



# 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.*

**February 2020**

## Embrace Winter?

### *It's What We Do!*



**First United  
Methodist Church**

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



## On the Journey With You

### Update—What Is Happening in the UMC

There has been quite a bit of excitement, confusion, and questions across the country because of reporting by *Christianity Today*, CNN, *New York Times*, among many others, with headlines like:

“Methodists Agree to Split Denomination” (*Christianity Today*),

“United Methodist Church Proposes Historic Split Over Gay Marriage and LGBT Clergy” (CNN), and “United Methodist Church Announces Plan to Split Over Same-Sex Marriage” (*New York Times*).

The truth is that the United Methodist Church has actually NOT agreed to the split. None of those who met and signed this agreement were authorized to make such a decision on their own. The way the UMC works is that any possible separation of the UMC cannot be made until May 2020 when the next General Conference of the UMC convenes to consider various petitions. That body alone has the power to officially represent the denomination and determine our path forward.

What the articles were referring to was actually an unofficial agreement on the terms of a proposed denominational separation signed by 16 leaders in the UMC who are seen as representative of the various “conservative,” “centrist,” and “progressive” wings of the church. The agreement is known as the “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.” I think this got such attention because it is newsworthy whenever clergy and laity across such a wide theological divide find agreement, especially with a statement as detailed as this one.

In order for the Protocol to reach General Conference 2020, the mediation team must now develop legislation that implements the

—continued on page 3

## Our First Family

### Dear Coppertop Friends,

All four of us are so grateful for your love, support, and prayers during Charley’s and Barbara’s recent hospitalizations. When a health crisis arises, our faith is a great comfort. When there are two health crises so close together, we realize that the love and support from God and friends like you can keep our own spirits encouraged. Thank you for your prayers, your cards, and your emails. You show the love of Christ every day with the love you share.

~Dick and Barbara Carlson

~Charley and MaryAnne Korsch

### Thank You

I want to extend a huge thank you to all of those in the congregation who have reached out and supported me during my surgery recovery. A special thank you to Pastor Jeanine and Rev. MaryAnne for visiting me, Linda Wiig and Health Ministry for the recovery supplies, Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful prayer shawl, and all who shared cookies and treats. I feel so grateful and blessed to be a part of this church family!

~Charlie Albin

### Gifts to Light the Church

A gift to light the church during the week of December 29 was made by Nancy and Jim Westman, in honor of Pastor Jeanine Alexander.

—continued on next page

## First Family

### First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811  
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Pastor: Jeanine Alexander

Editor: Bill Alexander

Next First Family Deadline: **February 19**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



[fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)

—Our First Family, from page 2

A gift to light the church during the week of January 12 was made by Carol and Dennis Healy, in honor of all the wonderful volunteers at FUMC.

Gary Groves and Jean Seinola donated \$40 toward lighting the church for the week of January 19 in honor of their church family. This donation is to be shared with the FUMC music department to buy choir music.

### **Congratulations!**

to Janet and Ron Yardley, who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. After-worship treats on December 29 were provided by Janet and Ron.

**Thank You All** for the prayers, positive thoughts, cards, phone calls, and hugs as I have traveled this road of a cancer diagnosis. Treatment ended a couple of weeks ago and I am beginning to feel better. The doctors are most positive for a cure, and I will know more after the next PET scan in February or March. I am blessed and surrounded by love from my church family. You've all made a great difference in my life.

~Kate Campbell

## **Super Bowl Bake Sale**

February 2 is a special day for two reasons: 1) the Super Bowl game will be played, and 2) we'll have a special bake sale at church so you can have munchies to eat during the game. Bring your best munchies. Please package them to sell and then plan to buy some yourself! Profits will go to the youth mission trip and the Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Fund.

—On the Journey With You, from page 2

Protocol. One or more annual conferences must then submit this legislation without modification to the General Conference for consideration.

This legislation looks promising and hopeful to me. During this uncomfortable period of waiting for General Conference to act (May 5-15, 2020), we must work together to ensure that we transition into the future in good faith and with every intention to do no harm.

Some of you have asked for more information on what is happening. I have provided some links below for you. I hope you find them helpful. Please feel free to talk to me, Rev. MaryAnne, or any of our leaders if you have further questions. We will talk further about all of this at our all church meeting following worship on Sunday, February 23.

- A link to a video with Bishop Ough's reflection on the new proposal that will go to General Conference: [vimeo.com/383313166](https://vimeo.com/383313166)
- A link to an article about the separation plan: [minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/diverse-group-offers-separation-plan-13138236](https://minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/diverse-group-offers-separation-plan-13138236)
- A link to comments by Bishop Sally Dyck: [umcnic.org/news/bishop-dyck-statement-on-proposed-separation](https://umcnic.org/news/bishop-dyck-statement-on-proposed-separation)
- A link to comments by Bishop David Bard: [michiganumc.org/bishop-releases-statement-on-separation-plan](https://michiganumc.org/bishop-releases-statement-on-separation-plan)
- An article titled "Some thoughts for pastors who need to explain why the UMC didn't just split up:" [pnwumc.org/news/some-thoughts-for-local-church-pastors-needing-to-explain-why-the-united-methodist-church-didnt-just-split-up](https://pnwumc.org/news/some-thoughts-for-local-church-pastors-needing-to-explain-why-the-united-methodist-church-didnt-just-split-up)

On the journey with you,  
~Pastor Jeanine

## **Bring Food for Food Shelf on Communion Sundays**

Starting in 2020, on every communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month), we are asking you to bring a donation of food (or monetary donation) for the CHUM Food Shelf. That way when we come to the communion table to be fed spiritually, we are also feeding others who are physically hungry. The food shelf cart will be available for donations. If you make a financial donation please note "Food Shelf" in the check memo or envelope and make checks out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.



# All Church Conference

On Sunday, February 23, immediately following worship, we will have our annual church conference meeting for the following purposes:

- Deal with membership rolls
- Receive a financial update
- Approve candidates for ordained ministry
- Elect leadership
- Update on the current situation in the UMC

The meeting will take about an hour. It's of interest to members and friends of the congregation. Everyone has a voice, and members have a voice and a vote. Childcare will be available.

## Save the Date!

A Church Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2. Drop-off begins Sunday, April 26 after church. To volunteer, email Anita Zager at [anitazager@gmail.com](mailto:anitazager@gmail.com).

# Mission and Social Justice

## Refugee Resettlement

Every state and county in the country is required to provide consent for refugee resettlement by June 1, 2020—the result of an executive order President Donald Trump issued in September 2019. After June 1, 2020, refugees will not be placed in states and counties that have not provided written consent. Not filing a consent letter will register with the federal government as a denial of refugee resettlement.

On January 7, the St. Louis County Board listened to residents' opinions on the subject for more than three hours, then voted to postpone the decision until their May meeting.

Issues to consider include:

- A refugee is an individual who has been forced to flee their country and seek safety beyond their borders. They have fled violence, persecution, war, and/or natural disaster. In the United States, refugees are hand-selected by the U.S. government and screened in advance. They are subject to background checks and security screenings by multiple U.S. agencies. Only after everything is approved are they brought to the U.S. to reside permanently.
- The stories of refugees are wrenching and heartbreaking—no one wants to leave their country, friends, family, food. But for refugees, it is their best chance for survival. So, when they come, their motivation to succeed is very high. They want to resettle, get jobs, and go to school, so they can be as independent as possible.
- Globally, more people are now displaced than at any time since World War II—70 million people have been forced to flee their countries.

- 
- From 2011 to 2018, only one refugee was resettled in St. Louis County. Most refugees who come to Minnesota reside near the Twin Cities, where they are required to live within 50 miles of the refugee resettlement agencies located there. These religious-based agencies help refugees get started with an emphasis on self-sufficiency.
  - Because St. Louis County does not have a refugee resettlement agency, only people with family members living here can be placed in the county.
  - Minnesota Governor Tim Walz stated last December, "The inn is not full in Minnesota."
  - Refugees bring new ways, new foods to the fabric of our communities.
  - What does our faith tradition say about hospitality to the refugee? How did Jesus treat people who were different from him? Is it right to cast refugees as criminals and outsiders?
  - Are we a welcoming and open community?

Contact your County Commissioners ([stlouiscountymn.gov/our-county/board-of-commissioners/members](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/our-county/board-of-commissioners/members)). Tell them we want to be a welcoming community—a community like the one our own great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents came to from foreign countries—**a community like Jesus lived in.**



## Ash Wednesday,

## February 26

**5:15–6:30pm**–Soup Supper

**5:15pm**, Children/Family

worship: *Dirty Hands and*

*Foreheads*, Three Brothers Chapel

**7:00pm**–Worship in the

Sanctuary

## Ardath Gibson

### Scholarship

If you are a university student studying physical science, nursing, or business, or a high school student planning to do so during the next academic (2020-21) year, we invite you to apply for the Ardath Gibson Scholarship. This Scholarship is open to members of FUMC and their family members studying in the above fields.

Ardath Gibson (1915-2012) was a long-time member of FUMC. A trail-blazer in many ways, including being a graduate of the Minneapolis Business College, Ardath believed in the importance of education. Her interest in business and the sciences led her to endow a scholarship for students in these areas.

If you would like a Scholarship application form, please contact Geoff Bell at [ggbell@d.umn.edu](mailto:ggbell@d.umn.edu). He would be happy to email you one. We will accept applications between February 15 and March 15. You may either submit them to the church office or email them to Geoff at the above address. If you have questions, contact Geoff, via email or at 218-724-5492.

~*The Ardath Gibson Scholarship Committee: Allen Anway, Geoff Bell, Carrie Moe, Becky Peterson*

## Christmas Giving

Our congregational giving over Christmas was amazing, beautiful, and generous, and will make a real difference in our community and beyond. Thank you for your love and care!

**Advent/Christmas Baskets** (with requested items for CHUM Shelter and Food Shelf)

- 120 baskets (if each averaged \$50 that would be \$6,000) of items needed by the Food Shelf and shelter
- Donations of \$425 (representing up to nine more baskets of supplies)
- **The total food donated** was 1,516 pounds—about enough to supply the Food Shelf for two weeks

**Philippines Capstone** (purchasing medical equipment such as thermometers and blood pressure machines, for the St. Scholastica Mission Trip that Gina Diaz is leading)

- \$500 plus supplies

**Hats and Mittens** (for CHUM to hand out to those in need)

- We didn't take an actual count, but the tree was so full that we had to get plastic bins to place donations in, twice!

**Christmas Financial Offering:**

- \$4,139 end-of-year special giving toward the mission and ministry of our congregation

**Additionally**—several church groups "adopted" families, providing Christmas gifts and needed items (including tires). Gift cards were given to the pastor to distribute to those in need... and surely there was other such giving by groups and individuals in our congregation.

***Way to be the Church! Thank you!***

## Music Notes

### ***There Is Joy to Be Shared Through Music!*** **Riley Hinnenkamp is our first Choral Scholar**

Congratulations to Riley Hinnenkamp, FUMC's first Choral Scholar! As part of being a Choral Scholar, Riley will attend the Sanctuary Choir's weekly rehearsals and sing with them at our worship services. Under Mike Goodlet's mentorship, Riley will also have opportunities to lead sectional rehearsals, conduct selected anthems, and lead vocal warm-ups. Riley is a member of FUMC and is involved with many musical activities here. He attends Lake Superior College and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Superior next year as a music major with an emphasis on choral conducting. Riley will be receiving an honorarium funded by the Carol Donahue Scholarship Fund.

~ *Velda Graham Bell*, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

# Winter Organ Recital

Dr. Charles Sundquist, former



recipient of the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Scholarship, will present a recital on February 16,

3:30pm, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2310 East Fourth Street, Duluth. Dr. Sundquist will be presenting a concert of French organ music on the Jaeckel organ, which was patterned after a Cavaillé-Coll organ at Caen, France. He received his masters and doctoral degrees from the Eastman School of Music and studied with Marie-Claire Alain in France, where he became well-versed in the French tradition of organ music.

Because Dr. Sundquist had been an Arrowhead Chapter Organ Student Scholarship recipient, he is presenting this concert as a benefit for the current organ scholarship program. A free-will offering will be received, and all proceeds will go directly to the Arrowhead Chapter Student Organ Scholarship Fund. Our very successful scholarship program has become a model for others all over the nation. This year we have ten scholarship students studying the organ: Ben Hintzman, Sarah Greicar, Emelyn and Grace Beaster, Kylin Hahn, Luke Sailstad, Lilian Kimber, Anna Carlson, Davis Smith, and Agnes Barthel.

A reception will follow where you can meet Dr Sundquist and the ten scholarship students.

~Carol Donahue, Chair Scholarship/  
Education Committee Arrowhead  
Chapter, AGO  
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## From Our Faith Community Nurse

God calls us to care for our own health as well as our communities. January is a good month to set goals to improve our health.

Resolutions require us to change in some manner. Are you ready to do this? How have you dealt with change in your life? Some of us embrace change, but some of us resist as much as possible. Remember, to make something a habit takes time. Be patient with yourself. Another way to elicit help is to ask a friend. Encouragement goes a long way to help us meet a goal, and the offer of support is wonderful. Right now, there is a group from church participating in a city-wide challenge to lose the most weight, and I know they will be very encouraging to one another. Maintaining your healthy weight goes a long way toward helping keep your heart in good shape and your mind sharp.

We all know that February is Heart Month, so let's make a resolution that we will keep ours strong. Exercise and the right kinds of foods in the right portions are very beneficial. An exercise class may not be for you, but a walking group or a team sport may fit the bill. One hundred fifty minutes of exercise a week is a good amount. When it comes to diet, two to three servings of fruits and vegetables daily are a must. Many people have had success with the Wahls diet, which helps to reduce inflammation in the body.

Don't forget to give yourself a pat on the back when you meet one of your goals! Celebrate with friends and thank God for the help in making good choices to maintain a healthy heart.

If you haven't done so, get your flu shot. Seniors, get your shingles vaccine.

~Blessings, *Linda Wiig*



# Volunteer for General Conference

The United Methodist General Conference will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center from May 5-15, hosted by the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences. The goal is to extend radical hospitality to guests, so that they feel welcome and safe and can focus their full attention on participating in the Conference and discerning God's vision and direction for our denomination.

Volunteers of all ages, interests, and abilities are needed. Most volunteers will choose three-hour shifts during the ten days of General Conference.

Opportunities include greeters at the airport, hotels, and Convention Center; drivers to bring delegates from the airport to the downtown Minneapolis hotels; prayer room hosts; translators; skyway guides; and technology specialists. For information and sign-up, go to: [gc2020welcome.org/volunteers](http://gc2020welcome.org/volunteers)

## February Worship

**Sunday, February 2**

*Faith Mentors: ISAIAH*

Scripture: Isaiah 12:1-6

**Sunday, February 9**

*Faith Mentors: MOSES—Stepping Out in Faith*

Scripture: Exodus 3:10-14

**Sunday, February 16**

*Faith Mentors: The Servant Girl—Simple Acts of Healing*

Scripture: II Kings 5:1-14

**Sunday, February 23**

*Faith Mentors: JOSEPH—Building Character*

Scripture: Genesis 37:12-20

# Faith Forum: Living the Questions

This winter and spring, the Sunday morning Faith Forum is looking at "Living the Questions: A Progressive Look at Faith and Life." Each session begins with a 20-minute video segment that includes conversations with leading voices of faith, stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and spiritual practices and disciplines. Group discussion will follow the video. Upcoming sessions will look at Lives of Jesus; Paul: A Passion for Christ; Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians; and Restoring Relationships. Faith Forum begins at 9:00 on Sunday mornings in the Fireside Lounge. You don't need to register or to commit to coming every week; please join us whenever you can!

# 5 – Lives of Jesus	February 2, 2020	Mark Whitlock
FORUM: How clothing affects the environment	February 9, 2020	Naomi Yeager
# 6 – A Passion for Christ: Paul	February 16, 2020	Pastor Jeanine
# 7 - Out Into The World: Challenges facing progressive Christians	February 23, 2020	Pastor Jeanine

## All-Church Winter Family Camp



All ages are welcome to join us for winter fun, from 3pm on Friday, February 28, to 3pm, Saturday, February 29. \$40 per person includes lodging, dinner on Friday, and brunch on Saturday. There are scholarships available, just ask! We will stay at the Rustic Lodge with a nice cozy central fireplace. There is an electric sauna,

snowshoes to hike with, and lots of woods to explore. We have times of singing with Cynthia and her guitar, times of devotion, and plenty of time to gather, play games, and connect. There will be structured times for children to do activities with children's ministry staff so parents have alone time as well. This is an all-ages-welcome camp!

**Registration and payment are DUE February 16.**

## Children's Ministry

We have some fun events planned! Come join us and build community in our church family.

### February

2 Communion and celebrating February birthdays

19 NO Wed. programming

26 "Dirty Hands and Foreheads" Lenten children's worship  
5:00-5:45pm

28-29 Camp Amnicon

### March

1 Communion and celebrating March birthdays

15 Snow tubing, \$15 per person for two hours. Potluck after church (taco theme)

29 Bag-It Sale. Children's Ministry will again sell reusable canvas and mesh bags decorated by our children.

### April

5 Communion and celebrating April birthdays

26 Roller skating at World of Wheels

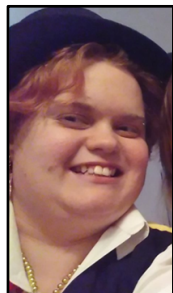




## New Members Welcomed

First United Methodist Church welcomed new members on January 12. We asked our new members to share three things they would like the

congregation to know about them.



### Mikka Kauti

Mikka enjoys doing crafts such as sewing and knitting. She's a cosplayer (cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character). Due to her line of work, she has met many voice actors and celebrities.



### Jordan Hanson

Jordan is a Certified Nursing Assistant at Benedictine Health Center and is looking to become a nurse. She has an extensive background in martial arts, theater, sports, and music. She has a degree in Visual Effects from the Savannah College of Art and Design.



### Rebecca Maki

Rebecca moved to Duluth last spring from the Iron Range. She's a mom of three grown children who have blessed her with six grandchildren. She loves to sing, sew, and read.



### Laura, Jacob, and Peter Ouren

Laura grew up in Brooklyn Center and is a UMD graduate. She loves the outdoors.

Jacob grew up in Rochester. He is a Marine Corps veteran and loves hunting, fishing, and camping.

Laura and Jacob are the proud parents of adorable

Peter. Peter is growing up in Duluth, and he really likes eating! He loves his dog, Winston.

## Mission and Social Justice

**"Never doubt that a small group... can change the world."—Margaret Mead**

Sometimes I get discouraged when I observe how slowly the world is catching on to the importance of caring for God's creation. Do you feel that way too? If you do, take heart. Last week I participated in a webinar by Minnesota Interfaith Light and Power (MNILP.org) where I learned that it only takes 3.5% of the population to create change. This statistic gave optimism to me (and hopefully to you) that our actions DO influence others. I also learned these changes can be made through non-violent movements. The leader of the webinar cited the studies of Harvard researcher Erica Chenoweth who looked at hundreds of successful campaigns over the last century. Wow, 3.5%! That's not really that big of a number!

Another issue the webinar stressed is for Minnesotans to attend the party caucuses to make sure that environmental concerns are on the radar. The Minnesota Precinct Caucuses will be held Tuesday, February 25, at 7pm. You can find your location by visiting the Minnesota Secretary of State's website, [sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us), or phoning 877-600-VOTE (8683).

"Going to a caucus is a great way to show support for a candidate, raise an issue that's important to you, influence who the party will endorse for many offices, and meet people in your community," according to the Minnesota Secretary of State website.

Go to the party caucus that most closely aligns with your beliefs, and let them know how important God's creation is to you.

Remember, as Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~Naomi Yaeger

Commissioned Earthkeeper, UMC



# Steps for Justice

Each month we would like to offer specific suggestions for actions for justice and simple ways to make a difference. Thanks to Peace Church for inspiration and great ideas to borrow.

- **Share Family Migration Stories:** Maybe the current migrant issues are too hot for some relatives at the holiday table, so why not start with our own migration stories? Where did our ancestors come from? Why did they move? What were the hardships? Who helped them? Do your children know these stories? Those very children and grandchildren who may be migrating to urban areas? What are they experiencing?
- **See the movie *Just Mercy*:** It's in theaters now. Read the book, which is Duluth's 2020 One Book Northland selection. World-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, author of the book, works to free a wrongly-condemned death-row prisoner. Stevenson will be in Duluth as the Clayton Jackson McGhie keynote speaker on June 15, 2020.
- **Donate a Bag for Bag-It:** Bring in reusable bags to share, helping to reduce the use of plastic and paper bags. Our Sustainability group has patterns if you want to sew some.
- **Refuse Plastic Whenever You Can,** such as not using plastic straws, bags, or coffee cups. Choose nonplastic materials built to last (from *How to Give up Plastic* by Will McCallum). Respectfully request that business owners provide compostable products.

## Mission Trip to Costa Rica

Karen Alseth recently completed a mission trip to Costa Rica, where she worked at Strong Missions in San Isidro de Grecia. Strong Missions is an interdenominational mission affiliated with the UMC, which provides programming for youth and families in high-risk rural and urban communities. Programs include feeding, education, arts, and sports for youth; and entrepreneurship for adults, especially women. They also do a lot of construction work: homes, churches, and other types of buildings. Karen was part of a 17-member team from the United Church of Two Harbors. She, along with two other women on the team, worked with women on sewing skills, using two suitcases full of fabric and sewing supplies from Karen's stash at home as well as contributions from friends. The women wanted to learn how to sew so they can meet personal needs and possibly start a business to help support their families. The group also worked with kids in a Vacation Bible School setting, providing craft projects for the kids to do. The trip lasted from January 17 through January 25. Thank you for including Karen and the whole group in your prayers.



## Save the Date: Paul Douglas coming to FUMC!

The FUMC Sustainability Committee is excited to announce that Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light is bringing Paul Douglas to FUMC on Saturday, April 4, 2020. While the exact time is yet to be determined, you'll want to get this event on your calendar!

Many of you may recall that Paul was the Chief Meteorologist at WCCO television in the Twin Cities from 1997-2008. What you may not know is that Paul is also a committed Christian dedicated to bringing a Christian perspective to issues of climate change. Along with co-author Mitch Hescox, he authored the book *Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment*, available at your favorite bookseller.

Plan now to hear Paul on April 4, and "stay tuned" for more details.

# Mission and Social Justice



## Lyndy's Mission Minute



These nursery school children in Sierra Leone are the recipients of scholarships from OC Ministries (Operation Classroom), allowing them to attend school. Local primary and secondary students are also receiving scholarships from OC Ministries.

## Thanks, Partner!

As 2019 comes to a close, it's time to pause and thank all of you for the ministry being done at your local churches, in the community, and beyond. John Wesley asked us to "do all the good we can," and you embody that phrase. As I travel and learn of your ministries, I encounter tremendous compassion, commitment, big hearts, and willing and committed individuals and churches doing what they can to reach out to their neighbor in love. This is what we do well. Together we are making a difference.

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS for being partners together in healing a too-often broken world. We have partnered together in many ways this year as a conference, including local church and school alignment, Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trips, Investing in Congregation grants, disaster relief, missionary support, and expansion of our efforts in Jamaica, Laos, Sierra Leone, and Vietnam. Here are some highlights:

- **Several Thousand Books** have been provided to first and second graders; mental health initiatives have begun with school psychologists; a new playground has been built; tutoring programs have

expanded; teacher appreciation banquets have been held; preschool student scholarships have been awarded; and meals and school supplies have been distributed.

- **Dozens of VIM Teams**, with hundreds of participants, have worked in partnerships with persons in the U.S. and 14 other countries. Many of them were first-timers who received a scholarship to do so.
- **Twenty-seven churches** reached out to their community by starting bilingual services, starting food shelves, hosting family events, hosting community Bible studies and confirmation programs, serving community dinners, and more.
- **Thousands of hygiene kits, cleaning buckets, and relief kits** were made and distributed by the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) and the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in the Upper Midwest and beyond. Some of them were followed up by local Disaster Response teams from Minnesota, while some also went to Puerto Rico, where we sent five work teams in response to Hurricane Maria.



UMCOR flood buckets fill the Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana.

- **Gordon and Ardell Graner, Paul Webster, and Daniel Yang** were able to speak at dozens of Minnesota United Methodist congregations about bringing clean water and solar ovens to persons in the Dominican Republic, agriculture in Zambia, and church planting in Laos, respectively. Twelve other missionaries also received salary support.
- **Seven new churches** were planted in the southern provinces of Laos. Summer English Programs were taught in Luang Prabang province and the capital city of Vientiane. Students from Hamline University traveled there to visit with their Laotian counterparts in January.





In Laos, a house church prays together.

- **Five thousand pairs of glasses** were distributed, and two school classrooms were constructed in Jamaica. In addition, 20 acres of avocados were planted in an effort to help the Jamaica Methodist Church become self-supporting.
- **A new maternal clinic and new Secondary School** were built and developed in Sierra Leone. Two hundred students, who otherwise would not be able to afford it, received a scholarship to attend school. A farm, piggery, bakery, sewing co-op, and adult literacy program have all been started.



Children eating food from Feed My Starving Children at school in Sierra Leone.

- **Four hundred fifty Vietnamese children** were able to attend Vacation Bible School this summer. Daily devotionals, written in the local language, were distributed to members of 32 churches in five districts of the country. Contextual Theology, Church Leadership, and Lay Servant courses were taught in Saigon. And several hundred Bibles and backpacks were distributed to students in August.
- **The Giving Rack in St. Paul**, the Clothing Closet in north Minneapolis, Emma Norton Services, Numas Haus in New Ulm, Mobile Ministry, S.T.O.R.M. Camp, Urban C.R.O.S.S, the Dignity Center in Minneapolis, Holy Grounds in Mankato, Matthew 25 Food Distribution in Isanti, Simpson Shelter, the Center for Victims of Torture, and the Volunteer Lawyers

Network all thrived.

This all happened because of **you**. Thanks for **being there!**

When a teacher needed a pat on the back, you were there. When a school needed to be built in Guatemala, you were there. When an immigrant family needed help, you were there. When a homeless person needed shelter, you were there. When a hurricane tore apart someone's home, you were there. When evangelists sought to spread the Gospel in Laos, you were here.

You helped the blind to see. You fed the hungry. You healed the sick. You put clothes on someone's back. You comforted the tortured.

I know you will be there in the future. Let's continue to work together. God is not finished with us yet!

In Ministry Together,

~Lyndy Zabel

Director of Community Development  
Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

*Used with permission of Lyndy Zabel*

## Basket donations for CHUM



Sorting through all the items from FUMC's Advent/Christmas Basket donations for the CHUM Food Shelf and shelter. Over 1,500 pounds of food and hundreds of other items were collected in the 120 baskets.





## First United Methodist Church

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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 Faith Forum - FSL  
9:00am Nursery - Rm 106  
10:00am Worship - S  
10:15am Sunday School - Rms 105 & 112  
11:30am Strikepoint - BR  
3:30pm T'ai Chi - Rm 104

#### Mondays

Noon Gamblers Anonymous - Lib  
3:30pm Spirit Yoga - TBC  
5:00pm Downbeats - EL  
5:30pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC  
6:30pm Sinfonia - LSH  
8:00pm Eating Disorders Anonymous - Lib

#### Tuesdays

5:00pm T'ai Chi - Rm 105  
6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - Lib  
6:30pm Mama Yoga - TBC

#### Wednesday Evening Activities

4:15pm Child Care - Rm 106  
5:00pm JAM - TBC  
5:15pm Dinner - LSH  
5:30pm JAM Jr. - TBC  
5:30pm Bible Explorers - Rm 105  
5:30pm Ringtones - BR  
5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL  
6:30pm Tweens - Rm 112  
6:30pm Confirmation - FSL  
6:30pm Tapestry - S  
6:45pm Cast in Bronze - BR  
7:45pm Class Ring - BR

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

#### Thursdays

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

#### Sunday, February 2

11:15am Super Bowl Bake Sale - Narthex

#### Tuesday, February 4

10:00am Writers Group - Lib

#### Thursday, February 6

5:15pm Trustees - FSL  
6:00pm Blue Star Mothers - EL

#### Saturday, February 8

9:00am Reiki Community Healing Circle - TBC

#### Sunday, February 9

11:30am Sustainability - Lib

#### Monday, February 10

6:30pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

#### Tuesday, February 11

10:00am Writers Group - Lib  
2:00pm Loud Laughing Ladies - FSL  
7:15pm Worship Committee - FSL

#### Wednesday, February 12

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

#### Thursday, February 13

10:00am Christ in Crisis Book Study - FSL  
6:00pm Christ in Crisis Book Study - FSL  
6:30pm Amateur Radio Operators - LSH

#### Monday, February 17

*Presidents' Day*  
10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL  
5:30pm Finance Meeting - Lib

#### Tuesday, February 18

7:00pm Council - EL

#### Wednesday, February 19

9:00am Scrabble - Lib  
9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL  
*No Wednesday Night Activities*

#### Thursday, February 20

4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - Upper and Lower Level

#### Sunday, February 23

After worship Church Conference Meeting - S

#### Monday, February 24

5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Steering Committee - FSL  
6:30pm Duluth Monarch Buddies - Lib  
8:00pm Eating Disorders Anonymous - FSL

#### Tuesday, February 25

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

#### Wednesday, February 26

*Ash Wednesday*  
5:00pm Dirty Hands & Foreheads - TBC  
5:15pm Soup Supper - LSH  
7:00pm Worship - S

#### Friday & Saturday, February 28 - 29

3:00pm All-church Winter Family Camp - Camp Amnicon

S	Sanctuary
CW	Club Wesley
BR	Bell Room
Lib	Library
TBC	Three Brothers Chapel
EL	East Lounge
LSH	Lakeview Social Hall
FSL	Fireside Lounge