



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.

October 2021

*October...
a time for reflection*

**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Photo by Ricardo Gomez-Angel
Swiss architect, marketing specialist, and photographer



Our First Family

A gift to light the church for the week of September 12 was made by Nancy Eaton, Annette Nygard, and Ruth Brickell in honor of Roger Downs' 75th birthday, which would have been September 10. The gift will also support Strikepoint.

A gift to light the church the week of October 10 was given in memory of Cindy Alexander by her husband, Bill, commemorating her birthday on the 13th. Half of the gift will go to her beloved Strikepoint.

Dr. Dorothy Anway Memorial Scholarship for 2020-2021

Agnese Apsite, a senior at UW-Superior majoring in both mathematics and biochemistry, received a \$1,300 memorial scholarship from the Duluth Branch of the American Association of University Women and family and friends of the Anway family. The scholarship was presented by Dr. Allen Anway to Agnese September 1, 2021.



On the Journey With You

In September we talked about God's kind of love, reflecting on John 13:34-35:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you love one another."

A few thoughts on God's kind of love:

- Love puts the relationship above the rules. Rules are important, but relationships are more important. Sometimes that means letting go of the way we think things should be done, or how we think people should behave, so we can attend to the relationship.
- Sometimes we have to ask ourselves, "Do I want to be right, or do I want to be in right relationship with someone?"
- Love doesn't always mean treating everyone equally, but instead offering people what they need. Sometimes that doesn't seem fair, but it is just and right.
- Love isn't only about what we do: it is also about how we make people feel. As Maya Angelo said,

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
- Sometimes the best way we can show others love is by taking care of ourselves—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It's hard to give others what we ourselves don't have. One time Jesus was in the midst of immense human need and he went off, away from everyone's needs, all by himself, to pray and rest and rejuvenate his spirit. God doesn't call us to be in a frenzy and make ourselves sick in our quest to love others. We love others best when we first tend to our body, mind, and soul.
- Finally, love makes grace space for others. And right now almost all of us need grace space, don't we? We are 19 months into a world pandemic... dealing with racial tensions and injustice... violence in Afghanistan and around the world... injustice toward women here and around the world... immigration concerns and needs...

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: **October 20**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and the like... global warming and other environmental concerns... How easy it is to be worn down.

I was talking with a church member about how we are in a time of "resilience fatigue." We have been asked for so many months to be resilient, to be positive and hopeful—and doing that can itself wear thin after so long. Especially now, don't we need to have grace for ourselves and each other... offering a positive, kind, loving, gracious word whenever possible... finding ways to offer affirmation and encouragement?

Jesus has called you and me to continue his ministry of love. Only when people see our love do they really begin to see God. SO... Let's practice loving people... let's not worry about whether we agree with them, understand them, or like them... let's not worry about being loved in return... let's not worry about whether or not we are being treated fairly... let's just keep Christ's love growing through our love.

On the journey of love with you,
~Pastor Jeanine

Roadside Cleanup

First United Methodist Church sponsors one of the St. Louis County Roadside Cleanup locations, and twice a year schedules a time to make our community a little nicer.

Our cleanup area is a two-mile stretch of Maple Grove Road, from Lindahl Road to Solway Road.

The next cleanup time will be on Saturday, October 9, from noon to 2pm. We always need more help to make the workload a little lighter. Please call the church office at 218-727-5021 or contact Bill Alexander at bill@strikepoint.com if you are interested. You should dress for the weather, bring gloves, wear footwear suitable for walking in ditches, and meet us at the Faith Baptist Church parking lot at the corner of Midway and Maple Grove. We will supply beautiful yellow vests and stylish garbage bags. Hope to hear from all of you. Okay, ALL of you would be too many, but would look good on TV.

Worship in October

This fall we will continue to worship in person in our Sanctuary AND online on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10am. The service can also be watched any time after 10am Sunday morning. The service on YouTube is a livestream of the service happening in the Sanctuary. At this time due to the conference COVID plan, as well as the county's request for masks indoors for all people regardless of vaccination status, we will be asking everyone to wear masks at all times indoors. Weather permitting, we will have our fellowship time each Sunday outdoors, as we will not be eating indoors.

- **Sunday, October 3:** World Communion Sunday. We will reflect on "When It Comes to Religion, Who Is Right and Who Is Wrong?"
- **Sunday, October 10:** Three-year-old, 3rd Grade, and Confirmation Bible Presentation. We will reflect on "The State of Our Hearts."
- **Sunday, October 17:** We will reflect on immigration and our faith with Rev. Charlotte Frantz.
- **Sunday, October 24:** We will hear a sermon from Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
- **Sunday, October 31:** We will ask the question, "Are We Saved?"

Adult Forums

Adult Forums will return on Sunday mornings at 9am whenever we have speakers to fill that time. It will be a 45-minute experience before worship and will be available both in person and through Zoom so everyone will have an opportunity to participate.

If you would like to lead a forum or invite a speaker, please let Jean Walsh or Pastor Jeanine know so we can schedule and advertise it.

Rev. Charlotte Frantz is scheduled to lead the Forum on November 14. She's scheduled for a trip to the border south of Tucson at the very end of October and will have up-to-date impressions of the border situation to share.



2021 Craft and Bake Sale Canceled



The UMW Executive Board and craft sale leadership, with Administrative Council support, have regretfully come to the decision to cancel this year's craft and bake sale. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the state, this seems to be the course of action that maintains the safety of vendors, workers, and bazaar attendees alike. The annual craft show is UMW's major fundraiser, and UMW and church leaders are looking into how to fill that gap. Stay tuned for ways you can support UMW!

Family News

Bibles

Three-year-olds and 3rd graders will get Bibles of their very own! Stay tuned for a special presentation of Bibles on Sunday, October 10. If you have a three-year-old or 3rd grader, please call or email Jojo 218-251-4388 or Families@FUMCduluth.com. We don't want to miss you!

Children's Ministry

Kick-off Sunday was September 26, the first day of Sunday School for everyone Kindergarten–5th grade. 4th and 5th graders should be prepared to help the younger kids. Sunday School starts right after the Children's Message. Follow Jojo out of the Sanctuary to your areas. Parents, you can pick up your kindergarteners and 1st graders in the Chapel right after church. 2nd–5th graders will come and find you.

The Nursery is available from 9:30-11:15am for everyone younger than kindergarten.

Wednesday Night Programming

The Wednesday night programming began on September 29. There is something for everyone. The Nursery is open from 4:45-7:30pm for anyone 3rd grade and under who needs care for the evening while siblings or parents are in programming.

Kids Club

Kids Club runs from 5–6pm for children 2nd grade and younger

Terri Lynn Nuts and Goodies are BACK!

It's that time of year, when we offer the best nuts and chocolates from Terri Lynn. You can order your favorites just by going to CoppertopDuluth.terrilynn.com. The online store will be open October and November. All proceeds will go into our youth fund for mission trips and other projects and events. Thank you!

Potential New Member Class

If you have been attending worship at FUMC online or in person and are interested in talking with the pastor and staff members to learn more about the church, you are invited to join an information/potential new member class. You can join the church any time after taking this class, and there is no obligation for membership. If you are curious and interested, this is a gathering for you. There are two options in October, one in person and one online:

- **In Person** at church, Sunday, October 3, following worship (about 11am) in Fireside Lounge.

- **Zoom** - Sunday, October 3 at 6pm.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5446347519>

Meeting ID: 544 634 7519

Please contact our director of welcome, Mary Giese, at welcome@fumcduluth.com or call the church office at 218-727-5021 or talk with Pastor Jeanine pastor@fumcduluth.com. You can also just show up!



Steps to Justice

As United Methodists, “We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.”

Our Social Creed 2016

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-social-creed>

Read UM Social Principles 2020

Page 11: “Recognizing that simply changing our personal habits will not be enough to reverse decades of environmental damage, the church supports local, regional, national, and international cooperative efforts aimed at redressing the ecological harms humans have wreaked on a global scale. Such cooperative efforts must include the development and enforcement of policies and practices that protect all sentient beings, and the promotion of sustainable economic development. We also encourage responsible consumption and urgent action against global warming and climate change.” <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/social-principles-2020-607>

Give thanks for good works. Daryl Harper reports the Lions Club has recycled enough stretchy plastic at Cub Foods—including a total of 148.8 lbs. from FUMC—to earn two community benches from Trex! These up-cycled plastic benches will be installed at Edgewood Vista and the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial. Daryl says, “It takes 2,000 plastic grocery bags to equal 30lbs. 148.8 lbs. of plastic recycled is equivalent to 9,920 bags. Nice job, FUMC!”



Don't miss guest speaker Rev. Charlotte Frantz October 17

The sermon by Rev. Frantz will consider faithful responses to the experience of immigrants. She will return for an Adult Forum discussion on November 14 to share her impressions of the situation at the U.S. border.

Learn more with a movie about the cultures of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries and territories honored during Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15.

Here's a list of critically-acclaimed films:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| • Like Water for Chocolate | • The Book of Life | • Coco |
| • Maria Full of Grace | • Selena | • In the Time of the Butterflies |
| • Even the Rain | • Under the Same Moon | • The Graduates |
| • I'm Leaving Now | (<i>La Misma Luna</i>) | • Roma |
| • McFarland USA | • Real Women Have Curves | • Living <i>Los Sures</i> |
| • Thereabouts 3: Discovering Colombia | • <i>Pelo Malo</i> (Bad Hair) | • <i>Residente</i> |
| • The Sentence | • Nothing Like the Holidays | • Southwest of Salem: The Story of the |
| • Cesar's Last Fast | • <i>Viva</i> | San Antonio Four |

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/g34075846/best-hispanic-latinx-movies/>

Steps to Justice welcomes your justice-oriented ideas, news, and notice of upcoming events. To meet the November First Family deadline, send information by the third Monday of the month to Jean Walsh, jmbwalsh@gmail.com or Sarah Maddy, shmaddy@outlook.com. Short notice items can be announced in Pastor Jeanine's weekly email, pastor@fumcduluth.com.

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Greetings to All;

Autumn—my favorite time of year. I relish the crisp air, brilliant colors, and the beginning of in-person school time. I am very grateful that mask mandates went into effect for the Duluth Public schools, and on the horizon, vaccines for younger children. In the interim to keep these children safer, masks and adults getting fully vaccinated are a tremendous help.

Due to the pandemic, our children have lost a great deal of in-person connectivity. Many adolescents suffered mental health problems and continue to do so. Even despite the pandemic, 15 percent of adolescents prior to age 14 experience some form of mental health issue, and one in five of all adolescents experience a mental health problem. Of those, one in six have contemplated suicide within a year.

Humans are hard-wired to connect to people and to the spiritual. What can we as mentors, parents, grandparents, coaches, teachers, and counselors do to help? We can promote meaningful connections and truly listen to what adolescents have to say. We know that navigating through the adolescent period, and beyond to young adults, is very difficult and even more so during this pandemic, with social unrest, environmental concerns, and countless other issues.

What more can we do?

- Model behavior, such as empathy where the focus is on others
- Encourage school clubs which can provide help in deciding who they are and a sense of belonging
- Express gratitude and foster humility
- Learn to forgive, which will more than likely help the person who is doing the forgiving, as it will reduce anger, help foster control, and be empowering.

And a very important endeavor is to love ourselves. I remember when June Hiza was our parish nurse, she spoke about a loving kindness meditation as a spiritual practice. It is a type of Metta meditation which acknowledges the need to love and accept ourselves, and is used to extend blessings to others. Here is a sample of what can be used as you sit silently with your eyes closed:

May I be at peace. May my heart remain open.
May I awaken to the light of who I am and who I can become.
May I be healed. May I be a source of healing for others.

Blessings,
~Linda Wiig

Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Through Only

This year's fall Roast Beef Dinner is on Thursday, October 7 from 4:30–6:30pm and will be drive-through only.

We need volunteers on the day of the meal and also the days before. You can call Cindy Hedlund to sign up at 218-348-2634 or sign up online through [SignUpGenius](#). (Note: click the red “sign up” box by the task you want to do and then click the brown “Submit and sign up” box at the bottom)

Spots are still available. Thank you for your service to our community.

Ashley Etter Wins Award From CSS



Our new office assistant, Ashley Etter, recently won an award from the College of St. Scholastica, where she is

a senior. Presented by the CSS Library, the Bede Award is given to a student for outstanding research and writing skills. Ashley's winning paper was “Willing Paradise: Death, Desire, and Shame in Emily Dickinson's Poetry.” It was submitted for an independent study course she took from Dr. Stephanie Johnson, titled “Emily Dickinson and the Body.” Congratulations, Ashley!



First United Methodist

THE COPPERTOP CHURCH

DULUTH, MN



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
4:30-6:30PM



Fall Roast Beef Dinner

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, Dinner
Roll and Homemade Apple Crisp!

All Meals
\$12 each



THURSDAY OCTOBER 7 4:30 - 6:30

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
230 E SKYLINE PARKWAY

(218) 727-5021
WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM

From the Welcome Desk

Hello Friends! Last month I shared a mystery item handle from the church rummage sale with you, and I am happy to tell you what it is.



But our mystery item is no good without its missing parts. Many people were on the right path with their guess knowing that the handle had some kind of clamp purpose. I showed the handle to a friend who is an eBay whiz. She promptly used her phone and typed search words "wooden handle 3" and up popped a three-bowl condiment server with the exact handle she was looking at. So the good news is, we have a handle; the bad news is, someone at the sale purchased three small stainless steel bowls. If you or

someone you know is the happy owner of the three bowls, imagine how much happier they will be when they get a handle to turn them into a lovely serving piece! And yes, my friend gets the prize.

Another good news/bad news story about missing parts became evident at our Naomi Circle meeting on September 15. The bad news of course is that because of the COVID pandemic we have not been able to meet in person for 18 months. We did meet via Zoom meeting for a few months, and that was helpful. The good news—we met at church for our September meeting, fully masked and without treats and coffee, but we didn't care because we were so happy to be together as a whole group. It was so great to share our joys and concerns with each other and to know we have a loving, caring, and sharing church family to turn to when we need them or when they need us to share both the good and bad things that happen in life. Coming back to church for worship, music groups, Sunday School, kids/youth activities, committee meetings, Circles, men's group, etc., is like finding some missing parts of our lives. All the groups at FUMC are open and welcoming to every one. Stop at the Welcome Desk and we will help you with information. If you have a missing part in your life, we hope you will find it at the Coppertop, where all are welcome.

~Mary Giese, Director of Welcome

CHUM Joins Local Churches, Including FUMC, for PRIDE

CHUM joined local member congregations for a more just and compassionate community. First United Methodist coordinated volunteers for the Faith Communities of Duluth tent on Saturday, September 4. People stopped by to visit, pray, make a PRIDE bracelet, sample something sweet, or collect materials on congregations in our community who welcome members from the LGBTQ community to come and worship. Rev. Patricia Benson, CHUM's Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, enjoyed meeting folks at the festival, then joined Pastor Jeanine Alexander on Sunday morning for the free breakfast and to share in the communion liturgy at FUMC. If you missed it, you can watch the video of the service at: <https://youtu.be/FhrPAQRek8c>.

family news, continued from page 4

(kids younger than kindergarten will only stay for 15 minutes of music with Cynthia Coffin-Langdon).

Ring-Jam is from 5:15-6pm and will be for 3rd grade–5th grade. During this time, kids learn to play bells and have fun with drumming with Cynthia Coffin-Langdon and Bill Alexander.

Tweens, 3rd–5th graders, are from 6:30-7:30pm. This is a time to check in with each other, get to know your Bible, and play games. This is similar to youth group time for younger kids. Children younger than 3rd grade are welcome to go to the nursery to play games with staff.

Confirmation/Youth Group, 6th-8th grade, will be from 6:30-7:30pm. They sing, pray, support each other, and play games.

We are doing all we can to keep your child safe.

COVID-19 precautions—kids will be asked to sanitize before and after each group, and masks will be worn by everyone in the building. Social distancing will be practiced using carpet squares to sit on while in the Chapel or classrooms. We will play outside whenever we can. Please keep sick children at home, and let Jojo Coffin-Langdon know if your child has had any COVID exposure.

Music at the Coppertop

***Our music groups have started up!
There is still space for you!***

Sanctuary Choir: Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 in the Sanctuary choir loft. Director: Mike Goodlet

Tapestry (worship band): Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 in the Sanctuary. Director: Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Cast in Bronze (adult handbell choir): Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 in the Bell Room. Director: Bill Alexander

Class Ring (handbell choir for 6-12 graders): Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:45-8:45 in the Bell Room. Director: Bill Alexander

Ring-JAM (music group for 3-5th graders): Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 in the Chapel and the Bell Room. This "new" group will combine Ringtones and JAM activities—lots of handbell ringing and drumming on the World Drums. Co-Directors: Bill Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Strikepoint (concert handbell choir): Rehearsals on Sundays from 11:30-2:30 in the Bell Room. Director: Bill Alexander

Please note that all our music groups need to be masked for rehearsals.

Questions: Please contact our Director of Music/Organist, Velda Bell, at music@fumcduluth.com or 218-727-5021.

Job Opening for Tapestry

Worship Band Director (Tapestry) Opening: FUMC has an immediate opening for a part-time Worship Band Director for our contemporary worship band "Tapestry." Made up of volunteer musicians, Tapestry plays approximately four out of five Sunday services during the school year and once a month in the summer. Key requirements are 1) BA or BS Degree in Music or equivalent experiences, 2) the ability to rehearse and direct the band, and 3) the ability to collaborate effectively with other music groups and music leaders who also contribute to the services. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. FUMC is a socially progressive congregation and has a long tradition of musical excellence in a wide variety of genres. For a copy of the complete job description and/or to submit an application, please contact Velda Bell, Music Director/Organist, at music@fumcduluth.com or 218-727-5021.



Reception September 17

There will be an informal marriage celebration reception for our choir director, Mike Goodlet-Meijer and his new husband Rob after church on Sunday, October 17. Mike and Rob were married on September 4.

VLBs Arrive!



During the summer, three large packages arrived for our handbell program. They contained three VLBs (Very Large Bells). The aluminum bells, created by Malmark, Inc., in Pennsylvania, are less than half the weight of traditional bronze bells and actually are easier to hear in the low range. These are now the lowest-sounding handbells in the set.

Funds were raised from offerings at Strikepoint concerts, from a Give MN online fundraiser, and from private donors.

Strikepoint Wins Competition

Strikepoint received word that they had taken first place in the Ruth Morse Wilson Handbell Competition and should expect a check for \$500. Three pieces from Strikepoint's 2019 summer tour concert were submitted in February and the judges' comments were quite complimentary of their musicianship and musicality.

Learn a new word today—Arrabon

Submitted by Sarah Maddy

No, not a Shakespearian prince. Not Hagrid's pet spider. Arrabon is the Greek word for "earnest."

Originally, it meant "earnest money" deposited by the purchaser and forfeited if the purchase was not completed. In modern Greek, an *arrabona* is an engagement ring. <https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/5958/Arrabon.htm>

Thomas C. Robinson writes that in the New Testament, Paul says the Holy Spirit has been given to the believer as an arrabon, "a first installment." (2 Corinthians 5:5 and Ephesians 1:14). In Robinson's view, Paul's use of *arrabon* denotes that God has made an investment in the believer's soul, and the believer must take courage in the fact that he or she is treasured in the eyes of God; suggests that there are other installments to follow; and affirms that the believer has a living hope within. "The indwelling Holy Spirit gives us that living hope of which Peter also writes (1 Peter 1:3). We can, in the midst of hostility, hurt, disasters, and distress, live with this living hope within our soul because of our *arrabon*, the Holy Spirit." <https://www.studylight.org/language-studies/greek-thoughts.html?article=19>

Treasured by God, invested with hope, and equipped with extravagant love, we are wonderfully made to step toward justice. I urge you to advise your representatives to tackle the climate crisis, create jobs, and address racial injustice. Insist that senators protect voting rights for all Americans. Get to know people who do not look like you, live like you, or love like you. As people of faith, we have the tools to take bold action for inclusive community, sustainable living, and racial reconciliation. A little *arrabon* can go a long way.

One Inspiring Fact to Keep You Working for a Just World

Submitted by Sarah Maddy

Paraphrased from: *Factfulness. Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*, from Flatiron Books, 2018. Hans Rosling, with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling

Year	Babies/ Woman	World Population	Number of Children
8000 BC	As Many as Possible	5 Million	
1800	5.8	1 Billion	400,000
1966	5	2 Billion	1,500,000
2017	2.5	7 Billion	2 Billion
Forecast:			
2100	2	10-12 Billion	Less than 2 Billion
2200	2	10-12 Billion	Less than 2 Billion

Ronnlund.

Population Growth

The number of future children is the most essential number for making global population forecasts. Women now have fewer children, meaning fewer women of child-bearing age in coming generations.

As billions of people left extreme poverty, most of them decided to have fewer children. They no longer needed large families for child labor on the small family farm. And they no longer needed extra children as insurance against child mortality. Women and men got educated and started to want better-educated and better-fed children; having fewer of them was the obvious solution.

The dramatic drop in babies per woman is expected to continue, as long as more people keep escaping extreme poverty, more women get educated, and access to contraceptives and sexual education keeps increasing. Nothing more drastic is needed. Just more of what we are already doing. (Rosling et al. 85)

Population will keep growing for now, mainly because there will be more adults. But the number of children will not increase; in fact it has already leveled out at less than two billion.

Fact: Global population growth has already slowed dramatically and is expected to top out at around 12 billion.

Read more about the power of facts to spark change in Rosling's book *Factfulness*.



Graphic credit: Vecteezy.com

Bishop Bard Named United Seminary's Distinguished Alum

By: Christa Meland



United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities has named Bishop David A. Bard as the school's 2021 Distinguished Alum.

In bestowing this honor, the St. Paul-based seminary said it recognizes and gives gratitude for Bard's more than 35-year career in ministry with The United Methodist Church, contributing in a variety of leadership

roles, committing a lifetime to anti-racism work, and leading with theological grounding, wisdom, and skill.

Bard has been the presiding bishop for the Michigan Area since 2016 and interim bishop for the Minnesota Conference since January. Prior to that, he ministered for many years at First UMC in Duluth. He said he is "deeply touched and profoundly honored" to be chosen as this year's Distinguished Alum.

Bard believes it is the church that can be the means to a new and more just way forward.

In the Minnesota Conference, prior to being elected bishop, Bard served as a General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate, member of the Higher Education Ministry Team, member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Congregational Response Team, and chair of the Episcopacy Committee. He was also the conference parliamentarian. Bard was a district superintendent with the conference for seven years and served three years on the Commission on Religion and Race.

"David has provided outstanding leadership for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving churches and as a district superintendent," said Rev. Kathi Austin Mahle, a retired pastor and former conference trustee who graduated from United in 1978. "His leadership continued in the worldwide UMC, leading to his election as bishop in 2016. His intellectual gifts and personal caring have been demonstrated over and over. He is now serving as the interim bishop for Minnesota, and we are glad to welcome him 'home,' as his humor and caring were demonstrated at our recent Annual Conference session. He is so deserving of this recognition at such a difficult time in the life of The United Methodist Church."

Two classmates at United—Arthur Ritter (class of 1985) and Stuart Jamieson (class of 1986)—nominated Bard and spoke of his willingness to listen, as well as his ability to understand those with a

different view and opinion.

"Those with whom he has served notice his ability to bring people together in order to achieve a better understanding and to better serve the intention of God," said Ritter. "He embraces the challenge by lifting up the church as an instrument of God's power."

Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, interim president of United, echoed that sentiment.

"David Bard fulfills the New Testament requirements for the noble task of bishop in an exemplary manner (1 Timothy 3:1-7)," she said. "Among these qualities are gentleness and peacefulness, modesty and hospitality, one who exercises good management and is well thought of outside the church."

Bard said he has many fond memories of his time at United, from the sublime to the ridiculous.

"I remember some of the people I met and with whom I've maintained a connection ever since," he said. "I remember working with professors who challenged and encouraged me. Among the most important things for me about my time at United are the tools I was given to think theologically. I came to seminary with lots of questions about my Christian faith. Seminary did not answer all those questions, but gave me tools to continue to explore such questions over a lifetime."

Christa Meland is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



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 55, Number 9

Actual issues for 2021, online only and printed: Volume 55, Number 10

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