



# First Family



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

June 2021



**First United  
Methodist Church**

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



## Our First Family

### Thank you, from The Arrowhead Chorale

Dear Bill Alexander and Leadership Council of FUMC;

On behalf of the Arrowhead Chorale, we thank you for the blessing you provided our choir to use your parking lot (complete with its spectacular lake view), some of your facilities (including tables, chairs, and power outlets), as well as your FM broadcaster, for our car sing event. Your donation of these gifts is greatly appreciated by the 30-plus members of the Chorale who were able to be there.

This is the first opportunity in about 14 months that our group had the chance to come together, and we experienced a glorious evening filled with much emotion and beauty.

Special gratitude goes to Bill Alexander for being so positive and supportive of this event from the start, and for all the legwork he contributed!

Again, many thanks to First United Methodist Church for blessing our lives and supporting the event!

Sincerely,  
*Susan A. Masterson*  
President, Arrowhead Chorale

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## On the Journey With You

Dear Friends,

Theologian Walter Brueggemann asserts that every Psalm (in the Bible) has one of three focuses, or a combination of them. He said there are:

- **Psalms of ORIENTATION:** Written when life is going along well... when things are okay and normal.
- **Psalms of DISORIENTATION:** Written when life is not going well... when the author is out of sorts... when things are changing and we are unnerved.
- **Psalms of NEW ORIENTATION:** Written when new life is emerging... when the change has arrived... at the time of a new beginning.

These Psalm focuses reflect the seasons of OUR lives too.

- **We like seasons of orientation** when all seems fine and good and normal.
- We are currently living through **a season of disorientation** because of COVID-19, among other things. In a way, the world has turned upside-down.
- We are hopefully moving into **a season of new orientation**—new life, a new change, a new beginning.

In every cycle of life, there are individual and communal seasons of orientation, disorientation, and new orientation. Most of us would name COVID as a season of disorientation. But you can name other seasons of disorientation—losing someone you love... illness of yourself or a loved one... a relationship crumbling before you... loss of a job. We all live in seasons of disorientation in our life experience.

How important it is during seasons of disorientation to remember that God is still there... that although God doesn't cause these bad seasons, God can use them for good. Our faith in disorienting times reminds us of our mission to love and care for our neighbors... it

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### First United Methodist Church

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

Next First Family deadline: **June 16**  
Submit to [connect@fumcduluth.com](mailto:connect@fumcduluth.com)



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

reminds us that somehow God will see us through... it reminds us to be intentional about what is most important.

Recently I asked what YOU are learning during this pandemic. **I received well over a hundred responses!** Here are some of the things you said:

- I am learning contentment, and that contentment can be had even in trying circumstances.
- God's presence is an always-there sort of thing, but my awareness was heightened and continues to be more acute as we move through the pandemic.
- I have learned deep gratitude for things I may have overlooked when everything was open and I was rushing about with normal life.
- I am learning about how vitally important face-to-face human contact is! And hugs. I hadn't realized how much hugs mean.
- I have learned that the people we should put stock in are not the ones playing sports or acting on TV. They are the nurses, the teachers, the doctors, and construction workers that kept the world alive and driving forward.
- I hate wearing a mask, but it protects people... so I will. We should protect people when we can. I never knew I could protect adults. (written by one of our children)
- We are a world community—we are all connected. What hurts one, hurts all. What helps one, helps all.
- Be attentive to find ways to see and experience joy.

As far as COVID-19 goes, I think we are slowly moving out of the season of disorientation. We are turning the corner as more and more people get vaccinated. A new normal is coming. We are slowly starting to begin a new season after the pandemic. Friends, as we enter a new era, a new season, a new orientation, let's not forget what we learned... and let's continue to pay attention to God, our relationships, and all the learnings of life.

On the journey with you!  
~Pastor Jeanine

## A Look at Worship in June

**Worship LIVE in the Sanctuary begins May 30.** We will live-stream this worship on our YouTube channel as well. You can worship in the Sanctuary live and in-person at 10am (I hope many of you do), or you can participate from home. We can have about 100 people socially distanced in the Sanctuary. Remember to wear masks when in the church building. Fellowship time will happen outside along with coffee and donuts.

**Sunday, June 6**—Graduate Recognition/Holy Communion. The sermon is called "The 7-Ups," and it is about attitudes that can help us up.

**Sunday, June 13**—Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon will preach "Dandelions. Weed or Flower?" The Scripture will be from Mark 4:26-34.

**Sunday, June 20**—Father's Day. We will start a sermon series called "Values to Live By." The value we will explore this Sunday is INTEGRITY.

**Sunday, June 27**—"And Are We Yet Alive" Brandon Veale will be preaching. Remembering the Methodist circuit riders of old, we celebrate the triumph of just being together again.

## How We Donated

March was FoodShare month where we gave food and money to CHUM Food Shelf. We gave \$2,075 and 457 pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who took time to drop off food and drop off or send in financial donations.

Our Easter offering was well over \$5,000 which blessed children at Myers-Wilkins Elementary School (our neighborhood school), helped St. Mark's AME meet their technology needs, and blessed the ministry and mission of our congregation.

We have given significantly to Brooklyn Park UMC's food shelf and ministry to the Brooklyn Center neighborhood following the shooting of Dante Wright. We gave a \$500 gift immediately, and gifts are still coming in to help that community.

YOU make a difference... you share God's love in so many ways.



## To My Coppertop Family



Thank you for all the cards, words of encouragement, and prayers as I went through and now have completed my boot camp for the US Marines

in San Diego. Now, I am on to more intense physical and mental training, and I hope to be home for a visit in about a month if all goes according to plan. My dad will likely keep you updated.

I just wanted you to know I have appreciated all you have done for me, and your support has given me strength to finish the first part of my journey and continue to the next.

*Alex Goodlet*

Pvt., US Marines

## Thanks For Watching

For the past fourteen months, we have recorded, compiled, edited, and distributed 68 worship service videos, and now we move to streaming.

We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to give back to our church family, to expand our video skills, to have had a focus and purpose during the pandemic, and to have finally been given the excuse to express our inner nerdiness in a public setting.

None of this would have been possible without all the dedicated and talented musicians, clergy, office and custodial staff, fine arts volunteers, Velda Graham Bell, and families... and pizza.

~Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner

## Thank You, Worship Video Team

For the past fourteen months, we have all been participating in worship via the videos posted each week by Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner. Those videos are the result of many, many hours each week of recording, editing, and compiling numerous files into a smooth, cohesive service. Alex edited and compiled the videos from all the individual singers and musicians for the Christmas and Easter choir virtual anthems and for the Tapestry pieces throughout the year. Several of our other staff members have also been working hard behind the scenes. Velda Graham Bell shared her musical talents onscreen each week, but also selected and organized the variety of musicians we've seen and created a weekly recording schedule for both the speakers and musicians. Nancy Eaton prepared each week's bulletin and served as the recording sessions' candle lighter and door monitor. Pastor Jeanine, Pastor Cynthia, and Kelby Werner contacted many FUMC and Hillside UMC members to read Scripture and the Call to Worship, keeping people engaged.



We are also thankful to all the people who appeared in the worship videos. Mike Goodlet and Emma Rustan were our principal songleaders. Lots of FUMC and Hillside members agreed to be recorded (or struggled through recording themselves) for the Call to Worship and Scripture readings. Through the miracle of

pre-recording, we were able to feature some musicians from the community who might not normally be available on a Sunday morning. And so many of our own musicians contributed their talents. Pastor Jeanine and Pastor Cynthia have worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep everyone connected and safe.

Everyone's efforts contributed to more than a year's worth of wonderful worship experiences, and your church thanks you!

## August Rummage Sale

If conditions allow, we plan on having a church rummage sale on Friday, August 20, 3-6pm and Saturday, August 21, 8am-2pm. Proceeds will go towards Trustee projects. This will be a masked event. Drop-off begins after worship on Sunday, August 15. Sorry, we cannot take any items before that date. Donations accepted: sports equipment, furniture, artwork, Christmas, kitchen, tools, household, jewelry, glassware, toys, vases, books, accessories, children's clothing to size 6 only. Donations NOT ACCEPTED: adult clothing, electronics, mattresses, textbooks, dirty or broken items. Help is needed during the week to receive and organize, on the days of sale, and to clean up and haul away at 2:00 on Saturday, August 21. Please email Anita Zager ([anitazager@gmail.com](mailto:anitazager@gmail.com)) to volunteer.



# Attention College Students

There is a time-frame change for the Lennon-Berini Scholarship for 2021. The committee decided to change the award to be handed out in August rather than December this year.

The criteria for applicants are:

- Be a member of Duluth's First United Methodist Church
- Have completed at least two years of college
- Be pursuing a people-centered career

Application forms will be available on the church's website on July 1, 2021. They will need to be fully completed and turned in by 4pm on Friday, July 23.

Applicants have two options for submitting materials: 1) print all materials and submit in hard-copy form to committee chair Terry Wallin, 29 E. Toledo Street, Duluth, MN 55811; or 2) compile all materials (including completed application form, transcripts, recommendations, and candidate statements) into a single electronic file and send to Terry Wallin at [teto62@charter.net](mailto:teto62@charter.net).

Previous scholarship recipients are expected to provide letters of recommendation that have not been previously submitted. The Lennon-Berini Scholarships for 2021 will be \$2,000 each.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. The scholarships will be awarded during a worship service at the end of August.

## Summer Mission Trip

**Reserve your spot ASAP!**

6th-12th graders are invited to a day of service and fun **Tuesday, June 15**. We will leave at 6am and travel to Coon Rapids, MN, to pack food bags at the Feed My Starving Children facility. After four hours of packing food, we will then head over to Bunker Beach Water Park for loads of fun! The park closes at 7pm, which would get us back to Duluth by 10pm. A full day packed with service and fun. Cost: \$20. Will need one adult chaperone/driver per four kids. To sign up and reserve your spot, please email Cynthia at [pastorcynthiac@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcynthiac@gmail.com). **Deadline June 1.**

## From the Welcome Desk

by Mary Giese, Director of Welcoming and Hospitality

We are the church with a welcome for everybody, always. The hymn below fits us well.

"All Are Welcome"—lyrics by Marty Haugen of Eagen, MN in 1989.

Let us build a house  
Where love can dwell  
And all can safely live.  
A place where  
Saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive,  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace.  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.

Would you like to be a part of making an old welcoming idea new?

With help from church members, we will offer tours of our church building following Sunday services. Members and/or guests will be invited to tour the building with a guide, sharing history and information.

When we joined the church in 1991, the tour of the building was a real highlight and showed us what a busy and vital part of the community First United Methodist Church, the Coppertop, was (and is today).

Here's how you can help:

- If you were an FUMC tour guide in the past or remember the tours and are willing to share information, please respond. Your memories and thoughts will help us create what we will share with members and guests.
- If you would enjoy volunteering to give tours, please respond.
- If you have an idea about what you would enjoy learning about, please share that.

Is this a good idea? We won't know that until we hear from you. Please respond to Mary Giese, Director of Welcome. Call or text to 218-343-0171 and please leave a detailed message. Or email me at [welcome@fumcduluth.com](mailto:welcome@fumcduluth.com).

I look forward to your ideas and thoughts. See you in church!

# Understanding Migrant Journeys

**A Twin Ports' Observance of World Refugee Day  
June 20, 2021 at 1:30pm  
Leif Erikson Park**

The Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice will host an observance of global migrations on Sunday afternoon, June 20, at 1:30pm. Speakers with experience in various parts of the world will share migration stories.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of persons forcibly displaced from home is at an all-time high. At the end 2019, there were 26 million refugees in the world—the highest ever seen—45.7 million internally-displaced people, and 4.2 million asylum-seekers. Why do people leave the places they have called home? Where do they go? Come and learn something of these journeys.

## Racial Justice Action Committee

We are reading *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (2016).



Check in with us on the 3rd Monday of the month! Join at any time for good friends and deep, culturally-sensitive conversations! With or without reading

the book! Join My Zoom Meeting: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/4107495307> or call Jojo Coffin-Langdon to find out exactly where we are in the book. 218-251-4388.

## From Our Faith Community Nurse

As we begin summer, our thoughts bring us to going without masks outside, gathering for BBQs with other fully-vaccinated people, travel, and more freedom to explore and have fun in our wonderful outdoors. This month of June is recognized as National Safety Month, and we must keep in mind that with more freedom also comes hazards. Take swimming: Did you know that the leading cause of death of children ages 1-4 is from drowning? Every year 8,000 families lose a child to a preventable injury.

We live in a water-rich environment, having a number of lakes and rivers where we recreate. When you go to a beach or swim at a hotel or in a friend's pool, designate watchers for each child. Please remember when at Lake Superior: heed the red-flag warnings, stay where there are lifeguards, but remember it is your responsibility to watch your child. If caught in a rip current, stay calm, swim parallel to shore till you are out of the current, then swim at an angle to shore. If you get tired of swimming, float and call for help. The current will not pull you under, and eventually you will find yourself out of the current.



Teens, age 15 to 19, have the highest incidence of drowning in open water (49%). Risk-taking can be a factor here, as well as not wearing life jackets when doing any water sport.

Teaching all children basic water safety is what all parents need to do. Any competent swimmer should be able to the following:

- Step or jump into water over their head and return to the surface
- Turn around in the water and find the ladder when in a pool or orient to safety
- Float or tread water for at least one minute
- Combine breathing with forward movement in the water—swimming lessons are good
- Exit the water without the help of a ladder (if in a pool)

Safety also includes safety from COVID-19. Adults, if you are not vaccinated, you are encouraged to do so. Guidelines for you are to continue to mask outside and to socially distance. Children are still at risk until they can be vaccinated, and they can pass the virus to those of you who are not vaccinated. We will continue to need to wear masks inside in many places, along with social distancing, until more of the population is covered by vaccine. Please do your part and protect yourself as well as others. July 1 is the goal to vaccinate 70% of those 16 and older, so let's do it.

Stay safe and blessings to all,  
~Linda Wiig

# CHUM Rhubarb Festival

## Saturday, June 26

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival is happening this year with a virtual concert, online program, and a parking lot carnival at the Coppertop from 10-2.

We need a gift basket donated from our congregation for an online auction. Please contact Anita Zager if you would like to contribute to a basket.

- Would you like to participate in a contest for largest leaf and longest stalk? You can take a picture with measuring tape to submit virtually.
- Paul Sapyta's "Room at the Table" food truck will be there selling tacos and scones.
- Paul has dibs on the rhubarb in the west parking lot!
- Do you have rhubarb to donate?
- Do you belong to a community group who would like to set up an informational booth, host a carnival game, or volunteer as needed for this event?

Please email [anitazager@gmail.com](mailto:anitazager@gmail.com) or contact Molly Lyons at CHUM [mlyons@chumduluth.org](mailto:mlyons@chumduluth.org).

This will be a masked event without access to the building.

## Intercessory Prayer

We will continue to open our church for prayer and meditation during the summer, but pay attention to the weekly email to find out what weeks we will not be open!

To be sure, you can always contact Jojo Coffin-Langdon, 218-251-4388.

# Congratulations to All Our FUMC High School Graduates!

Everyone is invited to a reception in the church parking lot after church on Sunday, June 13 from 11am-12pm. We will have donuts and beverages, and many of the grads will be there for you to give cards and congratulate in person. We are so proud of them all!

### Allison Ahlers

Alli will graduate from Duluth Denfeld High School and will be attending the University of North Carolina-Wilmington to major in psychology and minor in business.

### Izzy Eginton

Izzy will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be going to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, starting in the School of Science and Engineering.

### Nicole Ehresman

Nicole will graduate from Proctor High School and will be attending Lake Superior College for welding.

### Evy Fairchild

Evy will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be attending Minnesota State University-Mankato.

### Alex Goodlet

In January, Alex completed his graduation requirements at Northwestern High School to graduate a semester early. On May 13 he became a Marine! He is now off to train in mechanical trades for the military. Alex says, "Thank you to my family, my friends, and my Coppertop community for helping to shape me into the man (and musician) I am today."

### Jacob Jeannette

Jacob will graduate from Duluth East High School and play for the Waterloo Black Hawks hockey team in Iowa in the fall.

### Lindsay Johnson

Lindsay will graduate from Duluth Denfeld High School and will be attending the University of St. Thomas to major in biology, as well as swim for their swim team.

### Elaina Mattson

Elaina will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be attending Lake Superior College.

### Eli Redepenning

Eli will graduate from Duluth East High School and will continue to work construction with Carpentry Works.

### Tommy Smyth

Tommy will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be attending Elmhurst University outside Chicago to study biochemistry, play varsity lacrosse, and be in the Honors Program.

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# Meet the Musicians

In an effort to keep us all connected and to let you know who has made and continues to make that beautiful music for worship, we are running a limited "Meet the Musicians" series. Our musicians have been asked a series of questions in order to share information with you so you can get a better glimpse into their lives! Maybe, just maybe, you will be so overjoyed with some responses that you will just HAVE to join us! (If that is the case, contact Velda Bell.) Enjoy!

## Elizabeth Nelson

**1. What musical groups have you been a part of over the years (and for how many years) at the Coppertop and/or Chester Park?**



I sang in the Chester Park UMC choir for the entire time I attended there—from 1996 until they merged with FUMC. I then sang with the Coppertop choir until I had my

surgery in December 2018 (at which point I sustained vocal cord damage). I also sang with Tapestry, which I enjoyed very much. I have commenced a regimen of "vocal therapy" and am working to restore my voice.

Outside of church, in my youth in California, I was involved in musical theater, performing in the chorus of many productions. In Duluth I joined with a group of performers interested in presenting the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, in which I had the honor to perform Pirate Ruth (*Pirates of Penzance*), Katisha (*The Mikado*), and many other mezzo soprano roles.

**2. Of what group(s) are you currently a member?**  
Sadly, none.

**3. I enjoy these groups because:** Though an introvert at heart, I love music, I love vocal harmony, and while I wasn't able to participate in the ensemble performance of the Hallelujah Chorus this Easter, I did sing along with the choir from my viewing space at home.

**4. Some of my best memories include:** Singing Mary in *Once Upon a Tree*, and various solos (mostly at CPUMC). My best memories include working a cappella with Jubilate, and Michael Goodlet's face when he's directing a challenging piece of music.

**5. Anything else you'd like to add/include?**  
The FUMC members were extraordinarily welcoming to the singers coming from Chester Park Church. I've enjoyed getting to know the lovely FUMC singers, with special attention to the altos!

## Kären Buell

I have been singing in a church choir since middle school, when an energetic church musician helped us learn parts and involved us in singing *The Messiah* with a nearby college town choral union. Flute, piccolo, and piano kept me in band and orchestra during high school, but a summer music clinic at the



University of Wisconsin gave me the thrill of singing in a big group with a great director. He, like Mike, made us all feel good about ourselves and brought out our best. Singing *Once Upon a Tree* and songs from *a Gospel Mass* with Mike were definitely highlights. In addition to our little choir in Hoyt Lakes, I played soprano in a recorder quartet there with an alto, tenor, and bass recorder. The group got

started with a lesson from Shelley Gruskin in the early '70s.

### Adair Ballavance

**1. What musical groups have you been a part of over the years (and for how many years) at the Coppertop and/or Chester Park?**



I have been in the Sanctuary Choir, small ensembles, and play the bassoon when I am asked.

**2. Of what group(s) are you currently a member?**

All the above.

**3. I enjoy these groups because:**

I enjoy singing with people that I enjoy spending time with. It is also a great way to be involved in the church community.

**4. Some of my best memories include:**

Singing with my tenor friends.  
*Hallelujah Chorus* and *Blessing of Aaron*.

**5. Anything else you'd like to add/include?**

I enjoy working with Velda and Mike. They are such professionals.

## We Are Looking Forward to Live Music Again at FUMC!



Making music possible thought the pandemic—Thank you!

# Summer Parking Lot Concerts at the Coppertop

Concert featuring the UMD Faculty Brass Quintet  
Wednesday, June 16 at 6:30pm  
Open to all • Freewill Donation

This summer we have arranged for a monthly series of outdoor concerts in our parking lot. All concerts will occur on Wednesdays at 6:30pm with food available from Paul Sapyta's "Room at the Table" Food Truck. Paul will serve his regular menu all afternoon, with a special menu beginning at 6:00pm.

The first concert is on June 16 and features the UMD Faculty Brass Quintet, which includes Stacy Carolan on trumpet and Derek Bromme on trombone, two musicians who play often at First UMC. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be postponed to Wednesday, June 23 at 6:30pm.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear festive music for brass, enjoy tasty food provided by Room at the Table, appreciate the beautiful view of Lake Superior, and enjoy each other's company.

**SUMMER PARKING LOT CONCERTS AT THE COPPERTOP**

**WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM**  
FREEWILL DONATION

**JUNE 16** UMD FACULTY BRASS QUINTET  
Rain Date June 23

**JULY 28** RANDY LEE'S JAZZ COMBO  
Rain Date July 29

**AUGUST 18** ACOUSTIC INGEBOG AKA EMMA RUSTAN  
Rain Date August 25  
Folk songwriter

**ROOM AT THE TABLE FOOD TRUCK**  
BEGINNING AT 6 PM:  
SPECIAL EVENT MENU  
FREEWILL DONATION

CHAIRS AVAILABLE OR BRING YOUR OWN

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!

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### **Nicholas Stellmaker**

Nic will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be attending Northern Arizona University, majoring in mechanical engineering.

### **Brennen Werner**

Brennen will graduate from Northwestern High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, majoring in kinesiology. He hopes to become a physical therapist.

### **Mayson Whitlock**

Mayson will graduate from Duluth East High School and will be attending the University of Montana, majoring in wildlife biology. She wants to thank the members of FUMC for always being positive mentors and giving her encouragement over the years.

## **Congratulations to Our College Graduates!**

### **Abe Diaz, Bachelor in Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

### **Dr. Dani Edin, Doctorate in physical therapy**

The College of St. Scholastica

### **Katie Harvey, Master of Science in biomedical visualization**

University of Illinois at Chicago

### **Andrew Hulst, diesel technology**

Alexandria Technical College

### **Rachelle Montavon, Bachelor in civil engineering and Master in civil engineering**

Milwaukee School of Engineering

### **Josh Peterson, Bachelor of Music–Viola Performance**

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

### **Josie Peterson, Bachelor of Science in genetics**

University of Wisconsin–Madison

### **Kelby Werner, Bachelor of Psychology/Minor in family therapy**

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

## **Family News**

### **Children/Family Ministry**

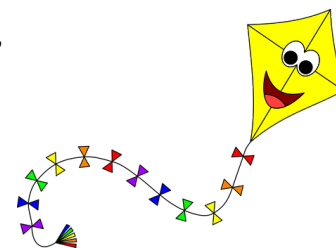
Families of all ages and their children are invited to participate!

#### **June 16**

*Summer Concert “UMD Brass Quintet”*  
6pm food truck and children’s activities!  
Concert 6:30. Everyone welcome!

#### **June 27**

*Kite flying anyone?*  
Meet at noon at Bayfront Festival Park. Bring your kite! If there is no wind, we will play at the park. Also, we will grill! The church will supply hot dogs and buns. You should bring a picnic lunch to go with the hot dog.



#### **July 13-16**

*Adventure Day Camp at Park Point!*

#### **July 14**

*Stay at the beach after Day Camp to swim and play! The church will supply snacks.*

#### **August 12**

Play date at Lester Park playground, 4:30-7:00. Church will supply cheeseburgers for grilling. You bring picnic dinner!

#### **August 27-29**

*Family Camp at Camp Amnicon*  
(Open to anyone in the church)

Contact Jojo Coffin-Langdon with questions/comments, 218-251-4388



# Steps to Justice



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

1. Celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20 by honoring the courage and resilience of refugees! Recognize the hardships they have faced, the new lives they have created, and the positive impact they have on our communities.
2. Donate airline miles or travel rewards to help a migrant or refugee travel. Miles4Migrants works with partner organizations assisting immigrants and refugees to match donations with migrants needing travel assistance. Learn more or pledge your miles at <https://miles4migrants.org/>.
3. Learn about the recent work of Minnesota legislators to reduce and eliminate racial disparities. On April 29, Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Inc. and The League of Women Voters hosted a presentation by Reps. Rita Moran and Ruth Richardson of the House Select Committee on Racial Justice. Their report to the MN House provides an excellent discussion of racial injustice in Minnesota as well as a comprehensive list of concrete action steps. Watch the presentation at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNh-XkT\\_ehI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNh-XkT_ehI). Download and read the report: <https://claytonjacksonmcghie.org/webinar-minnesota-racial-justice-report-discussion/>
4. Support Duluth NAACP Action <https://www.facebook.com/duluthnaacp>  
Local NAACP leaders are asking Duluth residents to press city and police officials for action toward making use of force and arrest rates proportional to the racial demographics of our region. Contact Duluth city council members, Mayor Emily Larson, and Police Chief Mike Tusken to ask what they are doing to ensure that racially disproportionate use of force, arrest, and traffic stop rates are improved by 2022. Letters to the editor will also help show our support.
5. Recycle “stretchy” plastic to make decking and park benches. Drop off plastic film and bags that are free of contaminants in the big brown collection bin in the church atrium during church open hours or when you come to church on Sundays. Get a detailed list of items that can and cannot be accepted at: <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>.
6. Visit The Bike Cave at Loaves & Fishes Dorothy Day House, a safe space for people to practice bike mechanic skills, repair, or build bicycles with tools provided. Adopt a bike in exchange for six volunteer hours. Donate bikes, parts, tools, or cash. Hours: Wednesdays and Sundays, 1-5pm starting June 6. Call 218-302-5523 or see [BikeCaveDuluth](#) on Facebook.
7. Check out the Earth Day 2021 Toolkit from MN Interfaith Power & Light <https://www.mnopl.org/>. This toolkit has lots of ideas for actions we can take in our church to promote sustainability and climate justice. Adopt these practical ways to align your lifestyle with the faith we share:

- Reduce food waste
- Eat plants more often
- Compost
- Know your food source
- Drive less – Ride a bike when you can!



# Where Are You From?

We all come from somewhere! Immigration has sometimes been a difficult topic. We all have family, ancestors who have moved, voluntarily or involuntarily. Choose a family story to share.

The wall outside the church office is dedicated to stories about you, our church members. Include a picture and tell your story on standard-size paper. Drop it off in the church office. Help us get to know the stories of where you, First United Methodist Church members, came from! Let's talk about our journeys!

Questions—contact Liz Taylor at [taylorjet@aol.com](mailto:taylorjet@aol.com) or 218-393-0703.



# Duluth Superior Pride Will Be September 2-5 This Year.



# Virtual Pride Week Celebrations

Coppertop Friends, we hope you will share these June PRIDE online events hosted by Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) with friends and family!

~Sarah Maddy



This year for Pride, we're hosting events throughout the week to celebrate and honor our community. More details about each event are forthcoming. Here's the schedule:

## Pride Worship Service: Love Embodied

Sun., 6/6 at 7pm

Love Embodied is an RMN worship service celebrating the diversity of queer and trans bodies. Service will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. [Click here](#) to RSVP on Facebook and receive a reminder of the event.

## Virtual Auction

Sun. 6/6 at 8pm—Sun. 6/13 at 7pm

Bid on items and experiences from artwork to a get-away, a fundraising consultation to a writers' workshop, all in support of RMN's mission. Bidding will take place online and end on Sunday with a live-streamed finale and announcements emceed by Ben Weger.

## Letter-Writing to Reconciling Youth

Tue., 6/8 at 11am

Join us for an hour to write letters to queer, trans, and allied youth in Reconciling Ministries around the connection.

## Film Screening & Discussion

Thu., 6/10 at 7pm

Join us for a brief screening of an LGBTQ short film followed by a discussion with fellow Reconciling United Methodists.

## Virtual Auction Finale

Sun., 6/13 at 7pm

At the end of the auction, catch us live-streaming on Facebook to hear the auction results! Followed by a virtual parade.

**SUN., JUNE 6 - SUN., JUNE 13**  
**RMN VIRTUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE**

<b>SUN., 6/6 - 8PM ET   5PM PT</b> Love Embodied is an RMN worship service celebrating the diversity of queer and trans bodies. Service will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.	<b>TUE., 6/8 - 12PM ET   9PM ET</b> Join us for an hour to write letters to queer, trans, and allied youth in Reconciling ministries around the connection.
<b>SUN. 6/6 9PM ET   6PM PT - SUN. 6/13 8PM ET   5PM PT</b> Bid on items and experiences from artwork to a get-away, a fundraising consultation to a writers' workshop, all in support of RMN's mission. Bidding will take place online and end on Sunday with a live-streamed finale and announcements emceed by Ben Weger.	<b>THU., 6/10 - 8PM ET   5PM PT</b> Join us for a brief screening of an LGBTQ short film followed by a discussion with fellow Reconciling United Methodists.
<b>SUN., 6/13 - 8PM ET   5PM PT</b> At the end of the auction, catch us live-streaming on Facebook to hear the auction results! Followed by a virtual parade.	



## CHUM Announces New Executive Director



CHUM's next executive director will be John Cole, currently serving as interim director of Align Minneapolis. Align has a similar structure to CHUM, in that it is comprised of congregations from a variety of faiths and also serves homeless individuals and families. Prior to his leadership role at Align, Cole was a director at The Dignity Center, an interfaith ministry of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in

Minneapolis, which supports people living in poverty and provides them a path to stability. Cole is Caribbean born, and came to Minnesota in 2011 after founding Friends Hotline of Antigua and Barbuda, an NGO supporting and serving youth in crisis. Simultaneously, Cole was a youth director for the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba of the Anglican Church. "I have a great appreciation for the human spirit," said Cole. "I'm passionate about serving, and have a calling to serve. I'm impressed by the breadth of services that CHUM offers, and I look forward to working with the CHUM staff and other partners in mission in Duluth." Lee Stuart, current executive director of CHUM, will retire June 30, 2021. CHUM is grateful that she stayed beyond her previously announced retirement date, due to the circumstances of this past year. In looking forward, Lee said, "I am excited to welcome John as the next executive director of CHUM. I will do everything in my power to have as strong a transition as Jim Soderberg did for me. It has been an honor to serve CHUM for the last eight years, among the most rewarding of my life. Thank you, especially to CHUM's staff, congregations, and supporters throughout Duluth." Cole will begin at CHUM on June 1.

## CHUM's New Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator

CHUM has announced that Reverend Patricia Benson is joining CHUM's staff in the position of Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator. In college she was involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and joined the staff in camp ministry. From there she moved to Minneapolis to work for Midwest Challenge/ Safe House. She began a street outreach program with First Call for Help in Hand, to connect folks living on the streets with people, programs, and services that might enable them to secure housing. Patricia was ordained to the diaconate in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, and has served rural and urban congregations while working as the manager of Episcopal House of Prayer at St John's in Collegeville until COVID shut them down. The Reverend Ben Margeson, who has been serving in this position, will be leaving CHUM, effective May 14.

## From the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church

### 2021 Love Offering promotional video: Feeding the hungry and ministering to migrants

Our annual Love Offering for missions provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus—feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God's compassion and grace.



Bishop David Bard invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as a generous expression of

God's wild and extravagant love, and we now have a three-minute promotional video you can use to share this opportunity. It features each recipient talking about how the funds will further their ministry.

Funds from this year's offering will go to: The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (50 percent), host churches of Ruby's Pantry (20 percent), the Matthew 25 food distribution (20 percent), and Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent). [Watch video / Learn more about Love Offering / Donate to Love Offering](#)



# ANTI-RACISM STARTS FOR WHITE CHRISTIANS: DO'S AND DON'TS



DO

**CONNECT THE DOTS.** Preach, teach, and say clearly in your church, "Violence towards People of Color is rooted in historical and institutional racism. This not just individual criminality or personal misconduct; it is systemic racial violence, and racism is a sin against God."

**NAME THE RACISM YOU SEE.** Don't ignore, excuse, or minimize racist comments, stereotypes, and behaviors. Call it out, and invite change. Learn the history of racist terms and symbols of white supremacy, including the Confederate battle flag and Nazi and Ku Klux Klan insignia.



**PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY OR DISCUSSION.**

Learn what you don't know about racism. Listen to People of Color when they speak from their personal experience of racism.

**DEVELOP A THICKER SKIN.** Racism is a fact. Confronting and naming it requires you to learn its history and acknowledge its continuing presence in your church and community. Adjust to saying and hearing the word "racist". Instead of feeling defensive and guilty, choose to become an ally for change.

**COUNTER WITH ACTS OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE.**

Contact your representatives, encouraging them to support and enact laws that counter historic and current expressions of racism. Send a financial gift to a church or local organization actively working against racism in your community.

**LOOK FOR SYSTEMIC RACISM.** Redlining, sundown towns, voter suppression, and Jim Crow laws are clear expressions of institutional racism. As tempting as it is to say we are now past "those days," systemic racism, via implicit bias and explicit discriminatory practice, is very much present in our institutions, whether policing, healthcare, housing, education, governance, employment, financial, or religious. Choosing to be colorblind does not turn the world monochrome. And neither does ignoring racism magically make the world suddenly equitable and just for all.



DON'T

**CONFUSE "NOT RACIST" WITH ANTI-RACIST.**

Anti-racism means one is actively confronting and seeking to dismantle racism in one's faith and daily life. Accepting the status quo and pretending race isn't a "thing" does not help to end racism. All Christians should embrace anti-racism as part of our walk with God.

**MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH.**

Racism has such a hold on our society because white people are taught to ignore or dismiss it, and to believe "race" is something "they" have. Pastors and teachers in white congregations equip Christians to become anti-racist by naming historic, systemic, and even theological racism and seeking ways people of faith can confront and interrupt it.

**SAY, "I DON'T SEE COLOR."**

Read the Pentecost story in Acts 2. All people of all nations, races, and tribes celebrated the coming of God's Holy Spirit. God made us all colors and intended we celebrate this diversity. The goal of anti-racism is for all of us to celebrate and "see color" as a gift from God, without ascribing greater or lesser value to God's people based on their skin color.

**FAIL TO USE YOUR WHITE PRIVILEGE FOR GOOD.**

Speak out when you see racism happening. Champion changes in your church, workplace, and civic groups that allow wider inclusion of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) folks. White people tend to respect and listen to other white people with greater openness and seriousness. Use that to foster anti-racism.

**"OVERTALK" PEOPLE OF COLOR.** Even in the work against racism, some white people are so used to being "experts" in the group they may unconsciously overtalk or dismiss the ideas and experiences of People of Color. Anti-racism work requires white people listen to and take the lead from People of Color.



**RELIGION & RACE**

The United Methodist Church

[www.GCORR.org](http://www.GCORR.org)

ILLUSTRATIONS: FREEPIK.COM

# Adventure DAY CAMP 2021 (NEW location)

PARK POINT ~Tue,Wed Fri.  
Bayfront Festival  
Park~Thur. Duluth, MN

July 13-16



Tuesday, July 13 –  
Friday, July 16  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cost is \$50. for one camper, \$30. for  
each additional camper

*Eligible campers are those who  
have completed Kindergarten  
through 6<sup>th</sup> grade There is a  
Counselors in training program  
for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders who are  
interested!*

Arts & Crafts, Games, Story/Drama, Snack, Water activities on the  
beach, Hike in the Forest, Build Forts, all the while learning about  
God's love in a fun filled Christian Environment!

**We hope to see you there!**



## First United Methodist Church

First Family (USPS 349-210) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799. Periodicals postage is paid at Duluth, MN 55806.

**Volume 55, Number 5**

**Actual issues for 2021, online only and printed: Volume 55, Number 6**

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799.

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