief illness.

Your kind support is very appreciated.

~Marilyn Skansgaard and Family

To all members of FUMC Congregation:

I don't know how to thank you for the beautiful cards you have sent me during my illness. Your words of kindness and your thoughts and prayers give me strength.

Thank you for your sympathy on the passing of my brother.

The prayer shawl is beautiful and powerful, giving me energy and comfort. Thank you. Your words of love and support have helped make each day. Hope to see you in church soon.

You are loved, and God bless you.

~Kent Giese

Dear friends,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness after the death of my mother. Both Geoff and I so appreciate your kind words, prayers, cards, and the beautiful plant given in memory of Mom.

~Velda Bell

Daniel D. Maddy, along with six other attorneys from his firm (Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.), has been named a

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On the Journey With You

From our Intern, Kelby Werner

I, like many others, am very familiar with the problem of procrastination. This particular vice can apply to many tasks ranging from school work, outdoor work, even to passion projects that one works on in their spare time. I have often found myself looking at the rising pile of dishes in the sink and knowing that I just need to get up and wash them, but then I hear a voice in the back of my head ask me, why not wait until after one more episode? In answer to this, the Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 8:10-1, "It is to your advantage to do this, since you not only started to do it last year but you wanted to do it too. Now finish the job as well so that you finish it with as much enthusiasm as you started..." The Bible also tells us in Galatians 6:4, "Each person should test their own work and be happy with doing a good job and not compare themselves with others." These verses were originally written as advice by Paul to the early church. There are many reasons why someone may procrastinate, but no matter the reason, these verses tell us that if we start a project, we should finish it with as much enthusiasm as when we started and then take pride in the work we accomplished. Paul knew that when a people finished their tasks, they would feel good and could take pride in their work. With this in mind, what projects do you keep pushing further and further into the future? Why did you start these projects in the first place? What do you have to do to finish these tasks? I know the appeal of pushing off tasks, but I also know that there is no better feeling than finishing the third draft of a paper, or cleaning up the mess in my room, as I know I put in the time and effort in to finish the task and can now reap the rewards.

~Kelby


First Family

First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
218-727-5021 Info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor: Jeanine Alexander
Editor: Bill Alexander

Next First Family Deadline: **August 15**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

—Our First Family, continued

2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer. According to the Duluth News Tribune, only 5% of Minnesota lawyers are awarded this honor each year. Dan practices in the areas of real estate, development, banking and lender support, business/corporate law, securities, and housing law. He graduated *cum laude* from William Mitchell College of Law. Congratulations, Dan!

Capital Campaign

The top priorities of roof work and tuckpointing were completed last year, but in the months following the completion of that work, some leaks were still detected in the areas around the vertical "stained glass" windows in the sanctuary. Johnston Masonry was contacted, and they were able to inspect the caulking around the vertical windows and found serious gaps. The Trustees, in an effort to ensure the exterior integrity of our building, authorized (and the Administrative Council approved) an additional \$56K caulking project to the Capital Campaign. In the near future you will see scaffolding going up. We've been told this project would be finished by fall. Included will also be some extra work around the main entrance. We will have further updates on the rest of the campaign projects in future newsletters.

In light of this new and unbudgeted expense for the window caulking, **please consider extending your pledge** for one extra year as we move toward all projects being completed in 2019. The remaining projects include upper windows, restrooms, parking lot, organ repairs, and Trustee endowment.

~Anita Zager

Family News

Canal Park Fun

August 22, 5-7pm

All youth entering 6-12 grade: let's hang out! We will meet at Hoops in Canal Park (325 S Lake Ave). Bring games and stories to tell about your summer vacation. We will have pizza, play games, and, if the weather is nice, we can ride the crazy bikes! RSVP with Cynthia at 218-260-3114 or tevyjr@aol.com.

Staff Opening

Director of Children's Ministry

We are looking for a person who loves kids (and God!) to join our staff in this part-time position working with our children birth-5th grade. This involves Wednesday afternoon/evening groups, Sunday morning Sunday School, overseeing nursery staff, and occasionally family activities (including VBS, Day Camp, Service Projects, and Children's Christmas Program). If you (or someone you know) have interest in all or a portion of this position, please talk with Pastor Jeanine or Rev. MaryAnne.

An Afternoon at Brighton Beach

Spend a lazy summer afternoon with church friends at Brighton Beach. Explore the beach and share in a few group activities while glorying in the beauty of Lake Superior.

Sunday, August 12, 12:30-3 pm, Brighton Beach (east on London Road near Lester River)

Save the Dates

- **New Member Class: Sunday, August 5, 11:30am-1:00pm**
- **Outdoor Worship Service: Wednesday, August 8, 6-7:30pm**
- **Communion Service/Luncheon for homebound and guests: Tuesday August 14, 11am-1pm**
- **Ruby's Pantry: Thursday, August 16**
- **Duluth-Superior Pride Festival: September 1-2**
- **Capital Campaign Dinner & Silent Auction: Saturday, September 29**

Dinner will be by Paul Sapyta followed by a dessert live auction. During the evening you will be able to participate in a silent auction. All kinds of items are welcomed, from gift baskets, theater and concert tickets, and symphony tickets, to vacation time shares. Please contact Anita Zager (anitazager@gmail.com) if you would like to donate a dessert or an item for the silent auction.

See our Summer Opportunities Booklet for additional events and details

Strikepoint Tour a Hit in Canada-USA

This year's Strikepoint tour brought them from Duluth to Manistique, MI; Lansing, MI; Toronto, ON; Webster, NY; Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Crown Point, IN; Spencer, WI; and back for their homecoming concert at FUMC. The concerts were very well attended, and the audiences were thrilled to have our world-renowned handbell ensemble playing for them. The group even had a day off in Niagara Falls, which included a boat excursion right up to the falls.

One of the people involved in helping set up the concert site in Toronto had this to say:

"Thanks so much, Bill, for your group's performance in Toronto this past Sunday! It was so great to see you again and to hear Strikepoint perform. You have such obvious fun ringing, and you convey that enjoyment to the audience, which makes it such an enjoyable experience to be in your audience! And you do such a great job of actualizing and communicating the musical shape and essence of each piece—which enhances the audience's enjoyment of your performance!

"I was so glad that so many handbell ringers from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond were able to experience, and enjoy, your performance. Thanks for scheduling Toronto into your tour."

"I was so glad to play a part, however small, in facilitating your performance in Toronto. I hope you have a fantastic remainder of your tour, and I very much look forward to seeing you, and hearing Strikepoint perform, again soon."

"Thanks again, Bill. It was all a true delight! ~jc"

Mission and Social Justice

Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries

Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries (TPUMM) consists of clergy and lay persons from all the United Methodist Churches in the Greater Duluth area, spanning west to Proctor, east to Two Harbors, south to Superior, and all UMCs with a Duluth address. I have been honored to serve as FUMC lay member for 12 years. Quarterly meetings, rotated among the churches, consist of a time of worship/devotion, planning and sharing about new ministries, encouragement, and updates on ministries done at the various churches. We also seek reports from area ministries that TPUMM supports.

TPUMM offers leadership and support for Adventure Day Camp, offers area-wide youth events like the summer Wisconsin Dells trip, and offers a Men's Retreat at Camp Amnicon in March. We brought Servant Leadership Training to the Twin Ports and support United Campus Ministries.

Some funding for these initiatives comes from a yearly grant process that utilizes proceeds from the sale of Campus Ministry, formerly located near Hope UMC.

Interested persons are welcome to attend these meetings. The next one is scheduled for **Sunday, August 19 at 3 p.m.** If you have questions, please contact Dale at dale.stahl1@gmail.com. Don and Jan Gibson were also lay members from their Chester Park UMC days.

Puerto Rico Mission Trip Opportunity

The Minnesota Annual Conference is sponsoring two mission trips to Puerto Rico for hurricane recovery work later this year. The teams will be led by Lyndy Zabel, Volunteer in Mission Coordinator for the MN Annual Conference, and are scheduled for August 11-18 and November 10-17. Participants have to be 18 years and older. Total cost is \$1,500 per person, which includes airfare, insurance, and all in-country costs, however, everyone will get a \$300 scholarship from the conference. Teams will most likely be doing light construction, painting, and landscaping. Background checks and safe sanctuary checks are required. A valid U.S. driver's license is also required (but not a passport). Translators will be provided. Teams are limited to twelve people. For more information, contact Lyndy Zabel at Lyndy.Zabel.mnumc@brtapp.com.

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Red Bird Mission Opportunity

We will join Peace UMC of Virginia, MN, on a mission trip to Red Bird Mission in southeastern Kentucky Oct 4-16. Our work will be to help repair homes for low-income people in Appalachia. For more information about Red Bird, see www.rbmission.org. Contact Karen Alseth at 218-879-5194 or kadal319@msn.com for information about the trip.

Farewell and Thank You, from Laura Stahl

Twelve years ago God gifted me with a new ministry at the Coppertop Church. Arriving as an unknown, I immediately felt embraced by the congregation. It wasn't all pie in the sky. There were some bumps along the way. But is there anything worthwhile in life that comes without challenges? I believe I have grown and experienced God's grace through each challenge.

I am grateful for many loving, supportive church staff. We work together, eat lunch together, wrestle with big and small issues together, and seek to live God's witness together each day. Each one of you has a deep faith experience that is expressed in unique ways to complement and support the others. I treasure each of you. Thank you for challenging, praying, partnering, worshipping, and playing with me.

The grace-filled First UMC family supported each project I initiated that served the interest of kids and youth. This is a truly unique congregation in the way you love and nurture each child, from the restless toddler in the pew to the beginning violin student sharing music in worship to teens in '50s garb selling you food that your doctor would not approve. Thank you for your inclusive ministry to people of all ages!

Initially my ministry focused on youth and volunteer ministries. Those early days were filled with meetings across the generations. I equally enjoyed helping the older "church basement women" develop a workable guideline for funeral meals, creating a volunteer calendar for indoor plant caregivers, and collaborating with job coaches to find meaningful volunteer jobs for other-abled teens or adults. Youth trips to North Carolina, New York City, and Rosebud Reservation are dear memories of adults and youth growing deeper in faith and experiencing the mutual blessing that comes through serving others. God's presence and grace was in each person, young and old. Thank you for your collaboration, compassion, and enthusiasm!

Recently family ministry provided me a wonderful privilege to stand alongside parents and caregivers as they sought creative and meaningful ways to pass on their faith! The children and youth of this congregation are truly blessed to have such dedicated parents, foster parents, grandparents, mentors, and other beloved adults in their lives. So many have given their time and shared their talents to encourage and nurture the children of this church. They have entrusted their most precious treasures to the teachings that I design or provide. Thank you for loving your children unconditionally and teaching them, by example and by encouragement, to make the world a kinder and more compassionate place.

There is no greater joy in my life than being with a child or teen. To witness each stage of faith formation from the innate

Ask the UMC

Does the Church Have an Official Bible?



The United Methodist Church does not have an "official" version or translation of the Bible. Only the General Conference can

designate specific ritual texts or other liturgical or teaching resources as official. Protestant denominations never designate a single Bible translation for use. Rather, United Methodists affirm the usefulness of a number of translations and versions as being helpful for study, teaching, memorization, and other purposes, since each sheds a slightly different light in translating or paraphrasing the original languages and manuscripts.

When it comes to United Methodist teaching resources published by The United Methodist Publishing House, the Common English Bible and the New Revised Standard Version are the preferred texts for curriculum. However, writers can consult other versions or quote from them when doing so strengthens the teaching resource.

Got Stuff?

The hand mixer you haven't used since 2006, the end table that has always been out of place, craft supplies and toys the kids have outgrown. You may see these items as stuff to discard, but United Campus Ministry sees it as great merchandise for its Sept. 29 sale. Please start setting aside treasures that need a new home for the United Campus Ministry sale. More details on where to deliver items will follow. No clothing, please. And thanks! ~*Cynthia Coffin-Langdon*

Wanted

Coppertop University Nursery School needs two slides for toddlers. UNS would greatly appreciate gently used or new slides. Donations can be brought to the church office. Questions? Please contact Office & Building Manager, Anne Gustafson.

Employment Opportunity

Coppertop University Nursery School has openings for a teacher's assistant in the older infant room and an aide in the infant room. For more information and to apply, please contact email@universitynurseryschool.org or call Kathy at 218-728-1888.

Did You Know?

Our sermons are recorded each week by our audio technician, Alec Iorio, processed by communications coordinator Bill Alexander, then placed on our website to be heard by you at your convenience. Current and archived audio sermons can be found at fumcduluth.com/coppertop-sermons.

From Our Parish Nurse

Dementia

In this article I will be reviewing a few facts regarding dementia as a precursor to a forum I will be having in October (dates to be determined).

Dementia is not a normal phase of aging, and is not just about not remembering. Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain, and it will not go away. People affected by dementia want to maintain the best quality of life that's possible, as do their caregivers.

The upcoming forum will be called "Through the Wilderness". (It will provide information for congregations that include persons living with dementia and their caregivers. According to the World Health Organization, the number of people living with dementia is estimated at 35.6 million is expected to double by 2050.

This forum's goal is to give guidance to individuals, families, and congregations living with the effects of dementia. Hopefully many misconceptions will be discussed and silence changed to communication as we learn more about dementia.

Much of the curriculum is based on the story of Anne Simpson, whose husband, Pastor Robert, developed dementia shortly after retiring from his congregation. They have shared their honest and graceful voices with love, dignity, and lessons learned.

Watch for further details.

Blood Drive

A sign-up sheet is in the office for the August 14th Blood Drive. Please consider this life-giving donation. The hours are from 3 to 6pm. Questions? Contact Linda at nurse@fumcduluth.com.

Communion Service/Luncheon Volunteers Needed

August 14 is also our communion service and luncheon (11am-1pm) for those folks who cannot attend church, or who do so on a limited basis. If you would like to help, such as serving the meal or driving people to church, please notify me. This time together is very meaningful for all involved.

Thank you! May the peace of Christ be with you always.

~*Linda Wiig*

Wednesday Night Meal Coordinator Needed

This person will coordinate the meal plan, buy the groceries, and prepare the meal with help from volunteers who will also help to serve and clean up.

This is a ministry which is important to all who congregate on Wednesday nights. Kitchen helpers always have a good time.

Please see Pastor Jeanine if you would be interested in this paid position.

Backpack Project

Once again this year, First UMC is supporting the CHUM Backpack Project. CHUM is people of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.

For many children, the first day of school is an exciting adventure. But for those who lack the basic supplies, school may be a scary, intimidating, or unhappy place. CHUM and the Duluth School District will host a "Back to School Fair" on August 23, where families with limited resources can receive the school supplies and backpacks they need.

Last year, First UMC's goal was to donate 75 filled backpacks. Thanks to all of you, First UMC filled and blessed 112 backpacks! This year our goal is again to fill at least 75 backpacks.

So how can you help?

1. Purchase backpack(s) and drop them off at the church office to be filled at a later time.
2. Purchase back-to-school supplies (from the approved supply list) and drop them off at

understanding of God in early childhood to teens wrestling with deep questions as their child-like understanding of Bible stories and faith tradition stretches through teen experiences and reason. God is at work through each age, stage, and personality.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for the kind words, cards and drawings, gifts, cupcakes, and the beautiful Farewell Reception on Sunday. I felt so very loved! The heartfelt notes and drawings truly touched my heart. Sandy Lanthier, your cake was amazing! Your creative culinary labor of love was a most delightful and gorgeous gift! The prayer Bible signed by the children and youth is now part of my daily spiritual practice, providing resources for life-long faith growth. Reading their signatures years from now will take me back to this particular time and stage in their lives. Thank you for that thoughtful gesture. The Seuss book, a gift from the staff with added signatures from many in the congregation, is filled with their blessings and words of wisdom. Thank you for the love and support you have shared on each page. I am delighted that the Garden Greenies (my term, not theirs) will care for the Japanese Lilac tree that will be planted in honor of me and others. Sadly, I did not inherit my grandmother's green thumb, so it is best left to their expert care so that it will grow and sprout new branches representing coming faith leaders for The Coppertop. The Shutterfly book that is coming will be especially dear to me. There is nothing more precious than looking at the faces of those you love. Each face carries with it many, many memories.

I love each of you in this congregation, and I thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives as we seek to follow the Jesus Way.

~Laura Stahl

Backpack—

the church office.

3. Adopt-A-Backpack: Purchase a backpack, and fill it with the approved supply list items, and drop it off at the church office.
4. Cash or check donations: Please indicate that it is for the Backpack Project.

CHUM 2018 Supply Lists	6th-12th grade:
Kindergarten-5th grade:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backpack • (3) Wide-ruled spiral notebooks • (3) Pocket folders • (1) Scissors • (6) No. 2 pencils • (1) Box of 8 washable Crayola markers • (1) Box of 24 Crayola crayons • (2) Glue sticks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backpack • (3) College-ruled spiral notebooks • (3) Pocket folders • (1) Three-ring binder • (1) Pack college-ruled loose leaf paper • (6) No. 2 pencils • (3) Black stick pens • (1) Box of 12 colored pencils

Please have all donations turned in by Sunday, August 5. Backpack assembly and blessing is Sunday, August 12.



First United Methodist Church

First Family (USPS 349-210) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799. Periodicals postage is paid at Duluth, MN 55806.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799.

Our Regular Weekly Schedule

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

Sundays

- 9:00am High School Hangout - CW
- 10:00am Worship - S
Wee Wonder - 105
- 3:30pm T'ai Chi - CW

Mondays

- Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 3:30pm Spirit Yoga - TBC
- 5:00pm Downbeats - EL
- 7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

- 5:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we
- 6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St
Mama Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays

- 6:00pm Bible Study - FSL

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

Calendar may change—check www.fumcduluth.com for updates.

Day by Day Monthly & One-Time

Thursday, August 2

- 5:15pm Trustees - FSL
- 6:00pm Lasting Imprint - EL

Sunday, August 5

- 11:30am New Member Class - FSL

Tuesday, August 7

- 10:00am Writers Group - Lib

Wednesday, August 8

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL
- 6:00pm Outdoor Worship Service - Parking Lot

Thursday, August 9

- 6:00pm Meet & Greet Revisited
- 6:30pm Amateur Radio Operators - LSH

Saturday, August 11

- 9:00am LGBT Elders - FSL

Sunday, August 12

- 11:15am Meet & Greet Revisited
- 12:30pm Afternoon at Brighton Beach

Tuesday, August 14

- 7:00am Primary Election - LSH
- 10:00am Writers Group - Lib
- 11:30am Homebound Communion & Luncheon
- 3:00pm Blood Drive

- 6:00pm Tuesday Thrillz - Grant Rec Area

Wednesday, August 15

- 9:00am Scrabble - Lib
- 6:00pm Meet & Greet Revisited

Thursday, August 16

- 4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - LSH, S, A, N
- 6:00pm Blue Star Mothers - FSL

Friday, August 17

- 5:00pm Gruskin/Bochkov Rehearsal - S

Saturday, August 18

- 3:00pm Gruskin/Bochkov Wedding & Dinner - S, LSH

Monday, August 20

- 7:00pm Downbeats Friends & Family Concert - LSH

Wednesday, August 22

- 5:00pm Canal Park Fun for Youth

Monday, August 27

- 5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Steering Committee - FSL

Tuesday, August 28

- 6:00pm Quilters Guild - LSH se
- 4:00pm Foundation Meeting - FSL