



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.

September 2020

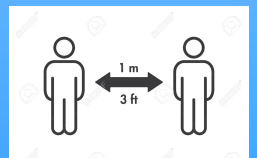
Not Our First ~~Rodeo~~ Pandemic

First United Methodist Church
Celebrating 150 Years!



In Duluth for Good!

Reopening In-Person Church Document
•Details Inside•



**First United
Methodist Church**

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





Our First Family

Joshua Hill

Congratulations Joshua! The following is from the WDIO•WRTP news release:

WDSE•WRPT is excited to welcome Joshua Hill as an IT Systems Administrator. Hill brings over 13 years of experience in supporting businesses and nonprofits with their information systems and technology services to the IT Systems Administrator role. In addition to internal office support, Hill will provide technical support to ensure that WDSE continues to serve the community with its ongoing broadcast of five free channels to the region as well as digital distribution of locally focused productions and national programs from PBS and other partners on YouTube TV, the PBS Video App, and social media sites. Hill has a Bachelor of Science degree from ITT Technical Institute.

Drive-In Movie on Saturday Night!

Drive-In Movie Night in the church parking lot: **Saturday, August 29 at 9:15pm.** The movie is *Aladdin*! Free! Invite friends.



On the Journey With You

Dear Friends,

What a season this is! I pray for you regularly—that God will give you physical, emotional, and spiritual strength and healing for this unusual time. I am proud of our congregation and how we are still being a very active, growing church even without being able to gather in our Sanctuary for worship.

I hope you are joining us every Sunday at 10am for worship on YouTube, where we worship together at the same time. On those Sundays where that time is impossible, please watch and worship any time after that. We have people all around the country joining us in worship. Please invite others to join you. In addition, we are always looking for individuals, couples, and families to read Scripture and lead the call to worship. Please let me know if you are interested, and we will make that happen.

We have had three Drive-In Worship/game times so far where you park in our parking lot and tune in over the radio. They have been well-attended and appreciated. We will continue having those. They will be 30-40 minutes each on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, and each will have a special theme (see article in the newsletter).

Each month we have a Zoom fellowship following the 10am Sunday Youtube worship service. This fall they will be held the 2nd Sunday of every month. Join us for this time of checking in and talking together as we see each other's faces (see article in the newsletter).

We know that many of you have been having small, socially-distanced, outdoor gatherings. This is so good for your souls. We care about your emotional health and want you to be able to continue to gather with others from the church and your friends

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First Family

First United Methodist Church

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

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

Next First Family deadline: **September 16**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

and family when the weather gets bad. Unless COVID-19 situations change, we will have designated places in our church set up for gatherings of ten people or fewer. The room will be set up with a social distance of at least six feet between participants. Masks must be worn, no food or drink is allowed, and all church policies must be followed. You (your group) need to request room space from Anne Gustafson, Director of Operations, so you can be assigned a space, trained on procedures, and so can we disinfect before and after your gathering.

We will not be gathering for in-person worship or group meetings over ten people until it is safe to do so. We love you too much to put you at risk. Enclosed with this letter is our current COVID-19 policy as approved by your church council on August 18, 2020. If you have any questions about it, please talk with me or MaryAnne (your appointed clergy), Cindy Hedlund or Jim Wheeler (your lay leaders) or Scott Hedlund or Ron Berkeland (your council chairs).

Thank you for the wonderful ways you are engaging with and supporting your church during this time of pandemic. If you have a need, want to share information, or need resources, please let me know:

Email: pastor@fumcduluth.com
Cell/Text: 763-443-0570
Church office: 218-727-5021.
YOU are cared about and loved!

On the journey with you!
~Pastor Jeanine

Worship in September

Out of an abundance of caution and care, and wanting to do no harm, we will not return to in-person worship until we feel it would be safe and healthy to do so. Thanks for being flexible and keeping worship a priority.

During September we will continue to worship online on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10am. The service can be watched any time after 10am Sunday morning, but we encourage as many of us as possible to watch together at 10am as a community of faith. Please make worship a soul destination.

September 6: Labor Day weekend and Holy Communion
Celebrating PRIDE

September 13: Fall Kick-off Sunday, Sermon: "Reclaiming Jesus #1—The Neighbor Question"

September 20: "Reclaiming Jesus #2—The Image Question"

September 27: "Reclaiming Jesus #3—The Truth Question"

Each weekend, Pastor Jeanine sends you the link to the online worship service. If you don't get that email, there are other ways you can get to our worship video:

- Go to our church webpage. You will find the link on the homepage in the red and blue "Online Worship" box: fumcduluth.com/
- Go to *YouTube.com* and search for First United Methodist Church Duluth Minnesota and it will come up (you can also find past services there). If you "Subscribe" to the channel, you can receive notices and reminders, and it's easy to find us from your own YouTube account.
- Click on our YouTube channel to see all of our available online worship services. Here is the link: youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUyV7xJ8b4cWww
- Go the FUMC's Facebook Page. There will always be a link there as well: facebook.com/FUMCDuluth

Drive-In Worship—3rd Wednesdays

Visit your church and attend our Drive-In service on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30pm. We have had three Drive-In services so far in the east parking lot, where you park and tune in over the radio. There is the spiritual food of music, games, message, prayers, and socially-distant fun for all ages. The services have been well-attended and appreciated, so we intend to continue offering them each month. They are designed to be 30-40 minutes, each with a special theme.

- Wednesday, September 16, 6:30pm—Blessing of the Animals (bring your pets with you, or a picture of them, and we will bless them from your cars. Come even if you don't have a pet.)
- Wednesday, October 21, 6:30pm—Halloween Theme. We will deliver Halloween treats to your cars.
- Wednesday, November 18, 6:30pm—Thanksgiving Theme
- Wednesday, December 16, 6:30pm—Christmas Theme

Confirmation

Confirmation classes for 8th and 9th grade students (and any older youth) will take place Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

We will begin on September 30 and go through the end of March. We're talking with parents to decide if we will do small in-person classes, Zoom classes, or go with a hybrid plan.

Please contact Pastor Jeanine if you have a student interested in participating.

Third Grade Bibles

All 3rd grade students and their parents (and older children who have not received a Bible from their church) will meet outdoors at church on Tuesday, October 6 at 6pm for a brief introduction to the Bible. There will then be a ceremony of the students receiving their Bibles (which will be recorded and played in Sunday worship on October 11). A follow-up Zoom class at a later date will help children become familiar with their Bibles. Please contact Pastor Jeanine or children's minister Jojo, or call the church office if you would like your child to receive a Bible.

CHUM Backpack Project

WOW!!!!

We are so delighted and proud of our congregation! A check for \$4,028 for backpacks has been delivered to CHUM. Our goal was to sponsor 200 backpacks; we sponsored 336! Way to be the church in the midst of a pandemic!

Antiracism Booklist

Books are now available to check out from the church library on a rolling cart outside the office. There are books for both adults and children. Books on racism are featured but there are other selections as well.

For Adults

White Fragility: Why Is It So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism? by Robin DiAngelo—an ongoing book group discussion is using this book, led by Jojo. "A vital, necessary, and beautiful book; a bracing call to white folk everywhere to see their whiteness for what it is and to seize the opportunity to make things better." –Michael Eric Dyson

So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo—the author guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to “model minorities,” to attempt honest conversations about race and racism.

The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from the 1890s to the Present by David Treuer—“Informed, moving, and kaleidoscopic... Ultimately, Treuer’s powerful book suggests the need for soul-searching about the meanings of American history and the stories we tell ourselves about this nation’s past.” –*New York Times Book Review*.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson—an unforgettable true story about the redeeming potential of mercy. The author, an attorney, tells the story of one of his first cases: to defend a young man sentenced to die for a murder he did not commit. Duluth's Community Read for 2020.

Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad—Using a step-by-step reflection process, the author guides the reader to examine their racist thoughts and behaviors.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum—The author, a renowned psychologist specializing in racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi—the author uses his own life journey to show us why becoming an antiracist is as essential as it is difficult. Equal parts memoir, history, and social commentary, this book is honest, brave, and most of all, liberating.

Picture Books for Children

The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, —“A love letter to America. To Black America. To grit, passion, and perseverance of our greatest artists, athletes, and activists.” Winner of the Caldecott medal and Newbery Honor medal.

Speak Up by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Ebony Glenn—When something really matters, one voice can make a difference.

Thursday Zoom

Every Thursday at 10am, Pastor Jeanine hosts a Zoom meeting open to all. This is a time to visit with one another, hear church updates, and share Scripture and prayers. Come anytime, come once, or come every week. This is an open and flexible opportunity for connection.

Link and meeting number:

• **Zoom Meeting:** zoom.us/j/915188407

• **Meeting ID:** 915 188 407

Zoom Fellowship Hour

Immediately following the 10am worship on the second Sunday of every month, we host a Zoom fellowship hour. The next one will be held on Sunday, September 13. Join us for a time of checking in with each other, and discussing the worship service, sermon, and/or anything else participants wish to discuss.

• **Zoom link:** umn.zoom.us/j/4107495307

• **Meeting ID:** 410 749 5307

New Member Informational Class

On Sunday, August 30, immediately following worship, we will be hosting a new member informational class via Zoom for those who have questions about, or are interested in, joining, our congregation. Please invite people to attend. Please let Pastor Jeanine know who is attending and she will send them the Zoom link.

Memorial Gardens

There are only a few weeks left to enjoy the beautiful Memorial Gardens throughout the church grounds this summer. Invite some friends to meet you in the parking lot for a social distancing visit with a cup of coffee, conversation, and a tour of the gardens between now and September 23.

On Tuesday, September 23 (rain date Sept 24), we invite volunteers to come and help with Geranium Day. Starting at 9am, we will dig, trim, and pot the 120 geraniums that have been blooming all summer. They will be placed on the window sills of Lakeview Social Hall and classrooms to rest until next spring, when we will bring them back outdoors to beautify the gardens again. Saving the geraniums is a huge task and also a huge savings financially. Our fall clean-up day to prepare the gardens for winter is Tuesday, October 20 (rain date October 21) at 9am and volunteers are invited to come and help that day. We will put away the outdoor benches and clean and trim the flower beds.

Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to serve our usual thank-you lunch for our volunteers, so we encourage you to bring a brown-bag lunch or snack and beverage for yourself. Masks and social distancing following church policy guidelines will be in place.

The Garden Group Ministry Team has more than 40 dedicated volunteers who are good stewards of God's gift of the earth and all manner of plants, and also good stewards of the donations that are shared as memorials or gifts to help maintain the gardens. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to new volunteers to be a part of the Garden Group Ministry Team. Contact Marlene Bowen (218-729-6526) or Laura Krumwiede (218-728-5723) for more information.

Show Some Love to Lake Superior: Help Clean a Beach

By Naomi Yaeger, UMC Earthkeeper

Every year in September, thousands of volunteers come out to keep beaches all over the world healthy, safe, and beautiful. The Alliance for the Great Lakes, a non-profit, is sponsoring an Adopt-A-Beach Campaign to clean beaches.

"You can pick up trash by yourself, and that's great," Sharon Moen said. Sharon is leading a group near the Lake Superior Estuarium in Superior. But the difference in the group clean-up efforts is that they will keep data on what type of trash is collected and send it back to the Alliance for the Great Lakes. We have a human print on

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how we are affecting our rivers, waterways, and oceans. And of course, there is socially distanced-human interaction during the event.

Several non-profits have joined together to share in the beach cleanups in September: The Ocean Conservancy, The Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the Friends of the Lake Superior Reserve.

Sharon has led groups in beach cleanups for more than 10 years and says the item most commonly found is cigarette butts. "The plastic filters do not degrade," she said. "They will sit there on the beach for a long, long time." Also, the chemicals leached from cigarette butts are not good for aquatic life.

The most interesting trash Sharon has found is half a bowling ball. And the most fun thing she found is surf balls or "whale burps,"—tightly-wound organic matter in the shape of an egg.

Sharon will provide trash bags, latex gloves, and face masks. The first few to sign up will get the "really nice" face masks. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Learn more and sign up at greatlakes.org

Join us to clean the beach:
Saturday, Sept. 26. 9am until 2pm
Gather at the Lake Superior Estuarium, 3 Marina Dr., Superior, WI.

From Our Faith Community Nurse

What a stressful time for all parents, grandparents, teachers, and school staff. Do I teach? Do I send my child to school? What precautions will my child's school be able to take? Will I be able to help my child if online learning is chosen? Should we homeschool or switch schools? Unfortunately, not all children's needs nor their families' will be met.

Children going back to school in Duluth must wear masks, practice hand washing and sanitizing, keep their distance, and stay home when sick.

The CDC issued better guidelines for the type of masks that should and should not be worn. Here is a short list of their recommendations:

- The best mask not made for health professionals is a mask made from two layers of cotton which is tightly woven and one layer of synthetic material. [Another recent study](#) suggested that homemade cloth face masks likely need two or three layers to be effective in preventing the spread of the coronavirus.
- Polypropylene is one of the most popular materials for masks because viruses and bacteria can't live on the fabric for long. It may be one of the best materials for a homemade mask and has an electrostatic charge that traps incoming and outgoing particles. It loses its electrostatic charge when washed, but can be recharged by rubbing it with a plastic glove.
- It's also important to have a good fit without gaps, and please make sure the mask is covering your nose!

Masks which are not appropriate are masks with valves, knitted masks, one-layer masks, bandannas, and single-layer neck gaiters.

Go to the CDC website to see all recommendations. A good practice is to have your child carry a plastic bag so when they eat, the mask can be stored away. Make sure your child's mask is labeled. Masks that are washable and have been used by children all day should be laundered each day.

Above all, we must be as flexible as possible. Consult your child's care provider if you have questions about them attending in-person classes, and make the best decision for your family. This is a unique situation that we are going through, but through perseverance, gathering facts, advocating, and following guidelines based on science, we will help stem the spread of the virus and get us through this. When dealing with your children, remain as calm as you can and give plain and honest answers. Saying a few prayers each day will certainly help. As a line from the the song *Many Gifts, One Spirit* says, "In the midst of changing ways,/ Give us still the grace to praise."

Blessings, ~Linda Wiig



Fall Roast Beef Dinner Canceled

While we all look forward to the Fall Roast Beef Dinner, this year the coronavirus pandemic and the church's duty to ensure that our congregation and community

remain as safe as possible are compelling us to cancel our annual fall tradition. The Roast Beef Dinner traditionally raises several thousand dollars for church ministries; at the August Administrative Council meeting, the Finance Committee reported that the church is on budget, due to generous giving from members, and that the health risks posed by holding the dinner outweigh the funds that would be raised. Leah and Corey Hulst, Steve Mattson, and Cindy and Scott Hedlund have developed a plan for a 100% drive-through curbside pickup dinner that can be implemented if we feel able to have a Roast Beef Dinner in the spring of 2021. Thank you to all who typically volunteer their time for this fun and delicious community event, and we'll see you in the spring!

Fall Book Study

Many of us are familiar with John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. But what do these rules mean in our daily lives? How do we live out our faith using these rules as our guideline?

Bishop Reuben Job has written a succinct summary of Wesley's theology in his small book, aptly titled *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living* (2007). Our four-week fall book study will be centered on the concepts found in this text. We will ask ourselves what Wesley meant when he developed these three simple ideas that have the power to change the world.

To keep everyone safe, this book study group will be held via Zoom. Each week, from the comfort of your own home and in community with friends, we will meet to discuss one of the Rules and what application we think it has in 2020. Dates are September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 13 from 6:30-7:30pm. Rev. MaryAnne Korsch will facilitate. In our fourth session, Pastor Jeanine will join us for the final discussion, which will help her develop a sermon series later in the year.

If you are interested in joining the group, please email or call MaryAnne (maryanne.korsch@gmail.com or 218-343-8813) before September 15. Study guides will be provided via email each week. Books are available at your favorite local bookstore (probably by special order) or on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). All are welcome to this thought-provoking and timely study on a foundational part of our Methodist theology.

Children, Youth, Family Ministry

Ministry for the children and teens of our congregation will start in the beginning of October. In the month of September, we will be gathering data! Look for a survey in your email soon asking questions about what kind of ministry you and your family feel safe with and in which you are interested in participating.

We are not having in-person worship and are discussing if small in-person groups for our Tweens and Youth are possible. Your input is invaluable! For more information, contact Jojo Coffin-Langdon at families@fumcduluth.com

Music Notes

What's happening with music this fall at "The Coppertop"

by Velda Graham Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Every August I start thinking about our music groups that will be gathering again after the end of summer. I start putting notices in *First Family* and the bulletin with details about our music groups, encouraging people to join us. But this fall is certainly different. Because of the pandemic, it is not safe for many of our groups to meet, especially any group that involves singing. A few weeks ago, the FUMC music staff got together to discuss which music groups can meet in a different fashion and which groups cannot safely meet. Here is our current plan, which of course, might change as the pandemic changes:

JAM & the Peanut Butter Band and JAM Junior—JAM will not meet in-person this fall. Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon is currently contacting parents to see if Zoom gatherings or prerecorded videos may be helpful to JAM members and their parents.

Handbells—Strikepoint and Cast in Bronze (our adult group) will meet. The groups will not rehearse in the bell room, but rather in the Sanctuary, where extra tables can be set up to allow safe distances between people. Everyone will wear masks during rehearsals, and the bells will be wiped down after rehearsals. We hope that these groups can record bell anthems from time to time, so we can hear them ringing again in our online worship services. If you are in these groups, look for an email from Bill Alexander soon with details about rehearsal times. Unfortunately, our **children's handbell ensemble, Ringtones, and our high school handbell ensemble, Class Ring**, will not meet. We do not feel that it is safe at this time for them to gather.

Tapestry—A small instrumental group from Tapestry will meet about once a month to prepare and record two hymns for our online worship services. They will also lay down an instrumental track that will be used to prepare a monthly virtual video with the entire Tapestry group. Pastor Cynthia has contacted the group and plans are underway.

Sanctuary Choir—Unfortunately, it is clearly not safe for our Sanctuary Choir to meet. Group singing is one of the riskiest activities for spreading the coronavirus. Mike Goodlet will continue leading Zoom meetings with the choir to keep everyone connected. He will also be organizing some soloists to provide special music for our online services, as well as continuing to provide his skills as a song leader for our worship services.

Thank you to all the musicians who have shared their talents with
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us thus far during our online services. And special thanks to Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner, who so expertly record us and make us sound as good as possible!

Please feel free to contact me or the other music staff if you have questions or concerns.

- Velda Bell: 218-393-4006 or music@fumcduluth.com
- Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon: 218-260-3114 or pastorcynthiacf@gmail.com
- Bill Alexander: 218-729-8434 or bill@strikepoint.com
- Mike Goodlet: 218-409-3479 or mgoodlet69@gmail.com

Update on the Austin Pipe Organ Refurbishment Project

by Velda Graham Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

The FUMC Organ Committee wants to update you on our church's pipe organ refurbishment project. We had initially hoped to have most of the work done this summer but, unfortunately, COVID-19 put everything on hold last spring. The organ supply companies shut down completely for a while and are still operating at a reduced capacity. Robert Hoppe, our chosen organ builder and designer from Algoma, WI, hopes to install the electrical relay system on the downstairs console yet this fall. Other work—such as the installation of the electrical system in the upstairs console, repairs to the antiphonal

division, and revoicing work —will probably be done early next year.

While we are, of course, disappointed that the work is being delayed, we also understand that nothing can be done about the circumstances. And we are still excited about the refurbishment work, which will make our wonderful pipe organ function and sound even better.

Funds for the refurbishment of our Austin pipe organ come from money raised during our recent capital campaign and a significant legacy gift given by Allen Anway and his family in memory of Dorothy Anway.

FUMC Organ Committee: Velda Graham Bell (chair), Allen Anway, Carol Donahue, Shelley Gruskin, LeAnn House, Tom Wiig, Anita Zager



Ruby's Pantry distribution is on **Thursday, September 17**, in the FUMC parking lot. For a \$20 cash donation, participants receive two large pre-packed boxes of food.

Please arrive after 3:30pm, wear a mask, and have room in your car for the food. For more information, follow [Ruby's Pantry Coppertop](#) on Facebook or fumcduluth.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

Racial Justice Action Committee

We have started a committee whose sole/soul focus is to hold us accountable to a faithful and just response to our sisters and brothers of color. The committee has discussed potential education efforts, how we can communicate our commitment as a congregation, and the important ways we can take actionable steps in our community.

We have committed to ongoing study of race and antiracism in our church. Currently we are hosting a book study on *White Fragility*, with plans for a new learning activity in October (stay tuned!).

Several books about racism for both children and adults were purchased for our church library and are available now for check out: tinyurl.com/books-racism (See page 4). They are on a cart outside the church office. Please check them out!

FUMC is giving financially to New City Church, an inner-city Methodist church in Minneapolis which is "a healing space for people of color, committed to undoing white body supremacy." See gownewcity.church for more information on New City.

Other plans are in the works, such as recommending updates and changes to the church's website and social media platforms that state that we celebrate all people of all racial heritages. We welcome all people as God's beloved community, no exceptions! We continue seeking partnership with the NAACP, looking at inviting guest speakers of diverse backgrounds, and potentially developing scholarships or small business owner support for people of color, and more. All are welcome to join the committee, which meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Reich

For more information, please contact Jojo Coffin-Langdon at Families@fumcduluth.com or 218-251-4388

Re-Opening In-Person Church Document

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

Approved by Church Council on 8/18/2020

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 continue 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.
- Protective masks (approved by the MN Department of Health) need to be made available and worn. *Exception is people leading worship who are more than 12 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.
- When we move to in-person worship, children will not come forward for the children's message, but will remain with their families.
- 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, by bulletin insert sign-ups people can place in bins, or through electronic means.
- The service will continue to be made available online. A posting will be made to indicate that the service is being livestreamed 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 to 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.
- Entry to the building will not take place until 15 minutes prior to any service.
- There will be no food or drink served in the building.
- We will continue to encourage people over 65 and/or 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.
- Hospital visits will be primarily by phone, or in urgent situations at the discretion of the pastors or parish nurse.

Other things to consider:

- We will send out a letter and/or email/social media notification 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 remain more than 12 feet away 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 will we accomplish this. Volunteer involvement may be needed.
- Communion elements will temporarily be given in sealed, individualized packets. 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.
- Congregational 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, for which we will follow physical distancing rules.
- Weddings and Funeral policy will consider the advice of the Governor's office and MN Bishop when determining availability. Policy will be similar to worship policy (See further discussion below).
- Groups of ten or fewer, internal and external, may meet in the building at the discretion of the Director of Operations and/or Pastor. They must fully follow policy and stay in the assigned area. 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. Use of the building can be revoked at any time if the COVID-19 situation changes and/or policies are not followed. This includes individuals requesting rooms for small socially distanced gatherings.
- 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).

Weddings and Funerals:

- People are urged to conduct wedding and funerals outside or on Zoom whenever possible. When services are in the church parking lot, we encourage 50 or fewer participants and require social distancing and mask wearing. Social distancing and mask wearing is required at all locations.
- When weddings or funerals must take place in the Sanctuary, they are limited to 50 or fewer people, including all people present in the Sanctuary. Use of the building can be revoked at any time if the COVID-19 situation changes and/or policies are not followed.
- No non-member weddings or funerals will take place in the building during COVID-19.
- All policy requirements for indoor worship, including wearing masks, must be followed. Worship leaders do not need to wear masks when leading worship/public speaking as long as they are at least 12 feet away from all others, and will be worn when that person(s) is not actively leading worship/public speaking. All members of the wedding party, including the bride(s) and groom(s), must wear masks unless they are speaking (and for the kiss in the ceremony).
- We encourage and urge no vocal singing, even soloists. If there is a need for a soloist, the wedding/funeral family will meet with Velda Bell, Director of Music, to put a safety plan in place, which will include social distancing and a singing mask provided by the family.
- Pictures before/after the service are to be taken outdoors. Pictures can be taken indoors during the service.
- There will be no receiving line in the building. Following the service, everyone will be encouraged to leave the building and commence their fellowship time outdoors following social distancing.
- Entry to the building will not take place until 15 minutes prior to the service.
- Only the bride (and one person helping her) may dress in the building.
- Congregational singing will not take place. Instead we will hum with, or listen to, song leaders.
- There will be no food or drink served in the building.

Meet Your Church Leadership

We asked, "why did you decide to become a leader in the church?"

Karen Alseth - At-Large Member



It is an honor, privilege, and responsibility to serve in leadership on the Church Council, and I love responsibility! It is also inspiring and motivating to gather with people who are so committed to our church and its ministries and to think I can make a small contribution.

Marilew Barnidge - UMW President (no picture)

Being active in church life is a part of my being. When I see a need and feel a calling, I will answer if I am able. The experiences I have had in leadership roles have only served to make my belief stronger. I pray daily for guidance in my life, and serving my God is reflected in my service.

Mike Donahue - Hospitality



I grew up in the church with parents who volunteered when needed, and I'm following in their footsteps. When accepting membership in the United Methodist Church, I was reminded to share of my time, talent, and treasure. That is my goal.

Cindy Hedlund - Lay Leader



I became a leader for the church because my parents were always leaders for the church, and I thought that is just what you do! I enjoy inspiring, motivating, and directing the church toward an action. I also like communicating ideas to others in a way that engages

and excites all of us. I love and adore the church

community and feel honored and privileged to be serving them. Being a leader is one of my ways to give back to the church, as the church is always there for me.

Scott Hedlund - Administrative Council Chair



I became a leader for the church with the merger of Chester Park United Methodist. I continue to serve on the Administrative Council because I like to be involved with setting direction for church growth and making sure every member's voice is heard.

Laura Hauschildt - Young Adult Representative



I became a leader because I wanted first and foremost to help others (and have a little fun doing it!). Whether it's through giving a different (younger?) opinion to the church council, helping to put together shares at Ruby's Pantry, or helping in the nursery, it makes a difference

and serves God's people around you!

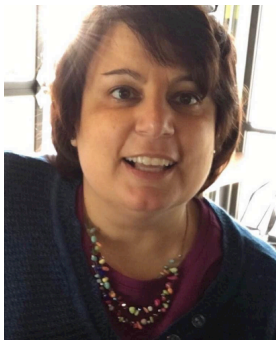
Jesse Singer - President of the Foundation Board



I became a leader because I see the clear benefit of the Foundation to the church, and I'm happy to be a part of that. Thanks to the generosity of Foundation donors, attentive fund managers at our bank, and our socially responsible investment policy, we are able to help out with large projects,

such as the parking lot, to regular quarterly disbursements to help maintain the church's bottom line.

Jeanine Alexander - Pastor



I am a leader at FUMC because I believe in our mission, love our people, and feel we have a calling from God to make our community and beyond more caring, inclusive, and Spirit-filled.

Ron Berkeland - Administrative Council Chair



Currently I am serving as co-chair of the Administrative Council. For a number of years, I also served on the Staff Parish Relations Committee. I had never thought of these roles as becoming a part of the leadership of the church; I saw them as a way to serve and give back to the church for all

the blessings I have received from my membership at the church.

Teri Tangen - Finance



I became a church leader because someone believed in me, asked me, encouraged me, God nudged me, and God graced me with the necessary gifts to fulfill the role. I am very humble and grateful that others have believed in me and my abilities to help guide the church. I believe, as I

participate in the leadership of the church, I have gained much more than I have given. I am surrounded by a group of faithful, talented leaders who live out their faith and graciously give of themselves to others.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." Romans 12:6

Linda Wiig - Parish Nurse



FUMC's first parish nurse, June Hiza, was a wonderful example of how a nurse could minister to a church congregation. She moved from town, and this left an opportunity for me to serve, so I took the preparation course and became your Faith Community Nurse (FCN).

Since the early days of Christianity, this type of nursing has strived to support journeys toward wholeness relating to body, mind, and spirit—a blending of faith and nursing. As I have served in a caring capacity, my faith has grown and I have developed a closer relationship with God. I feel fortunate to be a part of this caring ministry, knowing that through grace and love, God is at work.

Karen Buell - Worship



I was asked to chair the worship team. I feel it is a way to serve the church and show my commitment to the congregation.

Nancy Eaton - Secretary (Administrative Council)



I am the secretary for FUMC's Administrative Council. I attend the meetings, take minutes, and send them to Pastor Jeanine for review and distribution. I've been active in our music program for a long time, but this was my first chance to have a larger role. I think everyone should

take the opportunity to serve if they are able to.

—continued on page 14

Steve Mattson - Staff Parish Relations Committee



Learning about the SPRC piqued my interest as a place where I would like to contribute some of my worldly skills, and hopefully make even a small difference in the life of our church. Leadership to me is not about hierarchy; rather it's about surrounding yourself with people who are equally

passionate about whatever mission you are striving to accomplish. This is what excites me about leading SPRC. I look at our team as a collective voice, comprised of varying points of view that bring rich discussion and decisions that are made in the best interests of our Church, and our terrific church staff and Pastor!

Tim Zager - CHUM



We have witnessed scores of FUMC members step up to leadership roles in our community and church congregation over our nearly 40 years of membership. The calling to leadership, as Samuel in the Old Testament found, is not a loud voice, but it is persistent. Many of FUMC's

most effective leaders were not flashy by the world's standards, but they often could start the inner fire in others. They certainly did for me.

MaryAnne Korsch - Deacon



At its best, church is where we worship and learn together, are inspired and equipped to live as Christ-followers, and mobilize one another to transform our communities and world to bring God's dream for the world to reality. The church is a unique institution in which our human

desires to be whole, to live fully, to make a difference, and to develop meaningful connections with God and others, can take place in a community. My goal in leadership is to strengthen and nurture such a community so we can make disciples of Christ to heal a broken world.

Kyle Harriss - Trustees



Coming from a smaller church (Chester Park UMC), I had learned that all hands in the church need to participate actively, and some would need to wear multiple hats—church was not a spectator sport.

After Chester Park merged with First UMC, I was asked to become a trustee at the Coppertop to help care for the Chester Park building until it sold. That was a few years ago, and I'm still a trustee. Because someone invited me to participate, I feel I have a role in which I can contribute to the congregation. And that helps me to feel that this is "home."

Jim Wheeler - Lay Leader



I feel it is important to give back to both your church and community. Several years ago, after serving two terms on the trustees, I felt the timing was good to get more involved with the church again. So when Jeanine asked me last year if I would be interested, I gratefully accepted.

eGiving

NOW AVAILABLE



You can securely give via the internet at onrealm.org/FirstUMCMN/give/now or by texting "COPPERTOP" to 73256.

If you have any questions, please contact [Anne Gustafson](#). We appreciate your generous gifts to our Church!

ELI internship affirms students' call to vocational ministry



Five college students recently completed their 10-week summer internship with The Experimental Leadership Institute (ELI) Project—and all five are planning to pursue or seriously considering vocational ministry in The United Methodist Church.

Four first-time ELI interns spent the past two months taking a deep dive within a single host congregation and gained experience planning worship, preaching or leading a Bible study, and providing pastoral care. All five interns had clergy mentors to guide them.

The ELI Project, now in its sixth year, is a major way in which the Minnesota Annual Conference is committing to raising up the next generation of passionate, Spirit-filled leaders.

Kelby Werner, who interned at First UMC (the Coppertop) in Duluth and attends the University of Minnesota, said one of his favorite parts of the internship was being connected to the other interns. “With this group, I was able to bounce ideas off them and gain new ideas through their experiences,” he said.

A key component of the internship is learning from a designated clergy mentor within your host congregation, and this year’s interns said those relationships were deeply impactful.

Werner said his mentor, Rev. Jeanine Alexander, was supportive, kind, and knowledgeable while also challenging him in helpful ways.

Welcome New Members



It was a delightful surprise to welcome these new members. Delightful because Bob and Barbara Bennett are longtime active participants in several ministry areas at FUMC, and it was a surprise because I, and perhaps many of you, assumed they were members all along.

We ask new members to share three things they would like the congregation to know about them, and here is what they shared:

Bob and Barbara are Duluth natives and have been regularly attending FUMC for the past 14 years.

Barbara is a retired elementary teacher from the Duluth school system. She also supervised student teachers for UMD and St. Scholastica.

Bob is retired from both the DM&IR Railway and the US Air Force. He was director of Marketing and Administration for the DM&IR. In the Air Force, he served as an accounting and finance officer, and was the Deputy Commander for the Air Force Academy's Liaison Officer Program in Minnesota when he retired.

Both Bob and Barbara have been active in the FUMC mentor program (at Lake Superior and Cooper Elementary Schools in Superior), which was started by Julie Bard some 13 years ago. They have also been active in the FUMC 2 X 2 social group.

Please join us in welcoming Bob and Barbara into full membership!



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The Church with a Welcome for Everybody—Always

by Mary Giese

Hello Friends—From the Welcome Desk

There is a bright spot during this pandemic, and it is how we as a church family are reaching out to others about worshiping with us on Sunday mornings. I'm hearing it has become easier to invite friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc., to "come to church" with us online. Some folks may never be able to attend in person but can be involved locally or from a distance with all of the online opportunities that we offer, starting with Sunday services. We continue to be "the church with a welcome for everybody, always." Who might you invite?

Pastor Jeanine shared the following email, and I asked to share its wonderful message with you:

Date: Sun, Aug 2, 2020 at 12:06 PM

Subject: Holy, Holy, Holy

To: info@fumcduluth.com

As usual, it was a pleasure worshipping with you today.

The words for stanzas 2-5 of *Holy, Holy, Holy* by Sarah Maddy are exceptional and prayerful. Each stanza can be a prayer and a sermon topic by itself. Well done thou good and faithful servant, Sarah!

I'm grateful to my daughter Rachel Miles for introducing my wife (Jean) and me to your virtual service. We look forward to it each week. Hopefully, after this Covid stuff is over, Coppertop will be able to continue some form of virtual worship for those of us living far away.

The service feels worshipful and complete. Not all Methodist services can say that.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

Gary Blosberg

Crystal, MN