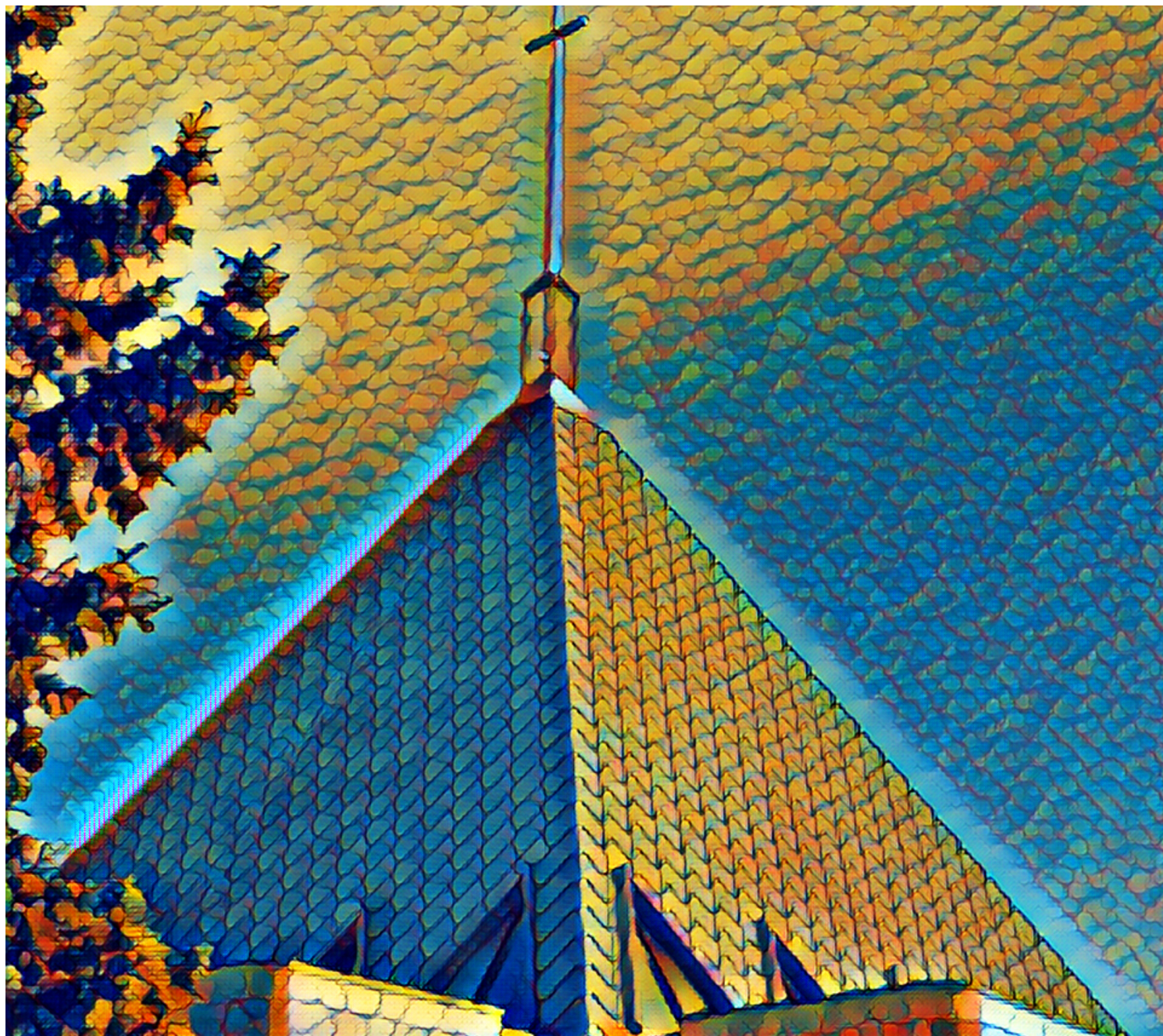




First Family

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

July 2021



First United Methodist Church

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



Our First Family

A gift to light the church was given by Sharon and Pat Alexander in honor of all the FUMC 2021 graduates. Congratulations!

Mission Trip Success

A few weeks ago, we took six teens to Coon Rapids for the day. We started the day at Feed My Starving Children and packed food for a couple of hours. During that time we packed 24,960 meals into 52 boxes, which will feed 68 kids in Thailand for a whole year! Our kids had a blast and hope to bring their own families back down and help again sometime this summer. After that we spent the afternoon playing at Bunker Beach Water Park. Some of us got a bit sunburnt, but it was worth it!

~Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Mowers Have Been Found!

A big thanks to Bob Barnidge and Dan Morgan, who have kept our grass and bushes nice and trim over many, many years. Bob retired from this role this year, and we will be thanking him in August. Dan is continuing on but needs co-mowers. So another thank you is in order to Tim Zager, Mike Marquardt, John Meredith, Steve Hansen, and David Grant, who, along with Dan, make up our new mowing crew. Thank you all for your gifts to the church.

On the Journey With You

I am writing this the day after the CHUM Rhubarb Festival. This year it was held in our church parking lot for the first time. Below are two pictures Tim Zager took from a drone. There was excellent attendance and participation. It was a joy to get to have this event in our parking lot. May God use this event to help people in need of food, housing, medical care, and safety.



First Family

First United Methodist Church

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

Pastor: [Jeanine Alexander](#)

Editor: [Bill Alexander](#)

Next First Family deadline: **July 21**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Speaking of the Rhubarb Festival, it took place on Saturday, June 26, the same day we needed to have the memorial service for our beloved friend, LeAnn House. So the festival happened in the morning/early afternoon and the memorial service in the late afternoon/early evening. Many of you know that LeAnn helped us bake hundreds and hundreds of rhubarb pies for this festival over the years. Having both events on the same day felt good and right.

I am missing LeAnn. She brought a special gentleness, strength, wisdom, thoughtfulness, determination, and graciousness to our congregation. I always left a conversation with her feeling good and cared about. I admired her love of music. I was inspired by her active work to make the world better, one pie and one person at a time. I'm thankful for her and know that her legacy of love continues.

There is so much on my heart and mind these days. As society and church have been opening up more and more, I'm finding myself tired from the many activities. I'm also grieving many things that COVID-19 took away, even as I look at all the learnings and new things that have arisen from this challenging time. I'm finding a need to live, enjoy, appreciate, deal with, and honor one day at a time. I am finding more need to be quiet in my spirit. Mary Oliver speaks in her poem "Today" about how rest and stillness are also places to find God. May her words bless you today and in the days ahead. May we make time to savor some stillness.

Today

*Today I'm flying low and I'm not saying a word.
I'm letting all the voodooes of ambition sleep.
The world goes on as it must,
the bees in the garden rumbling a little,
the fish leaping, the gnats getting eaten. And so forth.
But I'm taking the day off.
Quiet as a feather.
I hardly move though really I'm traveling a terrific distance.
Stillness. One of the doors into the temple.
~ Mary Oliver
On the journey with you!
~Pastor Jeanine*

Announcements/Offering Time in Worship

If you have an announcement you wish made in worship, please let Pastor Jeanine know and she (or the person making the announcements) will be happy to make that announcement (you can also email it to the church for inclusion in the weekly email). If you/your group want to share about a ministry you are a part of, a social justice concern, or an opportunity you wish to invite others to participate in, you/your group are welcome to do that as part of our offering time. You could do that in person or by making a video (we can help you create a video). The offering time is a perfect place to highlight areas of ministry and living out our faith—our lives are offerings to God. Let me know if you/your group want to share at the offering time and we will happily and joyfully get that scheduled. Wouldn't it be great if every Sunday a group or individual shared at the offering time about ministry that is happening!

Worship in July

During July we will continue to worship in person in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10am AND online on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10am. The service can also be watched anytime after 10am Sunday morning. The service on YouTube is a livestream of the service happening in the Sanctuary.

July 4: Holy Communion. We will reflect on "How to be Truly Free."

July 11: We will look at our 2nd value to live by—Passion/Enthusiasm.

July 18: We will reflect on our 3rd value to live by—Faith.

July 25: Cultural Expectations and You—Taking a look at some cultural expectations through the lens of the Bible.

Tents and Sleeping Bags Needed

CHUM is in desperate need of tent and sleeping bag donations. If you have tents or sleeping bags that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the church.

Conference Approves Racial Justice Resolution

By: Christa Meland



On the final day of the 2021 Minnesota Annual Conference Session, nearly 400 members in attendance approved by a vote of 313-28 a resolution that all congregations in the Minnesota Annual Conference join in the national denominational agency work of the General Commission on Race and Religion (GCORR) and the General Board of Church and Society, the denominational work of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the ongoing efforts of ecumenical partners in dismantling racism, opposing white supremacy, and advocating for racial justice.

Suggested ways to join in these initiatives, as named in the resolution, include applying for a [Minnesota Church and Society grant](#) to do a group study on racial justice in your congregation, engaging in a [GCORR dismantling racism curriculum and campaign](#), partnering with the Minnesota Conference's [newly hired racial justice organizer](#), creating a congregational Race and Religion Team to engage in anti-racism education within the church and outreach in the church's community, and participating in acts of repentance, such as returning human remains or artifacts sacred to indigenous peoples in Minnesota.

The resolution was submitted by five conference teams: the Minnesota Church and Society Ministry Team, Minnesota Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Minnesota United Methodist Women, the Minnesota Committee on Native American Ministry, and the Minnesota Committee on Religion and Race. These groups pointed out in the resolution that it aligns with [The United Methodist Church's Stand Against Racism](#) as well as the [Minnesota Conference's aspirational vision](#), which articulates a Methodism that is rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation.

"The events over the past 13 months have really brought racial inequities to the forefront," said Gail Chalbi, chair of the Minnesota Church and Society Team, who introduced the legislation live before conference attendees. "I never thought of myself as racist, but after watching videos, reading books, and taking part in seminars, I realized that I wasn't acting as an anti-racist. It wasn't due to not caring, but because of ignorance. Just as women could not give themselves the right to vote, our black and brown brothers and sisters cannot be the ones to give themselves equality... Those of us with white privilege need to educate ourselves and others on the racial disparities, the history of racism, systemic racism, and what white privilege means. That is what this resolution is endeavoring to do."

Before voting on the resolution, members engaged in 30 minutes of "holy conferencing" to discuss it. Holy conferencing is a means of grace that involves entering into community (in this case, conversation) with the purpose of thoughtful, prayerful, respectful discourse and discernment while seeking spiritual encouragement and instruction.

Seventeen people spoke to the resolution, most of whom affirmed it.

“This is what Jesus modeled for us—he never left anyone out,” said Carol Egan, a lay member of St. Paul’s UMC in Mendota Heights. “That’s what we want to do, too: to love the way he does.”

Many noted that the church not only should, but must, take an active role in dismantling racism.

“The authenticity and the integrity of our witness going forward as a church in 2021 really rests on our ability to handle and approach anti-racism well,” said Rev. Tyler Sit, who serves New City Church in Minneapolis and encourages us to approach racial justice efforts not as an extra-curricular activity or committee obligation but rather as “ongoing work of repentance and repair that is essential and core to Christian spirituality.”

Rev. Eric Shin, who serves Discovery UMC in Chanhassen and Korean Evangelical UMC in Hopkins, pointed out that racism is very much alive within the church.

“Not only do we face racism out in our society but also in our churches and possibly in our conference,” he said. “What type of racist practices do we have even in our own institution? I’d love to explore that some more and to see how we can dismantle racism in our society but also in the church as well.”

Rev. Chris Carr, pastor of youth ministries at Lake Harriet UMC in Minneapolis, said for those of us with privilege, this resolution provides an opportunity to take on a Christ-like mentality of humility and enter into conversation without getting stuck in places of guilt or defensiveness but instead live into our full personhood in the body of Christ.



Steps to Justice

Do a little environmental advocacy work this month. Go to the Interfaith Power and Light webpage to email your members of Congress and urge them to support a just and equitable infrastructure plan that cuts carbon pollution. Here's the link: interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/rebuildnow/index.html

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 office hours or when you come to church on Sundays. Get a detailed list of items that can and cannot be accepted at: recycle.trex.com/view/educate.

Celebrate and support the American Indian Community Housing Organization Arts Program, recently designated a Regional Cultural Treasure and awarded an unrestricted grant of \$500,000 “to honor the diversity of expression and artistic excellence that contribute to the cultural vitality of our state, despite having historically experienced under-investment.” www.mcknight.org/MNCulturalTreasures



View a new short film, *Other Side of the Hill*, free online, July 10-25. Shining a light on rural voices, this is a hopeful, inspiring look at local climate action leaders in rural America bringing communities together to find common ground and new climate frameworks. More at facebook.com/InterfaithPowerandLight/

Urge your MN Senators to pass the Equality Act. Federal law still does not explicitly protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The House of Representatives has already passed a version of the Equality Act

—continued on next page

to provide consistent and explicit protections for LGBTQI+ people from discrimination in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. The legislation has bipartisan support from business, civil rights, and political leaders. [Cicilline, Merkley Announce Introduction of Equality Act](#)

Find hope in the words of Bryan Stevenson, Keynote Speaker, Clayton Jackson McGhie Day of Remembrance. Stevenson has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. He is the founder/ Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of New York Times bestseller *Just Mercy*. His compelling message to Duluth will equip and refresh your spirit for change. <https://youtu.be/dAiUbi5rzpU>

Contact One Roof Housing for rent help. Get help with overdue rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Renters who meet eligibility requirements are invited to apply at www.renthelpmn.org. Contact One Roof's RentHelpMN Navigator Stacie at 218-206-9298 or email sjaeger@1roofhousing.org for help with the application process.

Steps to Justice welcomes your justice-oriented ideas, news, and notice of upcoming events. To meet the July 21 August First Family deadline, send information by the third Monday of the month to Jean Walsh jmbwalsh@gmail.com or Sarah Maddy, shmaddy@outlook.com. Short notice items can be announced in Pastor Jeanine's weekly email, pastor@fumcduluth.com.

From the Welcome Desk

by Mary Giese, Director of Welcoming and Hospitality

This month we welcome you to the Fellowship Time, the Coffee Hour, or whatever you call it. It's that special time following Sunday worship.

Members, visitors... everyone is invited for coffee and



conversation after church. Coffee, tea, lemonade, doughnuts, and doughnut holes are served in Lakeview Social Hall on the lower level. I think we should name this time together "Holey Grounds."

There are activities for the kiddos and adults, too, if you choose. The ping-pong table had some action one Sunday. It's a great way for the little ones to work out some wiggles from sitting in church while parents enjoy some time visiting with others.

The move to Lakeview is convenient for servers and hosts alike. Tables and chairs, with social distancing, make it comfortable for everyone.

Conversation abounds! Things I've heard in the first few weeks back include:

- How to have a peony bouquet in August or beyond. Curious?
- Hockey talk—always appropriate year-round in Duluth.
- Underwater welding. Seriously!
- New homeowners found church members in their new neighborhood.

Hosting is easy and your help is needed. The coffee cart is prepped and ready to roll into the Social Hall from the kitchen for serving. Cleanup is simple because we use compostable cups, glasses, and napkins. No dishwashing! We are asking and inviting you to sign up to host this fellowship time. A phone call to the church, 218-727-5021, or an email to info@fumc.com will get you on the "Please let me help" list. You may also leave a voicemail at church or email Linda Wiig at nurse@fumc.com or Mary Giese at welcome@fumc.com. You can also indicate on the attendance cards at church that you will help with hosting. Thank you for your consideration of helping with this fun and enjoyable time at church. When everyone takes a turn or two, it gives others a chance to join in and does not become a burden on anyone. I'm looking forward to sharing and enjoying "Holey Grounds" together.

Whoops! Rummage Sale Rescheduled!

The Rummage Sale has been moved up one week to **Friday, August 13–Saturday, August 14** due to a calendar oversight.

Drop off of donations will begin Sunday, August 8. Yes, there is a statewide primary election on Tuesday, but we will work around it. The sale will happen on Friday, August 13, from 3-6pm; and Saturday, August 14 from 8am-2pm.

Proceeds will go towards Trustee projects. **Drop-off begins after worship on Sunday, August 8.** 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 of August 8 to receive and organize items. Help is also needed during the sale and for cleanup, and hauling away unsold items at 2:00 on Saturday, August 14.

Please email Anita Zager at anitazager@gmail.com to volunteer.

We anticipate this to be a large sale and could use your help. Families, neighbors, friends, youth, and young adults needing community hours for school... all are welcome.

Summer Parking Lot Concerts Continue at Coppertop

Concert featuring the Randy Lee Jazz Combo
Wednesday, July 28 at 6:30pm.
Open to all • Freewill Donation

This summer we are sponsoring 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 6pm.

The second concert of the series is on July 28 and features the Randy Lee Jazz Combo. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be postponed to the next day, July 29 at 6:30pm. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the fantastic Randy Lee Jazz Combo, 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
Rain Date June 23
UMD FACULTY BRASS QUINTET

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

AUGUST 18
Rain Date August 25
**ACOUSTIC INGEBORG
AKA EMMA RUSTAN**
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!**

**First United
Methodist**
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth, MN
218-727-5021 • fumcduluth.com

Prayer Shawl Group Meeting Again

FUMC's prayer shawl group, a dedicated group of knitters and crocheters, will resume their monthly meetings in July. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30am in the Fireside Lounge. It's a fun way to spend a couple hours visiting with friends while getting a little knitting and crocheting done. If you're new to prayer shawls, there are a couple patterns available.

Prayer shawls are given by the pastor, community nurse, and lay pastors to people who are dealing with loss, health issues, or simply need a tangible reminder of the church's support. Prayer shawls are also given each year to our graduating high school seniors.

New members are always welcome! See you at our next meeting at **9:30 on Wednesday, July 14.**



2021 FUMC Lennon-Berini Scholarships to be awarded in August

In the 1950s two young men, John Lennon and Joe Berini, served as First Methodist staff members and worked with Duluth youth, particularly in the Central Hillside area. To commemorate their work, a scholarship fund was developed in 1985.

Subsequent contributions have helped to sustain the Fund and allow for the presentation of 97 scholarships totaling \$104,190. The Lennon-Berini Scholarships for 2021 will be \$2,000 each.

The criteria for qualifying as an applicant are:

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

Application forms will be available on the church's website July 1, 2021. They will need to be fully completed and turned in by 4pm. on July 23. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants have two options for submitting materials:

- 1) Print all materials and submit in hard-copy form to Selection Committee Chair Terry Wallin, 29 East Toledo Street, Duluth, MN 55811.
- 2) Compile all materials (including completed application form, transcripts, recommendations, and candidate statements) into a single electronic file and send it to Terry Wallin at teto62@charter.net.

Scholarships will be awarded during the August 22, 10am Sunday worship service at First United Methodist Church.



**LENNON-BERINI SCHOLARSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Purpose and Guidelines

The purpose of the Lennon-Berini Scholarship is to support student members of the First United Methodist Church who are pursuing a people-centered career. **Applicants must have completed at least two years of college. The 2021 awards will be \$2000 per recipient.**

Applicants must fill out this form and return it along with the required attachments to the Lennon-Berini Scholarship Committee Chair Terry Wallin, 29 E. Toledo Street, Duluth, MN 55811, or email application to Terry Wallin, teto62@charter.net. **Mail and email applications must be in by 4pm on July 23, 2021. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Birthdate _____
Email address _____

•••••••

When completing this application, please consider items marked with ** to be especially important to the Selection Committee.

**How long have you been a member of First United Methodist Church? _____

**List church related groups in which you have been active _____

**What positions of church leadership have you held at local, district, or national levels?

**List other special church projects in which you have participated _____

•••••••

High school _____ Date of graduation _____

Number of students in class _____ Your rank _____

Educational honors and awards _____

Post High School Education:

Current year in college _____ Undergraduate year of graduation _____

College attending _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Current GPA _____ Graduate year of graduation _____

****List college and/or community activities** _____

•••••

Special talents or skills _____

Hobbies/recreation _____

What national or international problems interest you most? _____

Briefly describe your employment during the past two years. Include approximate hours worked per week _____

•••••

Required Attachments

****Statement of approximately 100 words relative to your choice of a people-centered career.**

****Current college transcript.**

****Recommendations from two non-relative adults who know you well (one of which must be from a current collegiate advisor and/or professor).**

Join Millions Across the Globe in Reducing Plastic Waste

By Naomi Yaeger
UMC EarthKeeper

This July, participate in a challenge: Avoid single-use plastic.



Begin at the grocery store. Pack your own lunch using reusable containers or waxed fabric for sandwiches. Shop at a farmers market. Talk to the farmer who grew your food. It's a fun experience.

Non-plastic razors, toothbrushes, flossing picks, and many other toiletries are available as alternatives. How about your shampoo? It's possible to get nice shampoo in bar form. Laundry detergent is also available as a powder or on strips of paper. You can refill shampoo and detergents at a co-op.

Here are some other possibilities:

- Keep a spoon, fork, and small knife, along with a straw, in your purse or your vehicle glove compartment. You never know when they will become handy and aid in your refusal of plastic.
- Has the pandemic got you thinking you can't use your own bag? I think most scientific studies agree that COVID-19 isn't spread by bringing your own bag. Ask the cashier to place the items back in your grocery cart, take your cart to your car, and bag them there.
- Bring your own reusable water bottles instead of buying plastic ones.
- Reduce the amount of soft drink bottles used (e.g. consume less or make your own "soda").
- Prepare lunches without plastic wrap.
- Avoid plastic bottles of milk and juice or choose alternatives.
- Pick up litter in public places.
- Celebrate in style with plastic-free decorations.
- We purchased a subscription to a brand with a naughty name, "Who Gives a Crap," toilet paper. A case of toilet paper is shipped to us periodically, the rolls wrapped in pretty paper with pithy sayings; no plastic wrapping. The company helps build toilets and washing facilities across the world.
- Keep a journal of your daily use of disposable plastic. Hosting a July 4th party? See how decorative and fun you can be without using plastics.

Visit PlasticFreeJuly.org

(Do you feel a call to care for creation? Join FUMC sustainability committee, or learn more about becoming an EarthKeeper umcmmission.org/EarthKeepers, contact Naomi at sun_dog_press@yahoo.com or 218-591-5277.)

Looking For a Good Book or Podcast?

Two Spirits, One Heart

by Marsha Aizumi and Aiden Aizumi



This memoir chronicles Marsha's personal journey from adopting a dearly desired baby girl to reimagining love, acceptance, and

support amid her child's struggles to reconcile his gender identity and follow his path to become a man. In the process, Marsha becomes a passionate advocate for the greater rights of transgender, bisexual, gay, and lesbian citizens. Honest, warm, and illuminating.

We Are Water Protectors

Written by Carole Lindstrom,
illustrated by Michaela Goade



This 2021 Caldecott Medal winner is a vibrant reminder of water's sacredness.

Written for three-to-six-year-olds to nurture their natural inclination to safeguard Mother Earth, *Water Protectors* offers a vision of people standing together with unbroken spirit.

Expanding the Table

General Commission on Religion and Race's new podcast series is focused



on how congregations, Christians, and individuals can engage the work of racial justice-

making and anti-racism. Learn more at r2hub.org/library/podcast.



First United Methodist Church

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