



# 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.*

June 2020

## First United Methodist Church

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



# PERIOD!



## Our First Family

### Music Notes



Thank you  
to all the  
Coppertop  
musicians  
for your  
beautiful  
music over

the past year. You have inspired us, comforted us, celebrated with us, and made a difference in our lives. Thank you for sharing your musical talents and time so generously! We look forward to the time when we can safely gather together again. Blessings to all of you!

*~Velda, Mike, Bill, and Cynthia*

### Keith Martin

Keith Martin, Allen Anway's son-in-law, died on Sunday, May 31. Please remember Keith, Carol Anway (Keith's wife), their daughter Lily, Allen, and their families and friends in your prayers during these difficult times.

If you would like to send Allen a sympathy card, his home address is 1219 N 21st Street, Superior, Wisconsin 54880

Words of comfort and condolence for Carol and Lily can be sent to 800 SE 10th Street, North Bend, Washington 98045.

Carol also requested email contact instead of phone calls:  
[carolanway@yahoo.com](mailto:carolanway@yahoo.com)

## On the Journey With You

### What a difficult time this has been.

The Covid-19 spread is increasing, and there is polarization around gathering in groups and wearing masks. I urge you to stay safe for yourself and for others by limiting your in-person interactions and wearing masks when you are in close proximity to people. We live out our faith by caring for each other.

There was also the St. Louis County Commissioners' meeting where there was to be a vote on our openness to refugee resettlement. I feel convinced that our Biblical mandate is to welcome the stranger and to help those in desperate need. I was distressed by the negative way some of the speakers talked about refugees—the anger, misinformation, even hatred. I am glad that you, no matter what side you may take on a concern or vote, always seek to talk about, and treat, all people as equal human beings fully created in the image of God.

And then the tragic, brutal arrest of George Floyd, which ended in his death. The acts of the police officer who acted with violence, and the other officers who stood by and did nothing, must be condemned. The added pain to the black community must be acknowledged. The sin of racism must be named. Most of you know that I have strong family ties to the police—my dad is a retired Duluth police officer and my brother is the current chief of police in Superior, WI. I love and care about police and am so thankful for the service and protection they provide. The vast majority of police officers seek to serve all people and treat everyone with respect and dignity. The ones who abuse their sacred trust hurt everyone and damage society.

Our Bishop has published a statement. [Click here for the link.](#)

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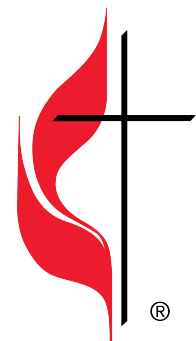
## First Family

### First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811  
218-727-5021 [Info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Info@fumcduluth.com)

Pastor: [Jeanine Alexander](#)  
Editor: [Bill Alexander](#)

Next First Family Deadline: **June 17**  
[Submittoconnect@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Submittoconnect@fumcduluth.com)



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

## Our current action steps at FUMC:

1. We proclaim that the death of George Floyd was wrong, evil, and sinful, and that racism is antithetical to the Gospel, and that all people are equally created in the image of God and must be treated as such.
2. We pray for the family of George Floyd and the entire Black community as they grieve and feel outrage.
3. We offered a prayer vigil on May 28 on Zoom. The NAACP encouraged people all over Minnesota to light a candle at the time of George Floyd's death to stand in solidarity with his family and our Black community. Our Zoom vigil was hosted by JoJo Coffin-Langdon.
4. Your church is joining with the NAACP, who is donating masks to people who live on the margins. There are bins, marked NAACP, set outside the side doors of the parking lots. Approximately every two weeks, the NAACP is setting up stands around Duluth, passing out masks to people in need. If you have the ability to make or buy masks to be donated, put them in the bin! If you have the ability to put masks in Ziplock™ type bags, that will help us “quarantine” the masks before giving them away.
5. Educate ourselves so we do no harm and do good. Here are some educational resources and opportunities:
  - *White Savior: Racism in the American Church* (<https://youtu.be/2FWenQCC4-s>) Available free with Amazon Prime, or on DVD, this film explores the historic relationship between racism and American Christianity, the ongoing segregation of the church in the U.S., and the complexities of racial reconciliation. It is our plan to host future small-group discussions around this film
  - *Imagining a Prophetic Ministry: How One American Church Shifted From "Do Good" Charity to "Justice Minded" Solidarity* (<https://rcc-mn.org/webinars>) June 9, 2pm, online. This free webinar from the Ministry Lab will focus on thriving as a church, seeing inequity, and lifting up marginalized voices.
  - *Jim Crow of the North*, produced by Daniel Bergin, is available on YouTube. The roots of racial disparities are seen through a new lens in this film that explores the origins of housing segregation in the Minneapolis area.
  - Read the book, *Christ in Crisis – Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus* by Jim Wallas.
  - June 15 marks the 100th anniversary of the Clayton Jackson McGhee lynchings here in Duluth. There was supposed to be a widespread commemoration of the event, but because of COVID, many of the events have been canceled or postponed. [Here's the website](#) to learn more: We will find ways to participate.

6. If there are other actions you would like our church to take, your pastor and church leadership want to support you in leading us. Please talk with me about your ideas so we can walk alongside you.

I leave you with a video Pentecost prayer by two colleagues, Luke and Bethany Nelson: [Pentecost prayer](#)

On the journey with you!

## Thursday Zoom Meetings

Thursday 10am ZOOM meetings with Pastor Jeanine are a time to visit with one another, hear church updates, and a share of Scripture and prayer. Come anytime, come once, or come every week. An open and flexible opportunity for connection. See you Thursday morning at 10am. Here is the link and meeting number: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/915188407> Meeting ID: 915 188 407



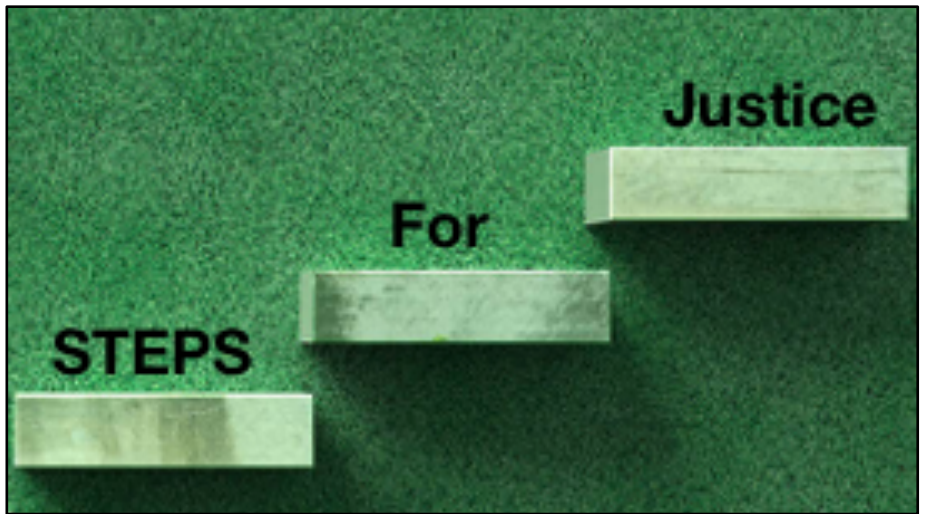
# Worship In June

During June we will continue to worship online on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10am. The service can be watched anytime after 10am Sunday morning but we encourage as many of us as possible to watch together at 10am as a community of faith. Pastor Sarah Horsfield from Hope UMC will have her last Sunday with Hope (and worship with us) on June 14. Hope UMC will worship with us through the end of June. Starting in July, our congregation and Hillside UMC (with Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon) will worship together until we can hold in-person worship again.

- **June 7** Holy Communion. Have juice (or something to drink) and bread (or something to eat) available at worship time so we can join together for this sacred meal.
- **June 14** Bishop David Bard will be preaching as a kick-off to our 150th anniversary. Graduate Recognition.
- **June 21** Father's Day
- **June 28** Baptism of Michael Flinner

## Drive-In Worship Wednesday, June 24

Worship without leaving your car! We're going to try having a live worship service at 6:30pm in the church parking lot on the evening of Wednesday, June 24. Stay in the safety of your car and tune your FM radio to a certain frequency (we will have that info for you later) to hear the music, Scripture, and message. The 30-40 minute service will be for the entire family. Bring your own beverage and food if you wish. Church pastors will be available to come to your car window for prayers at your request after the service!



**—Jesus said, “When I was hungry, you gave me food.”**

Consider growing more vegetables this year. Many people in our community are in need of food. Surely we can find safe ways to get fresh produce to hungry people.

The annual Rhubarb Festival has been canceled, but the needs go on. Please consider washing, chopping, and freezing rhubarb in your freezers, with prayers that we can creatively assemble in the fall and sell jams and baked goods as a fundraiser for CHUM. As Kevin Walsh said in his Rhubarb Blessing Song, “Our rhubarb stands for justice, not just for you and me/We chop and bake so all might know true human dignity.”

**—Jesus said, “I was a stranger and you made Me welcome.”**

According to the *New York Times*, 200,000 DACA recipients (almost one third) are employed in essential services; 27,000 of them are frontline doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and CNAs. Other immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are essential workers on farms, planting and harvesting crops. Check out the

[Minnesota Immigrants Rights](#)

[Action Committee](#) Facebook page for further info.

**—Jesus said, “In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did it unto Me.”**

Loaves and Fishes needs items found on this page: <https://duluthcatholicwork.wixsite.com/loavesandfishes/donate>

Please call ahead and make arrangements to be met at the door. 218-724-2054 (Dorothy Day) or 218-728-0629 (Olive Branch). Special request for volunteer handy people for small, socially-distanced carpentry, drywall, plaster, and painting projects. Call Joel 218-340-4356.





## Zoom Coffee Hour

There will be a Zoom coffee hour get-together immediately following worship on Sunday, June 14. This wonderful event will be hosted by Mary Giese, Linda Wiig, and your clergy. We will have the ability to divide into smaller chat rooms if lots of people come. A link to the gathering will be sent out in advance. We hope you will be able to join us!

## Tapestry

Your Worship Band is still at it. We haven't been able to meet in person, but we are still making music. Thanks to Alex Flinner and all his techie skills, we have recorded a song that will be played sometime this summer during our online worship services.

## Sanctuary Choir

Dear Choir AND POTENTIAL Choir Members;

I've really enjoyed keeping up with your lives and having our regular choir "rehearsals" on Wednesdays during this pandemic. I do know, however, that our regular season is over and summer activity—limited as it may be this year—is beginning.

With that, I'd like to continue but change our Zoom meetings to the first Wednesday of the month, same time. I hope you can join us for some summer updates on our fellow singers. I will send out the link for the July 1 meeting! For those of you who are considering joining the choir or who want to join us, just contact me at [mgoodlet69@gmail.com](mailto:mgoodlet69@gmail.com) to get the link to the meetings!

I hope to see you at our next Zoom meeting, July 1 at 5:45pm!

~Mike Goodlet

## Family News

### Children's Ministry

With the summer comes a different pace, as life slows down with no daily school grind. At FUMC Children's Ministry, we are thinking of fun, creative ways that we can still be a faithful connected community together! Summer pen pals with church members, scavenger hunts, drive-in movies at the Coppertop, some outdoor worship with physical distance, drive-up prayers... and family visits with me :) Be looking for email and phone calls! Stay tuned as we learn more of how we can and can't safely be together this summer. Things do change so fast.

One thing is clear: we don't need to be together to be the body of Christ together. We always knew that church is what goes on outside of our walls. That said, we sure do miss you and your kiddos! If there is anything at all we can do, please reach out!

Please contact me if your family would like to start a summer pen pal relationship with someone from the church!

~ Jojo [Families@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Families@fumcduluth.com)

### Adventure Day Camp - Save the Date!

We are tentatively planning some sort of Day Camp or VBS this summer for August 3-6. We will make decisions of what/how/where as new information and guidelines come from our Governor and Bishop. Questions or concerns? Please talk to Jojo or Cynthia Coffin-Langdon.

### JAM and the Peanut Butter Band

JAM, the children's choir at church, has been meeting virtually every Wednesday at 5pm. We ended the season on Wednesday, May 27, singing all the favorite songs and celebrating our 5th graders, who will be moving on to Youth Group next fall. Leah Abbot, Sam Coffin-Langdon, Lincoln Alexander, and Avery Collins all received a certificate of graduation and a gift for all the years of singing with JAM. We will miss them in the choir next year, but look forward to their participation in the Youth Group, where we also sing!

### 1st Year Confirmation Class

Let's do a 'mocking date! June 3, 7-9pm, meet at the fireplace at Brighton Beach with your hammock! The church will also buy you a Starbucks! Stop by Starbucks on Woodland around 6:30, and give them your order! Then head to Brighton Beach! We will be physically distant but socially connected in your hammocks! RSVP Only eight teens allowed! Text Jojo (218-251-4388) or Cynthia (218-260-3114) to save your spot!

# Small Group In-Person Circles in Our Church Parking Lot

We will offer three opportunities for people to come together in a small-group setting in our church parking lot. We will provide freshly disinfected chairs placed at least six feet apart in a circle. There will be two hosts and up to eight additional participants. We will catch up on what each person is doing and how they are doing, share church updates, and have Scripture and prayer. These will be one-hour gatherings. You must wear a mask and will not be able to go inside the church building. Please send an email to [info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:info@fumcduluth.com) to sign up. The first eight to sign up for each group will be able to attend. We will create a waiting list and open additional groups if there are more people interested:

## Monday, June 22, 2pm

Hosted by Pastor Jeanine and JoJo Coffin-Langdon

## Monday, June 22, 6pm

Hosted by Pastor Jeanine and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

## Tuesday, January 23, 10am

Hosted by Pastor Jeanine and Linda Wiig



**Thank you, Bill Alexander:**  
Incredibly proud of, and thankful for, this guy!!! When the pandemic started, he took it upon himself to lead us in beautiful worship production. He got equipment, taught himself, practiced, and produces beautiful worship every Sunday. Thank you, Bill Alexander!!!

## From Our Faith Community Nurse

Greetings! It's finally spring! The season has lifted my spirits, even though we continue to be in the grips of COVID. We can continue to be a resilient people by following all the guidelines to keep ourselves and others as safe as possible. With the partial reopening of businesses, please don't become complacent and join large crowds. It takes just one individual who does not appear to be sick to infect many people. Also remember, fear is not your friend; don't be afraid. Follow the guidelines, remain home as much as possible, and your possibility of infection is low.

Please continue to wear those masks. If you touch your mask while in public, wash your hands as soon as possible or use hand sanitizer, and do not touch your face—this includes your eyes. Your mask should cover your nose and mouth. Washing your mask with mild soap and drying on high is appropriate every day if you've been in public.

Meditation, yoga, exercise, and prayer are good remedies for a downcast soul. There are many sites online that can help. If you Zoom, you could work out with your friends. Games with friends are also fun online. If you or a friend are really feeling lonely or distressed, the Minnesota Department of Health maintains a Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990 or go to TalkWithUs (TEXT 66746). And remember Thursday morning time with Pastor Jeanine via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/915188407> Meeting ID: 915 188 407.

It's time to GET OUTSIDE. You can enjoy swimming, biking, hiking, snoozing in a hammock, water sports, etc.—just maintain distance!

I think this pandemic has taught many of us that we can take nothing for granted in this life, and hopefully we can learn to see more clearly and understand better with our hearts. Our hearts go out to all those affected by this virus—may they find peace.

Thanks to those of you who have shared your generosity of spirit, making phone calls, sending cards, picking up groceries, making masks, taking care of loved ones and those with COVID, sharing music, providing Pastor Jeanine with gift cards for others, laughing together, exhibiting self-control, compassion, and grace during this challenging time—everyone is important and can make a difference.

Blessings to all,

*~Linda Wiig*



# Let's Celebrate Our Graduates!

Because of the pandemic, our graduates are unable to have grad parties or open houses... but they agreed to have their addresses posted, so if you feel inclined to send them a congrats card, you can! We will also honor them in our online worship service on Sunday, June 14 with a slideshow of pictures. You won't want to miss it!

**Molly Anderson** - Molly is graduating from Hermantown High this year, and she will be attending Lake Superior College (LSC) in the fall. Her major is not yet set, but she is leaning toward an engineering degree. Home address: 5554 Maple Grove Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811.

**Colten Ball** - Colten is graduating from East High School and is planning to attend LSC for an engineering degree. Home address: 4224 Dodge St., Duluth, MN 55804.

**Mitchell Boyson** - Mitchell is graduating from East High School and planning to attend St. Olaf in the fall. He loves physics but will work on getting his general classes done before declaring a major. Home address: 2233 Vermilion Rd., Duluth, MN 55803.

**Charlie Eginton** - Charlie is graduating from Marshall School, is planning to attend the College of St. Scholastica and play goalie for the Saints' soccer team. Home address: 416 Hastings Dr., Duluth, MN 55803.

**Seth Erikson** - Seth is graduating from Hermantown High School. Seth loves Duluth and plans to stay and enjoy all that his hometown has to offer. He is looking at attending LSC in the fall. Seth has big plans to continue working and saving money so he can gain independence from his parents! He is looking forward to moving in with some of his best

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# United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Request

UMCOR is receiving urgent requests for help throughout the U.S. and the world. An overwhelming number of these requests are to meet the need for food. Soaring food prices are compounding regional shortages of food in communities that were already vulnerable. 100% of your gift to the UMCOR COVID-19 Fund will be used to meet the basic needs of people who are hoping for your response.

You can make a gift by mailing it to our church or sending it electronically, and designating it to UMCOR, OR go to the following link to learn more and/or [make a gift directly to UMCOR](#):

## Statewide Collection of UMCOR Kits and Supplies

The Minnesota Conference is holding a statewide collection of [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) (UMCOR) and [Midwest Methodist Distribution Center](#) (MMDC) kits and other supplies. We encourage every church to participate in collecting and bringing items to five (socially-distanced) church parking lot sites during the last week of June. Supplies need to be boxed up with the donating church name and address marked on it. A truck will take everything to the MMDC in Chatham, IL. Boxes specifically marked for UMCOR will be transferred to Sager Brown from there.

## Schedule:

**Monday, June 22**, 11am–noon: Hope UMC, 301 W. Saint Marie St., Duluth. Please bring the kits and supplies during the one-hour time period only.

## List of Requested Items

### MMDC:

- Homemade face masks
- International Health Kit supplies: hand towel, washcloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, and Band-Aids™ are in high demand [View list of specific urgent needs for the various kits at MMDC](#). Among other items, they include
- laundry soap (32-64 oz.)
- dish soap (16-34 oz.)
- household cleaner (16-40 Oz.)
- toilet paper

They also are looking for NEW adult and children's sandals/tennis shoes, handmade diapers, foldable walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, new and used blankets, and new and used flashlights (with batteries).

### UMCOR:

[View UMCOR Hygiene Kit materials and assembly instructions](#)

## Public School Challenges

Public schools have faced three distinct challenges since the coronavirus pandemic began—scrambling to make sure that low-income children don't go hungry, teaching students remotely who lack internet access, and bracing for dramatically smaller budgets. Congress tried to help in the \$2 trillion economic relief package known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, by designating \$13.5 billion for public schools. The money was supposed to be distributed to school districts based on the number of low-income students they enroll.

A new directive from the U.S. Department of Education, however, tells districts to share far more of the money than expected with private and religious school students, even though fewer than 5% of those children are poor. [Read more.](#)

Stand Up, Speak Out, and Take Action! | Justice-Seeking People of Faith | Methodist Federation for Social Action | <https://tinyurl.com/yxb25wr4>  
Call your elected officials now!  
202-224-3121  
or <https://5calls.org/>

## Phone Donations Requested

As we get ready for a return to church, we will also be returning to live streaming. We're looking for donations of your old, yet newer, smartphones to use as wireless cameras. Please contact Bill Alexander, [bill@strikepoint.com](mailto:bill@strikepoint.com).

## EarthKeeper Online Training

On June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, and August 6 and 20 from 7-8:30pm, join EarthKeepers and Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light online for a dynamic and experiential [leadership development training](#). Learn how to take action for a more just and sustainable world, and be commissioned as a Minnesota EarthKeeper. Please let Pastor Jeanine know if you are taking the training, as the church will cover your participant cost.

From EarthKeeper Chuck Campbell: "A few years ago I was invited by our former pastor Rev. Cooper Wiggin to participate in a training called EarthKeepers. Newly retired, I decided to attend the training with others from UM churches from Minnesota. The training was focused on organizing, strategizing, and planning around the topic of the care of God's creation. What I most took away from the training was a renewed appreciation of the theological underpinnings of caring for the Earth."

There is strong support for the trained EarthKeepers in Minnesota. Our church has an incredible opportunity to address the sustainability needs of our building, its members, and the community at large.

The more members from First UMC we encourage and support through the EarthKeepers training, the stronger we can be in growing our relationship to God's creation and caring for the Earth in new and holistic ways.

### Become an EarthKeeper

The God who created us now calls us to participate in healing relationships between people and the Earth, and between the peoples of the Earth. How are you being called to lead in this healing? Join the United Methodist Hopeful EarthKeepers movement, as we work together to welcome a more just and sustainable world! Our goal is to train, equip, and commission EarthKeepers to lead their congregations and communities in this healing, transforming work.



## Pen Pals During the Coronavirus

If you would like to be a part of an old-fashioned pen pal exchange with FUMC members and families this summer, send me a note or give me a call! This will be a fun way to stay connected this summer. Share stories, pictures, and postcards with other members of the church. No emailing, or texting... letter writing! Contact Jojo (218-251-4388) or [Families@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Families@fumcduluth.com) if you are interested.



## Re-Gathering Plan for Churches



*Bishop Bruce R. Ough disseminated the following message to all Minnesota United Methodist congregations on May 22.*  
Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Across our nation, many states are allowing more businesses to open with strict guidelines to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19. In this extended pandemic season, we are now at a point where the responsibility has shifted from Gov. Walz mandating that we stay at home to each person and organization determining how to stay safe based on recommendations offered to us. Many congregations are already well on their way in developing plans to gradually return to in-person worship when it becomes safe to do so. It's clear that our new normal for the foreseeable future will involve wearing masks, staying six feet apart, frequently washing our hands, sanitizing common spaces, and assessing our personal risk and vulnerabilities as we engage in our daily activities.

What does all of this mean for our churches? Religious leaders in Minnesota, including myself, have been working with the governor's office to develop specific guidelines to reopen our houses of worship in smart and safe ways. In the meantime, the Minnesota Conference has developed a Phased Re-Gathering Plan for



**Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**  
**Big Waters District**

Bruce Ough, Resident Bishop  
Susan Nienaber, District Superintendent

May 18, 2020

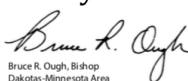
Dear Rev. Jeanine Alexander, Rev. MaryAnne Korsch, and Members and friends of First UMC,

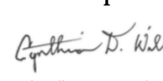
We are writing to express our deep appreciation and thanks to you for your incredible leadership during this unprecedented and challenging time. We know the enormous work it has taken for you to find new ways to be the church during this time of sheltering-in-place, to continue growing in your own faith, and to keep reaching new people.

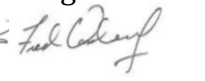
We rejoice in your generosity to those in your communities as you stepped up to make face masks, stock food shelves, and care for the most vulnerable in your midst. We also rejoice in your financial generosity to your local churches and through your faithful apportionment payments. Your generosity is transforming your communities, keeping your congregations stable, and allowing the annual conference to continue providing exceptional care and resources to all of our United Methodist ministries in the Minnesota Annual Conference.


We had over 50 congregations apply for the CARES Act stimulus package loans, and many have been approved and are receiving this money to help sustain their staffing levels. Many thanks to our pastors, gifted lay leaders in our local churches, Barb Brower, Jean Edin, John Mitchem, and Sheri Meister for helping numerous congregations with their applications. We are also very grateful to Katherine Schill and the Minnesota Conference Board of Pensions for providing a three-month holiday for our local churches' portions of the clergy pension and health insurance contributions.

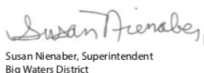
While we have many months to go to get through this pandemic, we are impressed by and encouraged with all the ways that everyone has stepped up to help and support one another. We are remaining steady and strong during this time because of your hard work, and we give thanks and praise to God for you. Let us know how we can continue resourcing our local churches, as we are eager to partner with you always but especially during this challenging time.

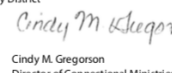
  
Bruce R. Ough, Bishop  
Dakotas-Minnesota Area

  
Cynthia Williams, Superintendent  
River Valley District

  
Fred Vanderwerf, Superintendent  
Southern Prairie District

  
Dan Johnson, Superintendent  
Twin Cities District

  
Susan Nienaber, Superintendent  
Big Waters District

  
Cindy M. Gregorson  
Director of Connectional Ministries

  
Laurie Kantonen, Superintendent  
North Star District

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Churches based on the best information we have right now. I want to remind you that currently, groups of only 10 people or fewer are permitted to gather if each person maintains the proper distance. Drive-in worship services at which people remain their vehicles are also an option.

I urge you to go slowly and keep your focus on the health and safety of your congregation and neighbors. I believe we will need to let go of trying to determine a precise date when we will be able fully return to public worship and recognize that we will instead need to be guided by a phased approach that unfolds over the course of the coming months as COVID-19 continues to impact our state and communities to varying degrees.

I know how painful this is when we need each other more than ever and we long to see one another face-to-face. But as leaders of the church, we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst—and there is no way we can gather indoors, for an extended period of time, without exposing people in our communities to significant risk. What we know is that the virus is spread through the air, and we are contagious before we show symptoms. Celebrations such as weddings, funerals, corporate worship, and singing are extremely high-risk activities. There have been several recent reports of congregations gathering for worship and then promptly closing after a coronavirus outbreak caused by an asymptomatic carrier. The stay-at-home order might have been lifted, but the virus is still very much with us.

Additionally, for most of our congregations, what you are able to offer online is of a higher quality than an in-person experience would be right now, given the physical distancing requirements, restrictions on singing, recommendation to wear masks, and need for careful cleaning between all activities. Imagine a sanctuary where every family is six feet apart. There is no congregational singing. There are no hugs or handshakes. There is no mingling or fellowship time. The very things that people are longing for in gathering are too risky at this time. Many of our congregants, particularly the elderly, will be unlikely to accept the risks associated with in-person gatherings week after week if what they can experience at home is closer to the worship service they know and love.

I have heard the concerns: What about the church down the road that is open when we are not? Why can people shop at Walmart and Home Depot but not come to church? Of course being the church matters. But we are called to act not out of fear or competition or economic uncertainties but out of love and care for the whole. There is nothing stopping us from being the church we are called to be right now, in this moment, and we can do it in a way that ensures the safety of our people.

So, my friends, I ask you to keep on keeping on. Continue to innovate and seek new methods to help your congregation grow as disciples and serve your community. Invest in online worship and plan to make it an extension of your church even after we can resume in-person gatherings. Take advantage of these summer months by having some 10-person gatherings outdoors while wearing masks and staying six feet apart, or by inviting people to drive-in worship. Plan to not return to in-person worship until the risk of infection is low and in adherence with all state guidelines. Keep developing and refining your congregation's plans for re-gathering based on our [\*Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches\*](#). Continue to encourage and engage in extravagant generosity because we are open for business, and your support is essential to our mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Thank you for your leadership and the tremendous ways you are adapting in this most challenging time. I know how difficult and exhausting it is to live and lead in this time of uncertainty. And yet, we do not do this by our own strength. We are held up by the power of the Holy Spirit, and I have every confidence that God will continue to lead us forward into a future with hope.

In Christ's love,

~Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area, The United Methodist Church



# Welcome to Our First Family—New members Joined on May 17

We are thrilled to introduce five new members to First United Methodist Church. What a wonderful, positive action during this coronavirus pandemic! Your church family is here to help, support, and love you. Welcome! ~*Mary Giese*

## Tammy Sammon



Tammy recently moved from the Twin Cities to Duluth and is excited to become a member of First United Methodist Church.

Tammy says: I started attending services at the Coppertop years ago when I would come to Duluth for my work with the Epilepsy Foundation, where I worked with Mary and Kent Giese for over a decade as a program manager. I am so grateful to them for introducing me to their beautiful church.

I have loved the North Shore (God's country) since my father, Ray, introduced it to us as rock hounds. We collected so many agates over the years, so I am grateful to now be living in this beautiful area. I was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, and I was honored to be appointed to the Council of Elders and enjoyed helping our church grow.

I have two wonderful daughters and two wonderful and smart grandsons of whom I am so proud. I am looking forward to my new church family and helping in any way I can! Thank you for always welcoming me.

## Will Montz and Kaitlin Johnson

We are getting married on July 11, 2020.

We both work as geologists for engineering environmental consulting companies in Duluth.

We enjoy hiking, camping, and other outdoor



activities, but equally enjoy hunkering down with board games and a movie when the weather is not so nice.

This photo was taken at Hartley Nature Center in early March. We

were just finishing up a hike on the stretch of the Superior Hiking Trail that goes from the Rose Garden to the nature center.



## Jeff and Sarah Mayne

*Three things about Sarah:*

- I was born and raised in Superior, WI.
- I am a Smart Grid Program Manager and I travel the country for work (but not lately).
- I enjoy all things creative, including art, music, crafts, videography, and so much more.

*Three things about Jeff:*

- I was born and raised in Dubuque, IA.
- I have spent close to two months in the BWCA.
- I enjoy all things that involve a hammer, a drill, or a wrench.

Our picture is of a recent birthday celebration we had during quarantine. Everybody got all dressed up for the first time in a while. Jeff and Sarah are the proud parents of six teenagers, with two high school graduates in the family this year.

—graduates, continued from page 7

friends somewhere in the area while they attend college. Home address: 5712 W 8th St., Duluth, MN 55807.

**Marcus Giuliani** - Marcus is graduating from East High School and planning to attend Grand Canyon University in the fall to study mechanical engineering. He also plans to swim on their national club team. Home address: 2150 Springvale Rd., Duluth, MN 55811.

**Ben Hintzman** - Ben is graduating from Superior Senior High and planning to attend Harvard University in the fall to study math and music. Home address: 1622 N 70th St., Superior, WI 54880.

**Peter Jordan** - Peter is graduating from IQ Academy, a Minnesota online public school, and is planning to do an audio engineering certification program online in the fall. He will also concentrate on his music. Home address: 331 101st Ave. W., Duluth, MN 55808.

**Amy Montavon** - Amy is graduating from Northwestern High School in Maple, WI, and plans to attend Milwaukee School of Engineering, majoring in nursing and possibly biomedical engineering. She would love to work at a children's hospital in pediatric oncology. Home address: 1124 N. 22nd St., Superior, WI 54880.

## College Grads:

**Stephanie Giuliani** - Stephanie is graduating from Drexel University in Philadelphia with a dance major and pre-physical therapy focus.

**Charlie Johnson** - Charlie is graduating from Mitchell Hamline School of Law with a Juris Doctorate and a certificate in Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice.

**Tyler Johnson** - Tyler is graduating from Carlson School of Management (University of Minnesota) with an MBA in finance.

**Elias Lee** - Eli is graduating from the Carlson School of Management (University of Minnesota) with his Masters in accounting and will be working in the neuromodulation finance group at Boston Scientific.

## Garden Tour

Do you have a garden you'd like to share with church friends?

Do you miss seeing your church friends? Do you wish there was a low-key, reasonably safe way to see a few people again? I sure do, so I'm instigating the **FIRST FUMC Low-Key, No-Stress, Do-It-Yourself Garden Tour!**

My idea is that those of us who garden (or like me, putter around) invite others from church to come and look at and/or walk through our gardens, which hopefully will provide opportunities for seeing our church friends again—wearing masks and maintaining distance, of course! I'm thinking that the first two weeks of July (the 6th to the 17th) would be a good time, as my "serious" gardening friends tell me that's when gardens around here are at their peak!

If you're interested in sharing your garden with others, would you please let me know? [Here's what I need from you:](#)

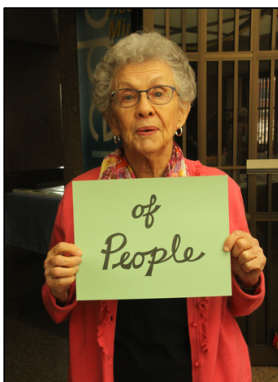
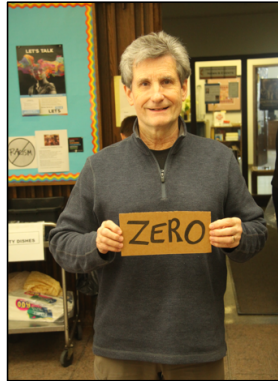
- Your name and address.
- What type of garden you have. We're dividing gardens into three categories:
  - **Drive-by only.** These are gardens visible from the street, but you desire visitors stay in their cars.
  - **Drive-by accessible.** These are gardens visible from the street, but you're okay with people viewing from their car or getting out and wandering around. (These may be particularly valuable for our limited-mobility members!)
  - **Walking required.** These are gardens where folks will need to get out of their cars, maybe because they're hidden backyard gardens or such.
- Times you particularly want people to come, or times you want them to avoid. We'll set the general rule that people can visit from 10am–2pm and 5–8pm, Monday through Friday (we want to preserve our weekends), July 6-17, but are there specific time constraints you'd like for your garden?
- Any other special requirements.

If you're willing to share your gardens, please email me at [ggbell@d.umn.edu](mailto:ggbell@d.umn.edu) no later than June 12, or call me at 218-724-5492. I'll compile the list of gardens available and distribute the list to you via Pastor Jeanine's email and *First Family*. I hope you'll look forward to this as much as I am!

~Geoff Bell



# You Have the *Power!*



**First United Methodist Church**  
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN • 218-727-5021 • [www.FUMCduluth.com](http://www.FUMCduluth.com)



# Reopening In-Person Church Document

*(Note: In-person worship will be the final step... not the next step)*

**Purpose:** This document will serve as a place for formulating our process and plan to reopen for public worship at First UMC—The Coppertop. Each of the items is subject to change as more information becomes available and as discussion and discernment continues to take place.

## Sunday Morning/Worship Thoughts:

- The church will first consider the advice of the governor's office and MN Bishop when determining the timeline of opening. If either recommends closure, we will do so.
- The church will consider the availability of sanitizing products (e.g. Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.). If there is still a shortage and we can't obtain ample supplies, we will remain closed.
- We will ensure that we are not exceeding the number of people allowed in an area as determined by the governor's office and MN Bishop.
- Upon initial reopening, the nursery will be unavailable.
- Upon initial reopening, we will not offer coffee and food fellowship
- Cloth masks need to be made available and worn. Exception is people leading worship who are 6 or more feet away from the closest person (see discussion below).
- Sunday School classes will not begin on the same week as public worship. An announcement will be made from the pulpit and social media the week before classes restart.
- Following each worship service, everyone will be encouraged to leave the building and commence their fellowship time outdoors, following social distancing.
- The office will be open only to essential staff (paid and volunteer).
- The pastor will not be greeting before or after worship.
- The offering will not be collected by the passing of plates. Sign-up sheets, pens, etc., will not be placed out. Sign-ups may take place by an individual approaching and collecting names, which they record, or by bulletin insert sign-ups people can place in bins.
- The service will continue to be made available

online. A posting will be made to indicate that the service is being live streamed to reach beyond these walls.

- Pencils, envelopes, Bibles, and hymnals will be removed from the pews.
- A bulletin will be provided to pick up on a table but will not be handed to people. One per family.
- Every other pew will be cordoned off and family units should leave the center of pews empty to maintain at least six feet from the next family.
- Interior doors should be propped open as people are entering and exiting the church. Exterior doors should be cared for by one greeter per door (main entrance and both east and west doors).
- We will continue to encourage people 65 and older, and/or people with health vulnerabilities, to participate from home, and will continue offering worship and connection opportunities for them remotely.
- We require and request that people who have a fever or feel unwell in any way, please stay home.
- If someone knows they have been exposed to COVID-19, we require and request that they stay away from worship and any church activities for two weeks.

## Congregational Care:

- In-person visits by the pastor/parish nurse/lay pastors/staff will be unavailable until nursing homes open for visitations.

## Other Things to Consider:

- We will send out a letter and/or email/social media to let everyone know when we are reopening and how that will look.
- Masks will be a requirement as we reenter the worship space and in the building at all times whenever more than one person is present. We will have a supply of masks on hand.
  - Worship leaders do not need to wear masks when leading worship as long as they maintain 6 feet or more of distance from all others. Masks will be worn when that person(s) is not actively leading worship.
- We will need to sanitize and clean all publicly open spaces
  - Anne Gustafson will work with staff on how we will accomplish this. Volunteer involvement may be needed.

- Communion elements will temporarily be given in sealed, individualized packets to maximize safety. The congregation will take them with them when they leave.
- Baptism will be accomplished by the parents/ sponsors putting the water on their child while the pastor extends hands in blessing and says the baptismal words. The same will be true for confirmation.
- Singing will not take place. Instead we will hum with, or listen to, song leaders.
- We will have some kind of collection box for offerings at the front and back of the sanctuary, as the plates won't be passed.
- Outdoor worship opportunities may happen, during which we will follow physical distancing rules.
- Weddings and Funeral policy will first consider the advice of the governor's office and MN Bishop when determining availability. Policy will be similar to worship policy.
- Our own groups using the building must follow policy at the time (no meetings while the church is closed and then follow guidelines as we slowly re-open). Before an individual or group is present in the building, they must have an orientation to our policies and procedures by Anne Gustafson, director of operations, or a designee.
- Outside group use/rental at this point will not happen. When our policies allow for small group gatherings, they must follow our guidelines. Before an individual or group is present in the building, they must have an orientation to our policies and procedures by Anne Gustafson, director of operations, or a designee.
- Outreach events, such as Ruby's Pantry, will need prior approval of our leadership core team (council chairs, lay leaders, pastors, and director of operations) and must have a plan for safety and to follow social distancing policy.
- In-person worship will be the final step, not the next step. As restrictions lessen, we will find in-person, small-group ways for prayer and connection (e.g., hours the Sanctuary is open for prayer, small-group worship, drive-by blessings, small group outdoor worship).

## Two Movies to Add to Your Bingeing List

By Naomi Yaeger  
EarthKeeper UMC

Two new movies premiered in on Earth Day, April 22. One was ***The Story of Plastic***, which is now showing on the Discovery Network. The other film released on YouTube is ***Planet of the Humans***.

My daughter, Rebecca Bischoff, made arrangements for members of the Coppertop to see a screening of ***The Story of Plastic***. I sent a link out to about 35 people. One person replied, "I've already seen this, and I'm cutting back on my use of plastics."

The point of the movie wasn't that you, the individual, need to quit using plastic, as much as it is about the plastics industry's plans to ramp up their production of plastic. It's touted as the movie "Big Plastic hopes you won't see." They'd rather blame you as a litterbug than take responsibility for producing even more plastic and selling it to other industries as the container of choice.

The other film, ***Planet of the Humans***, is free on YouTube. I found it very depressing, so make sure you have something uplifting to do after the movie. To me, the only answer to save our planet after watching this was to severely curtail our population; or our standard of living; or how we make, buy, and package things.

Also, on March 18, 2020, right as many were being urged to stay at home, Big Plastics wrote to Alex Azar of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, encouraging them to tout the glories of single-use plastic. (And there is a peer-reviewed study that says plastic isn't any safer.)

I know you've been watching a lot of TV or binge-watching, so I'm adding these two movies to your list:

***The Story of Plastic***  
***Planet of the Humans***.





## First United Methodist Church

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## Ministry Team

If you are in need of assistance, these staff members are available to help. While the church building is closed, many are still able to work from home and keep the important missions of our church operating.

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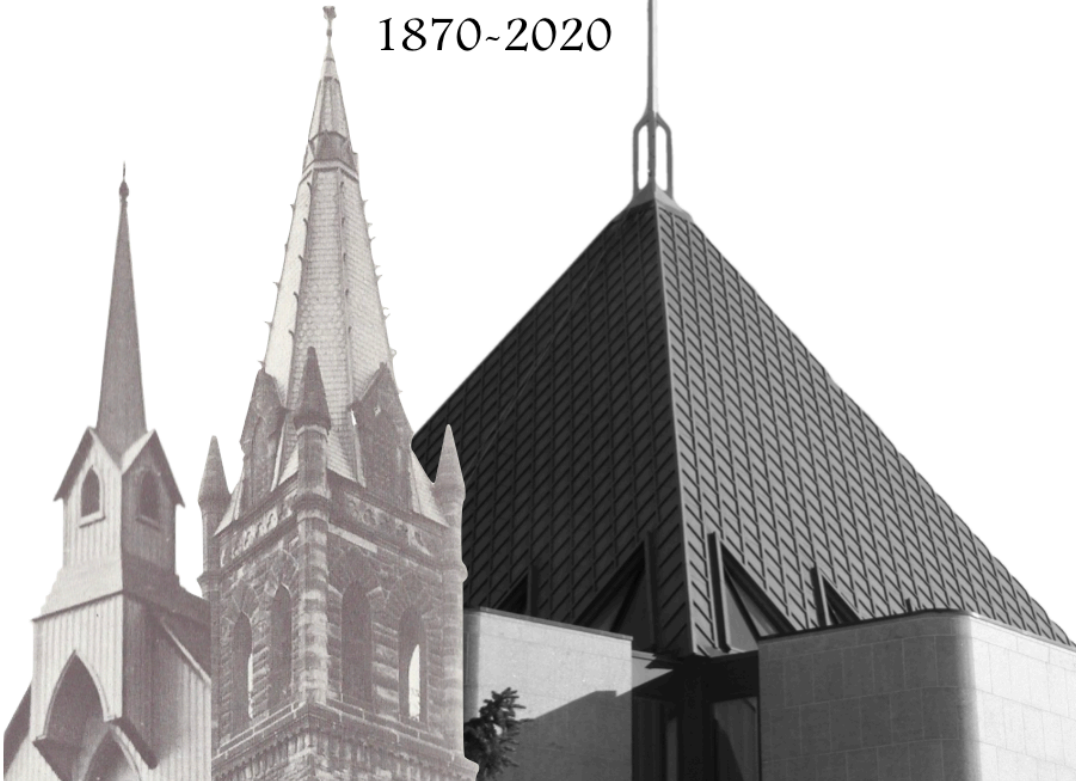
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