



We welcome all people... are guided by the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus... are inspired to participate as faithful disciples of Christ.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

Howard Thurman was an outstanding theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. Thurman was listed in *Ebony Magazine* as one of the 50 most important figures in African-American history. Among his twenty books is *Jesus and the Disinherited* (1949), which greatly influenced Martin Luther King, Jr. Thurman was the Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, the first black person to be named tenured Dean of Chapel at a majority-white university, during the time King was a graduate student there.

All Church Potluck & Church Conference/Annual Meeting

Please plan to stay after church on Sunday, February 11 for our annual meeting. We will eat together... Pastor Jeanine will share what she learned at the meet-and-greets and in her first months with us... we will take our yearly action on church membership...we will have an update on capital campaign progress ... and we will vote on the merging/absorption of Lester Park UMC and their request to come to First UMC.



Our First Family

Hospitalizations: Dorothy Anway, Lee Ball, June Kreutzkamp, Tom Ling, Dick Peterson and Bob Topliff

Death: Carol Torgerson

Condolences to Rod Saline on the death of his mother, Anita, and to Leah Shadle Wilsey on the death of her mother.

Church Lighting for the month of January 2018 in memory of Debra Anne (Lucas) Eckert to benefit FUMC Children's Programs from Mary Ann Lucas Houx, Thomas and Theresa O'Gara.

Attendance:

Dec 3/360
Dec 10/281
Dec 17/340
Dec 24
10am/228
4pm/168
10pm/325 Total Dec 24/721

Many thanks to our FUMC musicians who contributed so greatly to our worship services this Christmas season. You're the best! *Velda Bell*, Director of Music Ministries

Thank you for your continued support of our Loaves and
continued next page

On the journey with you

Passing on the truth

Nelson Mandela died on December 5, 2013 at the age of ninety-five. As President, he led his government as it helped dismantle apartheid, tackling institutionalized racism, poverty, and inequality, and fostering racial reconciliation. He left an amazing legacy in words and in actions. Here are a few famous quotes attributed to Mandela:

- "It always seems impossible until it's done."
- "I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death."
- "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."
- "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."
- "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."
- "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."
- "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

continued next page

First Family

First United Methodist Church

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218/727-5021 info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Next First Family deadline: Jan 25

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Passing on the truth, *continued*

2 Timothy 2:2 says: “*You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*”

As we begin a New Year, let’s commit ourselves to passing on the truths shared by Nelson Mandela in our words and actions.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Jeanine

Our First Family *continued*—CHUM report

Fishes community. In our attempt to live out a practical version of the parable that is our namesake, sharing our resources with our struggling neighbors is not possible without your love and support. Merry Christmas, *Drew* for Loaves & Fishes

To the people of First United Methodist Church:

So far this year, **CHUM’s Food Shelf** has distributed more than 275,000 pounds of food to 2,201 unduplicated families. Most make three visits a year, and 37% of the beneficiaries are children. In an effort to provide our customers a better experience and healthier choices, we were delighted with a donation of a new refrigerator display unit from Essentia Health, and are grateful for partnerships with Bay Produce to provide locally-grown tomatoes and peppers, and Country Hearth Bakery for a

New Member Informational Classes

Classes will be offered

- **Sunday, January 21 @ 5p**
- **Sunday, February 25 @ 11:30am (after worship)**

(You only need to attend one class)

This class is for anyone who would like to learn more about First UMC/The Coppertop, and is required if you intend to join.

If interested, please sign up at the table outside the sanctuary or call the church office. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

Stewardship 2018 Update

Thank you to everyone who has made a financial pledge to continue and expand our mission and ministry in 2018. Generosity is growing, which is very exciting. About 50% of our pledges are increased or new compared to last year. This is great news indeed!

Because you give, great ministry happens at our church, in the community, and around the world. Well done!

steady supply of fresh bread – usually over 1,000 loaves a month!

CHUM’s Congregate and Family Emergency Shelters have been operating over capacity for several years. This year we expect 1,200 guests, over 200 more than last year, with only 25% of our guests experiencing homelessness for the first time. Duluth’s limited supply of affordable housing, and long delays for mental and chemical health treatment and services, make it extremely challenging to resolve recurrent and long-term homelessness. We are proud that CHUM operates one of the few 24-hour shelters in Minnesota and that we are among the most cost-efficient, with an average cost per person of \$28 per night and an average length of stay of 19 nights.

Programming at the Steve O’Neil Apartments focuses on the children whose families live in these 44 units of permanent supportive housing. This fall, a new community collaborative effort established a monthly Literacy Night at Steve O’Neil Apartments. UMD’s America Reads and Counts program and the Duluth Public Library, along with CHUM staff, engage children and parents to promote literacy at all levels. *As a result, one four-year-old just received her first library card!*

Thank you for being an important part of CHUM’s robust community, helping us fulfill our mission to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community. Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of people who come to CHUM for food, shelter, a kind word, and supportive housing in Duluth.

Your ongoing support and contributions to CHUM allow us to help men, women, and children in our community to overcome the challenges of poverty and homelessness. Thank you.

Your Choice of Cup Makes a Difference

Thank you to everyone who chooses to use a ceramic cup for coffee or tea during fellowship time.

The production of Styrofoam releases 57 chemical byproducts, which pollute our air, land, and water.

Styrofoam is actually a brand name and trademarked by Dow Chemical Company. The generic name is expanded polystyrene.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer had already established styrene, which is a

component of polystyrene, as a possible human carcinogen in 2002.

In 2014, the National Toxicological Program reported that styrene is “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen” and being linked to occurrence of leukemia and lymphoma cancer.

Styrofoam takes 500 years to break down, and it takes up 25-30% of our world’s landfills.

The paper cups that we had been using are only 80% compostable and lined with a thin layer of plastic. And the production of paper cups also releases pollution.

The Book of Discipline constitutes the law and doctrine of the United Methodist Church. The following is an excerpt from our *Book of Discipline* from *Social Principles: The Natural World*:

“A relationship with God’s creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist.

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.”

Be prepared; think about bringing your own mug or container to events that you anticipate Styrofoam (or disposable cups) might be in use.

And next time you reach for a disposable cup, remember your Methodism and that God calls us to care for the earth.

~Naomi Yaeger

Commissioned Earthkeeper, United Methodist Church

Member of the FUMC Simplicity Group

“A relationship with God’s creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist.”

Family Ministry

Celebration of Kings Sunday

Elementary kids, teens and families will celebrate the completion of the 12 Days of Christmas on Sunday, Jan 7.

Epiphany is the season that begins after Christmas, and the first Sunday of Epiphany focuses on the story of the magi/wise men/kings visit to the child Jesus.

We will make King Cake, play games and create some kingly crafts at this 9 am event for kids, teens, families, and individuals.

A Better View

When our Church was built more than 50 years ago we made a commitment to the citizens of Duluth to maintain an uninhibited view of the Lake from our parking lot. That view has become somewhat blurred during these past years.

The trustees have given the go-ahead to begin a project that will honor our commitment to provide a clear view by trimming some (not all) of the trees overlooking the Lake. The cost of this is \$2,000.

We are asking anyone who would like to help us keep this commitment to please donate by writing VIEW on your contribution and sending it to the Church office.

**January Sermon Series:
GETTING REAL...
with God, others,
and ourselves**

Women's Retreat

In the bleak mid-winter comes a note of cheer:

Women, save the date for March 2-4 and it will be clear

That love, laughter and friendship can chase away the blahs.

The annual retreat renews us to make it till the Spring,

And then we will rejoice that warmer life begins.

Please mark your calendar for the annual women's retreat.

Where: Camp Amnicon

When: March 2-4. Come for all or part of the weekend.

Topic: Experiencing God's presence through Creativity. Led by Heidi Cottingham.

Cost: To be determined, but the full weekend is around \$100

Anne Miller

Familiar new members

For the "new" members joining FUMC on Sunday, December 24, it was more "Welcome home, dear friends." Joining were Eliot and Naomi Haycock. Eliot is the son of former FUMC Pastor Dr. Winfield Haycock, who served FUMC from 1948 to 1962. Eliot and Naomi have been frequent visitors over the years.

Dr. Cecelia Taylor, who returns to Duluth and FUMC after living on the East Coast for several years, also joined on Christmas Eve. Cecelia is retired from the College of St. Scholastica and in the past has served FUMC as Church Council Chair.

May Peace Prevail on Earth

from Linda Wiig, Parish Nurse

As we pass through this Christmas season, I am reminded of the ritual of *Las Posadas*, practiced in many Hispanic communities and Central America. A ritual of Joseph knocking on the door of an inn and saying, "*En nombre del cielo, Buenos moradores, dad a unos viajeros posada esta noche.*" (In the name of God, we ask those who dwell here, give to some travelers lodging this evening.)

And for eight days this is repeated until finally on the ninth day an innkeeper offers his stable in love and kindness. Then the community celebrates; there is joy and festivity, dance, food, and drink. The community then recalls again how the stranger can be God in disguise, and remembering that Jesus' own people rejected him many times, didn't accept him and didn't know him. (John 1:10-11) But then finally, hospitality is given and doors are opened.

How do we provide *posada*? How can each one of us be of help? The stranger at our door can be both gift and challenge, human and divine. As Christians we are called to hospitality, to love, to seek peace.

Now that Christmas Day has been celebrated with the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us hope and pray that we people of the world can become more peaceful loving persons. Let's hope, pray, and take action to fulfill our Peace Pole prayer written in four languages, which stands outside the east doors— "May Peace Prevail on Earth." One UCC church in Vermont at the end of their service recites their commission which I will share with you: *Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*"

Let's help each other to continue to strive to meet this challenge. Let us remember as Mother Teresa has said, "Every act of love is a work of peace, no matter how small." I hope each one of us can practice more hospitality this new year, giving and receiving the gifts each person has to offer. In other words, be a blessing to all families.

Shalom, Linda

FUMC Operating Budget

Year-to-Date November 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Envelope/Plate Giving	\$354,653.05	\$370,309.25
Other Operating Income	<u>179,721.29</u>	<u>162,220.82</u>
Total Income	\$534,374.34	\$532,530.07
Expense		
Total Expense	<u>\$555,084.87</u>	<u>\$542,344.18</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ 20,710.53)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,814.11)</u>



First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

This calendar includes only those events open to Church members or the general public. Other events are scheduled in the building, but not listed.

Sundays

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
- 9:00am Family Faith Formation - 112, 105, 106, Lib, CW
- 10:00am Worship - S
- Wee Wonder - 105
- 3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

- Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 3:00pm Spirit Yoga - TBC (except 1/1/18)
- 7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC (except 1/1/18)

Tuesdays

- 5:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we
- 6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 6:00pm Moms' Yoga - TBC

Wednesdays

- 4:15pm Child Care - L. Nur.
- 4:30pm Bible Study - FSL
- 5:00pm JAM & PB Band - TBC
- 5:15pm Supper - LSH se
- 5:30pm Ringtones - BR
- Explorers - 112
- JAM Jr. - TBC
- 5:45pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW
- Confirmation - LSH we
- 6:45pm Cast in Bronze - BR
- BTwixt - 112
- 7:30pm Tapestry - S
- 7:45pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- 8:00am Men's Study Group - FSL
- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

- 9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Tuesday, January 2

- 7:00pm Nominations Committee - Lib

Thursday, January 4

- 5:00pm Trustees Meeting - FSL

Sunday, January 7

- 11:30am Making Sense of Bible - FSL

Monday, January 8

- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, January 9

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
- 6:00pm Hospitality Team - FSL

Wednesday, January 10

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, January 11

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

Saturday, January 13

- 9:00am Community Healing Circ - TBC
- 10:00am Camp Tapestry - S

Sunday, January 14

- 11:30am Making Sense of Bible - FSL

Monday, January 15

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Tuesday, January 16

- 4:00pm FUMC Foundation - FSL

Wednesday, January 17

- 9:00am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, January 18

- 4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - LSH, S

Saturday, January 20

- 7:00am Early Response Training - LSH

Sunday, January 21

- 11:30am Making Sense of Bible - FSL
- 5:00pm New Member Class - LSH we

Monday, January 22

- 5:30pm Ruby's Pantry Com- FSL

Tuesday, January 23

- 2:00pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Thursday, January 25

- 5:00pm Finance Committee - FSL

Friday, January 26

- 6:00pm Game Night - Lower Level

Sunday, January 28

- 11:30am Making Sense of Bible - FSL

First Family

January 2018

**First United
Methodist Church**

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