



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.

November 2021

**Are You Unsure Where You're Going,
But Getting There Quickly?**

...Slow Down

...Get Off the Road

...Discover What's Important

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Walt Weyrauch

Former FUMC member Walt



Weyrauch died in April 2020. Pastor Jeanine conducted a memorial service for his family on October 16, 2021. Cards of sympathy and comfort

may be sent to Andy Weyrauch, 3801 Rockview Court, Duluth, MN 55804.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy 75th Anniversary on November 3rd to Ray and Alice Gurske. Cards of love and congratulations can be sent to them at 1576 Kibart Rd, Wright, MN 55798-8267.

Thank you!

In mid October, just prior to a rehearsal, Jacob Marquardt walked into the Bell Room with his mother, Sue. After a short but quiet time standing close to the door, Sue whispered, "Go ahead." Jake then handed handbell director Bill Alexander a check for \$100. The money, given to him by his grandmother, was, he said, "to go to the Handbell Program." Grandmother Wanda Marquardt has always endeavored to instill in her grandsons the importance of giving. Jake had the option to keep the money and spend it any way he wished, but he chose to donate it to an organization that means a lot to him. There is no better example of giving and caring. Thank you, Jake!

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On the Journey With You

What a challenging 20 months we have been through as a world, nation, community, and church, and as families and individuals. I remember at the end of March, 2020, I sent the staff home because of the COVID pandemic, certain that this would only be a temporary situation and that we would be back working in the office within the next couple of weeks. It ended up being over a year of primarily working from home, and even now we are not fully back in the office as we have many meetings over Zoom (I didn't even know what Zoom was before the pandemic—teleconferencing through computers for meetings and gatherings).

That same week we recorded worship to play in people's homes rather than gathering for worship in our Sanctuary. I was certain that we would be back in our Sanctuary for Easter. As it turns out, we weren't back in the Sanctuary even the following Easter. And now many of us are back, but we socially distance and wear masks. Many continue worshipping online on Sunday mornings at 10am, and others worship online some other time during the week.

We are still in the midst of a pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, the church council determined that we had but one goal—to keep people alive, physically, spiritually, and emotionally, and we have made decisions using that as our guide. You have been willing to do what it takes to make people feel both physically and emotionally safe. And in so doing, you have proclaimed your growing faith loudly.

Our congregation has been so resilient, so cooperative, so willing to make sacrifices for the common good, so encouraging, and so thankful. You have worshipped online, worshipped outside, had fellowship times and even funeral receptions outside, gathered outside for concerts, had drive-in worship, attended drive-in movies, participated in food drives and a huge project at Christmas to help CHUM (Churches United in Ministry – our local social service

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: **November 17**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

agency), participated in a variety of recycling initiatives, gave special offerings to support people of color in the midst of racial tensions, called and checked in on people, gave gift cards, helped with food needs, stayed connected by participating in online worship, made Ruby's Pantry happen in new ways, and gifted the community with a COVID-safe rummage sale, a drive-through roast beef dinner, and so much more. I am so proud of you... so proud of our congregation! We have been every bit as much a church during the pandemic as before. We have clung to what really matters.

Throughout the pandemic, including now, our financial giving has remained strong and generous. We have been able to meet our ministry, mission, and building needs. Thank you so much! I know many of you have given extra, knowing that others were less able to give. You make a difference! You enabled us to move forward, including adding a whole new online ministry in the midst of a pandemic.

Each year at this time, we ask and invite you to think about what your financial giving for the upcoming year will be. We do this so we can create our budget for the upcoming year and to give you the opportunity to engage in the spiritual discipline of considering what God is calling you to give financially. This year you will be asked to make your estimate of giving for 2022 on Consecration Sunday, November 14.

Twenty-five people from our congregation have been recorded on video talking about what our

church means to them and why it is important that our congregation is here. You heard some of them on October 24 and will hear others on November 7 and 14. On October 31, you heard from our children. It does matter that we are here. We are blessed to be a part of this community, and we bless others because we are here.

The week of November 7, you will receive a letter from me with your estimate of giving card and a survey letting us know how you have been connecting with the church, your upcoming plans for connection, and needs/hopes you have. We will ask you to prayerfully fill them out and return them to church. Those worshipping in person will bring them to church on **Consecration Sunday, November 14** and place them in the offering plate. On that Sunday, as a way to celebrate our giving and our life together, Paul Sapyta will have made two kinds of soup, and every person will leave with a bowl of soup (in a compostable container) to eat at home. For those worshipping online, you will be invited to drive by church on Sunday, November 14 from 11:15am-12:30pm to drop off your estimate of giving card and participation survey and to get your soup. I will personally greet each car and will be so happy to see you.

Please be prayerfully thinking of what this congregation means to you and others... and what God is leading you to give financially in the coming year. Be blessed... and be a blessing!

On the journey with you,
~ Pastor Jeanine

Faith Forum Fall 2021

Faith Forum will take place on Sunday mornings before the worship service, from 9:00-9:45am in the East Lounge.

November 7: Gina Diaz: Our Faith Story—Our journey of faith and hope in a foreign land we now call home, cherishing our roots, and the mission to give back

November 14: Rev. Charlotte Frantz: Immigration 101—Refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants

November 21: Ellen Zager Hill: Germ Busters in Public Health—Infectious disease epidemiology

December 5: John Cole, New director of CHUM

Worship in November

We continue to worship in person in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10am AND online on YouTube every Sunday morning beginning at 9:55am. 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. At this time, due to the conference COVID plan as well as the county's request for masks indoors for all people regardless of vaccination status, we are asking everyone to wear masks at all times indoors. Weather permitting, we will have our fellowship time each Sunday outdoors, as we will not be eating or drinking indoors.

Sunday, November 7: All-Saints Sunday – we will name, light a candle, and ring a bell for those from our congregation who have died this past year. We will recognize Veterans Day and will celebrate Holy Communion. Remember that it is also daylight saving time, so set your clock **back** an hour.

Sunday, November 14: Consecration Sunday – you will be asked to make estimates of your financial giving to the ministry and mission of our church for 2022. You will receive a bowl of soup following worship to enjoy at home (see pastor's article for more information).

Sunday, November 21: Thanksgiving Sunday – we will unveil and kick off our Advent/Christmas mission project.

Sunday, November 28: – First Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Hope. The sermon is called, "O Little Inn of Bethlehem... and the Twin Ports."

Annual Fall Bazaar Again Canceled Due to COVID Pandemic.

For the second year in a row, the United Methodist Women (UMW) of FUMC have canceled the fall/Christmas Bazaar due to COVID concerns. The event, known as the Coppertop Craft, Bake, and Book Sale, was scheduled for November 6. This once again severely limits the extent to which they could make gifts to the various UMW outreach ministries and all the worthy local organizations who are supported financially with proceeds from the Bazaar each year. In past years, they have given over \$3,000 per year (all from Bazaar revenue) to local charities and programs.

If you would like to support UMW in their work, think of what you might have spent shopping at the Bazaar, and consider making a donation instead. If you feel so moved, please send a donation to the church office marked "UMW Bazaar."

For those of you who love the special cassia bud pickles, they will be sold in church on Sunday, November 7.

Thank you!

~Karen Alseth, UMW Circle Chair and Treasurer

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Suggested Reading for November

submitted by Sarah Maddy

Add new context to your Thanksgiving traditions with



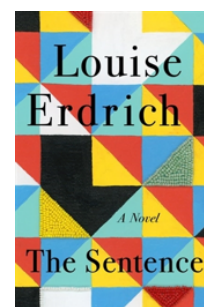
Gichigami Hearts by awarding-winning local author Linda LeGarde Grover. Interweaving family and Ojibwe history with stories from Misaabekong (the place of the giants),

Grover tells the story of her ancestors' arrival at the American Fur Post in far western Duluth over two hundred years ago. The lives chronicled here unfold, some in myth, some in long-ago times, some in an imagined present, and some in the author's family history, all with a deep and tenacious bond to the land, one another, and the Ojibwe culture.

Blending the seen and unseen, the old and the new, the amusing and the tragic and the hauntingly familiar, this lyrical work encapsulates a way of life forever vibrant at the Point of Rocks.

www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/gichigami-hearts

The Sentence is a wickedly funny ghost story by Pulitzer Prize-winning



author Louise Erdrich. Tookie, a formerly incarcerated Indigenous woman working in November 2019 at Birchbark Books (an actual Minneapolis bookshop

owned by Erdrich), is being haunted by one of the store's most annoying customers, a recently deceased white woman who was obsessed with

claiming Native American ancestry. (*Time* magazine, Sep 13-20, 2021)

In a city also haunted by the George Floyd murder, Erdrich's characters must wrestle with generations of racism against Black and Indigenous Americans. Erdrich's love for bookselling is clear, as is her complicated affection for Minneapolis and the people who fight to overcome institutional hatred and racism.

www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/louise-erdrich/the-sentence-erdrich

How to Find FUMC's Online Worship Service

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

- Go to our church website. You will find all the service links right on the homepage. You can find the website at fumcduluth.com.
- Go to YouTube.com and search for "First United Methodist Church Duluth Minnesota" and it will come up (you can also find past services there). If you "Subscribe" to the channel, you can receive notices and reminders, and it's easy to find us from your own YouTube account.
- Click on our YouTube channel to see all of our available online worship services. Here is the link: [Youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUxyV7xJ8b4cWww](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUxyV7xJ8b4cWww).
- Go the FUMC's Facebook page. There will always be a link there as well: facebook.com/FUMCDuluth.

Pastoral Letter From Bishop Bard



Dear Friends in Christ in the United Methodist Churches of Minnesota, I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you of my consistent encouragement to promote public health, further the common good, care for the well-being of others, do no harm, do

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All-Church Movie



The All-Church Movie, *For They Know Not What They Do*, will be held in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, November 3, from 6:30-8:15pm.

For They Know Not What They Do, a film by the director of *For the Bible Tells Me So*, explores the intersection of religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity in America through the stories of four families of faith. Alongside these family stories of faith, rejection, validation, tragedy, and triumph, the film weaves together unique perspectives from religious leaders.

Through love, reconciliation, and acceptance, this film takes us on a journey of understanding what connects us all and gives us the courage to embrace each other. We hope you will attend and will invite others.

Fall Drive-Through Roast Beef Dinner

Thank you for a very successful 100% drive-through Roast Beef Dinner. Thank you for following the COVID-19 restrictions with ease. You are all pure sunshine, joy, and true servants in the life of our church. We thank God for the 104 volunteers and hungry guests! We served 657 dinners (planned for 600 dinners). The last car received the last piece of apple crisp. Thank you, God, for the abundance of blessings during this event.

~Cindy and Scott Hedlund

Save the Date!
Consecration Sunday is
November 14

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Vaccines For COVID-19, Flu, and HPV

Greetings! Temperatures are beginning to fall, and we will say goodbye to summer and fall soon, which brings to mind that it is time for the FLU vaccine. With people now congregating indoors, it is important to get your flu inoculation. One good thing about the flu season is that we should still be wearing masks inside, and we have been practicing sanitizing our hands, which will help to slow down the flu.

On the COVID front, if you are eligible to receive a booster, please do so. It has been determined by the FDA that interchanging vaccines is



okay, but it is preferable to stick with the one you received first. Children ages 5 to 11 may be eligible by the beginning of November. More testing sites and times have also been added around the state and at the DECC. Check the [MDH \(MN Dept. of Health\)](https://www.mn.gov/MDH) for sites.

HPV (human papilloma virus) is a virus, but its vaccine can help prevent cancer. It is recommended to get this vaccine between the ages of 9 and 14. Generally it is given to 11-to 12-year-olds when children's bodies will have the strongest immune response and before they become sexually active. Two doses 6 to 12 months apart are given. A third dose is needed for people ages 15 to 26. This is not a vaccine only given to girls, as many people have believed. Boys should also be immunized, as they can be carriers of the virus and get the sexually-transmitted infection and cancers. It is known that 85% of people will be infected in their lifetimes, and while most can clear the virus, those that don't can get cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile, and throat cancers. The vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective and has decreased some kinds of cancer in teen girls and young adult women by 70-85%.

Blessings to you. I leave you with Psalm 54:4, "Behold, God is my helper and ally; the Lord is my upholder and is with them who uphold my life."

~Linda Wiig

Charge Conference

A Charge Conference, for the sole purpose of approving pastoral compensation for 2022 will be held at the start of the church council meeting on Tuesday, November 23 at 7pm. All church members and friends are welcome to attend. The meeting will be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5446347519>

Meeting ID: 544 634 7519

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Welcome Desk

Did you know that Clergy Appreciation Month was October, and that the second Sunday was Pastor Appreciation Day? I'm sure we agree it's important to share your gratitude anytime and often to your pastors. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Jeanine leading the way through these unsettling times of the COVID pandemic. Her goal has been to bring this congregation through the pandemic spiritually, mentally, and physically healthy. She is wonderfully creative in finding ways for us to see each other's faces and connect even if not in person. I am certain a word of thanks, a note, or an email would be a welcome gesture.

We have great people leading ministries in our church, including Children and Youth, Music, Parish Nurse, Lay Pastors, and more. They all provide care ministry, leadership, and connection to and among the congregation. All of these people work with the supervision and support of Pastor Jeanine. A word of thanks to all of these pastors would be a welcome blessing.

Speaking of welcome, Pastor Jeanine received new members on Sunday, October 31. We will share pictures and information about them in the December issue of *First Family*.

Our next Church Information/ Potential New Member Class is Sunday, November 21 following worship at 11:15 in the Fireside Lounge. You can attend in person or via Zoom. If needed, you can schedule a time to meet personally with Pastor Jeanine. This class is interactive, and you will learn about

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Children/Family Ministry

by Jojo Coffin-Langdon

Everything in Children's Ministry is going well. We have about 20 children involved in Christian Education! I'm so grateful that we get to gather each week. I have missed it so! We are staying safe, wearing our masks, and learning about GOD, all at the same time.

On Sundays, children begin the service in the Sanctuary with their parents and may leave for **Sunday School** after the Children's Message. After church, parents can pick up their children from the Kids Club space (the Hillside Room on the lowest level) before 11:00, or wait until 11:00 and the children's staff will bring them up to the Tween's room (across from Lakeview Social Hall).

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:00-6:00 Kids Club (Grades K-2). Meet in the new Kids Club space (the Hillside Room under Lakeview Social Hall). We'll start with music with Pastor Cynthia for 15 minutes and then have games and a Christian message.

5:15-6:00 Ring-JAM rehearsal (Grades 3-5). Meet in the Chapel, and later we'll move to Lakeview Social Hall. This time is a combination of Ringtones and JAM, with both handbell ringing and drumming.

6:00-6:30 Dinner. Bring your own dinner (families can eat in separate rooms inside the church).

6:30-7:30 Tweens (Grades 3-5). Room 112/Tweens Room. Games and fun, a lesson, and a chance to connect as a community. This is much like youth group for a younger audience.

6:30-7:30 Youth Group/Confirmation (Grades 6-8). Room 113/Youth Room. The first Wednesday of the month will be Confirmation (for ages 12-14) with Pastor Jeanine and Pastor Cynthia. The other weeks, there will be fun and games, team building, and always a lesson for your soul.

Upcoming Activities

Saturday, Nov. 13 - 6:30-9:00pm - Date Night - Children can come to the Kids Club space (after dinner at home) for extended play time and fun, while parents can have a date! Donations will be accepted; proceeds go to Children's Ministry. RSVP required by November 8.

Sunday, Nov. 21 - Wear Your Pajamas to Church Day! It will be Movie Day in Sunday School. With popcorn!

Saturday, Dec. 18 - 10am-12pm - Birthday party for Jesus and pageant rehearsal.

Sunday, Dec. 19 - 10:00am worship service - Christmas Pageant
If you want a speaking role in the Pageant, talk to Jojo or Pastor Cynthia: 218-251-4388

Youth Group and Confirmation Opportunities

On **Wednesday, November 3**, 6:30-8:15pm, we will be watching the movie ***For They Know Not What They Do***, a documentary following four families with LGBTQ children caught in the crossfire of sexuality, identity, and scripture. Parents are encouraged to attend this viewing. There will be a short discussion afterwards.

On **Wednesdays, November 10 and 17**: Youth Group from 6:30-7:30pm. There will be games, fun, and faith!

Want to be part of the Youth and Children's Christmas Pageant? Want a speaking/acting role? Please let Cynthia know!

Terri Lynn Nuts Store

CoppertopDuluth.terrilynn.com

It's that time of year when we offer the best nuts and chocolates from Terri Lynn. You can order your favorites by going to the online store, which will be open through November. If you need help ordering, just contact [Cynthia](#). All proceeds will go to our youth fund for mission trips and other projects and events. Thank you!

Senior High Youth Dinners

We want to invite all students 9-12 grade to dinner on Sunday, November 7 at 5pm. We will meet at the church and have dinner outside by the campfire. Dinner is paid for by the church! This is a special time just for YOU to connect with your church friends, eat good food, and be inspired in your faith. We will continue to do this the first Sunday of every month. If bad weather, we will postpone. RSVP to Cynthia the Friday before.

Music Notes

Our Music Groups are Back!

It has been wonderful to resume music rehearsals and hear our music groups live in our worship services again. We've been blessed to hear Tapestry, the Sanctuary Choir, and both Cast in Bronze and Class Ring handbell choirs. Strikepoint has been rehearsing and enjoying their time together immensely. And our new Ring-JAM group includes up to eight upper elementary-aged children who have been ringing and drumming on Wednesday evenings.

Choral Scholar Program



Riley Hinnenkamp has resumed his position as a Choral Scholar with our Sanctuary Choir. Besides attending Wednesday choir rehearsals and Sunday worship services, Riley's duties will include such things as leading sectional rehearsals, conducting selected anthems, leading warm-ups, and singing vocal solos. The Choral Scholar program is financially supported by the Carol Donahue Scholarship Fund and is intended to support an area music student. It is an investment in the future of sacred choral music! Riley is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Superior majoring in music with an emphasis on choral conducting. Congratulations, Riley!

Organ Refurbishment Project



Have you been wondering why Velda is only playing the organ in the balcony this fall? It is because the refurbishment to our Austin pipe organ has begun! The downstairs organ console is currently out of commission with most of its inner workings removed. A new electric relay system will be installed soon. Fortunately, the balcony organ console is still functional. Once the downstairs console is refurbished and working, the balcony console will be taken out of commission in order to be refurbished. How fortunate we are to have two organ consoles! On top of that, we are also enjoying the lovely Jaeckel pipe organ from time to time in our worship services. Normally housed in the Three Brothers' Chapel, we have moved the Jaeckel organ to the Sanctuary during this time when the Austin pipe organ is being refurbished.

Thank you, Cynthia!



As you know, Cynthia Coffin-Langdon has resigned as the director of Tapestry, our worship band. We have been blessed with her leadership of Tapestry for over 12 years! Fortunately for us, she will continue working at the Coppertop as Youth Director and Children's Music Director. During our worship service on October 31, we had a chance to thank and recognize Cynthia for all her wonderful contributions as our Tapestry director.

Strikepoint to Play With DSSO and the Arrowhead Chorale

Our concert handbell ensemble, Strikepoint, will be performing in concert with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra on Saturday December 4 at 7:00pm for their Holiday Spectacular program at the DECC Symphony Hall. For more information, you can go to dssso.com/concert/holiday-spectacular.

Strikepoint will also be playing the following weekend, December 11 at 7:30pm and December 12 at 3:00pm, with the Arrowhead Chorale for their Christmas concert in the Great Hall of the Duluth Depot.

Music Tech News

Technical Coordinator Position Created



Alex Flinner is now “officially” on staff as our Technical Coordinator. Starting September 1, this new paid position was created which includes responsibility for the Sanctuary’s audio/visual system (including the livestreaming of each worship service), as well as the office computers, network gear, and TV/projection systems. Thank you for your continued good work, Alex!

Sound Technician Needed

Nick Gosen has been working as our interim Sound Technician since we returned to live worship services this summer. We very much appreciate Nick’s willingness to step in to help us during this interim time. We are now looking for a new sound technician. The tasks involve setting up sound equipment and operating a sound board at Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday evening Tapestry worship band rehearsals. The Sunday morning duties are year-round. The Wednesday evening duties are primarily during the school year. The compensation is \$20/hour. Candidates with prior experience are preferred, but we are willing to train promising candidates! If you are interested in this position or know someone who might be interested, please have them contact Alex Flinner at tech@fumcduluth.com or 218-349-6749.



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our local church history as well as denominational history and where we are today. You can register by calling the church at 218-727-5021, emailing welcome@fumcduluth.com, visiting at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex, or just showing up on the 21st of November. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of our church family.

Remember, we are the church with a welcome for everybody—always.

~Mary Giese

—Bard, continued from page 5

good, and love your neighbor, all in the name and spirit of Jesus.

Specifically I encourage you: If you have not been vaccinated and are eligible to receive a vaccine, do it. It is the single most important thing you can do to care for yourself and for others. The unvaccinated remain those most likely to be hospitalized and suffer severe illness or death because of COVID. They are also capable of spreading the disease for longer periods of time. Get vaccinated. Encourage your fellow-church members to get vaccinated. If you are eligible for a booster, get your booster shot.

Due to our positivity rate, we remain in the [Yellow Phase of our Re-Gathering Plan](#), which strongly encourages masking by everyone when meeting in-person and indoors. If you are in a high-risk area, consider mandating masks for indoor, in-person gatherings. After vaccinations, masks are the next best tool we have for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, and

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Bring some
STRIKEPOINT
home for the holidays!

strikepoint.com • Artistic Director Bill Alexander • Duluth, Minnesota

EarthKeepers

Jesus said, "Let nothing be wasted."

by Naomi Yaeger, *EarthKeeper*

The Environmental Institute at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College studies and promotes sustainable agriculture and other topics through the use of a medicinal garden, beehives, and a greenhouse. I am fortunate to work for the Institute as a part-time student.

Recently we celebrated Sustainability Awareness Week. We kicked off with a feast of Indigenous foods: fried walleye, maple-roasted squash, manoomin (wild rice), cranberry bread, and Baby Cakes (cupcakes baked with wild rice flour and maple syrup, made by an Ojibwe mother/daughter team).

Before feasts, tobacco and prayers are offered. At one of our feasts, we all stood waiting patiently. I was anxious, however, as no one knew who was going to offer the prayer. One young woman was asked to give the prayer. She said she couldn't because she didn't know Ojibwe well enough. Someone replied, "If you didn't have a voice, do you think the Great Spirit wouldn't know when you were praying?" The answer is, "Of course, the Great Spirit would hear you!"

My role at the feast was to facilitate composting. I collaborated with other team members to make sure we had compostable dinnerware and contacted WLSSD to reserve a party kit (which included special bins, compostable liners, and signage) and transport it. At the college, I cheerfully informed people that their dinnerware and all food waste were compostable and showed them exactly where they could dispose of their waste. I've found that many people want to do the right thing but are confused. This is true at church. People are often unsure if what they need to dispose of is recyclable or compostable.

I suggest you think of God when you recycle or compost. Unlike humans, God doesn't waste anything. I think composting is actually a miracle. Make it into an act of conscious gratefulness to the Lord. (God will hear you if even you don't vocalize
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it.) Consider when Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish in John 6:12, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

Naomi Yaeger is a commissioned United Methodist EarthKeeper. Contact her at sun_dog_press@yahoo.com, phone or text (218) 591-5277. For more information visit umcmission.org/EarthKeepers.

—Bard, continued from page 9

slowing the spread also prevents the virus from developing into new variants. Together, masking and vaccinations will help us stem the rising tide of the coronavirus.

Finally, allow me to say a word about religious exemptions for vaccinations. The United Methodist tradition of the Christian faith does not provide much support for a religious exemption for vaccinations. John Wesley promoted the best cures and preventative measures of his day in his work *Primitive Physick*. Founding hospitals is a significant part of our history as Methodists. Our Social Principles assert that "health care is a basic human right." I have consistently encouraged Minnesota United Methodists to get vaccinated. It would be extraordinarily difficult to use our United Methodist tradition to substantiate a religious exemption claim for a COVID vaccination.

Friends, I continue to believe that by God's grace we can muster the resilience, the kindness, and the determination to do what needs to be done to get past this pandemic. As followers of Jesus, we can lead in promoting public health, furthering the common good, and caring for the well-being of others. When we act out of love for neighbors and care for our community, we offer a powerful witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

David A. Bard

Interim Bishop, Minnesota Conference

Read Bishop Bard's complete letter at:
www.minnesotaumc.org

Steps to Justice



"Gratitude for the wisdom traditions from the indigenous people of this Earth! My daily life routine is built upon the resources of knowledge passed down from cultures that are not my own. I continue to puzzle over how to best be an ally to the Native people of this region who tended the land I live upon for generations, leaving nearly no trace except the incredible abundance of a vital eco-system."

Sara Ryn Hart, Indigenous People's Day 2021

What Are United Methodists Doing for Refugees, Migrants, and Asylum Seekers?

UMCOR is stepping up with grants for humanitarian aid to migrants, resettlement for Afghan refugees, legal assistance and case management, and support for ministries that fight human trafficking. Read more at <https://umcmmission.org/.../umcor-supports-refugees.../>

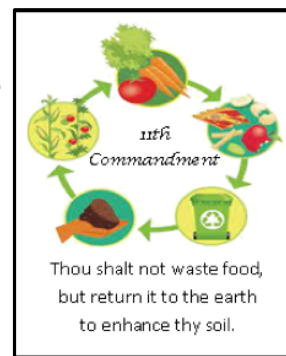
Add Your Compost to the Coppertop Bin

Look for the big blue compost bin labeled "FOOD WASTE ONLY" behind the church near the playground. To keep kids safe, park your car and walk your bagged compost to the bin. Drive up only when nursery school is not in session: after 6pm M-F, or on weekends.



Bags and Bags of Plastic Bags Lurking in the Corners of Your Home?

Recycle "stretchy" plastic to make decking and park benches. Drop off clean and dry plastic film and bags 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 <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>



Give Thanks

Give thanks for the restoration of Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments. "Honmuru (the Bears Ears monument)... is the birthplace of many Hopi and other Native peoples. Though this action, the history of our people, our culture, and religion will be preserved for future generations." –Clark W. Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman of the Hopi Tribe and BEITC Co-Chair

<https://bearscoalition.org/bears-ears-national-monument-restored/>

"This act of preservation safeguards the thousands of unique plant, animal, and insect species that rely on the ecosystems connected throughout the Colorado Plateau. It enables world-renowned research opportunities for paleontology and climate change. And it honors the sacred landscape home to Indigenous Peoples, including the Paiute, Hopi, Zuni, Dine/Navajo, Ute, Jemez Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute, and Acoma nations." Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners Board

Stand With the Three Million People of Filipino Heritage Living in the U.S.

Seven-minute podcast: "Filipino Americans—Blending Cultures, Redefining Race" <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2016/05/24/478560399/filipino-americans-blending-cultures-redefining-race>

Twenty-Nine Short Stories: "Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults"

Emerging and established award-winning writers' stories about what it means to be Filipino in the Philippines and in the United States. <https://ceciliabrainard.com/book/growing-up-filipino-stories-for-young-adults/>

Steps to Justice welcomes your justice-oriented ideas, news, and notice of upcoming events. To meet the December 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.



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