

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.*

May 2023



**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Photo by Klub Boks, PEXELS.com



Our First Family

Thank you to Linda Wiig and Linda Peterson. As they participated in inventorying the church kitchen, they came across two silver serving plates with "Billie Angel," my grandmother's name, engraved on them. Linda Wiig immediately contacted me and left them on my desk in the Handbell Room. My family and I were absolutely thrilled to see the plates again.

~Bill Alexander

Congratulations to Victoria and Micky Panger on the birth of their son, Leo Jackson Panger, on April 11. Leo is FUMC's former Director of Operations Anne Gustafson's beloved first grandchild.

With a generous memorial gift from Dick Wallin and family, Strikepoint is adding another VLB (Very Large Bell) to the handbell collection. The new bell (a D#/Eb2) is scheduled to arrive in early June, and Strikepoint looks forward to dedicating and introducing "Peggy" to the congregation this summer.



On the Journey With You



I have been reading a good amount of poetry recently. It is healing balm for my soul, inspiration for the day, hope in the midst of trying times, and faith deepening. Not long ago our own Tom Wiig posted a poem on Facebook that spoke to my soul, called, "Leisure" by W.H. Davies (pub. 1911). Here it is:

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

I am a fairly busy person and often find myself running from one activity to the next. When I am participating in one activity/event, I often find my mind planning the next activity/event. Sometimes after an activity/event has taken place, I know I participated in it, but I can barely remember it because I wasn't taking time to really see and experience. Life is too short for that. I've been working on

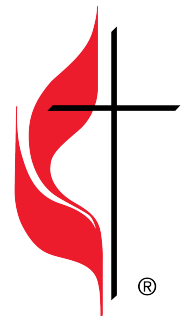
First Family

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: **May 17**
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



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slowing down, really taking time to see and experience the people and events at hand. As a result I don't accomplish quite as much, but life and relationships are deeper, better.

Scripture says it this way:

- Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)
- Finally, friends, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)
- I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. (Psalm 119:15)
- This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

As the poem reminds us, "We need time to stand and stare." As Scripture reminds us, "We need to be still." Can we all slow down a bit, experience the beauty of life and all our relationships? As the season of spring emerges, let's really pause and take in its beauty and its messages for us. Let's take time to really listen to and understand someone. Those are gifts for us and others.

On the journey with you!
~Pastor Jeanine

Save the Date

**FUMC Rummage Sale,
August 26**

**Collection Begins
August 20**

A Look at Worship in May:

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.

May 7 – Holy Communion (remember to bring food or money for the Food Shelf)

We are starting a sermon series called "God Promises..." This week is "God Promises... A Solid Foundation." We will reflect on building and strengthening our faith and how our faith can help us in the storms of life.

May 14 – Mother's Day/Garden Sunday/Children's Music Groups

The sermon will be "God Promises... We Can Have Peace." Peace isn't dependent upon our circumstances; it is a gift God promises and gives us when we most need it. We will look at how to tap into this gift of peace.

May 21 – Celebration Sunday

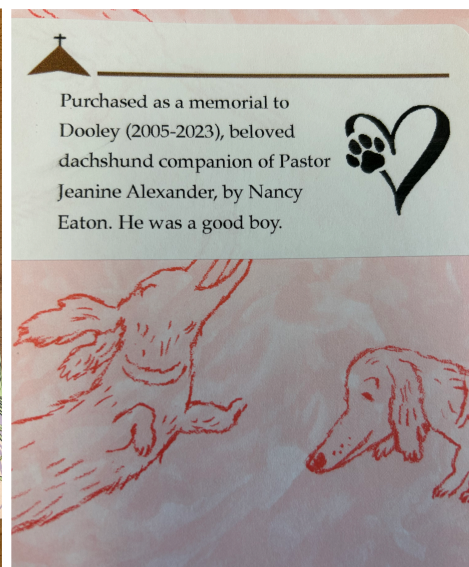
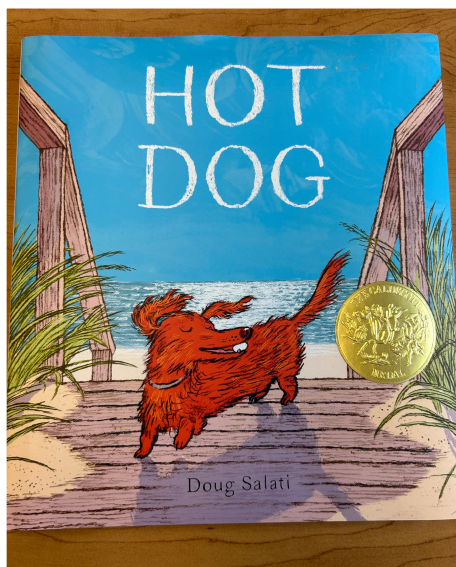
Our district superintendent Laurie Kantonen will be preaching this Sunday and most of our adult music groups will be performing.

May 28 – Pentecost Sunday/Memorial Weekend

The sermon this week is "God Promises... The Holy Spirit."

There is a new book in the library

Nancy Eaton donated the Caldecott award-winning children's book *Hot Dog* by Doug Salati as a memorial to Dooley (2005-2023), beloved dachshund companion of Pastor Jeanine Alexander.



From Our Faith Community Nurse



Folks, it is tick season! Ticks in our region can and do transmit many types of disease. Some of the prevailing types of ticks here include the **American Dog Tick**, which can transmit tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever; the **Brown Dog Tick**, which transmits Rocky Mountain spotted fever; and the **Black-legged Tick**, which can transmit Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and the Powassan virus. Any time the outside temperature is above freezing, the black-legged tick is active and searching for a host.

Lyme disease is by far the most reported tick-borne disease in our area. The disease can come in three stages. **Stage 1:** Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. (A rash is a common sign of Lyme disease, but it doesn't always happen.) The rash is usually a single circle that slowly spreads from the site of the tick bite. It may become clear in the center and look like a target or bullseye. The rash often feels warm to the touch, but it's usually not painful or itchy. I did develop this type of bullseye rash on my shoulder and never knew that I had been bitten. I received doxycycline for 12 days and have had no other problems. I sought treatment as soon as I identified the rash, but for those people who do not develop symptoms such as those above, Lyme can get much worse. The symptoms often show up within three to ten weeks after a tick bite. **Stage 2:** This is often more serious and widespread. You can have many rashes, neck pain, weakness in the face, and pain and numbness of hands and feet. You can even experience vision loss. **Stage 3:** This most often develops into arthritis, usually of the knees and other large joints.

Prevention: Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, and on animals. Use tick preventative of 5% permethrin on your dogs and on your clothing. Use insect repellent on your person. The EPA and the CDC have listings of repellents. Avoid grassy or brushy areas, walk in the center of a trail, and keep your yards and property mowed and cleared of sticks and brush where ticks can live. Remember, ticks do not fall from trees. Always check for ticks on your clothing when returning from outside, and check your body for ticks, especially under arms, around your waist, between your legs, in your hair, on the back of your knees, and in your socks and shoes. Remember to check daily for ticks and if one is imbedded, remove as soon as possible by pulling it straight out using tweezers. Then wash the area with soap, water, and rubbing alcohol, if you have it. You can smother the tick in a plastic bag with rubbing alcohol or flush it down the toilet. Watch for symptoms for up to 30 days. Your risk of Lyme is very low if a tick has been attached for fewer than 24 hours.

There are other symptoms that could develop within a one-to-five-
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day period after a bite, and those listed below could be indicative of anaplasmosis and medical care should be sought as soon as possible.

- Fever, chills
- Severe headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite

Left untreated, these could lead to severe respiratory and bleeding problems, as well as organ failure.

We can enjoy the outdoors if we take precautions and are diligent in checking ourselves and pets for ticks after enjoying the day outside.

Be Safe, and Blessings to all,
~Linda Wiig

Save the Date!

Monday, July 17,
6:30pm

Big Wave Dave and the Ripples



*Make plans now to attend
this huge and FREE event!*

FUMC Parking Lot

We're Ready for You

By Bill Alexander, Director of Communications



During the pandemic my position as communications director took a few new turns. The church was locked down, and the only people allowed to enter were those essential for the safety and critical maintenance of our building... and those needed to create the worship services, who were also deemed essential to hold us together as a church.

Sometimes you just get lucky. Four months before the pandemic, I wrote a grant to purchase cameras and other equipment necessary to livestream our Sunday services. There were quite a few of our members and friends away from Duluth at any given time, so the thought was, wouldn't it be great if we could share our services with them when they were away? I sent the grant and all the supporting documents to Pastor Jeanine, who made sure it got to the right people. We received the grant and ordered the equipment. It arrived the week we began encouraging people to stay home! I thought we would have three months to learn everything needed to stream the services; instead, we had three days. As rough as that first stream was, it was there. We only had two weeks of streaming and then we completely shut down. Now I had to learn how to record the entire service, one or two people at a time, and finally learn how to use the professional-level video editing software I never seemed to have the time to learn. Also, we weren't streaming, but uploading as a YouTube creator... and all that came with it! It was a monstrous job. After a month or so, Alex Flinner joined me, and we made an incredible team!

We got to see and hear everything days before everyone else. Pastor Jeanine got really good at giving her sermon to an almost empty room, and Velda Bell prepared and played all the music necessary for each service—and put up with us finding new camera angles to show off her skills. She especially “liked” the VeldaCam,[™] where we were able to show you what you never get to see: her feet on the pedalboard. Velda was also the one who did all the research and put in the hours to make sure we had all the correct licenses to legally record and post all of our music. Speakers, singers, instrumentalists, guest preachers, and even videographers at home participated to keep our church alive and well while we awaited the one-month lockdown to end. We ended up recording, editing, and uploading services for 14 months and then began streaming again with a very limited congregation in attendance. I have to say, the videos and the streams got pretty good, and I'm proud

of what we were able to do.

So, why am I telling you all this?

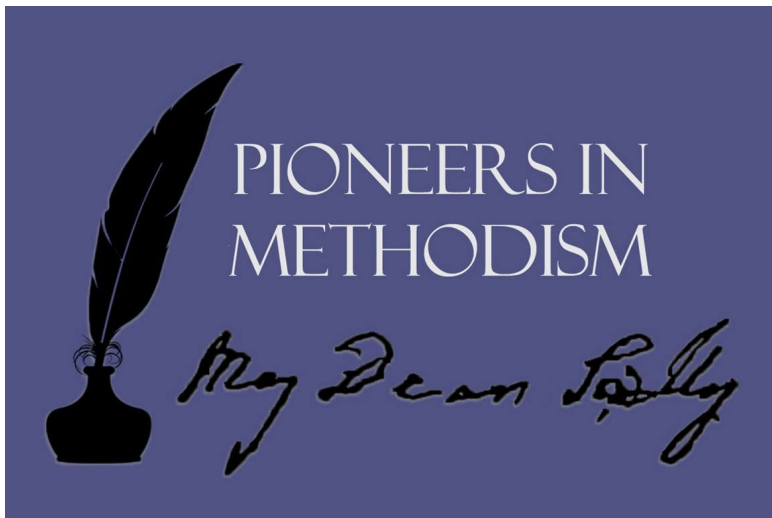
For the past two years, we have worked diligently, steadily, and cautiously to bring live worship back to FUMC. Each month attendance has increased. On Easter there were over 300 in our Sanctuary, and what a great feeling that was.

I have noticed that there seems to be a point where we hit a critical mass of people in attendance and everything jumps to life. The singing and responses are louder and the musicians and speakers feel the increased energy in the room and give us even more, the noise before and after the service is blended with laughter, and I go home with a renewed sense of belonging to a strong and meaningful church. It's sort of magical.

I am also aware that all that good work we did with our videos and streaming now not only connects us to those unable to join us in person, but also makes it so much easier for many of us, myself included, to stay home and watch church whenever we feel like it.

My next goal as Director of Communications is to actively invite you to attend worship services at FUMC, in person with your church family and in a full Sanctuary, experiencing all the energy that will bring. Oh, and don't forget the free doughnuts!





This content was produced by Ask the UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications. To read the complete article, go to [Ask the UMC](#).

Part One of this story can be found in last month's issue of *First Family*, found online at fumcduluth.com/newsletters

Sarah Mallet, PART TWO

Wesley first met Sarah late in 1786. He had heard about a young woman who had fits and had begun to preach. Less than a year later, Sarah received a letter stating that, by order of John Wesley, the Methodist Conference of 1787 had no objection to her preaching, "so long as she continues to preach the Methodist Doctrine and attends to our Discipline."

This provided Sarah with some measure of written authority to continue preaching despite attempts by some to stop her. There is no evidence of such a note being given to any other female preacher. Wesley offered Sarah advice on preaching and conducting worship, and encouraged her to learn by offering her books from his personal library. He also offered financial assistance for her travel expenses. Over the last few years of his life, Wesley sent numerous letters to Sarah, or "My dear Sally" as he called her. Sarah noted in a letter that her family disapproved of her preaching and traveling, but Wesley "became a father to me when my own father refused to do a father's part."

Hiatus (1793-1813)

Two years after Wesley's death, Sarah married Thomas Boyce, a class leader and local preacher. She and Thomas had six children, only three surviving past infancy. During the years they raised their children,

Sarah was no longer listed in Methodist rolls as a local preacher.

In 1813 Sarah's husband, their son Thomas, Jr., her father, and her Uncle Thomas all died. Six months later, her Uncle William, who first asked her to come preach, also died. After her husband's death, Sarah resumed traveling and preaching, and her name appeared on the preacher's plan for several years.

Preaching with strong opposition (1813-1846)

After Wesley's death, Methodist leaders began to actively discourage women from preaching. In 1803 the Wesleyan Conference officially banned women from public preaching. Despite this about 25 women continued and were not prevented by some of the male leaders. Sarah was not deterred, and she continued to preach where she could. She befriended Martha Grigson, a wealthy widow who also felt called to preach. The two women traveled together throughout central England, leading worship services in Norfolk and nearby areas, and as far as London and Birmingham.

By 1841 the prohibitions against women preaching finally prevented Sarah from continuing as she had for so many years. She complained that she could exhort in meetings but was denied the pulpit. She remained strong in her commitment to preaching. "I said Mr. Wesley never treated me thus, but have offered [sic] me his pulpit, when with him once at Lowestoft... I will go on as I have done and speak good of the name of the Lord wherever I go, and if I am denied the use of Chapels or pulpits, I do not trouble at that. While there is a barn, or a waggon [sic] in our land, neither earth nor hell shall shut my mouth—till the Lord shut it by death."

When her friend Martha died, the published obituary made no mention of her extensive preaching. Sarah was upset at the incomplete memorial, writing, "You see by that how little the labours of females is thought of. We are lightly esteemed by men, but loved by God." She vowed to write much more about Martha in her own papers.

In the last few years of her life, Sarah suffered more bouts of ill health but traveled and preached as often as she was able. She died on April 22, 1846, at age 82. No Methodist publication printed her obituary and her funeral service was not held in the local Methodist chapel. She was buried at the parish church in North Lopham in an unmarked grave.

Her long preaching career spanned 55 years, despite serious illness, financial hardships and ongoing discouragement and opposition to women preachers.

More than 60 years after Sarah's death, the Wesleyan Church, one of the branches of Methodism in England, repealed the ban on female preachers. In 1918, the Methodist Conference officially allowed women to become local preachers with the same rights and privileges as men.

Roadside Cleanup

FUMC sponsors one of the St. Louis Co. Roadside Cleanup locations and twice a year schedules a time to make our community a little nicer.

Our cleanup area is a two-mile stretch of Maple Grove Road, from Lindahl Road to Solway Road. The next cleanup time will be on **Saturday, May 6, from 12–2pm.**

We always need more help to make the workload a little lighter. Please call the church office at 218-727-5021 or contact Bill Alexander at bill@strikepoint.com if you are interested. You should dress for the weather, bring gloves, wear footwear suitable for walking in ditches, and meet us at the Faith Baptist Church parking lot at Midway and Maple Grove.

Love Offering

Each year churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session, which will take place May 31–June 1 this year. Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites us to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God's blessings in our lives. Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

“The 2023 Love Offering invites us into an opportunity to walk alongside those on the journey toward health and wholeness and to share the healing and transforming love of Christ,” Bishop Lanette said in her [letter](#) to members and friends of Minnesota United Methodist churches.

Sixty percent of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support Minnesota United Methodist churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.

Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, and Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health.

Finally, ten percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

When making a gift, please note “Love Offering” on your donation.

Annual Conference

Annual Conference will take place May 31–June 1 in St. Cloud (Pastor Jeanine will go a day earlier for pre-conference meetings). Going from our church this year are Cindy Hedlund, Elizabeth Nelson, Kelby Werner, Pastor Jeanine Alexander, and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch. Please pray for them as they represent our congregation.

Graduate Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 11 at the 10am worship service, we will be honoring all high school and post-secondary school graduates. If you are graduating this year, please let the church office, Pastor Jeanine, or Youth Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon know so we can celebrate you. Please let us know what school you are graduating from and what degree you received.



**First United
Methodist**

The Coppertop Church on the Skyline
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth



**SAVE THE
DATES**

Summer Fun at First

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.



Fun for Kids & Teens



Save the dates!

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

Youth Mission Trip – June 13-15

Youth entering 7th grade and up and FRIENDS are invited to go on a mission trip to Minneapolis. We'll participate in a variety of service projects related to food scarcity and racism, while still including time for fun at Valley Fair! What a great opportunity to grow in your faith, deepen friendships, and serve. Cost is \$150 with fundraisers to help. Contact: Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon (pastorcynthiacl@gmail.com or 218-260-3114)

Grandma's Marathon Water Station Volunteers

Saturday, June 17 • 6:30am - approximately noon

A fun activity for individuals and groups of all ages! Help staff a water station for the Grandma's Marathon runners. We'll fill and set out water cups, and some volunteers will offer cups to passing runners. Contact: Jojo Coffin-Langdon (families@fumcduluth.com or 218-251-4388)

BBQ Picnic and Playdate at Lester Park Playground

Wednesday, June 21 • 5:30pm

The church will provide meat and chips, you bring something to share!

Vacation Bible School

Monday - Friday, July 17-21 • 9am - noon

Kids entering K-5th grade will spend the morning getting closer to God and to each other through Bible stories, games, crafts, food, and music. Contact: Jojo Coffin-Langdon (families@fumcduluth.com or 218-251-4388)

Vacation Bible School Teen Counselors

Monday - Friday, July 17-21 • 9am - noon

Want to make a difference in a young person's life? Join the team of youth counselors (6th-12th graders) for VBS. You'll help kids with different stations: games, crafts, and stories. This is a great opportunity to serve, grow in your own faith, and hang with friends. On the last day, plan to stay late for something fun just for YOU! Contact: Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon (pastorcynthiacl@gmail.com or 218-260-3114)

Looking for more camping experiences?

Camping Ministries offers a plethora of opportunities for children, youth, adults, and families. A complete booklet of experiences from which to choose is at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Summer Interns

This summer we are blessed to have two summer interns working with us:

Our own **Kelby Werner** will be with us for a final summer before graduating from seminary next year and then taking his own church. He will be working on many projects and carrying out pastoral ministry alongside Pastor Jeanine. He will begin Memorial Weekend Sunday (he is preaching) and will be with us through the end of August.

ELI Project (a program of our annual conference) intern **Lydia Kantonen** is graduating this spring with a teaching degree and is exploring ministry. She will work with our sustainability team (a passion of hers), along with many other church ministries. She will also assist Kelby in many projects. Lydia is the daughter of our district superintendent, Laurie Kantonen, and sister of FUMC member Micah Kantonen. Her first Sunday with us will be June 4. She will be with us until mid-August.

Please welcome these young people and offer them your love and support.

Confirmation

On April 30 we confirmed and welcomed into membership the following 14 confirmands:

Leah Abbott	Stanley Jeannette
Lincoln Alexander	Ashton Enroth
Nathaniel Bateman	Sawyer Johnson
Alex Bellefy	Jake Marquardt
Dahlia Boberg	Noah Nielsen
Avery Collins	Sam Ramsey-Coffin
Ava Davis	Peyton Walker



Life Transitions

Death of Kay (Muriel) Strand. Her memorial service was held in our Sanctuary on April 29. Prayers are needed for husband, Rollie; children, Tina, Michael, Katie, and David; and all who love her.

Birth of Leo Jackson Panger on April 11 to Victoria and Micky Panger, grandson of Anne Gustafson.

Your Church Council at Work

On Tuesday, April 17, your Church Council gathered for a four-hour retreat to begin thinking about and planning for the future of our congregation. The retreat was led by Rev. MaryAnne Korsch and Dr. Maryjane Burdge.

Participants introduced themselves, described their role on the Council, and commented on when they have felt particularly connected to their faith and/or to the church.

Maryjane provided a background of strategic planning. This journey is designed to help us tune in to God's voice as we listen for future direction/area of focus. It may be somewhat disorienting, but the important thing to remember is that the process takes time by design, and as we move through the process, that sense of disorientation/anxiety should decrease.

We then did some dreaming of what God might be dreaming for FUMC. As we move along in the process, you will have opportunity to share your dreams.

Following supper we looked at our current reality and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats), and then reflected on them. As we move along in the process, you will have the opportunity to give input.

Participants were encouraged to be thinking about the following questions:

- Why should people who are seeking meaning and purpose come to FUMC?
- How might people encounter and experience God as a result of being at FUMC?
- How will people be led to express God as a result of being at FUMC?
- If FUMC ceased to exist, what impact would that have on the membership and on the community?
- Are there any programs or events that we should phase out/eliminate to make room for new priorities?

Next Steps:

- Regular Council meeting on June 20
- Extended Council meeting on August 15, 5–7pm.

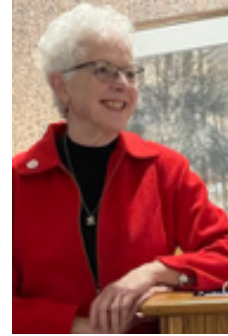
Please be praying for your Church Council in their strategic work. May God lead the way.

Members of your Church Council are: Catherine Reich (Foundation), Ron Berkeland (Council Co-Chair), Teri Tangen (Finance), Connie Adamec (At-Large), Jeanine Alexander (Pastor), Mary Giese (Welcome/Hospitality), Karen Alseth (United Women in Faith), Tim Zager (At-Large/CHUM), Aaron Boyson (SPRC), Linda Wiig (Parish Nurse); Jim Wheeler (Co-Lay-Leader), Cindy Hedlund (Co-Lay Leader), Scott Hedlund (Council Co-Chair), Tony Hauschildt (At-Large), Laura Hauschildt (Young Adult), Karen Jeannette (Secretary), Lee Cutler (At-Large), Micah Kantonen (At-Large), Sue Marquardt (Trustees), Ellen Hill (At-Large), MaryAnne Korsch (Deacon).



From the Welcome Desk

by *Mary Giese, Director of Welcoming and Hospitality*



Hello, Friends. This month the spotlight is on our welcome and hospitality at FUMC. When you arrive at church on Sunday morning, does it make you smile to have someone open

the door for you and greet you with a smile of welcome? As you move from the Narthex towards the Sanctuary, there are more smiling faces to greet you and make certain you have the service bulletin and connect card. After worship do you follow Pastor Jeanine's suggestion to go to Lakeview Social Hall to enjoy a doughnut and something to drink, and to visit with others? When you enter the Social Hall and see Richard Gurske and/or his helpers with doughnut tongs in hand ready to serve you, does it bring yet another smile to your face? Are

—continued on page 12

Announcement

Sadly, the 2023 Spring Roast Beef Dinner will not take place this year.

HOWEVER...

Watch for the return of the Fall Roast Beef Dinner Thursday, October 5, 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

—Welcome Desk, continued from page 11

you happy to see that a volunteer made coffee and lemonade and that it's there for you to enjoy?

None of those tasks are difficult, and the truth is we need more smiling faces and willing hands to help with Sunday morning welcome and hospitality. When everyone takes a turn, there never is a burden on anyone. Please consider helping. All individuals, families, and couples are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of welcome and hospitality to all, members and guests alike.

Can you greet at the main entrances or at the Narthex round tables occasionally? Please email Mike Donahue at mpcmdonahue@aol.com, or call 218-879-3456 and he will be delighted to put you on the schedule.

Can you handle doughnut tongs? We have faithful volunteers who help Richard, and several others, to rotate Sundays. We would love it if you could help. Please contact Mary Giese at welcome@fumcduluth.com. Please also consider being a Coffee Host. It's easy and fun, and again, if there are several people to share the calendar, it's more enjoyable for everyone. Linda Wiig, our long-serving and expert Faith Community Nurse and her helpers, will show you how to host the coffee time. There is a checklist for preparing, serving, and getting the coffee time cart ready for the next Sunday. Please reach out to Linda at nurse@fumcduluth.com.

Thank you for your consideration of these opportunities.

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

Lake Superior Elementary

We pray for the students, staff, and families at Lake Superior Elementary School. Last week the Superior School Board voted to close this state and national award-winning school at the end of the 2024 school year. It was a painful decision for all, driven by budget shortfalls.

FUMC had a close connection with Lake Superior Elementary for more than ten years. At one time we had more than 30 adults serving as weekly in-school mentors. Several others chose to be certified through Mentor Northland in order to meet with students outside of school, establishing relationships that lasted from one to twelve years. Volunteers set up a Kids' Closet in the school—our church supplied the clothing, including hats and mittens hand-knit by church members. Some people chose to tutor kids weekly. Others guided discussions at monthly book cafes or helped wrap presents at Christmas. It was a mutually beneficial relationship. Anne Miller said, "I get just as much out of this as the kids."

Lake Superior Elementary succeeded in large part because of its small size. Everyone knew everyone. They took care of each other. As these children are merged into larger schools, let us pray for state and national leadership to recognize the harm caused by underfunding education. Help us all to be informed, vigilant citizens who vote. Nelson Mandela said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children."

Long-time mentor and volunteer Linda Harper said, "These kids loved their school, their teachers, and their community. For many of them, school was their safe place. It was maybe the only chance they had to be in a caring environment for learning and for friendships. We were so blessed to have been given this

Children and Youth News

Coppertop Youth News

**Youth Group and Confirmation
6:30-7:30pm on Wednesday Nights**

May 3 – Youth Group

May 10 – Youth Group

May 17 – Last Wednesday Celebration!

Mission Trip – June 13-15

We have ten kids signed up from FUMC, one from Hillside UMC, and seven from Norton Park UMC! We will travel to the Minneapolis area to do some serving and learning. You can help get us there through purchasing a share. We will be selling shares

on Sundays during May for \$25 each. Buying a share will get you a hand-written postcard from a youth and bragging rights for helping fund this trip!

Senior High Get-together Sunday, May 7, 4-6pm

9th-12th graders are invited to dinner and games at 310 Pub in Canal Park on Sunday, May 7 from 4-6pm. Church pays! Bring a friend. RSVP to [Cynthia](#) by Saturday night, May 6.



Graduation Sunday is June 11

We will honor our graduates during worship this Sunday. If you or someone you know is graduating from high school or college, please let the church know. We want to celebrate you!

Congratulations to our 2023 Confirmands.

On Sunday morning, April 30, during worship, we had 14 students confirmed at our church. It has been a pleasure and honor to walk with them these last two years, exploring the Christian faith; learning about the Bible, Methodism, and other faith traditions; and going on mission trips, lock-ins, and service projects. When you see them, be sure to congratulate them and invite them to serve along with YOU.

Sam Ramsey-Coffin, Nathaniel Bateman, Leah Abbott, Ashton Enroth, Sawyer Johnson, Alex Bellefy, Jake Marquardt, Ava Davis, Peyton Walker, Noah Nielsen, Avery Collins, Lincoln Alexander, Dahlia Boberg, and Stanley Jeannette.

Save the Date

VBS Teen Counselors Needed for – July 17-21

VBS is the week of July 17–21 at the Coppertop. We need teen counselors to help play with and guide the elementary kids this week. 6th–12th graders are invited to volunteer. We will spend our mornings at the church going to stations of story, art, games, and snacks. It's gonna be a blast for all! \$10 to sign up. Text or email [Cynthia](#) if you can help.

Happy Birthday to Parker, Abbi, Izy, Scotty, Sam, Keira, and Adelynn!

Children's Ministries

May 17 is the last day for Wednesday programming until fall.

It will be a fun day. We will provide pizza for everyone, and we invite families to stay for the evening. There will be a bouncy house, ping pong, and more. Dinner will be served from 6–6:30pm and then fun and games from 6:30–7:30pm. We will have regular programming from 5-6.

May 21 will be the last day of Sunday School.

Looking Ahead to Summer

BBQ picnic and playdate

June 21 at 5:30pm, Lester Park Playground



Vacation Bible School

July 17-21 VBS 9am–12pm. Here is the link to register! forms.gle/szmanG7FcU4TDdGU7. You can also find forms in the church office or on the children's ministry table in the Narthex.



Movie Night

Everyone is invited to come watch *Jesus Revolution* on May 24 at 6:30pm in the Theater Room across from the nursery. We will have popcorn and conversation after the movie. This movie is rated PG-13.

"Jesus Revolution, the surprise indie box office hit, tells the story of the real life 'Jesus freak' movement through the eyes of youth minister Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney). The Jesus movement of the late 1960s and 1970s was primarily based in California."

CHUM Rhubarb Festival Prep Schedule

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival is Saturday, June 24 this year, and we need volunteers throughout the month of June to help with the Coppertop's contribution to the bake sale. This is the 50th anniversary of this major community event for CHUM, and there are many opportunities to help. Our church's "baked goods pledge" to the festival is very different than in the past. FUMC needs to make 30 large pans of rhubarb crisp for the festival coffee shop, rhubarb salsa for the burrito booth, jam for resale, pies (but not as many), and this year we're going to test an ice cream frozen-in-a-cup (stay tuned). A big new baking contributor is the Northeast Regional Corrections Center (NERCC). They have accepted the challenge to make the majority of the pies, but we need to get them rhubarb, lots of rhubarb!

FUMC needs volunteers to pick rhubarb and transport it to NERCC, and at church to clean and chop rhubarb, clean and slice strawberries, stir jam, chop ingredients for salsa, make pies, mind the baking, box/label pies, and transport goodies to Holy Rosary on Friday, June 23. Please email anitazager@gmail.com and let her know what you can do and when. Ask a friend to join you. It's always fun. Debbie King, Pam Brown, Linda Harper, Paul Sapyta, and Anita Zager are leading the project.

Sunday, May 28 or later – You can drop off fresh rhubarb at the church beginning on this date.

Tuesday, May 30 – Chopping, 1-4

Wednesday, May 31 – Jam-making, 9-1

Tuesday, June 6 – Chopping, 1-4

Wednesday, June 7 – Jam-making, 9-1

Tuesday, June 13 – Chopping, 1-4

Wednesday, June 14 – Assembling pies, 9-3

Monday, June 19 – Chopping, 1-4

Tuesday, June 20 – Assembling pies, 9-3

Wednesday, June 21 – Assembling pies, 9-3

Thursday, June 22 – Chop/Make Salsa, Baking pies all day, 9-3

Friday, June 23 – Make large pans of crisp; transport pies, crisp and ice cream, 9-3

Saturday, June 24 – Day of Festival–Volunteers needed. Help sell ice cream and lots of other odd jobs.



What Is Easter Season For?

From umc.org. To find out even more, click on the link.



For Christians, Easter is not just one day, it's a season of 50 days, a week of weeks, derived in its length from the 50 days between Passover and Pentecost (which means "fiftieth") in Judaism. Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with [Pentecost](#), the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter season is more than an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season when persons who wished to become Christians were learning how to live the way of Jesus and preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday. Christians have referred to this time of formation as *catechesis* or "echoing the way of Jesus." The original purpose of the Easter season was to continue the formation of new Christians in the faith. Christians have historically referred to this formation process as *mystagogy* or "leading people into the mysteries."

Today this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen and that we, as the church, are the body of the risen Lord. It's a season for focusing on the core doctrines and mysteries of the faith and for preparing for the ministries the Spirit has empowered us to undertake in Jesus' name.

Justice Ministries

United Methodists Urge Congress to Address the Impact of Indian Boarding Schools

As part of our United Methodist Church's work on racial justice and our commitment to healing and truth-telling, UM leaders acknowledge the legacy of violence and abuse perpetrated by the removal of Indigenous children from their families to boarding schools, including the UMC's role and use of church funding to maintain the federal boarding school system.

[The Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church](#) asks that we contact our members of Congress and urge them to support the reintroduction and passage of legislation that would establish a Truth and Healing Commission with Native representatives and experts as well as an advisory committee and survivors' subcommittee. Click on the link below to send a quick and easy message pre-addressed to your congressperson and senators:



bwcaction.org/establish-the-truth-and-healing-commission-on-indian-boarding-school-policies-act

Volunteer hosts needed at Safe Bay—a welcoming refuge for people in need



Safe Bay is now open! This secure overnight space offers individuals and families living in cars and vans a place to rest without fear of crime, harassment, or being moved along by law enforcement or private security guards. Access to showers, breakfast, and housing navigation are provided.

Volunteer hosts work alongside a member of CHUM staff in the early mornings and evenings to set up and take down safety perimeters, welcome guests, serve coffee, and manage and clean the hygiene station.

Please register and spread the word. Volunteers must be 18 years or older (older children are welcome to help if accompanying parents/guardians) and participate in an orientation. Click the link below to register and sign up for an upcoming orientation.

Safe Bay Volunteer Registration: tfaforms.com/5056953

Stepping On Up is hiring: Street Outreach Worker

For people living outside—in cars, in the skywalk, or other places not meant for human habitation—street outreach workers are a first point of contact and lifesaving, trustworthy helpers that can point them in the right direction for shelter, housing, and other important services. Even as the need has rapidly increased, there have only been a couple of people across our agencies doing this important, hands-on work.

Thanks to funds made available through a major national opioid settlement, Stepping On Up is hiring an additional full-time Street Outreach Worker who will work directly with people living on the street and coordinate services for Stepping On Up Phase I sites.

People with lived experience of housing insecurity and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. Please help spread the word!

Outreach Job Description: steppingonupduluth.org/job-opportunities



First United Methodist Church

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

Volume 57, Number 5

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

Thank you for your wonderful, generous giving to the Lent/Easter offering. We have many bins of donated supplies for the Union Gospel Mission and over \$6,000 in financial giving to be split between the Union Gospel Mission and the Ministry/Mission of our congregation. Well done! Way to be church! Way to share God's love! Thank you!

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