



# 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 2019**

## Where Do You Fit?



**First United  
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway  
Duluth, MN 55811  
[www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com)



## Our First Family

### Rose Undlin

Former FUMC member Rose Undlin passed away November 26 in Owatonna. Cards of sympathy and love may be sent to her husband, Marlow Undlin, 2480 St. Paul Rd., Apt. 223, Owatonna, MN 55060.

### Thank You

Many thanks to all the musicians and readers who led our Lessons and Carols Service this year. It was a beautiful and meaningful service because of your contributions.

Thank you!

~ Velda Bell

### Church Lighting

A gift to light the church the week of December 9 was given by Brian and Carrie Moe in memory of their granddaughter, Lucy June Brummer.

### Dear Class Ring

Thank you for your beautiful playing at Sunday's Holiday Concert at Sacred Heart Music Center. You made us all feel proud that you are from the Coppertop!

We raised \$1,000 to support Sacred Heart Music Center and the Felgemaker organ. You helped raise that money by giving of your time and sharing your musical talents.

With gratitude,

~Velda

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## On the Journey With You

### General Conference 2019—What Is at Stake?

A Special Session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church (the governing body of the UMC) has been called for Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. This world-wide gathering of United Methodists will only act on items concerning our divide around human sexuality. At the Special Session, elected representatives from United Methodist conferences around the world will vote on the future of our denomination. Representatives are half laity, half clergy.

After the 2016 General Conference, the Bishops commissioned a group called "The Commission on A Way Forward" to determine how we can move together as a denomination amidst our differences around human sexuality. The commission offered three options for the denomination.

**One Church Plan:** In this plan the restrictive language in the current Book of Discipline (our "rule" book) around homosexuality is removed, same-sex marriage is allowed by individual church vote, and ordination of LGBTQ clergy is allowed. However, no church, conference, or clergy is forced to be inclusive. There is no change to the structure of the denomination.

**Connectional Conference Plan:** This plan changes the structure of the church to three overlapping, connected conferences called Traditional, Unifying, and Progressive (as opposed to the current geographic configuration of conferences). Churches vote to join a conference based on their views on same-sex marriage and inclusion of LGBTQ clergy, and the conferences meet separately. This plan is a financial quagmire and would take years to implement.

**Traditionalist Plan:** Restrictive language in the current Book of Discipline is retained. This plan calls for enhanced accountability

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## 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: **January 16**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com



## Family News

### Thank you

Dear members of the FUMC bell choirs;

On behalf of the 2nd graders at both Homecroft and Lester Park Elementary Schools, I would like to say thank you for generously allowing us to borrow your bells for the past few weeks. Each of the students got to try them and their performances went very well. We are so grateful to you for helping make our concerts special. Merry Christmas!

~Kristin Paschen

### Scone and Wreath Sale Report

Thank you for your generosity in making the holiday scone and wreath sale a success. After expenses, the Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Fund tallied \$1,776.81 for their student recipients, music lessons, and books. Your support allows five students, age 12-18, to receive scholarship funds.

Much appreciation,

~Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Fund of FUMC



### Sermon Series to Start 2019

**Rethinking the Prodigal**—we are all lost in some way, but God finds us.

- **January 6** Everyone Welcome, No Exceptions!
- **January 13** Sometimes We Get Lost in Rebellion
- **January 20** Sometimes We Get Lost in Self-Righteousness
- **January 27** What It Means to Help Find Each Other
- **February 3** Welcome Home – Invited to the Banquet

### Children's Ministry

Welcome aboard to Jojo Sellwood as our third Children's Ministry staff person! We can call her "Selly" or we can call her Jojo S. to differentiate. Selly comes to us via UMD, and many of you will recognize her as she has been volunteering and coming to church since the beginning of the fall. Her major is social work, with a public health minor. She is a group fitness instructor and loves to do yoga and puzzles! When asked about her faith she writes, "My faith is so important to me and is a big part of who I am. I feel so connected to God and find ways to serve Him each day. I can feel the work God is doing in me, and I cannot wait to help kids understand how much God loves them unconditionally!" Welcome Selly!

For January we will get back to our fabulous Sunday School curriculum, "Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels." We're looking forward to getting schedules back to somewhat normal—I bet that is true for you too! Be sure to look for the Children's Ministry half sheet in the bulletin announcements each week. It is easy to hang on your refrigerator as a reminder of what is going on in Family Ministry the week in Family Ministry!

### All-Church Camp Winter Retreat

On March 1-2 the whole church is invited to join us for a winter retreat. We will have activities for children with staff, so parents can get some down time. There will be activities together as well: Winter Olympics, anyone? Worship around the fire! Time to journal, read, play board games! Sleeping will be camp-style, on bunk beds. There will be wonderful home-cooked meals, a warm and cozy fire in the lodge, and sauna! There are snow shoes available to use and you are welcome to bring cross country skis—we'll be walking along the frozen river to Lake Superior (if safe to do so). \$42 per person. We need 18 paying people to make it a go! RSVP by February 14. Connect with Jojo Coffin-Langdon (218-251-4388) or sign up in the Narthex.

### College Ministry

No college lunch in January... stay tuned for a February 3 brunch! Living in gratitude & JOY!

~Jojo Coffin-Langdon, Director of Children's and Family Ministries



## Church Conference

The Church Conference will be held on Sunday, February 17 at 11:30am (after worship) for the purpose of:

- approving our membership report
- electing leadership
- receiving information about the 2018 and 2019 budget results
- receiving information about capital campaign status
- and receiving an update on the upcoming General Conference and how we as a congregation will respond.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Capital Campaign Update

We are close to presenting a final fundraising report for the 2015-18 Capital Campaign. The last anticipated funds will come from a portion of the proceeds of the sale of Lester Park UMC. If you have a balance left on your Capital Campaign pledge, please let Anne Gustafson know your intentions so we can proceed on completing the remaining projects. We have a contract for the parking lot resurfacing this coming spring. We are reviewing estimates for restroom updates and will need to set some priorities. A final detailed report will be compiled after the sale of Lester Park UMC is completed.

~Anita Zager and Mike Donahue, co-chairs

standards for clergy, bishops, and annual conferences. United Methodist clergy would not be allowed to preside at same-sex weddings, and same-sex weddings could not occur on United Methodist properties. Self-avowed, practicing homosexuals would not be eligible for ordination. Churches, clergy, and annual conferences that could not accept these conditions would be forced to leave.

***The Council of Bishops strongly recommends adoption of the One Church Plan to the Special Session of General Conference,*** although all three plans will be discussed. The One Church Plan allows individual churches to be Reconciling Congregations in loving Christian ministry with all people without prejudice, truly showing "open hearts, open minds and open doors."

Another possible outcome of General Conference is that no decision is made, which would mean we retain the current prohibitive status, but annual conferences and bishops could continue to allow inclusion to happen without any mandatory consequences.

We are offering several opportunities for you to learn more, have discussion, and give input. I encourage you to attend one or more of these sessions:

- (1) **Wednesday, January 23**, 10am-noon (led by Pastors Jeanine & MaryAnne)
- (2) **Tuesday, January 29**, 6:30-8:30pm (led by Pastors Jeanine & MaryAnne)
- (3) **Sunday, February 17**, 11:30am (led by pastors and church leaders) - this will be part of our annual meeting
- (4) **Sunday, February 24**, the 9am Adult Forum (led by Pastor Jeanine)
- (5) **Sunday, March 10**, the 9am Adult Forum (led by pastors and church leaders) - this forum will take place after the General Conference decision has been made

Please do not be alarmed by what is happening in the United Methodist Church. We know who we are at the Coppertop, and we will be ready as a congregation to respond, no matter the outcome, as we continue our commitment to inclusion.

On the journey with you, ~Pastor Jeanine





## Estimate of Giving/Pledges Update

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their estimate of giving for 2019 so we can plan financially for our ministry and mission! If you haven't done so yet, please put your card in the offering plate or bring/send to the church office. Additional cards are available at church. We started the year knowing that about \$38,000 that was pledged in 2018 would not be given in 2019 due to deaths, retirements, moves, loss of jobs, divorce, etc. This is somewhat common. We knew we would need increases in pledge estimates, and new pledges, to make this up. So far, the news is outstanding! Of the pledge cards already received, 33% increased their giving estimate from the year before, 17% are brand new pledges/estimates of giving, 42% are the same pledge estimates as last year, and only 8% decreased their pledges/estimate of giving. Wow! This is amazing and reason for rejoicing. We are still waiting for about 20 estimates of giving to come in. As that happens, we will be in solid financial shape for 2019. For more information about our financial status, please plan to come to our annual church conference meeting on Sunday, February 17 at 11:30am. Thank you!



## Winter Faith Forum Programs: *Hymns That Touch the Heart*

This winter's Faith Forum programs feature presenters who have selected a special hymn. They will then use creative ways to tell that hymn's story and how it has touched their hearts.

<b>Jan. 6</b>	Hymn: "For All the Saints"	Pat Miller
<b>Jan. 13</b>	Hymn: "Amazing Grace"	Liz Taylor
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings"	Steve Farrell
<b>Jan. 27</b>	Hymn: "The Old Rugged Cross" & "Be Not Afraid"	Mike Goodlet
<b>Feb. 3</b>	Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story"	Ron Yardley
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Hymn: "Lift Up Your Voice and Sing"	Lee Ball
<b>Feb. 17</b>	Hymn: "This Is My Song"	Tim Robinson
<b>Feb. 24</b>	The United Methodist World: What's Happening?	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
<b>Mar. 3</b>	Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"	Kevin Peterson
<b>Mar. 10</b>	The United Methodist World: What Happened?	Pastor Jeanine Alexander

## Lennon-Berini Scholarships

At the worship service on December 30, the Scholarship's Selection Committee presented three \$1,000 scholarships to members of our congregation. The recipients are:

**Charlie Johnson**, a second-year law student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law with emphasis in conflict resolution theory and practice.

**Alex Trewatha**, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Superior studying art therapy. Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy involving the encouragement of free self-expression through painting, drawing, or modeling.

**Kelby Werner**, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota studying psychology with an interest in becoming a pastor.

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

Terry Wallin, President/Trustee of the fund, encourages church members and others to consider contributions to the Lennon-Berini Scholarship Fund so as to ensure the continued annual presentations to future worthy candidates.

## Greeters Needed

Welcome Greeters for our Sunday and other services are always needed for our three entrances—Main Doors, East Parking Lot entrance, and West Parking Lot entrance. To sign up for this important ministry or to have questions answered, contact Marlys Wolden at 728-3024.

## Thank-You Card to Strikepoint

Hello, Bill and Strikepoint!  
Just wanted to send my thanks and gratitude for you all for sharing your musical gifts. I pulled out my favorite Strikepoint CD for the holidays and realized how happy I feel when I listen to it. I wish you all a joyful holiday season full of music and love.

Thanks, again!

~Laurie Horne,  
BVUMC, Milwaukee, WI

## Did You Know?

Each week, sermons from our services are recorded, reformatted, and uploaded to the church website, and are available to anyone. Audio sermons are archived back several years, and transcripts from previous sermons date back to May 2007.

We have also archived First Family newsletters going back as far as July 2013.

We hope you will find this resource useful and convenient.

Audio sermons can be found on our church website at [fumcduluth.com/coppertop-sermons/](http://fumcduluth.com/coppertop-sermons/) and First Family can be found on the website at [fumcduluth.com/newsletters/](http://fumcduluth.com/newsletters/)

## From Our Faith Community Nurse

Everyone wants clean air to breathe, right? But according to the American Lung Association, more than four in ten Americans still live where pollution levels are dangerous, and climate change threatens to make the situation worse. Instead of cleaning up the air our families breathe, some in Washington, D.C., want to ignore science and roll back fundamental public health protections.

Leading public health, patient advocacy, nursing, and medical organizations continue their longstanding commitment to addressing climate change as a public health issue. The statement below articulates their consensus on the health impacts of climate change and the need for action to protect the public's health.

"The health impacts of climate change demand immediate action."

The science is clear; communities across the nation are experiencing the health impacts of climate change, including: elevated ozone and particulate air pollution linked to asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease, and premature death; extreme weather patterns, such as heat and severe storms that cause droughts, wildfires, and flooding, destabilizing communities, especially those least equipped to defend themselves; and increased vector-borne diseases from expanding seasons and geographic ranges for ticks, mosquitoes, and other disease-carrying insects to roam.

The most vulnerable—children, seniors, low-income communities, some communities of color, and those with chronic disease—disproportionately bear the health impacts of climate change.

Take for example the fires in California, which saw evacuations due to smoke and particulate matter, schools closed due to the pollution, and increased hospitalizations due to smoke inhalation and burns.

Action is needed to address climate change by cleaning up major sources of carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, including power plants, cars, trucks, and other mobile sources. Increasing coal production for power is not the way to go.

Communities must have the tools and resources to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in their communities.

Know some of the warning signs that your lungs may be compromised. If you have had a chronic cough for a month or more, check with your provider. Shortness of breath that doesn't go away after exercising, wheezing, coughing up blood, or unexplained chest pain that has gotten worse if you breathe in or cough are also causes for concern.

If you are concerned about the air you breathe, contact the EPA, and/or write your state and national representatives and senators. Get educated and read the info at the American Lung Association and other health organizations.

Peace, ~Linda Wiig



## Wednesday Night Meal Schedule

The January/February Host schedule for the Wednesday Night meals is below. Any church group or group of individuals is welcome to prepare and host a meal; just sign up in the church office or contact Marlys Wolden (728-3024) or Mike Donahue (879-3456, [mpcmdonahue@msn.com](mailto:mpcmdonahue@msn.com)).

January 23 and February 13 are in need of a host group, and there are many other open dates for 2019. Meal Coordinators John Edwards and Rhonda Montavon are there to assist any group in the meal preparation.

January 2: No meal, Winter Break  
 January 9: Hospitality Committee  
 January 16: Finance Committee  
 January 23: **Open, Need a Host**  
 January 30: FUMC Garden Club

February 6: FUMC Foundation  
 February 13: **Open, Need a Host**  
 February 20: No Meal, Duluth Schools Spring Break  
 February 27: Sanctuary Choir & Music Groups

## Duluth Area United Methodist Women Meeting Info

### **Prayer and Self Denial**

**Hillside UMC on January 30**

Registration starts at 12:30pm with coffee and dessert. Fee is \$8.00.

Program at 1:30pm with Mimi Stender from Dementia Friendly Duluth as the speaker. A special offering will be taken.

Reservations by Thursday, Jan. 24.



**Who:** Youth from area United Methodist Churches

**What:** Local mission event

**When:** Saturday, January 12

**Time:** 9am-1pm

**Meet at:** First United Methodist Church, "The Coppertop"

**Mission Sites:**

- CHUM
- Damiano Soup Kitchen
- Harbor House Crisis Shelter

**Questions?**

**Contact:** Rev. Cynthia Coffin-Langdon, 218-260-3114 [tevyjr@aol.com](mailto:tevyjr@aol.com)

## 2019 TWIN PORTS' MLK TRIBUTE EVENTS

**20 JAN**

**INTER-FAITH SERVICE**

4PM | PEACE CHURCH, 1111 N 11TH AVE E.

**21 JAN**

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

7AM | COPPERTOP CHURCH, 238 E. SKYLINE PARKWAY

**MARCH**

10AM | WASHINGTON CENTER, 310 N 1ST AVE W

**RALLY**

12PM | DECC, 350 HARBOR DR



DULUTH AREA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

# THE CURRENT CRISIS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MLK

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:
























## 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.

### Volume 53, Number 1

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  
10:15am Sunday School - TBC, Classrooms  
11:30am Strikepoint - BR  
3:30pm T'ai Chi - Rm 104  
7:00pm Eating Disorders Anonymous - Lib

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

5:00pm T'ai Chi - Rm 104  
6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - Lib  
6:00pm Mama Yoga - TBC

### Wednesdays

4:15pm Child Care - Lower Nursery  
5:00pm JAM & PB band - TBC  
5:15pm Supper - Kitchen and LSH  
5:30pm JAM Jr. - TBC  
5:30pm Ringtones - Bell Room  
5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL  
6:00pm Bible Study - Rm 104  
6:30pm Confirmation and Youth Group - FSL  
6:30pm Tweens - Rm 112  
6:45pm Cast in Bronze - Bell Room  
7:30pm Tapestry - Sanctuary  
7:45pm Class Ring - Bell Room

**Calendar may change—check [www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com) for updates.**

### Thursdays

9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL  
6:00pm T'ai Chi - 104

### Fridays

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

### Saturdays

9:00am T'ai Chi - Rm 104

## One Time & Day by Day

### Tuesday, January 1

Happy New Year - Church Closed

### Wednesday, January 2

9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib  
No Wednesday Night Activities

### Thursday, January 3

5:15pm Trustees - FSL

### Sunday, January 6

11:30am Leadership Group - Lib

### Tuesday, January 8

10:00am Writers Group - Lib  
2:00pm Loud Laughing Ladies - FSL

### Wednesday, January 9

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

### Thursday, January 10

1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL  
6:30pm Amateur Radio Operators - LSH

### Saturday, January 12

9:00am Community Healing Circle - TBC

### Sunday, January 13

3:00pm Donahue Recital - S

### Monday, January 14

7:00pm Pricilla Circle - FSL

### Wednesday, January 16

9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

### Thursday, January 17

4:00pm Ruby's Pantry  
6:00pm Blue Star Mothers - FSL

### Saturday, January 19

TBD Don Whitby Funeral

### Sunday, January 20

11:30am New Members - FSL

### Monday, January 21

7:00am MLK Community Breakfast - LSH  
5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Steering Committee Meeting - FSL

### Tuesday, January 22

2:00pm Loud Laughing Ladies - FSL  
6:00pm Quilters Guild - LSH

### Wednesday, January 23

10:00am Way Forward Conversation - EL

### Thursday, January 24

5:30pm Finance - Lib

### Saturday, January 26

9:00am Citizens in Action - LSH

### Monday, January 28

6:30pm Duluth Monarch Buddies - Lib

### Tuesday, January 29

6:30pm Way Forward Conversations - EL