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.

August 2023

First United Methodist Church

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

Photo by Anna Shvets, pexels.com

Our First Family

Baptized on July 23: Hattie Lynn Alander, born August 10, 2022. Hattie's parents are River and Jordyn Alander, and her sister is Navy Alander. Grandparents are Debbie and Dave Alander, Krista Abbott, and Brian Nelson. Great-grandparents are Marlene and Wes Berntson, Wendy and Walt Anderson, and Shirley Abbott. Godparents are Morgan and Bryce Harris.

Tom and I wish to thank all of you who have prayed and supported us with with gift cards, food, visits, and well-wishes as we navigated through our lower appendage difficulties.

On the Journey With You

What a great time we had in our church parking lot on Monday, July 17 with Big Wave Dave and the Ripples and the Room at the Table food trucks. Over 400 people gathered for food, music, dancing, and fun together. We had rain come down hard shortly after we started, followed by a beautiful rainbow and continued music and fun. Below you can see a few pictures from that evening.

The church covered the cost of the band so that the freewill offering taken during the concert could all go to CHUM Food Shelf. There is great need for food for our neighbors. We raised $3,028 for the Food Shelf at the concert. Wow! We made a difference and had a great time doing so.

It is so good when we can get together for fun and to do something good for others. Scripture says a lot about the importance of joining together in community.

We had other exciting events this past July. On Wednesday, July 19, 45 people gathered in Lakeview Social Hall for our newer/ prospective member event. That included eight hosts and 13 children. We ate together and watched the children play together in our inflatable and on trikes. It was the first of our FFF (Food, Fellowship, Fun) events our hospitality team has been organizing. There will be something for everyone, so watch for more.

We also hosted Ruby's Pantry—filling our parking lot with cars, all leaving with large baskets of groceries. Many people from our church and community make this happen.

Over the summer we will have had five baptisms of children and two of adults. What a joy to participate in this blessing as a faith community.

It is good that we have church which brings us together to support

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: **August 16**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com

fumcduluth.com

each other, share life together, and do good for the community and world. Keep coming together as church. We need each other and the world needs us too.

On the journey with you,
~Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Worship In August

There are three ways to participate in worship:

- 10am, live in our Sanctuary on Sundays (we hope you choose this one when you can—there is something wonderful about being in person with others, and you get a doughnut and coffee)
- 10am livestream service on Sundays as worship is taking place
- Anytime afterwards on YouTube Please make worship a summer soul destination this year!

August 6 – Holy Communion. Our Biblical Spiritual Guide we will focus on is Peter.

August 13 – Outdoor Worship (weather permitting, otherwise it will be in the Sanctuary). Pastor Jeanine and Larry will be preaching a "Candy Sermon." Tapestry is providing all music, there will be a baptism, and food and fun is happening afterwards.

August 20 – Our Biblical Spiritual Guide we will be focusing on is David. This will be pastoral intern Kelby's final sermon of the summer.

August 27 – Baptism. Our Biblical Spiritual Guide we will focus on is Hannah.

Outdoor Worship and Picnic

Sunday, August 13
10:00am

(weather permitting)

FUMC Parking Lot

• Pastor Jeanine and Larry will be preaching •
• Tapestry •
• An inflatable... something •
• Activities for kids •
• Lunch and floats •

In case of poor weather, everything moves inside

New Confirmation Class Beginning

Every other year we begin a new two-year confirmation program. The group starting this fall will be in a class together and will be confirmed in April of 2025. Then in the fall of 2025, we will start another two-year class. Students must be at least twelve years old to participate. Classes will typically be 7th and 8th grade students, but some 6th graders may be old enough to participate.

Confirmation will involve classes held one Wednesday per month, and will have a variety of hands-on faith, service, learning, and growing experiences which will take place on overnights, retreats, and day trips. We want the kids to experience following Jesus and faith. The Wednesday evenings when they don't have confirmation class, they will be invited to be a part of the youth group.

Information will be coming out soon. If you have a child, grandchild, or friend who is 12 years or older and interested, please let Pastor Jeanine know.

School Supplies Project

FUMC will be collecting school supplies for the teachers of our congregation. As we help the teachers, we also bless students.

Congregation: Bring any school supplies to church (we will be getting a list of specific items that teachers need as well).

Teachers (for all ages): Please provide a list of classroom supplies to the church office that would bless you and your classroom.

THEN... we will invite teachers to come to church and pick out their supplies. Isn't this fun?!

Seniors (65+)

Save the Date

Our 2nd Annual Lunch Social

Tuesday, September 19
11:00am

Rhubarb Festival Update

Here's an update from our Rhubarb Leadership Team, Pam Brown, Linda Harper, Debbi King, Paul Sapyta, and Anita Zager:

Total FUMC production:
- 194 pies
- 27 large crisps for festival coffee shop
- 180 frozen yogurt strawberry/rhubarb sundaes
- 58 jars of jams
- 47 jars of topping
- Over 30 volunteers

Rhubarb was donated from over 20 different gardens, yielding:
- 600 pounds of rhubarb
- Over 100 pounds of strawberries

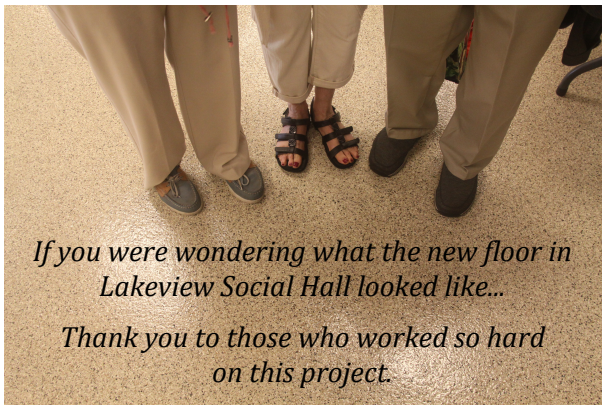
Thank you to Room at the Table for their equipment and expertise.

From CHUM:
Thank you so much for taking the time to volunteer at this year's Rhubarb Festival. Because of your support, we were able to raise almost $100,000 to directly support people experiencing homelessness in our entire region! We could not have done it without you. Thank you so much! All of you volunteers contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours, which is INCREDIBLE!

Ardath Gibson Scholarship

The Ardath Gibson Scholarship application will be available until August 17. If you are a member of First United Methodist Church, or someone whose family is a member of FUMC, and are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate education in health care, physical sciences, or business, we hope you will consider applying: ***fumcduluth.com/the-ardath-gibson-scholarship***

Ardath Gibson (1915-2012) was a long-time member of the United Methodist Church and of First United Methodist Church, Duluth. As a trailblazer in many ways, including being a graduate of the Minneapolis Business College, Ardath believed in the importance of education. Her interest in business and the sciences led her to endow a scholarship for students in these areas.



If you were wondering what the new floor in Lakeview Social Hall looked like...

Thank you to those who worked so hard on this project.

The Salvation Army Church Thrift Store

There is an urgent need for the following items:

- Canned fruit
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables
- Jelly
- Mashed potatoes in boxes
- Peanut butter
- Plain pasta (have plenty of Mac 'n' Cheese)
- Ramen noodles
- Syrup

If you are able to help, please contact Carolyn Schroeder, ***monarch2910@gmail.com***, 218-348-8431 (cell); or call the Salvation Army at 218-722-7934.

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Greetings! Have you ever fallen in love with a tree anytime in your life? How about a particular area of the country, a certain flower, a wild animal, birds, or a flock of butterflies by a stream? Or maybe a particular season—trees heavy-laden with snow, like our recent winter, or the golds and reds of the autumn leaves shimmering in the sunlight against the dark green of the pine.

As John Muir said, “Keep close to Nature’s heart… and break clear away once in a while and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”

Sitting in stillness in a place that speaks to you can be so gratifying to your soul. Cultivating a sense of wonder and appreciation of the earth’s treasures can begin with childhood or at any age. The sooner you can cultivate this sense of wonder... just think how much richer your life could be.

Joyce Rupp said, she would miss the seasonal changes that are experienced by living in the Midwest. She writes that the seasons have taught her many valuable lessons of life, such as strength and endurance through winter's season (and we know about endurance by making it through our last winter), hope and enthusiasm as spring awakens (I especially like the lime green of the new leaves), gratitude and contentment in summer’s fruitfulness (literally loving all the fresh fruit and delectable tomatoes), and wisdom from autumn’s ability to let go and yield to dormancy and death.

As many know, experiencing nature leads to better health, creativity, even kindness, and—most importantly—decreased stress. Have you heard of forest bathing? It’s immersing yourself among the trees in the forest with no electronic devices and being present to the moment. The United Nations Population Division has predicted that by 2050, three quarters of the world’s population will live in cities. Even now the average American spends 93 percent of the time indoors, and some ten hours a day on social media. This has led to “Nature Deficit Disorder.” In Japan there is an organization called The Japanese Society of Forest Medicine which promotes research on the therapeutic effects of forests on human health.

It is so important for us to take care of this Earth for us and all God’s creatures. We need to make time to see, feel, taste, and hear all that God's Earth can provide. As Gerald Manley Hopkins said, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

Many blessings to all,
~Linda Wiig

Welcome Desk

Hello, Friends;
I hope you are having a wonderful summer and are finding welcome and hospitality everywhere you go! Doesn't it make you feel better right from the start? Pastor Jeanine always encourages everyone during our worship service to reach out and greet someone you don't know. In essence that makes everyone a member of the Welcome and Hospitality Team, and I appreciate your help in making guests and new people feel welcome and included.

I am using this space this month to share some personal thoughts with you. When Kent was diagnosed with lymphoma five years ago, he received a plaque that says, "I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I do know Who holds tomorrow." The good Lord has held us close. Kent was diagnosed with CMML, a blood cancer, this past February. We know many of you have had similar situations happen in your family and extended families. He has been doing pretty well, and we even got to go to a family reunion in Southwest Minnesota where we had a great time. The third week in June, Kent started having breathing problems and was very fatigued. At a doctor visit on June 26, it was determined he should be hospitalized, and after testing he was diagnosed with a difficult type of pneumonia. Knowing his immune system was already compromised, it made his recovery long and exhausting. Kent has always said that worrying about things is a waste of energy, and if you cannot control something you should not let it control you. So as we move ahead in our journey, we say, "On we go. One day at a time."

—continued on page 18

Coffin-Langdon News

Children's Ministries

HI all! I just want to take this minute to thank you all for allowing me to be your Children and Family Minister these last five years. We have learned and grown so much together—celebrated so many milestones and festivities—Easter, Halloween, Christmas pageants, baptisms, Camp Amnicon family camps, VBS, hundreds of children sermons… We have even have gone through a global pandemic together! Not many people will be able to say that! I have loved you and your children so much. Thank you for sharing yourself with me! This change for my family and I will be difficult, as leaving our Faith Community as well as our "job" is a hard thing.

I wish for you all the best that life and God have in store for you. Don't forget to stay connected to God and the church. They both love you very much!

Peace & LOVE,
~ Jojo Coffin-Langdon

Youth and Music Minister

To all the kids, youth, and wonderful people at FUMC:

A farewell letter is difficult for me to write, because there is no way I can say all the things my heart feels. But I will try to say a few…

I started working at FUMC when our son Sam was only two, and now he is 15. It feels like forever and also, like just yesterday. Where has the time gone? This church has been my home and my family. I have felt this congregation's loving arms, acceptance, and willingness to let me love and teach your kids. In a way it feels like I have a million kids, all scattered everywhere. Even though I won't be your youth pastor anymore, I am still a person who loves you, cares about you, and is in your corner. The cool thing is that I am not moving out of town, so if we see each other out and about, it will be fun to say hi and hear about what you're up to.

If you haven't already heard, I have accepted a full-time position at Pilgrim Congregational UCC Church in town. I will be the new Faith Formation Pastor, primarily working with kids and youth, but also some adult education and occasional preaching. This also means that I will be leaving Hillside United Methodist Church sometime in September.

People keep asking me, "How do you feel?" My answer is always the same: "Happy/Sad." Happy for the blessing to be working at one church, full time, with benefits! (I've always had part-time jobs in ministry up until this point.) Sad to be leaving two wonderful faith communities that have taught me so much about being in ministry and doing God's work. You are a part of me, part of my story. I will cherish you for always.

I have one more ask, one more assignment, one more challenge and encouragement for you all. Please be open to the new thing God is doing, to new ideas, to new people, to new staff, to new ways of doing things. Please be willing to try new things. Please be willing to jump in and offer your gifts to keep making Coppertop a loving and welcoming space for all. I can't wait to see what God will be doing through all of you.

All my love,
~Pastor Cynthia

Book Review

Book review from Charlie Orsak, Sustainability Committee

Climate change is very often in the news these days. As adults, we read about it and see its effects on a daily basis. We are rightly concerned. It is important to understand that children are just as concerned as we are. We want our children to be informed, but don"t want to unduly frighten them. Finding resources to help discuss climate change with children can be difficult. One source to consider is *Saving the Planet: It's Not Hopeless and We're Not Helpless*, written by Paul Douglas and illustrated by Chelen Ecija. Mr. Douglas is a well-known Twin Cities meteorologist who frequently speaks on challenges of climate change and has written other books, including *Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change*.

In *Saving the Planet*, he strives to strike a thoughtful balance between providing accurate information about the negative effects of climate change and hope and meaningful action steps. The book is written for young readers and is colorfully illustrated. The first quarter of the book presents the causes and effects of climate change and other forms of pollution. The rest of the book is dedicated to examples of environment problems we have successfully addressed in the past, the revolution in clean energy, everyday climate solutions children can adopt, and possible careers in environmental and climate science and advocacy. Throughout, brief biographies of young people engaged in climate advocacy are presented. The book is 105 pages in length and is published by *beaming books*.

beamingbooks.com

EarthKeeper

by Naomi Yaeger

Sowers and Seeds: Nurturing Change for a Better Future

In my role as a helper during Vacation Bible School with the theme "Renew/Grow," I was a sower, while the young children were the seeds. We used Jesus' "Parable of the Sower" to teach the kids about caring for God's creation and spreading His love.

Initially, twenty years ago, when starting at the national level as a UMW's Green Team member, I faced discouragement when sharing my passion for environmental care. However, seeing churches, including FUMC, taking steps to protect the planet reminded me that every effort counts. Even if people seem indifferent, I believe I've planted seeds that may grow someday.

World Water Week, observed from August 20 to 24, emphasizes creating a water-wise world. We can make a difference by conserving water at home, preserving nearby waterways, and encouraging others to do the same. Learn more at ***www.worldwaterweek.org***.

To reap a fruitful harvest, let's support local farmers by shopping at farmers' markets. Express gratitude for those who provide us with food and work towards reducing carbon emissions from long-distance food transportation. Adopting a diet rich in fruits and vegetables benefits both our health and the planet. Composting food scraps further aids in caring for the environment.

Jeremiah, God's prophet, faced disheartenment as he warned of impending doom. Similarly, we may feel ineffective against climate change. Yet like Jeremiah, we must stay faithful to our call and trust in God. We can signify hope for a greener future by continuing our efforts and discussing our aspirations for a more just world.

In conclusion, let's embrace our roles as sowers and seeds, working together to nurture positive change for our planet and its inhabitants.

Naomi is a commissioned EarthKeeper with the United Methodist Church. Parts of this article originated from United Methodist Creation Justice Tips. Contact her at *sun_dog_press@yahoo.com* or 218- 591-5277.

Photos From FUMC Vacation Bible School

by Naomi Yaeger

Vacation Bible School was held at FUMC on July 17–21. Here are a few pictures to fill you in on all that that fun.

Summer Fun at First

SAVE THE DATES

Bible Study on the 10 Commandments
Sundays, June 4, 11 and 18 • 9-9:45am (before worship)
Led by seminary intern Kelby Werner

Big Wave Dave and the Ripples Concert
Monday, July 17 • 6:30pm (Raindate: Tuesday, July 18)
Join us for a rockin' concert in the parking lot! Big Wave Dave was such a hit last year that we asked them to come back again. Two "Room at the Table" food trucks will be on site beginning at 5:30. Chairs provided, or feel free to bring your own.

Outdoor Social for Newer Members and Prospective Members
Wednesday, July 19 • 6-7pm
If you've joined in the past three years or are considering being a part of FUMC, this is the event for you! We'll have the opportunity to meet new friends while enjoying pizza, veggies, and drinks in the parking lot. Children welcome.

Strikepoint Concert
Monday, August 7 • 7pm
Welcome our own Strikepoint handbell ensemble home from their annual summer tour. Admission is free, but a $15 donation is suggested. You'll have a rollicking good time!

Outdoor Worship Service
Sunday, August 13 • 10am
Our worship band, Tapestry, will lead morning worship in our parking lot, overlooking our glorious lake.

New Member/Information Class about FUMC
Sunday, August 20 • 8:45am (before worship)
Join us if you are interested in joining the church or simply want to know more about FUMC. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Led by Pastor Jeanine and Director of Welcome Mary Giese.

Look for details about all events in *First Family* and Pastor Jeanine's weekly emails closer to summer.

First United Methodist Church "The Coppertop"
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth

Rummage Sale

Friday, August 25 • 3 - 6 pm
Saturday, August 26 • 8 am - 2 pm
(Bag Sale starts Saturday at 1 pm)

Pay by weight: $1 per pound! • Cash or Credit Card only

Items in the Upscale area priced individually

Toys • Lawn & Garden • Sporting Equipment • Craft Supplies • Children's Clothing to size 6 • Tools • Kitchen & Household Items • Linens • Plants • Stationery & Cards • Artwork & Picture Frames • Books • DVDs & CDs • Furniture • Holiday & Christmas Decor • Luggage • Jewelry • *and much more!*

Music Notes

Introducing Elizabeth Brophy, Children's Music Director

We are thrilled to welcome Beth Brophy as our new Children's Music Director. Beth received a music education degree from UMD, has been employed as a K–12 music teacher, and has worked as a music director (including Sunday School music) at area churches. Beth also loves the theater and has worked with musical productions at the Duluth Playhouse, Renegade, and Summer Theatre Academy of Rochester. She and her husband Jon currently live in the Twin Cities and are moving back to Duluth in August, where Jon will teach lighting and sound with UMD's Theater Department. They have a 16-month-old toddler, Clover, who also loves music.

Find Your Voice with Music.

Find Your Music at FUMC!

There is a group for you at the Coppertop. Come as you are, go as far as you want.

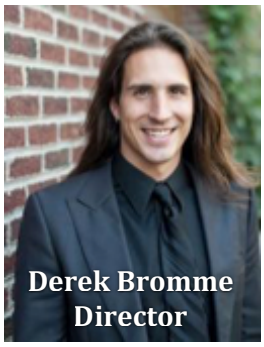
Music is taught to all ages and abilities and you are appreciated.

- Handbells
- Choir
- Children's Singing
- Drumming
- Tapestry
- Small ensembles

MUSIC at FUMC – We Welcome YOU!

Our music program is varied and offers outstanding music opportunities for participants of all ages and levels of experience. Rehearsals will start again soon, and new members are always welcome! If you have questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Music Ministries, Velda Graham Bell at ***music@fumcduluth.com*** or 218-393-4006, or by contacting the individual director of a particular group.

Sanctuary Choir



This SATB group provides music for worship each Sunday, September to May, in a variety of styles from classical to gospel.

Wednesday rehearsals begin September 6 in the East Lounge from 5:10–6:10pm. Adults, including high school students, are most welcome!

Handbell Ensembles

Handbell musicians of all ages build friendships, work toward musical excellence, and share their time and talents in worship and outreach. Our handbell musicians take pride in making a significant worship contribution. Youth, children, and even adult groups learn music notation, handbell technique, musical styles, and have a lot of fun in the process. Want to chime in? Openings do occur. Contact Bill if you are interested. We would love to have you join us.

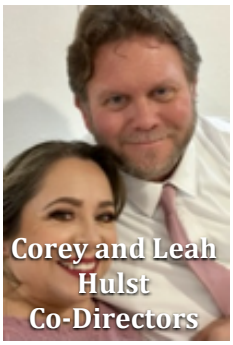
Cast in Bronze (adults) Wednesday rehearsals from 6:30-7:30pm begin September 6.

Class Ring (high school) Wednesday rehearsals from 7:45-8:45pm begin September 13.

Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Wednesday rehearsals from 5:00-5:40pm begin September 13.

Strikepoint (auditioned concert and touring ensemble) Strikepoint has been touring, nationally and internationally, since 1984, and is considered one of the country's top handbell ensembles. Sunday rehearsals are from 11:30-2:30 begining September 24.

Tapestry



Tapestry is a contemporary worship band with keyboard, guitars, bass, drums, and singers, often joined by other instrumentalists.

Wednesday rehearsals begin September 6 in the Sanctuary from 6:30-8:00pm. Tapestry enjoys giving a new twist to tunes and is open to most genres of music. Vocalists and/or instrumentalists are welcome to talk to Leah or Corey about short-term stints or fill-in opportunities if that fits your schedule better.

Tapestry plays a significant role in our worship services by leading congregational singing as well as providing anthems and special music.

Children's Music

Family-friendly fun-with-music groups are held on Wednesday nights. Through musical games, world drumming, a variety of instruments, movement, and singing, kids will be given a solid music foundation. Steady beat, matching pitch, reading musical notation, and much, much more will all be incorporated through FUN!

We welcome our new Director of Children's Music, Beth Brophy!

JAM Junior (2nd grade and younger) Wednesday rehearsals in the Chapel from 5:00-5:30pm start September 13.

JAM and the Peanut Butter Band (3rd-5th graders singing/drumming group). Wednesday rehearsals in the Chapel from 5:40-6:05pm begin September 13.

Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Velda Graham Bell

In addition to being our organist, Velda also has the responsibility of planning all the music for worship services and coordinating all the FUMC ensembles. She is also the one who lines up the indiviual and small group musicians throughout the year. In addition, Velda is the piano and organ accompanist for the choir and solo musicians.

Editor's note: Velda would never have mentioned all of this to you. This comes entirely from her devoted music staff.

Besides our music groups listed on the previous page, there are many other opportunities for instrumentalists and vocalists to share their musical gifts by providing special music in our worship services. Please consider adding your talents to our worship. There is joy to be shared through music!

Sanctuary Organ Update

submitted by the Sactuary Organ Committee

As many of you know, our large Austin Sanctuary pipe organ has been undergoing restoration and updating. This has been made possible by very generous committed monetary donations and substantial committed funds from the last Capital Campaign that are funding the entire project. The project is being overseen carefully by an ad hoc Organ Committee consisting of: Velda Bell, Carol Donahue, Shelley Gruskin, Allen Anway, Anita Zager, and Tom Wiig. One generalization we can make about the project is that it has been frustratingly slow—much slower than we anticipated. This has been primarily caused by the COVID pandemic and supply chain issues at the companies providing parts and pipes for us. With that said, let's clarify what has been done and what is left. And please remember, this whole project was necessitated because our pipe organ had deteriorated with age to the point where it was deemed unreliable by our most recent Organists/Music Directors (Velda and Carol).

What has been done?

Parts that had deteriorated in both the organ chamber in the front of the Sanctuary and behind the choir loft have largely been replaced. Our own Kevin Peterson has been doing much of this work after being trained by Robert Hoppe, the organ restorer with whom we have contracted.

The large keyboard unit (called a console) in the front of Sanctuary has been completely restored with all new electronics and digital technology. New wiring has been run from that console to all the pipes—this required some "creative" fishing on Kevin's part.

A rank of flute pipes in the large organ chamber behind the choir loft have been replaced with a different rank of pipes with an improved sound.

So, what is left to do?

The console in the choir loft has been gutted and is ready for a new electronic system, a new stop rail, and various other parts. The Austin Organ Company is constructing a dolly, so the console can be somewhat mobile. That must be in place before the electronics and other parts can be installed in the console. Once all that is complete, the entire FUMC Sanctuary pipe organ will be once again playable from either console.

New, better-sounding pipes have been made to replace some existing pipes. They will be installed within the organ chamber and will not be visible. A beautiful, new rank of pipes that will be attached to the back wall of the choir loft is also almost ready to be delivered to FUMC. Once they are delivered, Robert Hoppe will install them in the choir loft. These new pipes will be visible to all and will add a deeper sonority to the organ's sound. They will really cap off our project both to the ear and the eye.

FUMC Music Photo Gallery

Mission and Social Justice

CHUM is Duluth's primary safety-net organization where people who are homeless or who have very low incomes can come for assistance and a welcoming, safe community.

The Coppertop joins people of faith across the Twin Ports in making CHUM the primary focus of their local ministry. Gifts of money sustain programs to meet basic needs. Gifts of volunteer time help complete crucial projects. And donations of warm clothing, and shelter help keep folks living outside of shelter alive.

CHUM Wish List

Diapers - size 3 and up • Women's hygiene products: pads and tampons • Furniture: comfy chairs, kitchen chairs, tables, bookshelves, small dressers
More ideas at: ***chumduluth.org/wishlist***
Donations can be brought to the CHUM administrative office, 102 W 2nd St. from 9am–4pm.

Stepping On Up News

The *Stepping On Up* team is happy to welcome Jared Wilder as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. He'll be working on a variety of Stepping On Up projects, and in particular, developing a new shelter for people re-entering the community after incarceration.

Safe Storage Opens at Damiano Center

One of the greatest obstacles facing people who are unsheltered is the lack of storage. People often find themselves on foot with all of their possessions in tow while they try to navigate work, bus rides, appointments, and seeking out shelter and food. This takes a physical toll on people, and vital documents or valuables can be lost, damaged, or stolen.

In response to this need, seven agencies came together to develop Safe Storage, a secure site where people experiencing housing insecurity can leave and retrieve personal belongings. Safe Storage officially opened on June 1. It is available four days a week and can be accessed at the HDC Harmony Center located at Damiano (206 W 4th St). Damiano staff manage the program, and all items are stored in a locked room with a camera. Thank you to Damiano staff and all partners who made this new service possible.

Open Your Heart Summer Food Drive Fills Thanksgiving Turkey Boxes

CHUM Food Shelf is asking for funds from individuals, businesses, community clubs, and congregations to purchase items to fill 350 Thanksgiving boxes this year. Even though we seem to have a more "normal" life now compared to the past few years, the Food Shelf is still struggling to fill the need. Prices for every item in

our Thanksgiving dinner boxes continue to rise. What cost us $8,000 prior to COVID has ballooned to a tad under $20,000! Every dollar you give stays here in Duluth and helps us buy everything needed to provide 350 complete Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors.
Make the CHUM Food Shelf a part of your giving to First United Methodist by writing "Food Shelf" on your check or offering envelope, or donate online at ***chumduluth.org***.

Duluth Superior Pride 2023

Celebrating 37 Years of Pride in the Twin Ports

Friday, September 1

Youth Pride Dance hosted by Life House with DSPride providing music, pizza and more! This is an alcohol-free event open to anyone ages 14-20 at 7pm, Life House Imaginarium, 16 N 1st Ave W, Duluth.
Party X hosted by The Duluth Flame. Specialty lighting and sound provided by After Dark Entertainment ignites the dance floor into a night of excitement. This party offers amazing drink specials, free Pride party favors, and the wildest night of the weekend for anyone over 21.
Cover: $5 benefits Duluth-Superior Pride.
9pm to 2am at Duluth Flame Nightclub, 28 N 1st Ave W, Duluth.

Saturday, September 2

Pride Festival: Celebrate our 37th anniversary with beer tents, food trucks, an exciting group of exhibitors, information booths, merchandise vendors, an area of fun games and activities for children and families, and a full day of entertainment on the main stage. All are welcome!
11am to 8pm at Bayfront Festival Park, 350 Harbor Dr, Duluth.

Sunday, September 3

Pride Parade, noon on Tower Avenue, Superior, WI
All along Tower Avenue, enjoy a huge parade, fun for all ages!
Full event schedule at ***duluthsuperiorpride.com***

Reconciling Ministries Network Convocation October 13–15

For the first time since 2020, join the Reconciling movement in person (or virtually) for our Convocation in Charlotte, NC! Come for workshops, fellowship, music, advocacy, brilliant speakers and preachers, and much more.
Learn More and Register ***rmnetwork.org/convocation2023***

Ruby's Pantry Coppertop is looking for 10-12 people to help with food distribution on Thursday, August 17 from 2:30-7:00pm. There is a loyal group of regular volunteers who show up month after month, but extra hands will make the work lighter. If you cannot commit to the entire time, please join for as long as you can.

Contact Sue Kurth, 218-260-9274, *susanwkurth@gmail.com* to sign up or for more information. Please help feed our hungry neighbors! Your help is greatly appreciated.

Welcome Desk, continued from page 6

Every day that he was hospitalized, we were shown great hospitality. His care team, nurses, aides, food service, OTs and PTs, everyone entering and leaving his room asked what more they could do for us. And as we left on July 13, their wishes to "never see him again" were shared with kindness and caring and smiles.

We thank all our sharing and caring church friends for your prayers, cards, calls, and concern. We love you and appreciate you.

Please continue to welcome others and share hospitality with everyone. It's a good thing!

Remember, we are the church with a welcome for everybody, always.
~Mary Giese

Church Rummage Sale Needs Your Help

The church rummage sale is coming up at the end of the month, and your help is needed, both to provide items to sell and to help with the sale. The rummage sale will begin on Friday, August 25 from 3-6pm and continue Saturday, August 26 from 8am–2pm, with a bag sale beginning at 1pm. Most items will be priced at $1.00/pound, although items in the Upscale Room will be priced individually. Cash and credit cards only. Proceeds from the sale will be directed towards FUMC Trustee projects.

Donations may be dropped off beginning Sunday, August 20, from 11am-2pm. Items may also be dropped off the following Monday–Thursday, 9am-1pm and 4-6pm each day. Please do not bring items on Friday.

Donations accepted: toys, lawn and garden items, sporting equipment, craft supplies, children's clothing to size 6, tools, kitchen and household items, linens, plants, stationery and cards, artwork and picture frames, books, DVDs and CDs, furniture, holiday and Christmas decor, luggage, and jewelry.

Not accepted: adult clothing, VHS or cassette tapes, electronics, mattresses, textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, dirty or broken items.

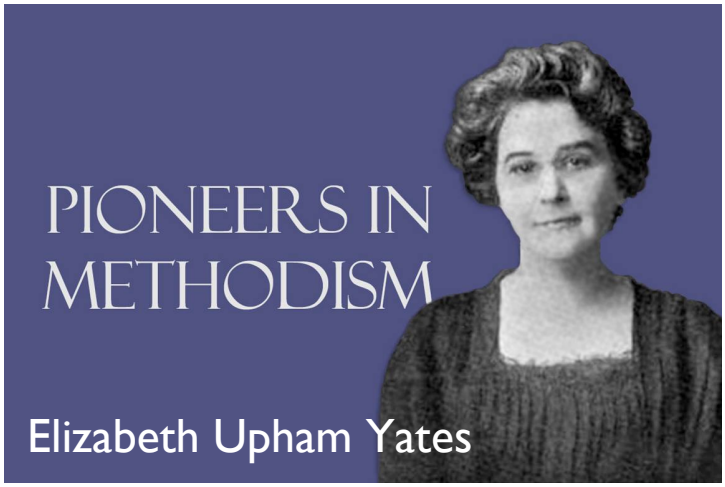
Volunteer Help Needed

Sunday–Thursday: during the drop-off times, help set up, receive, and organize donations.

Friday and Saturday during the sale: Checkout and keep things running smoothly.

Saturday at 2pm: Clean up and haul away unsold items.

We anticipate this to be a large sale. Families, youth, and young adults needing community service hours for school: we can put you all to work! For more information or to sign up, email Anita Zager at *anitazager@gmail.com*.



"A prophet and dreamer whose dreams have come true"

In 1920, following the passage of the woman's suffrage amendment, Elizabeth Upham Yates became the first woman in the United States to run for high state office when she was nominated for lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket in Rhode Island. At the time of her nomination, she was described as "a pioneer suffrage worker who has lived to see her dreams come true."

Born in Round Pond, Maine, in 1857, Yates was one of the earliest women in the Methodist Episcopal Church to receive a license to preach. She was the first Methodist woman from Maine licensed to preach and one of the first in New England, along with ***Anna Howard Shaw*** and ***Anna Oliver***.

In 1880 Yates became the first woman from Maine to be sent as a missionary to China under the auspices of the newly organized Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The New England Branch of the Society reported that she was very successful "in laboring among the women, having a real love for this 'personal' effort so essential to the missionary effort anywhere." She subsequently published a book titled ***Glimpses into Chinese Homes.*** *

Upon returning to the U.S., Yates became deeply involved in both the temperance and woman's suffrage movements, lecturing across the country. In the 1890s she was often on the stage with other well-known suffrage advocates such as Anna

Women bear witness as Gov. Beeckman signs Rhode Island's Women's Suffrage Act, April 18, 1917. Behind Gov. Beeckman are (from left) Miss Mabel Ogelman, Senator Henry B. Kane, Mrs. Barton P. Jencks, Elizabeth Upham Yates, Mrs. Edwin C. Smith, Miss Phebe Jencks, Miss Nettie E. Bauer, and Representative Richard W. Jennings. Image from Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, courtesy of Providence College Library.

Howard Shaw and Susan B. Anthony. Yates was a popular lecturer, described as having a "splendid voice… an eloquent and finished orator" and "one of the ablest lady public speakers in America."

In 1888 when a number of laywomen were nominated by their conferences as delegates to the Methodist Episcopal General Conference for the first time (including ***Frances Willard***, president of the Women's Temperance Christian Union), Yates was elected as a reserve lay delegate from the East Maine Conference. Though annual conferences would continue to nominate women as delegates, it was not until the General Conference of 1900 that women would be granted permission to be seated as delegates to General Conference. That year Yates wrote in an article published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, "At the last General Conference of the Nineteenth Century, progress broke the bars of conservatism, and the door swung wide open. By an overwhelming vote, women came to a place of equal power in the councils of the church, in accordance with the lofty Hebrew story of the morn of creation, when men and women were given joint dominion in the earth."

—continued on last page

** While Yates' book was pioneering in missiology and sociology for its attention to descriptions of home life, it also reflected the attitudes and biases of many American missionaries at the time. The current UMC approach is committed to "a global understanding of mission as the presence and action of God in the world, who invites us to participate in all areas of service, and to a practice of mission 'from everywhere to everywhere.'"*

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—Yates, continued from page 19

Yates continued an active life of advocacy for temperance and suffrage. She was elected in 1909 as chair of Presidential Suffrage in the National American Woman Suffrage Association, where she led the charge to call for state legislatures to permit women to vote in presidential elections. That same year she was elected president of the Rhode Island Woman's Suffrage Association (1909-1914) and honorary president for a succeeding five-year term. In 1917 she stood directly behind Rhode Island governor Robert Livingston Beeckman as he signed the Women's Suffrage Act, which permitted women to vote in presidential elections in that state. Her 35 years of campaigning in this cause helped lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S Constitution in 1920, granting female citizens of the United States the right to vote in all elections. In 1920 at age 62, she became the first woman nominated for lieutenant governor or any high state office in the country.

After many years of public service and advocacy, Yates retired from public life in the 1920s, living in Providence, Rhode Island, until around 1940, when she moved to live with her sister, Sarah Yates Comery, in Watertown, Massachusetts. Sarah died in 1941. Elizabeth died in 1942. Yates was lauded in Volume VI of the book series ***History of Woman Suffrage*** as a "prophet and dreamer whose dreams have come true."

This content was produced by "Ask The UMC," a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Ministry Team

Pastor Jeanine Alexander	*pastor@fumcduluth.com*
Sandy Smith Director of Operations	*admin@fumcduluth.com*
Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon Director of Youth Ministries	*PastorCynthiaCL@gmail.com*
Jojo Coffin-Langdon Director of Children and Family Ministries	*families@fumcduluth.com*
Linda Wiig Faith Community Nurse	*nurse@fumcduluth.com*
Bill Alexander Director of Communications	*connect@fumcduluth.com*
Mary Giese Director of Welcoming and Hospitality	*welcome@fumcduluth.com*
Velda Graham Bell Director of Music Ministries	*music@fumcduluth.com*