



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.

April 2022

New Life
New Path

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Thank you so much for all of your efforts to support the ministry "Days for Girls." It was heartwarming to see so many hands involved in producing our kits. Your volunteers completed 240 liners for 30 completed kits and strung ribbons through another 30 or so drawstring bags. This was a wonderful team to work with.

I would be happy to participate in another event like this.

Your friend, ~Carol Surine

Duluth Team Leader, Days for Girls

Lighting the Church

A gift to light the church during the week of April 3 was given by the 2X2 Couples Club in memory of Paul Kim. Their gift will also support the Music department.

Save the Dates to Volunteer for June Pie-Making/Baking!

We will be baking rhubarb and strawberry/rhubarb pies this year for CHUM's Rhubarb Festival. There are many ways you can help make FUMC's contribution to the Rhubarb Festival: pick or chop rhubarb, or make, bake, or transport the pies. We are looking for evening and daytime volunteers during June. The festival is Saturday, June 25 at Holy Rosary. The week of June 19 will be the busiest week, but we will be working a few days a week beginning June 1. Please email anitazager@gmail.com to get in the loop for schedule updates.

page 2

On the Journey With You

Time. It is a gift. We are all given this gift, and we get to determine how we will use and steward it. We each are given 52 weeks a year... 7 days a week... 24 hours a day... 1,440 minutes a day... 86,400 seconds a day. Each day we get to choose how we will spend our time. Each day of our life is precious, so we need to take action, follow our dreams, live and love deeply. Every day, life is being lived, right here, right now. NOW is truly all we have.

This reminds me of the poem "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver. It is one of my very favorite poems. The images capture me and bring me hope, on cold winter days reminding me of the summer to come. It begins with the words, "Who made the world?" and then it talks about the swan, the black bear, and goes in depth about the grasshopper. Then it talks about prayer: "I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass..." And it ends with the famous, penetrating question, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Go online and read this poem, or read one of Mary Oliver's books of poems. They are filled with spirituality and faith.

This two-year (so far) season of COVID has reminded me of the preciousness of life and time together. It has reminded me of how we can use our time to bless others and care for others. It has called us to use our time to look for and see blessings. It has encouraged us to be creative in how we use our time and tend relationships in creative ways. You have inspired me with how you have creatively used this time to love and serve others even when there have been moments when it has been discouraging and difficult.

Time. It is a gift we all have. How are you using your gift? "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

On the journey with you,

~Pastor Jeanine

First Family

First United Methodist Church

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Pastor: [Jeanine Alexander](#)

Editor: [Bill Alexander](#)

Next First Family deadline: **April 20**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

Missed a Worship Service?

If you have missed past services, you can get caught up by simply clicking here: [FUMC Worship Archives](#), or by going to YouTube and searching “First United Methodist Church Duluth MN.” We are hearing of church and community members “binge watching” sermon series. How cool is that!

Sunday Worship in April

There are three ways to participate in worship: 10am, live in our Sanctuary on Sundays; 10am livestreamed on Sundays as worship is taking place; or anytime afterwards on YouTube. At this time, we are encouraging masks, but not requiring them except when singing.

- **April 3 – Holy Communion:** The sermon is the fourth in our series, “Changing Our Minds” and is called, “The Mindset of Humility.”
- **April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday:** The children will lead us in a palm parade as we begin the Holy Week journey. The sermon is the fifth in our series about “Changing Our Minds” and is called “How Far Will We Go?”

April 17 – EASTER: Sunrise Service in our parking lot at 6:30am, worship in-person and online at 10am, or on YouTube anytime after. Please remember to wear masks this Sunday because we are expecting more people than usual.

April 24 – Caring for Creation Sunday

Easter Offering

Every Easter we take a special offering, and you are invited to make a special gift. This year, the financial offering will be split three ways:

Harbor House – Harbor House is a United Methodist Ministry located in Superior whose mission is to provide hospitable shelter, transitional living, and services for homeless women and families. Money given will go toward transportation and a swing set for their outdoor play area.

The United Methodist Love Offering – All the Methodist churches in Minnesota give to this combined effort and present their gifts at the May Annual Conference meeting. This year, money will go to **Holy Grounds**, a day center for the homeless and lonely in Mankato; **The West African Family and Community Food Shelf** in Brooklyn Center; **Simpson Food Pantry** in South Minneapolis; the **Red Bird Missionary Conference** in eastern Kentucky for disaster response after recent severe flooding damaged churches and homes; and **Volunteer In Mission Scholarships**.

The general mission, ministry, and outreach of our congregation. So much ministry is happening through our congregation, and we want to continue—and even expand—the level of our outreach and impact. This spring, due to COVID-19 and family situations of leaders, we will not have the Roast Beef Dinner, so we hope you will be generous through this giving opportunity.

You may mail your gifts to the church. Please mark “Easter Offering” on the memo on your check or on the envelope. The church address is FUMC, 230 East Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.

We also have an option to give electronically via the Internet.

- Click on the link below or copy and paste the URL into your browser, <https://onrealm.org/FirstUMCMN/give/now>.
- or via text message by texting to 73256 and typing “COPPERTOP” in the message area. You then will be texted instructions.

If you have any questions about electronic giving, please email Sandy Smith at admin@fumcduluth.com.

In whatever way you give and express love during this season, know that the need is great, and together we can make a great difference!

Giving for Ukraine

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has set up a fund for Ukraine in order to support humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people, including help for Ukrainians fleeing to other countries. Please send your donation to the church office and mark “UMCOR” or “Ukraine” and we will get it to UMCOR.

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Greetings! Doesn't it just raise one's spirits to have a little warmth and sunshine? Hope you have been able to take a few walks and enjoy.

First, I'd like to thank all of you who participated in the Days for Girls (DFG) sustainable menstrual products assembly. More than 40 of you participated in this ministry: families, young people, some of the confirmation class (including boys), and us older people. We had people serging, sewing, cutting, and assembling bags with ribbons. Carol Surine, DFG Duluth team leader, wrote a very nice note to us, "It was very heartwarming to see so many hands involved in producing the kits. This was a wonderful team to work with. Thank you."

We are continuing to collect unused, unopened medical supplies. These supplies will be collected and sent to the Global Board of Methodist Health Ministries to be used in countries such as Tanzania, Madagascar, Liberia, and Zimbabwe. One shipping container per month is sent at a cost of \$21K. Some supplies will also be used for the Methodist Hospital in Manila, Philippines. Gina and Josefino Diaz have already shipped two nice-sized boxes to the hospital. The list of items that are accepted can be found later in this issue of *First Family*. The collection area (with a handy list) is outside of the church office. Thank you.

I will be taking blood pressures again before and after the service beginning this month in my office. Just find me and I'll be happy to check it for you.

There continues to be a shortage of blood and blood products. If you are able, please schedule an appointment with the Red Cross or Memorial Blood Center for a donation time.

April 16 is National Health Care Decisions Day. Have you made an Advance Directive or a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care? All adults, whether young or old, should have a document that spells out their wishes for end-of-life care. Making out one of these documents requires conversations with family, your health care provider, and your designated advocate should you not be able to speak for yourself. Your values, priorities, and what is important to you must be discussed if you are faced with a serious illness. There are a wide variety of helpful tools online, or you can see me to get you started. On April 13 and May 3, Essentia Health will hold online classes for Advance Care Planning. Go to essentiahealth.org to register. Select "Advance Care Planning" then click "Advance Care Planning Online classes." Any questions, call Wanda Paulsen at 218-786-1310.

So, I leave you with this:

"God is on the cross crying out in thirst so we may be quenched

God is in the wounded body of Christ that we be made whole

God is always with us walking by our side"

Peace to you,
~Linda Wiig

Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 10
at 10am, in-person, livestreamed, and on YouTube any time. It will include a palm procession as we begin our Holy Week journey.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 14 at 7pm, in-person, livestreamed, and on YouTube any time. The service includes Holy Communion (the Last Supper) and journeying all the way to Jesus' death.

Good Friday Service – Friday, April 15 at noon in our chapel (in-person only). This service will walk us through Jesus' death and the events of the last hours of his life.

Easter Sunrise Service – Sunday, April 17 at 6:30am. A short service (in-person only) in our church parking lot overlooking Lake Superior. Dress casually and comfortably. Coffee and donuts will be available following the service.

Easter Worship – Sunday, April 17 at 10am, in-person, livestreamed, and on YouTube any time. We are expecting more people than usual. Please remember to wear masks for this service. We will have coffee and donuts available either in Lakeview Social Hall or outdoors (depending on the weather) from 9-9:45am.

COVID-19 Protocol Update



Thank you for making decisions, during this season of COVID, to ensure that everyone who participates in activities through our church is physically and emotionally safe. Your cooperation and love is a wonderful way of expressing your faith commitment.

Given the significant decline in positive COVID-19 rates in our area, your Church Council has decided to adopt the following approach as we transition to an endemic way of being together. We are doing this with real-time monitoring, so protocols are subject to change if data change. Here is the current plan:

Starting Sunday, March 20:

- Masks will be encouraged and available but not required on Sunday mornings, except when singing (so please bring a mask). We will still sit in every other row.
- Coffee and donuts will be available following worship in Lakeview Social Hall if we can find people to do the setup and cleanup.
- Masks will be optional in the church building unless the group or group leader decides to make a different choice. Please honor your group/group leader if it is deemed best for masks to be worn. (Note: Bell Choirs, RingJam, Nursery Attendants, and Livestream Team will continue to wear masks while in those activities.)
- Please wear masks while visiting the church office, since it is a small space.
- Anytime there is singing, masks must be worn.
- For April communion, we will still use the individually-packaged elements.
- When appropriate for the Children's Message, children may come up front. The giver of the message will ensure the message it is also inclusive of children participating online.
- Wednesday dinner can take place for families in Lakeview Social Hall. Only one family per table, and the tables must be spaced.
- We will allow catered light receptions (not full meals) in Lakeview for funerals and other events, with capacity not to exceed 75.

Easter Sunday – We want to see many people in person at 10am worship, so we are requiring masks that Sunday, but will eliminate the every-other-row spacing (we will have one section that maintains every other row).

In order to make this work, and to continue keeping everyone safe, everyone is going to need to do good self-monitoring.

- If you are ill, please stay home and use online opportunities.
- Please feel comfortable worshipping on YouTube from your home and attending church meetings via Zoom if that is safest and best for you.
- Please get vaccinated if you haven't already done so.

The overall health and well-being of the congregation has been, and will continue to be, our utmost priority. Remember, we are doing this with real-time monitoring, so protocols are subject to change if data changes. We greatly appreciate your ongoing patience and adherence to our pandemic protocol in this most unusual time.

~Pastor Jeanine Alexander

~Scott Hedlund & Ron Berkeland (Church Council chairs)

on behalf of your Church Council

Food and Money for Our Local Food Shelf

You can bring food and money donations for the Food Shelf to church at any time. Every Communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month), we bring donations to the Food Shelf so while we are fed spiritually at Christ's table, we are also feeding those who are physically hungry. We welcome food donations, but the CHUM Food Shelf can do much more with money. As a member of Second Harvest Food Bank, CHUM's money goes much farther than it would shopping at local supermarkets. For every dollar that gets donated, CHUM can buy seven dollars worth of food—that's seven times more!

General Conference Postponed to 2024



The Commission on the General Conference announced that 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints. Factors include visas and passports (wait times exceed two years in some countries), the health and safety of participants, vaccination rates, and the need to provide for quarantine and medical care for people who contract COVID-19. In addition, because the

Book of Discipline requires ensuring full participation of all delegates, the commission decided a virtual alternative is not feasible. While it can be effective for presenter/observer events, it cannot satisfy the complexities and legal requirements of a General Conference including legislative committee work, language translation, multiple time zones, voting, and credentialing. The Commission will announce the 2024 location when logistics are complete. The Commission acknowledges the monumental and gracious efforts of the Dakotas-Minnesota Local Host Committee in preparing multiple times for General Conference in Minneapolis and plans to honor them at the 2024 conference.

Children, Youth, and Family News

Children/Family Ministry

- **10am every Sunday** - Sunday School, kindergarten through 5th grade
- **Wednesday night activities** for all ages, 5–7:30pm, Bring your own sack dinner. We take a break at 6pm to eat together in Lakeview Social Hall
- **April 10, Palm Sunday, 9:50am** - Meet Jojo in the Chapel
- **April 17- Epic Easter Egg Extravaganza** (hunt) and other Easter activities. Meet in Lakeview Social Hall. No Sunday School today, but the nursery will be open during church for kindergarten and younger.

Looking ahead

May 1 - Pajama and Movie Day in Sunday School!

May 11 - Last Wednesday night of activities

July 18–22 - Adventure Day Camp Rebooted

Cost: approximately \$50 per person

approximate time: 9am–3pm

August 19–20 - Camp Amnicon, All are welcome!

(3rd grade and older welcome without parents)

Contact Jojo with questions or comments:

218-251-4388

page 6

2022 Summer Mission Trip!

June 21-23 - for anyone going into 7th-12th grade - cost: \$110

Wanna give your teen an experience they won't forget? This is it! We will be packing food (perhaps for Ukraine), doing yard work, hosting Bingo for people living at a shelter, and spending time with homeless youth doing yard work and other tasks. We will also be going to a water park, a Twins game, and another fun activity. All for \$110? That will cover transportation, lodging, tickets to the Twins game and water park, and most of the meals. Can't beat that! We will stay the night at a church in the Cities, and have devotions and group games. What a great way to spend three days—serving and thinking of others—all the while becoming better friends with other church kids and reflecting on your own faith journey. Sign up today!

We will fundraise with all who are going, and there are also scholarships available if needed.

If you are interested in this, want to sign up, or have

—continued on page 11

Supplies needed for the Philippine Project

If you or family members or friends no longer need some of these supplies, bring them to church and place them in the labeled box by the office:

- Personal Protective Equipment—gloves (not latex), especially in sizes M, L, and XL; eye protection; face shields; surgical and cloth masks
- Surgical gloves, sizes 6.5 to 8
- Syringes, 5 and 10 ml.
- Dressings and gauze, surgical sponges, Q-tip applicators
- Lubricating jelly
- Disinfectant sponges, swabs
- Cotton twin- or hospital-size flat bed sheets; cotton bed protectors
- Transfer belts
- Ace™ bandages, BandAids™, 4x4's, butterfly closures, other dressings
- Suction or urinary catheters
- Nasal oxygen cannulas or masks
- Braces, slings, supports
- Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches
- Scrub/prep sponges, brushes, iodine
- Surgical tape of any type
- Stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs

All-Church Camp August 19-20

Join us for an all-church retreat at Camp Amnicon. All ages welcome!

We will be staying in tents that have real beds and mattresses. You bring sleeping bags, etc. Meal provided. Enjoy singing and camp fires! Lots of down time to read, play, and wonder. Cost about \$50 per person (meals included, family rates available). Contact Jojo for more info: 218-251-4388

Social Justice

—submitted by Sarah Maddy

Justice Calls Us to Welcome All People as Institutional Change Grinds On

COVID-19 has postponed General Conference to 2024, with a new location yet to be determined. As the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, General Conference delegates typically meet every four years to consider revisions to church law, approve plans and budgets for church-wide programs, and adopt resolutions on moral, social, and public policy. Due to the pandemic, General Conference has not met since 2018. These circumstances only prolong the road to justice for our LGBTQ+ kin and to parity in the global Church. But remember, “That Beloved Community is being



built today by our cooperation with the Spirit and will continue to be built long after the General Conference finally meets. Reconciling Ministries Network will continue to work for the fullness of life for God's LGBTQ+ children no matter when the next General Conference is held, and we will continue to work toward the same goal after the General

Conference, too.” rmnetwork.org/2022/03/03/regarding-postponement-of-general-conference-to-2024/?mc_cid=1e483abaac&mc_eid=2dc4860238

Action on the separation of our denomination has been delayed again.

The 2020 Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation addresses decades-long disagreement over inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the church. Under this proposed legislation, The United Methodist Church would remain intact and likely move toward fuller inclusion of everyone, at least within the U.S. Traditionalist congregations would retain their properties and receive \$25 million in United Methodist funds to form another denomination. Two million dollars would be available to other churches that also choose to separate. umc.org/en/content/protocol-legislation-heads-top-court-agenda-gaf

unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf

While further delay adds to the harm of exclusion, the joy of welcoming all people continues

Policy doesn't open hearts and minds, but people do. “Our institutional fighting over the blessings and call that God places on the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals continues to cause great harm across the United Methodist Connection. This further delay only

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—social justice, from previous page

adds to that harm. Yet we know that it is not institutional change that creates welcoming and affirming churches, but rather it is only through our collective work of building relationships, caring for one another, and tearing down walls.”

minnesotamethodists.org/

We envision a Methodism that is rooted in Jesus, grounded in



Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the

work of justice and reconciliation.



Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Open our arms, Loving God, to offer joy and homecoming to all people. Give us fresh energy to continue resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Let us persist in offering Christ-like mercy and working for justice; deepening lives of devotion and drawing communities together in worship.

Justice reigns in the Minnesota Conference, protecting our pastors from intolerance.

Bishop David Bard has made a commitment to hold in abeyance all Minnesota Conference-related administrative and judicial complaint processes addressing restrictions in the Book of Discipline regarding gay and lesbian clergy and/or same-sex weddings until after General Conference meets and action related to the separation of the denomination can be considered.

minnesotaumc.org/lgbtqi-inclusion.

Sustainability

The FUMC Sustainability Committee had its first in-person meeting in a LONG time on Sunday, March 13. Personally, I feel our ratio of work to fun is just about perfect! Here are some of the things going on:

- **Plastic recycling... What to do and what NOT to do:**

Apparently, we've been receiving some plastics that are currently not recyclable in our project. Here's the general rule: if the plastic stretches when you press it with your thumb, it's good, and if it makes noise when you crinkle it, it's not good for our use. If you've got questions, see the recycling center for details!

- **Energy audit:**

The church will be having an energy audit later this month or next. This will help us determine what next steps we can/should take to further reduce our energy use. Remember—every dollar of energy expenses we can cut is another dollar we can spend on ministry!

- **Composting bags:**

The Sustainability Committee is once again selling compost bags after church the second Sunday of each month. Laura Krumwiede tells me she's tried many kinds, and the ones we sell are about the best she's found! Proceeds from sales go to support the church's sustainability efforts.

- **Earth Day:**

Watch for Earth Day events at FUMC in late April!

Interested in joining us? If you've got an interest in sustainability and want to have some fun, please think about joining our committee. It's a great group of people working to make our church more Earth-friendly. If you're interested, see Jean Walsh before or after church.

~Geoff Bell

Poetry, You Say?

The Sustainability Team does not limit itself to saving the world. We also work (or play, more accurately) at saving our sanity. Four members recently responded to a Poetry Challenge using words that rhyme with “sustain.” Enjoy National Poetry Month!

***Meatless Monday* by Marian Flammang**

On Meatless Monday you must refrain
From eating cows so you can sustain
The Earth you know!
Just eat what you grow!
If it has a face, you must abstain.

But produce is so easy to obtain.
 More plants we must sow.
 All in a neat row!
 So on this good Earth we can
 remain.

Sustainability List Poem

Sustain each other
 Abstain from plastic water bottles
 Refrain from putting food in the trash
 Maintain sense of humor
 Retrain your thermostat
 Obtain list of recyclable plastics
 Regain hope that daily choices matter
 Restrain yourself from cynicism
 Untrain consumptive habits
 Regain renewable energy momentum
 Attain elected officials' attention
 Sustain each other.

A sustain limerick by Charlie Orsak

God's call to care for creation is plain
 For ideas how, we rack our collective
 brain.
 Plant a tree or turn down the heat.
 Reduce, recycle, or eat less meat.
 We pray that in these ways our
 common home we sustain.

***Our Earth~pledge to maintain.
 Climate change~do not disdain.***

The Sustainability Team meets the
 second Sunday of the month, 15
 minutes after the service, in the East
 Lounge. Next meeting: April 10. All
 are welcome.

~Jean Walsh

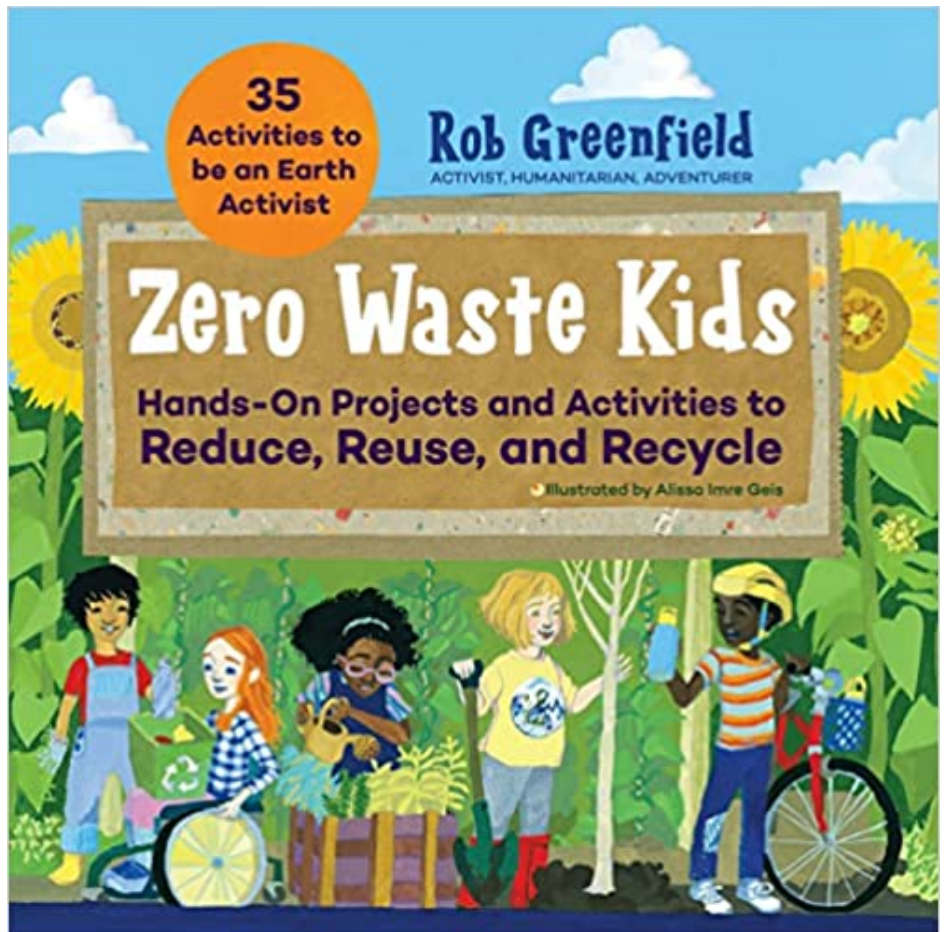


EarthKeeper

By Naomi Yaeger

UMC commissioned EarthKeeper

Recently, I met a man who does outrageous things, like wearing all his trash in clear plastic garbage bags outside of his body. His name is Rob Greenfield and he grew up in Ashland, Wisconsin, striving to fit in with everyone, not wanting to call attention to himself, and hoping he'd make a lot of money in his adulthood. As he became more interested in stewardship, he did activities that caused attention in order to spur conversations on environmental stewardship.



I was introduced to Greenfield's work by one of my Environmental Institute coworkers. She had followed him on YouTube, and he was speaking at the Cloquet Public Library. She was fascinated that he saved and wore all the garbage he produced in one month. Yes, I said, wore. Greenfield ate and acted like an "average American," for one month and saved all the dry, "non-gross" trash in large, clear, plastic bags. These bags were attached to his clothes. He had a special suit sewn for himself to help support the weight of the garbage. The average American produces 4.5 pounds of trash a day. By the end of his month, he was wearing 84 pounds of trash. The

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average American produces 135 pounds of trash per month. He suspects the extra weight of the trash (and also the junk food he ate) made him feel sluggish. He wore his special trash supporting suit in NYC, on the subway and during speeches given to kids.

The year I was born, 1960, each American averaged about 2.58 pounds of trash per day. In my own lifetime, the amount of trash an individual produces has almost doubled! How could it have doubled? I recall the very first Earth Day. It was in 1972, yet we as a society keep using more and more stuff and producing more and more trash. Many people say that they recycle, but only about 30 percent of plastic bottles are recycled.

The truth is we can't recycle our way out of plastic waste. Most plastic can be recycled 2–3 times before it is no longer good for recycling. Container glass can be recycled endlessly without losing any quality, durability, or purity—as long as it's not contaminated by other types of glass. Aluminum cans are also endlessly recyclable.

I challenge you to save all your “non-gross” trash in a clear plastic bag for one week. Also put your wasted food into a bag in the freezer. Then weigh your trash at the end of the week. See how much trash you produce.

Learn more at RobGreenfield.org.

And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.
~ Jeremiah 18:4

From the Welcome Desk

by Mary Giese

Director of Welcoming and Hospitality

Hello, friends,

While visiting with a church friend, they shared a great idea with me and I share it with you: We welcome everyone's participation in reflecting on the power of words that helped or are helping you get through the pandemic.

Let's celebrate the power of words. What words helped you through the pandemic? A Scripture verse? A favorite prose passage? A beloved poem? A helpful mantra? Maybe you read these words by your bedside daily, taped them to your computer screen, mumbled them under your breath (masked, of course), recited them silently in front of a Zoom camera. Please consider sharing these words with our church community. Your words can inspire others. Write or type them on a piece of paper with or without your identity. Feel free to add any pertinent information, like what these words meant to you, or how you came across them. Turn them into the church office marked for "Welcome and Hospitality." They will be displayed in the main entryway/Atrium at church.

This is such a fine idea, and your words may be just what someone is needing. All are invited to share. We want to hear from oldsters all the way to youngsters. If images or pictures express your "words," that is fine. You could also share drawings from the kiddos, handwritten or typed words, or a copy of something. All ideas are welcome. Please take time to look at the display boards and add your voice.

In the March issue of *First Family*, Sue Marquardt shared some of the things she learned as a middle school teacher during the pandemic, and one of them is an affirmation that "I can do hard things." That is a perfect start to our "Power of Words" over the pandemic.

This will be a wonderful welcome display for members and guests that come to church. Who might you invite to church in person or to worship online? Remember we are the church with a welcome for everybody, always!

~Mary Giese





CHUM Wish List

- Tents, tarps, and sleeping bags for outdoor camping

CHUM has plenty of large blankets and raincoats right now. The warming center closes April 1, and most of their guests will be back on the street as we enter the cold rainy season. Also, several families at the Steve O'Neil Apartments could use large microwave ovens in good condition.

CHUM Rhubarb Festival

moves to Stella Maris - Holy Rosary Campus, 2802 E. 4th Street in Duluth, Saturday, June 25, 2022. Watch for volunteer opportunities!



CHUM 2022 Legislative Advocacy

Each year the CHUM board adopts an advocacy agenda for those who craft policy in our city and state. As people of faith, they advocate for a more just and compassionate community. The agenda this year includes:

• Stepping On Up Duluth

Your help is needed to advocate for Stepping On Up, a collaborative five-year plan to address homelessness in Duluth, where we have people living unsheltered for years, often decades. While there will always be need for shelter, this plan will make the shelter stay a short-term, one-time crisis experience, and the entry point to long-term, stable housing. Learn about the plan at steppingonupduluth.org/ and talk to your friends and neighbors to build community support for its implementation.

• Bring It Home, MN

How can we prevent more Minnesota families from slipping into homelessness? CHUM leaders are asking for our help in advocating for Bring It Home, MN. This plan calls on our state legislators to allocate \$1B of the



MINNESOTA

nearly \$8B budget surplus for rent vouchers, so that our neighbors can afford to remain in their current home. Bring It Home, MN will provide rent subsidies for all eligible low-income Minnesotans, so

they only pay 30% of their income toward rent. When rent is more manageable, budgets stretch further, so kids get clothes that fit, seniors can afford life-saving medications, and the car gets fixed when it breaks down. Learn more at

bringithomeminnesota.org/ and <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/-7GuLIXjUmFMOHWsWrp1A.pdf>

Is your heart calling you to action in Christ's name? CHUM Advocacy Network can help you become an effective advocate for greater opportunity for all people to build stable, self-sufficient lives.

God, we pray for people whose hearts are hurting, for those struggling under great burden, for families separated by violence and disaster, and those living in places unfit for human habitation. Help us to nurture transformation in the lives of your people, that we may sustain a world of compassion and just abundance.

—Youth, continued from page 9

any questions, please text or email Pastor Cynthia anytime, PastorCynthiaCL@gmail.com. RSVP deadline is Easter Sunday, April 17.

Graduation Sunday - May 22

Are you, or someone you know, graduating from high school or college this year? Please let Cynthia know so we can honor them during worship on Sunday, May 22.

Youth Group and Confirmation

Wednesday Nights - 6:30-7:30pm

- April 6 - Confirmation
- April 13 - Youth Group
- April 20 - NO PROGRAMMING
- April 27 - Youth Group



First United Methodist Church

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