



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.

December 2020



**First United
Methodist Church**

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



*Love
Hope
Joy
Peace*



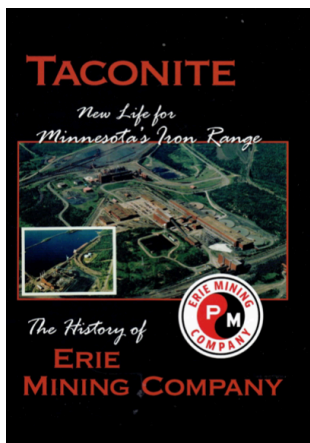
Our First Family

On behalf of the family

of Beth Nims, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Church Family for their many expressions of love, compassion, and support, and for all your prayers over these past weeks. Your virtual presence was fully felt.
~Mike and Carol Donahue

Thank you, everyone, for the messages and the get-well cards I've received while I had COVID. Thankfully my symptoms were mild, and I'm feeling perfect now.
~Dane Dzuck

Possible Christmas Gift Idea?



There's a new book that has found its way into local publications for review, and it was co-written by our own Doug Buell.

A review by the Mesabi Tribune says, "For this native of the Mesabi Iron Range, the book *Taconite: New Life for Minnesota's Iron Range—The History of Erie Mining Company* is a true gem."

Check it out at: [Mesabi Tribune](http://MesabiTribune.com).

On the Journey With You

As I write this column, I have just received information from our Bishop, Bruce Ough, that he has moved us from the COVID Orange Zone to the Red Zone. This means that our church building is closed except for crucial matters. Here is a link to more information about the conference zones: minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan

I hope you are staying at home whenever possible and doing all you can to reduce your risk of infection, and the risk of others. This is hard, and we all have a lot of emotions, even as we are committed to doing the right things. One night I was struggling, so I wrote this poem. I hope something in it resonates with you:

Here we sit in the midst of a world pandemic and everything has changed, there's no denying.

We spend more time than ever in our homes; we don't hug or touch or even share space together to keep ourselves and others from dying.

Hospitals are filled so we have to plan ahead for care, and if medical emergencies come up it almost feels like we're in the third world.

We wear masks and can't see each other's faces; we try so hard not to get in each other's spaces; we are in our tight little bubble when we really want to be unfurled.

Emotions are fragile; nothing seems right; we find ourselves near tears, even crying, be it during the day or night.

There is a tension that comes when people don't seem to care about the well-being of others, when they don't observe the boundaries and safety precautions and do what seems right.

The holidays are upon us, and the prudent thing to do is to love each other with enough care that we don't share meals around one table.

First Family

First United Methodist Church

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Next First Family deadline: **December 23**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

We have to be creative in finding ways of reaching out to one another and keeping each other emotionally as close as we are able.

What I really want to do is to physically hug and hold on to those dear ones whom I so deeply and desperately love.

But instead I find myself physically distant, striving to be emotionally close, with my hand not in theirs but in a protective glove.

My home is really beautiful; I am blessed to have such a beautiful space.

But what I really, really want is to see and be with people face-to-face.

My goal for the year is but one: to keep my family and church alive.

My prayers and actions are such that they will physically, spiritually, and emotionally survive, and hopefully thrive.

I'm spending a lot of time with myself, realizing how it is the simple things in life that are the greatest gifts.

And recognizing that life really is all about relationships and that we should do anything we can to mend any rifts.

I want to offer encouragement and support to family, friends, church, and the community at large.

Which means that sometimes I have to take time to sing, cry, walk, rant, work a puzzle, talk with a loved one, and just find ways to recharge.

Wherever you are in the midst of this pandemic of a century, know that there are people who care and hold you in prayer.

We are socially distant, but emotionally connected we must stay, realizing that we have so much life to share.

Sleep well, my loved ones, my friends near and far.

Join me tonight in praying for peace and health as we wish upon a star...

Friends, we can get through this together. I'm here for you, as is your church. If you have any need this season, please let me know so your church can help. You are beloved, and we want to offer you loving help, care, and encouragement.

On the journey with you,

~Pastor Jeanine

Worship in December

We had planned to have a candle-lighting time in our parking lot, but with COVID-19 cases rising, out of an abundance of caution we are doing all our ministry online so that we do no harm and show care. Join us as we prepare for the coming Savior in these Advent/Christmas opportunities (YouTube links will be emailed to you).

- **November 29**, The 1st Sunday of Advent and start of our Advent/Christmas mission project.

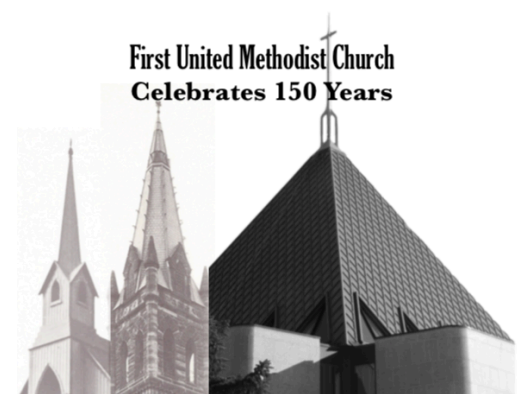
- **December 6**, The 2nd Sunday in Advent and Holy Communion.

- **December 13**, The 3rd Sunday in Advent. Our annual Christmas Pageant, "God's Gift to Us."

- **December 20**, 4th Sunday of Advent.

- **December 24**, 4pm and 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship premiere (can also be watched anytime following either service).

- **December 27**, A service to prepare our hearts and spirits for 2021.



In Duluth for Good!

Thank You for Your Giving!

Thank you for your generous giving of time, talents, gifts, service, and witness in 2020. If you wish to check on the status of your financial giving, feel free to call the church office (218-727-5021) or email (admin@fumcduluth.com) and check with Cara Overland, Our director of operations. Thanks also to everyone who has made estimate of giving pledges for 2021. If you have yet to do that, we have additional pledge cards; call or email us and we will get it to you. Thank you for the wonderful ways you share the love of God. We are blessed to be a part of First UMC. Our community and world are better because we are here.

For God So Loved the World

By Naomi Yaeger,
UMC Earthkeeper

Have you thought about sustainable gifts you could give?

My friend gave me toilet paper for my birthday! It was not because of COVID and hoarding situations, but because the company doesn't use plastic for packaging and because it's made from bamboo, which grows faster than trees. It arrived "pre-gift-wrapped" in colorful paper. The company gives 50% of its profits to building bathrooms.

One in three people on Earth doesn't have access to a bathroom. Toilets help keep the environment



—continued on page 6

Christmas Giving and Receiving

If you have any need this season, please let us know so your church can help. You are beloved and we want to offer you loving help, care, and encouragement. As we reflect on God's gift of Jesus Christ, please join in the spirit of giving. There are many ways you may choose to give. Here are some options to help you decide:

Special end-of-year financial giving: Because we want to continue being a blessing to our community and beyond, we need to make certain that our congregational financial obligations are met. It's about mission and ministry—both now and in the future.

Advent Giving/Christmas Giving Project: This year for Advent, we will be giving to people using the CHUM (Churches United In Ministry) Food Shelf and shelter and Harbor House. Watch your mail and email for more information.

Gift cards for Pastor Jeanine to distribute to those needing encouragement and help.

Pray for people in our congregation, community, and world... send notes... make phone calls...

CHUM Updates

First Virtual Fundraiser Was a Success

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you to all who participated in CHUM's first virtual fundraiser. More than \$50,000 was raised for programs and services that help our neighbors in need. It could not have done without the generosity of sponsors: North Shore Bank, St. Luke's Hospital, the Heart and Health Clinic Employees at Essentia, Wipfli, and the hardworking team leaders who raised more than \$30,000 on their own. CHUM would like to thank those who contributed to and participated in their first virtual silent auction.

Donations Needed:

- **For the Health Clinic:** new underwear, boxers, bras, socks, deodorant, and tampons
- **For Outreach Services:** handwarmers, Chapstick, candles, heavy winter coats, winter boots, hats, gloves, and scarves
- **CHUM is still not accepting** other articles of clothing and are unable to accept any sharp items, such as knives, or breakable items
- **That one item in need...** The CHUM Food Shelf is currently in need of **CEREAL!** All types are accepted for donation Monday–Friday at the downtown location from 9am-12pm. It is one of the most requested items and, as of late, one of the hardest to find and buy. They are currently giving away almost 800 boxes a month.

Wreath Sales

Wreath sales will not be offered this year because of COVID-19, and our time of grief.

We look forward to making wreaths for you and the Carol Donahue Music Student Scholarship Fund of FUMC next year. We continue to support students from the Arrowhead and our church: Ronin Syring, Ben Fena, and Riley Hinnenkamp.

Scholarship applications are available in the church office, or online by contacting mpcmdonahue@aol.com. Youth are eligible to apply at age 12 with three years of musical training.

If you wish to donate to the Carol Donahue Music Scholarship Fund of FUMC, donations can be sent to the church office, appropriately designated to the fund.

Thank you for your support,
~Carol Donahue and
Committee Members:
Jenna Mattson, Sarah Sapyta,

Estimate of Giving Cards

Thank you to those who have returned their 2021 estimate of giving cards. If you have not had a chance to fill yours out, please mail it to the church office as soon as you are able. It helps us do our planning. If you need an estimate of giving card, let us know and we will get one mailed to you. Thank you for your continued generous and loving support of the ministries of FUMC.

Family News

Terri Lynn Nuts

Terri Lynn Nuts and goodies are still here!

We are offering nuts and chocolates from Terri Lynn this year and making it easy to order online. You can order your favorites just by going to CoppertopDuluth.terrilynn.com. The online store will be open through December. All proceeds will go into our youth fund. Thank you for supporting our kids!

Virtual Christmas Pageant, December 13

Be sure to tune in to our online worship services, especially on Sunday, December 13. The Christmas Pageant this year is "God's Gift to All." Join panicked and stressed Christmas shoppers at the Miller Hill Mall who are trying to find the perfect gift for their loved ones when they realize, through the carolers they hear outside, that Christmas is about much, much more. This pageant will include kids of all ages... yup, that means adults too!

Youth and Kids Programming

All youth and kids programs will be meeting through Zoom during December, due to the increased rate of COVID cases. We LOVE our kids and prioritize their safety. When case numbers start going down, we will discuss meeting in person again, but for now, it will all be online. If you have a young person in your family who really needs connection right now, please reach out to Jojo or Cynthia.

Office Hours Changing

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that things can change in a heartbeat. We have learned to be flexible, adaptable, and open to changing course at any time. The word of the year should be RESILIENT!

Like so many other kiddos, our five-year-old son Sam will be moving to full-time distance learning. This decision has forced us to once again be flexible, adaptable, and open to changing course. During this time, the office hours are going to change temporarily, starting the week of 11/16.

Office hours: 10am–2pm, Monday–Thursday—Closed on Friday

I will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9am–4pm, and working from home on Thursday and Friday. Kelby Werner will be in the office on Thursdays from 9am–2pm.

~Cara Overland
Director of Operations



clean and prevent diseases. A child under age five dies every two minutes from diarrhea caused by poor water and sanitation.



I feel a little naughty writing this in a church newsletter, but the company's name is "Who Gives a Crap" (whogivesacrap.org). The company gives money to WASH, which stands for Water Sanitation and Hygiene.

As a United Methodist, I'm proud that WASH is a recipient of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church Advance #3020600.

Think about what YOU could do this Christmas to bless a friend or family member with a sustainable, useful gift.

I'm giving bars of soap I made at a local business, Mix Cosmetiques (mixcosmetiques.com).

Some 10% of everything Mix Cosmetiques sells goes to teaching women in Uganda how to make cosmetics and to start their own businesses.

When Christians think of Christmas, they often think of John 3:16—how God reached out to them to enter into a personal relationship. I want you to remember how much God loves YOU. In addition, look again this Christmas, at what God loves enough to send God's own Son—the world. God's own creation! All of creation, not just humans. If God so loved the world, then we also need to. Choose at least one aspect of creation and love it through your actions and advocacy.

~Sources: umcreationjustice.org, whogivesacrap.org, and umcmmission.org.

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Hope is on the horizon despite the rapidly spreading virus, but at this point in time we find ourselves in the Red Zone.

It is imperative that masks be worn properly (covering the nose). Distance yourself, stay home as much as possible, use hand sanitizer, stay home if you feel sick, monitor your symptoms, and call your provider for instructions.

The wonderful news is that two vaccines have been found to be 95% effective during phase-3 trials. If approval comes, which seems very likely, distribution could begin by the end of December, according to news reports. This holds great promise for slowing the virus spread, if people are willing to receive vaccinations.

There are between 170 and 213 vaccines in the works, with different approaches being used to develop them. They will not all make it to phase-3 trials, but some others are in the works now, which would possibly give us different ways in which to fight the virus.

Therapies now being employed to fight the virus are treatments which Donald Trump received, among others:

- **Regeneron:** This is a mix of monoclonal antibodies, which means they are human-made, and are used to treat a number of diseases, including cancer. The version given to President Trump, called REGN-COV2, is in clinical trials.

- **Remdesivir:** An RNA viral inhibitor, also in clinical trials, is thought to shorten the duration and severity of COVID-19, particularly in the lower respiratory tract.

- **Dexamethasone:** This is a steroid that has been around a long time, and has many standard uses, including as a preventive medication for altitude sickness. Last month, the Journal of the American Medical Association published a paper reviewing the benefits of the use (and limitations) of corticosteroids for COVID patients. Most gains have been made for those patients critically ill and on ventilators.

- **Convalescent Plasma:** This is blood plasma from those who have recovered from COVID-19—although this method has been used for over 100 years (measles, chickenpox, SARS, etc.). It was given emergency use authorization back in August by the FDA, but there is debate as to its efficacy.

Another interesting development by Columbia University's Center for Radiological Research uses Far-UVC lamps—a new technology that emit continuous low doses (around 220 nm) of UV-C light that cannot penetrate skin or eyes. According to the studies at Columbia,

Far-UVC is safe for people, but lethal for viruses in the air. This technology is being incorporated into conventional light fixtures by a U.S. lighting company. The idea is that the fixtures would be easy to install in public spaces like train stations, airports, cruise ships, etc.

Many hospitals use UV light to decontaminate patient rooms. It looks like a little robot emitting UV light, but people can't be in the room while this tech is being used.

A reminder that saliva testing is still happening in Duluth at the DECC, and is now open seven days a week. Click: [COVID TEST](#) to schedule.

During this season it is hard to be without many loved ones, but following health guidelines will be a gift to all of us as we await our Savior's birth. Hope in God's presence with us—Praise the Lord.

Be safe everyone.

~Linda Wiig

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry Coppertop is in its 11th year here at FUMC. Next food distribution will be on Thursday, December 17. We distribute food every third Thursday for a cash donation of \$20 per share. All are welcome to get food from Ruby's; there are no restrictions. We set up a drive-thru in the east parking lot and distribute food from 4:30–6pm, observing COVID guidelines. If you get "too much" food, please share with friends.

Coppertop friends, if you would like to help us, please collect boxes (about apple box size). Bring them to Lakeview Social Hall Stage between 10am–1:30pm on December 17.

Music Notes

Giving Thanks

By Velda Graham Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

As I wrote this article, Thanksgiving was right around the corner and I was thinking about how grateful I am for our church's musicians. Thank you, Coppertop musicians, for lifting our spirits with your music during these challenging times. Tapestry is providing us with many wonderful hymns and anthems for our online worship services; our Sanctuary Choir members are busy recording themselves in preparation for a very special Christmas Eve virtual anthem; Cast in Bronze was, until recently, rehearsing weekly and recording anthems for our online services; Strikepoint was preparing for their virtual concert (see details below); and many of you have inspired us with instrumental and vocal solos. Your music means a lot to all of us. Thank you!!

A Felgemaker Christmas

A virtual organ concert at Sacred Heart Music Center

By now, the premiere of "A Felgemaker Christmas," featuring seven local organists (including our own Velda Bell) playing the historic Felgemaker pipe organ at Sacred Heart Music Center, has already happened. The good news is, the concert is still available for all to see and hear on the Sacred Heart Music Center's YouTube channel ([Youtube.com/sacredheartmusiccenterduluth](https://www.youtube.com/sacredheartmusiccenterduluth)). It's sponsored by Friends of the Felgemaker, a committee of Sacred Heart Music Center that maintains and promotes the historic Felgemaker pipe organ housed at the Music Center.

Strikepoint Virtual Christmas Concert

Strikepoint had planned to present a virtual concert to help bring a bit of happiness and hope during our Christmas season. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, those plans have been placed on hold. At this point, they intend to get back to it as soon as it is safe to do so, and present the concert whenever that may be. Wouldn't a Christmas concert any time of the year sound good right now?

Strikepoint and the DSSO Still Changing For DECC Holiday Concert!

In what was supposed to be a concert broadcast live with a reduced live audience, the DSSO then re-tooled the concert to be without an audience and pre-recorded for later broadcast. As it stands at this time, the DSSO will put together smaller ensemble recordings and Strikepoint may be submitting selections recorded last Christmas for a WDSE program being broadcast closer to Christmas. Look for updated information about broadcast times on the [DSSO website](#). and at [Strikepoint.com](https://www.strikepoint.com)



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Dakotas-Minnesota Area

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November 19, 2020

Staying safe, turning the dial to red

Dear Minnesota United Methodists,



I am alarmed and frightened. The coronavirus pandemic is out of control in Minnesota and most of the country. Our hospitals are overwhelmed. Our front-line health care workers are exhausted. The Minnesota Department of Health told faith leaders in their most recent call that when you gather with others outside your home, you are not just at risk for exposure, you can *expect* to be exposed to COVID-19. That is how rampant the community spread currently is across our state.

As you might know, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday announced a four-week shutdown of bars, restaurants, entertainment venues, and fitness clubs, starting Friday, Nov. 20. Weddings and funerals are permitted, but wedding receptions and post-funeral gatherings of any size are not.

Although in-person worship is still permitted, it is strongly discouraged by health officials and thus we are turning the dial on our Phased Re-Gathering Plan back to red. I ask that all churches return to virtual worship if you have not already done so, that all clergy and staff work from home, and that in-person activities in our buildings be limited to pre-schools, daycares, and emergency relief activities.

I urge you in your personal life and activities to re-double your efforts to keep people safe and help suppress the community spread of this terrible disease. Wear a mask. Stay home. Do not gather for Thanksgiving beyond your immediate household. There is no room for delay. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to set aside our personal and political preferences for the common good. Now is the time to lead the way.

The Minnesota Department of Health is reporting increasing numbers of new cases daily. Here are some sobering statistics for our state:

- In May, we were averaging 800 new cases a day. Today, it is 8,000.



Dakotas-Minnesota Area

- It took us six-and-a-half months to reach 100,000 cases. It only took six weeks to reach the second 100,000, and we are on a path to surpass 300,000 by Thanksgiving. We are in a snowball.
- There are cases in every county in Minnesota and we are averaging a 30 percent positivity rate across the state. That means in a group of 10 people, three are likely to have COVID-19. A 30 percent or higher rate of community spread is considered high-risk.
- In just two days, on Monday and Tuesday of this week, nearly 200 persons were admitted to hospitals statewide due to COVID-19. Our hospitals are reaching maximum capacity, and our healthcare shortage is growing due to staff persons being out sick after contracting the virus.

The next six to 12 weeks will be critical, according to Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota and one of the nation's leading infectious disease experts.

Group and family gatherings have been the most significant source of the spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks. We have the power to help change the trajectory of the pandemic in Minnesota. Doing no harm, acting for the common good, and protecting the most vulnerable among us is how we love our neighbors. We can give rise to the light in the midst of the darkness of this disease.

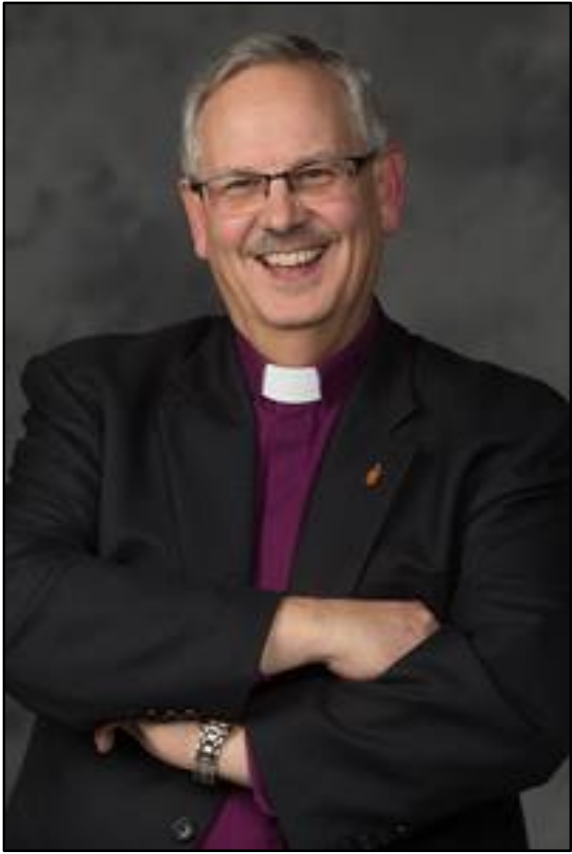
So, I am making a difficult ask. Advent and Christmas is a season when we most want to gather, but this year, we need to be a light to others to by continuing to worship at home and online, and limiting our personal activities to what is absolutely essential.

We can do this hard thing. We can do it because we do not rely on our own strength and capacities. We rely on the promise made real in the incarnation: God is with us. The birth of the Christ child we celebrate this season proclaims that. So now we live it.

Thank you for all the ways you are continuing to be creative in ministry and faithful to our call to heal a broken world!

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

Honoring Bishop Bruce Ough



Bishop Bruce R. Ough will retire on December 31, 2020 after serving The United Methodist Church for 45 years. He was ordained a deacon in 1975 and an elder in 1979 in the former North Dakota Annual Conference. After serving in the North Dakota Conference, the Northern Indiana Conference, and the Iowa Conference, he was elected and consecrated as a bishop in July 2000. He served the West Ohio Area from 2000-2012 and has been resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area since Sept 1, 2012. We have been blessed by Bishop Ough's extraordinary leadership and the support he and his wife Char have given to both the laity and clergy of both conferences.

Over the past eight years, under Bishop Ough's steady leadership, the Minnesota Conference launched The ELI Project, a summer internship program that places college students into host churches to explore vocational ministry firsthand; increased its clergy recruitment efforts; and developed a process to provide training, peer learning, and spiritual growth opportunities for clergy from recruitment through retirement. He helped the Dakotas-Minnesota Area secure a \$1 million Lilly grant to address economic challenges facing pastors. Bishop Ough has also been a leader on the

Connectional Table and within the Council of Bishops and denomination as The United Methodist Church has navigated its future.

How shall we celebrate 45 years of excellent leadership? Bishop Ough has always been passionate about developing leaders for the church. There are two ways you can give to honor the Oughs:

- The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation is facilitating an endowed scholarship in Bishop Bruce and Char Ough's names to celebrate their leadership. The endowment, will provide funding to award an annual scholarship to a Hamline University undergraduate student discerning a call to vocational ministry. (Donations can be made at umhgef.org/oughhamline)
- The Bruce and Char Ough Scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary was started in 2002 in appreciation for their exemplary leadership to The United Methodist Church since Bishop Ough's graduation from seminary in 1978. This scholarship will be a lasting tribute to the Oughs' faithful Christian service and will also perpetuate their love for the church by enabling others to prepare for ministry at Garrett. Donations can be made by sending a check to the Minnesota Conference office (122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Be sure to put "Ough Scholarship at Garrett" in the memo line so your gift can be appropriately directed.

"I am the product of a mentoring culture," Bishop Ough has said. "I was not born a leader; I was raised to be a leader by others who very intentionally invested in me... By the time I responded to God's call and headed to seminary, I knew that a major portion of my ministry was to multiply myself as a leader. I have attempted to pay my leadership debt forward ever since."

The United Methodist Church is indebted to the Oughs for their ministry among us. Thank you for joining in celebrating Bishop and Char Ough and we hope you will pray for them as they transition to a new season of ministry. If you wish to give them a card, you may send it to the Minnesota Conference office (122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404).

New Books on Our Library Cart

His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and The Power of Hope, by Jon Meacham—An intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and longtime U.S. congressman John Lewis, linking his life to the painful quest for justice in America from the 1950s to the present

March: Book 3, by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and illustrated by Nate Powell—Third volume in a graphic memoir trilogy about Rep. John Lewis, for age 11 and up.

Planning for a More Inclusive Church

The United Methodist Church stands to lose more members and churches over the issue of race than it did in the debate over LGBTQ inclusion, said Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. Nevertheless, she said, United Methodists should not back down from the denomination's commitment to dismantle racism. "We don't have time to wait," the Baltimore-Washington Conference bishop said. "People can't breathe." Easterling was among 18 United Methodist leaders who spoke with urgency about the issues confronting the church during the fourth annual Inclusiveness Conference, organized by [the United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy](#). The group holds educational forums with the aim of building a church committed to racial justice and LGBTQ equality.

To read the entire article, go to [United Methodist News](#).

From The Welcome Desk

Who might you welcome to church this Advent season?

The pandemic may keep us home and out of our church building, but nothing can keep us from the promise of the Advent season, no matter where we worship. Our church services online are so wonderful and fulfilling that I look forward with great anticipation to Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday in Advent 2020.

I have always loved the lighting of Advent candles each week. Perhaps my following thoughts don't quite match the original intent of the candles, but this COVID time has me thinking about things differently and wondering how we might welcome people to church.

Love - The first week we light the candle of **Love**. I have felt love during this pandemic in one unexpected phone call, or a special card in the mail, or an email of "Hello, how are you?" All are simple gestures of love from one to another. Inviting someone to come to church with you online is a sign of love.

Hope - Week two we light the candle of **Hope**. Who do you know that needs to have a feeling of hope? Invite and welcome them to join us for church online; perhaps the service will fill a need for them.

Joy is the candle for week three. I feel **Joy** on Sunday mornings when I see familiar faces participating in worship. I feel joy when I hear the music (we are so blessed) and listen to the scriptures and sermons. I also feel joy when I hear that people from all over the area and country are joining us for worship. Maybe someone you invite to watch and listen will be filled with a special joy during these difficult times, and maybe they will welcome another.

Peace is the fourth candle. True positive **Peace** comes when we are right with God, with one another, and with all creation. In these uncertain times, let this Advent season be a time of harmony, **Peace**, and justice for all.

We prepare through all of Advent for what happens on Christmas Eve. We light the brightest and best, the **Christ Candle**.

We welcome the baby Jesus, the **true light that shines on all the world**. Everyone is welcome to this awesome and incredible event!

I pray for good health and safety for you, and may you find hope, love, joy, and peace this Advent and Christmas season. May you give the gift of welcome to others, remembering First United Methodist Church of Duluth, the Coppertop, is the church with a welcome for everybody, always.

~Mary Giese, Welcome Director

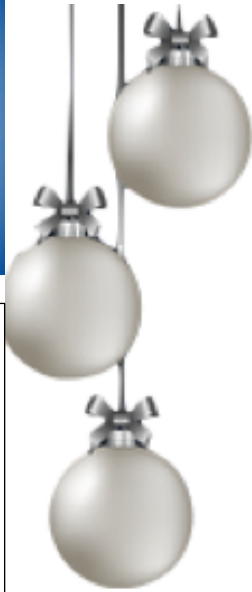


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