

# 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.*

**September 2023**

**First United  
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway  
Duluth, MN 55811  
[www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com)

*From the Outdoor Worship and Picnic, August 13  
Photo by Doug Buell*





## Our First Family



**Baptized 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. Great-grandparents are Marlene and Wes Berntson.



**Baptized August 13:  
Kenneth Curtis Hill.** Welcome, Ken!

**Congratulations** to Parker Hinnenkamp and Matt Ryba, who were married in a small private



ceremony on July 24 and are now Parker and Matusz Maclver Hinnenkamp! They will be moving back to Duluth to be near family as

Matt prepares to go to school and become a pilot. The newlyweds will be planning a wedding celebration

—continued on page 5

## On the Journey With You

### Update on Children and Youth Ministry at FUMC

*By Pastor Jeanine (and your Staff Parish Relations Committee)*

I am so excited for the kick-off of our fall programs for children and youth. We are ramping up for a new season and new opportunities.

#### **In some ways, NOTHING IS CHANGING**

We will continue to have nursery and Sunday School on Sunday mornings, and we will continue to have music and group/education time on Wednesday evenings.

#### **In other ways, NEW OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND**

- We are thrilled to welcome Beth Brophy as our new Children's Music Director. She will bring new ideas and energy to kids' music!
- Because children and youth ministry is so important to the life of the church and to me personally, for a season I will be the organizer/leader of children's ministries with the help of Larry Ehresman, and our new Children's Ministry Team (Marion Flammang, Cindy Giuliani, Mary Hanson, Cindy Hedlund, Josh Hill, and Tess Kantonen), and everyone who wants to be a part of it.
- I am also in the process of connecting with members of the prior Youth Ministry Team and inviting new people to participate in a Youth Ministry Team. Our youth will also have significant input into their program.

In September we are providing all-church Wednesday dinner opportunities (for kids and adults alike):

- Wednesday, September 13, our kick-off Wednesday from 5:30–7pm, Room At The Table food truck will be providing smashburgers for everyone.
- Wednesdays, September 20 and 27, 6–6:30pm, there will be a salad bar with protein, veggies, fruit, cheese, and bread (with PB&J) for everyone (feel free to bring food for your kids if this doesn't meet their eating habits).

This is a crucial time for children and youth ministry (in our church

## First Family

### First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811  
218-727-5021 or [Info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Info@fumcduluth.com)

Pastor: [Jeanine Alexander](#)

Editor: [Bill Alexander](#)

Next First Family deadline: **September 20**

Submit to [connect@fumcduluth.com](mailto:connect@fumcduluth.com)



[fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)

and many churches), and I feel it deserves my focus. My hope is that the program grows, we gain a clearer understanding of what we are wanting/able to do/offer, more adults in the church are a part of the ministry, more kids participate, and we eventually hire staff who will be set up for success. When change happens, it can be a natural tendency to want to do the same thing we have been doing, whether it has been working well or not. And it is also a natural tendency to want to quickly make decisions without experimentation and deep reflection, as that can be a bit uncomfortable. I am putting my focus, effort, and time here, with Larry's help and the help of others, to see where God leads us. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee and I feel this is the right and strategic way to go. I'm quite excited to be a part of the Children's Ministry Team for this season and am trusting God's guidance.

Thank you to those of you who filled out the surveys about children and youth ministry this past July. We heard clearly your desire for information well in advance so you can make events a priority, for opportunities for your kids to both have unstructured play time, and opportunities for service. We also heard how busy you are and that you are making church a priority and are looking for less activities, but focused and well done. One hundred percent of families of children who responded indicated music opportunities are important.

In some ways, things are happening as usual with new leadership; in other ways, we are experimenting with new ways of leading and inviting and engaging children and youth. Please offer your support through encouragement, prayers, and participation.

Here is our basic schedule. You will be hearing more from our music team in this newsletter and will receive more detailed information soon. We want you excited about what is happening with, and for, our children and youth:

## **Kick-Off Events**

**Kick-Off Sunday, September 10, 10am** – Blessing of the Backpacks. Bring your backpack and we will bless it—come and see the new children's upstairs lounge and have your first Sunday school class (K–5th grade are in Sunday School; preschool and younger are in the nursery). We will have ice cream treats following worship.

**Kick-Off Wednesday, September 13** (see times below) – Meet our leaders. Parents can experience the groups with their children. And enjoy a smashburger between 5:30–7pm.

### **Groups Starting Wednesday, September 13:**

- **Jam Junior**

5–5:30pm – Music for everyone 2nd grade and under, held in the Chapel, includes Bible learning time

- **Ringtones**

5–5:40pm – 3rd–5th grade, young handbell ringers

- **Jam and the Peanut Butter Band** 5:40–6:05pm – 3rd–5th graders singing/drumming group

- **Supervised Play Time**

5:30–6pm – for 2nd grade and under

- **Dinner**

6–6:30pm – for everyone –Lakeview Social Hall ("salads plus" is our experiment)

- **Tweens**

6:30–7:30pm – 3rd–5th grade, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

- **Confirmation**

6:30–7:30pm – the 1st Wednesday of the month

- **Youth Group**

6:30–7:30pm – 6th–12th grades, the 3rd Wednesday of the month

*—continued on next page*

## From Our Faith Community Nurse

With the aging population and deaths we have experienced in our own congregation and the many lives lost due to disasters like hurricanes, fire, and heat, I thought I'd write a little about wills. A normal will is where you bequeath your possessions, valuables, property, and animals. But there is another type of will called an ethical will. This will is a non-legal record of what you've learned that you'd like to share—beliefs, doubts, stories, instructions, memories, hopes, and disappointments, among other items. Ethical wills were believed to have begun in the early days of Israel's history.

Writing an ethical will does take effort. Some questions you could ask yourself as you begin your soul-searching to leave your spiritual legacy could be

- Who has influenced you the most in your life?
- Where are some of your favorite places, and what did you learn?
- What has been the happiest or most challenging time(s) in your life?
- What do you most appreciate?

Some people begin writing or recording their wills to their children, some write letters to their loved ones who have passed (which has helped them through grief), and others have written information each year.

Some people have shared their most cherished values. I will share a few here:

- Realize the wonderfulness of being alive in God's universe.
- Forgive yourself; Bless yourself and others.
- Care about doing things well.
- Appreciate ordinary days.
- Focus on the love you can give.

Their principles of life and relationships were spelled out to their loved ones. Sometimes these letters can have a profound effect on a family. What's most important is passing on your beliefs in a personal way.

"By the time we realize that the years ahead are far fewer than the years we have already lived, we confront the discouraging truth that, unless we do something about it, all that hard-won wisdom will disappear with us when we die."

*-Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, from the Foreword of "Ethical Wills & How to Prepare Them."*

Blessings, *Linda Wiig*

*—Journey, continued from previous page*

*Note: Youth are encouraged to come to the Tweens time the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays as mentors and game leaders.*

### Other Upcoming Dates:

- **Thursday, October 5** is our fall Roast Beef Dinner. We need the help of our kids.
- **Sunday, October 15** – Three-year-olds (and older kids who haven't received their Bibles) will be presented Bibles. Third grade students (and older students who haven't received their Bibles) will also receive a Bible. Pastor Jeanine will be leading a class with 3rd-grade students in advance of them receiving their Bibles.
- **Sunday, October 29** – Halloween games during Sunday School and "Trunk or Treat" following worship. Beth Brophy will be starting rehearsals for our upcoming Children's Christmas Program.

There are so many great things happening for our children and youth. Please let me know how you will help, and encourage your children and grandchildren to come—and invite friends!

Blessings, *Pastor Jeanine*

## Prayer at the Fair

Leslie Ball, who grew up at FUMC, leads worship at the State Fair and has been doing so for years.

It is a great way to start your Sundays at the Great Minnesota



Get-Together! Prayer at the Fair happens during the State Fair on Sunday mornings, August 27 and September 3, from 9:15–9:45am.



and will share details when they are finalized.

**A huge thank you** from the Coffin - Langdons for showering us with cards and money and love our last Sunday. We love you all!

~Cynthia and Jojo

**We mourn the loss** of several people from our First Family this summer:

**Bob Higgins** died on August 22.

**Pat St. John** died on August 21.

Word about cards and other ways to support the families of Bob and Pat will be sent out shortly.

**Kent Giese**, died on August 15.

Cards may be sent to Mary at 4620 W 8th St., Duluth, MN 55807

**Pete LaTour**, on August 12. Cards may be sent to his daughters: Lynn LaTour, 116 Marseille Drive, Hurst, TX 76054; and Stacy LaTour, W9402 690th Ave., River Falls, WI 54022.

**Our morning custodian**, Kevin Simich, lost his mother on August 5. Cards may be left for him in the church office.

**Sandy Hansen**, on July 31. Cards may be sent to her husband Steve, 3615 Lavaque Rd., Hermantown, MN 55810.

**Beth Hohenstein's father** died on July 26. Cards may be sent to Beth at 5008 Otsego St., Duluth, MN 55804.

**Carol Norling**, on July 19. Cards may be sent to her husband Jerry, 515 Coffee Creek Blvd., Duluth, MN 55811; and to Bishop David and Julie Bard, 15160 Duxbury Lane, Lansing, MI 48906.

**Ruth Thompson**, on June 18. Cards may be sent to her husband Lynn Bode at 231 Hickory St., Duluth, MN 55811.

**Lois Rowe**, on June 18.

**Sandy Almquist**, on June 9.

## Worship in September

**There are three ways to participate in worship this fall:**

- 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 soul destination this year!

**September 3 – Holy Communion.** We will pray for students, teachers, and staff beginning school. Geoff Bell will lead us in a sermon titled “MaryAnne Is About to Lie to Us, or Is She? – Ours Is a Welcoming Table.”

**September 10 – Kick-Off Sunday.** We will continue our sermon series with "Spiritual Guides – Looking to Jonathan." Sunday School begins. Many of our music groups will participate. Doughnuts and ice cream treats following worship.

**September 17** – Our sermon series continues with Spiritual Guides – Looking to Abraham."

**September 24** – The sermon series this week continues with "Spiritual Guides – Looking to Nehemiah."

### Fall Kick-Off Sunday September 10

**We will kick off Sunday School and music groups  
—and have doughnuts and ice cream treats!**

## Announcements During Offering Time

If you have an announcement you wish made in worship, please let Pastor Jeanine know and she (or the person making the announcements) will be happy to make that announcement. You can also email it to the church for inclusion in the weekly email. If you or your group wish to share about a ministry you are involved in, a social justice concern you wish to have announced, or an opportunity you would like to invite others to participate in, we are happy to make that happen as a part of our offering time. You could do that in person or by making a video (we can help you create that video if you need assistance). The offering time is a perfect place to highlight areas of ministry and living out our faith—our lives are offerings to God.

Wouldn't it be great if every Sunday a group or individual shared at the offering time about ministry that is happening?

# Outdoor Worship and Picnic

Our Outdoor Worship and Picnic was wonderful! Tapestry was AMAZING, the food was great, the attendance excellent, the worship inspiring, and the joy of being together was outstanding. People really stepped up to make this happen. Thank you to all who helped and to all who attended.



# Wednesday Online Bible Study

An in-depth Bible study will be meeting every Wednesday at 6:30pm on Zoom and will be taught by biblical scholar Lynn Millikan. For more information, contact MaryAnne Korsch: [maryanne.korsch@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.korsch@gmail.com) or Lynn Millikan: [millikan.lynn@gmail.com](mailto:millikan.lynn@gmail.com)

## [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 876 2223 9029  
Passcode: 675928

# Senior Lunch and Fellowship

Our 2nd annual Lunch Social is being held on Tuesday, September 19 at 11am for all seniors 65 or older (or anyone who considers themselves a senior) to honor and celebrate YOU!

Your hosts will be Pastor Jeanine along with Larry Ehresman, Mary Giese, Linda Wiig, Sandy Smith, and Rhonda Montavon.

The event will take place in Lakeview Social Hall, where there will be a light meal, Bingo, unique and amazing prizes, a sing-along, and the enjoyment of each other's company.

In order for us to make sure we have enough food, please sign up by Tuesday, September 12. You can RSVP at the church office, call 218-727-5021, or email [Pastor Jeanine](mailto:PastorJeanine@lakeside.org).

Let us know if you need a ride and we'll make the arrangements.



# Faith Forums

Faith forums will be held on Sunday mornings at 9am for 45 minutes before worship. If you would like to lead a forum or invite a speaker, please contact Jean Walsh or Shelley Gruskin so they can schedule and publicize the session. Forums begin in late September (see page 11) and will meet in the Fireside Lounge.

# New Confirmation Class Beginning



Every other year, a new two-year confirmation program

begins, and we be will starting a group this fall.

The group 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 12 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 one Wednesday per month and will involve a variety of hands-on faith, service learning, and growing experiences that 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 are 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 old or older who is interested, please contact [Pastor Jeanine](#).

# Duluth Superior Pride Festival

*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.

## 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](http://duluthsuperiorpride.com)

# Caring For the Earth

The Sustainability Team will hold an informational meeting on Sunday, September 17, 15 minutes after the service, in the church library.

We are a group of concerned people who seek to inform ourselves and our church community on how to live responsibly and sustainably. We feel called to care for God's creation. At this meeting, we will decide meeting dates and discuss ideas and priorities for putting our concerns into loving action. Come with your thoughts and concerns and see if this is a group for you. We welcome new and returning members.



**RSVP by Tuesday, September 12** (so there's sure to be enough food!). Sign up in the office, call the office (218-727-5021) or email Pastor Jeanine ([pastor@fumcduluth.com](mailto:pastor@fumcduluth.com)). Let us know if you need a ride!

**Seniors' Lunch and Fellowship**  
Tues., Sept. 19 • 11am  
Lakeview Social Hall

**For seniors**  
65 and older,  
or anyone who  
considers themselves  
a senior!

Enjoy a light meal together  
Play Bingo (with unique and amazing prizes!)  
Have a sing-along  
Enjoy each other's company!

# A Message from our Staff Parish Relations Committee

Dear Congregation;

As Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), I write with a few important words about our pastor. She is an amazing human being and a tireless servant of our congregation. In part because of her tirelessness, SPRC has approved exploring a “renewal leave” for her next year. With our support she has made application for a temporary leave of absence, which is a common sabbatical mechanism in the United Methodist church. The dates we are looking at are May 20, 2024–August 19, 2024.

Normally a pastor has a renewal leave every seven years. Pastor Jeanine has not had one in 20 years. As you may know, we recently celebrated her 30th year in ministry. Her success in church leadership and growth over that time is undeniable. Therefore it is critical that we support this regular leave mechanism which she has not taken for two decades.

There are two mechanisms by which she may attain this leave, one of which is supported by the Lily Foundation. The other is supported by our District. As is typical of Pastor Jeanine, she presented these options to us having completely thought through nearly every logistical and financial detail. Her first concern, as ever, is that the congregation would continue to be served in all the ways it is while she is here. We are confident that whichever mechanism eventually may support her leave, the congregation will continue to be served well. Deacon MaryAnne Korsch will assume lead pastor duties, and we are lucky to have her talents on hand to do so.

Despite being a lifelong member of the UMC, I have never served on an SPRC committee until coming here to First United. It is a pleasure to serve in this way, but it has also been eye-opening to see the mechanics of how a large church body runs. Two observations come to mind that are worth sharing here. First, while the long history of this beautiful building is impressive and wonderful, it is no match

for how beautiful is the servanthood and compassion that exists among the people who serve its mission in one or many ways. It is inspiring to get to be a part of it. Second, our pastor is—it bears repeating—a tireless servant of our church body. She works six days of seven per week, if all goes as planned (which it seldom does), and must constantly scale up and down her work to meet each moment. In short, she has done so much in her six years here to organize and energize and right-size us for a strong future. Suffice to say these have not been a normal or easy six years, and Pastor Jeanine’s unique leadership was critical to the health of the church over this time.

It is in fact Pastor Jeanine’s efforts over her first years here that have put us in an excellent position to be able to support this request. She made it an easy decision. Though she will be missed for the few months while she is renewing her mind, body, and spirit, we are in a good position to encourage it.

If you have felt a calling to become more involved as a lay leader in our church, I would invite you to explore doing so over the next year or so. In our proposal to the Lily Foundation, Pastor Jeanine wrote about the special healing power of water. She is from Duluth, of course, and like many of us finds deep meaning in the waters that surround us. As I was reading it, I was struck by the thought that in so many ways, it has been a turbulent time to lead a church. Water seeks a level, so sometimes there will be waterfalls and rapids and riptides. She has navigated our congregation through some of the most difficult waters, including a global pandemic and a global cleavage in the United Methodist Church. While she is on leave, our church will remain perched atop this gorgeous hill overlooking the largest body of fresh water on Earth. I invite you to pray with me that Jeanine will be in some sense baptized anew with the waters that surround her wherever she may be, and that those waters will replenish a deep wellspring of faith to sustain her for another 30 years of leadership in Christ.

~Aaron Boyson

Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



# Lennon-Berini Fund Awards \$2,000 Scholarships

At the worship service on August 27, the Scholarship's Selection Committee presented nine \$2,000 scholarships to members of our congregation. The recipients are:



**Ashley Etter** is in her first year at the University of Notre Dame, working on her PhD in English and hopes to teach at the college level in the future. She enjoys crocheting, painting, writing, reading, and traveling.



**Jacob Ginocchio** is in his senior year at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, majoring in computer science and music. He enjoys hiking, biking, video games, drawing, and photography.



**Riley Hinnenkamp** is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, majoring in music performance-voice with a concentration on opera and a minor in psychology. He enjoys golfing, photography, hiking, and composing music.



**Benjamin Hintzman** is in his senior year at Harvard College, majoring in mathematics and minoring in music. He enjoys playing and listening to music, swimming, running, and traveling.



**Rachel Frost** is currently a nurse and working on being a psychiatric nurse practitioner through the University of North Dakota. She enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, kayaking, and camping.



**Rhonda Montavon** is in her first year of grad school at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, working on her Masters of Counseling degree. She enjoys swimming, running, and watching movies.



**Kelby Werner** is in his third and final year of seminary school at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He enjoys reading, writing, playing games, writing music, and learning how to draw.



**Brennen Werner** is a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, majoring in kinesiology, and hopes to become a physical therapist. He enjoys working out, fishing, puzzles, gaming, and golfing.



**Erin Wiig** is working on her MBA in Leadership and Change at the College of St. Scholastica, where she works with our future physicians on their entrance into medical school. She enjoys running, reading, cooking and baking, and home renovations.



# 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.*

If you have questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Music Ministries, Velda Graham Bell, at [music@fumcduluth.com](mailto:music@fumcduluth.com) or 218-393-4006, or the individual director of a particular group.

### Sanctuary Choir

Director: Derek Bromme

[dbromme@css.edu](mailto:dbromme@css.edu) or 218-590-0087

This SATB choir provides music for worship in a variety of styles from classical to gospel. Wednesday rehearsals begin September 6 in the East Lounge from 5:10-6:10. Adults, including high school students, are most welcome! Contact Derek if you're interested, or just come to a rehearsal.

### Children's Music

Director: Elizabeth (Beth) Brophy

[ebrophy@gnail.com](mailto:ebrophy@gnail.com) or 507-990-2959

Two family-friendly fun-with-music groups are held for kids on Wednesday nights. Learning music will 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 5-5:20 begin September 13.

### JAM and the Peanut Butter Band

(3rd-5th graders singing/drumming group)

Wednesday rehearsals in the Chapel from 5:40-6:05 begin September 13.

### Handbell Ensembles

Director: Bill Alexander

[bill@strikepoint.com](mailto:bill@strikepoint.com) or 218-340-4100

Handbell musicians of all ages build friendships,

work toward musical excellence, and share their time and talents in worship and outreach. Want to chime in? Openings do occur. Contact Bill if you're interested.

### Cast in Bronze

(adults)

Wednesday rehearsals from 6:30-7:30 begin September 6.

### Class Ring

(high school)

Wednesday rehearsals from 7:45-8:45 begin September 13.

### Ringtones

(3rd-5th grade)

Wednesday rehearsals from 5:00-5:40 begin September 13.

### Strikepoint

(auditioned concert and touring ensemble)

Sunday rehearsals from 11:30-2:30 beginning September 24.

### Tapestry

Co-Directors: Leah and Corey Hulst

[lghulst@gmail.com](mailto:lghulst@gmail.com) or 218-428-9190

[chulst70@gmail.com](mailto:chulst70@gmail.com) or 218-428-5520

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 6:30-7:30. New members are welcome! Tapestry is especially looking for a new drummer this year. If you are interested in joining Tapestry, please reach out to Corey or Leah Hulst.

## Strikepoint Tour a Huge Success

Strikepoint's ten-day, ten-performance summer tour brought the internationally-known FUMC handbell ensemble throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. Every single concert had a great audience and the group played exceptionally well. The Duluth concert (shown here) had over 300 in attendance, and there were reportedly no places to park! Thank you! ~Strikepoint





# Faith Forum Fall Sessions Begin September 17

Faith Forum is a weekly gathering of folks seeking to learn more about their faith—a search that can take many forms. We meet Sunday mornings from 9–9:45 in the Fireside Lounge. Everyone is invited to join the lively discussions, listen to someone share their faith journey, or learn something new from special guests—a different topic each week. Information on upcoming sessions is posted in *First Family*, the church bulletin, and Pastor Jeanine’s weekly emails. Grab a fresh cup of coffee in the kitchenette on your way in.

## September 17 – *How to Resist Amazon and Why*

Linda and Tom Wiig will lead a perhaps challenging discussion using questions from this book by Danny Caine. Learn more about the pros and cons of this internet-based business enterprise. What’s the price of convenience?

## September 24: Adopt an Apartment

CHUM staff member Diana Brooks-Hoss will show us how we, as individuals or a church community, might help families who are moving into the Steve O’Neil Apartments, often with few or no personal belongings. Most of us have an excess of material goods. Find out what the residents need or don’t need.

## October 1: Spiritual Meditation

Throughout the ages, prayer and spiritual meditation have been used by people as a method of connection to a deeper level of meaning in their lives. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Join Marian Flammang as she leads us in a brief experiential sample of different forms of spiritual meditations that you may find useful to deepen your spiritual practices.

## Mission and Social Justice

### Time to update FUMC’s Reconciling Statement



In September 2020, the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) adopted new gender and inclusivity language for affiliated organizations:

“We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers

of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.”

[rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org).

FUMC joined RMN with the adoption of our Reconciling Statement in 2002. Now we are asked to engage in conversation about this new statement and vote to embrace it. A vote to adopt this statement, as written, will serve as the foundational requirement for continuing our affiliation with RMN.

Please take a minute now to review the statement above and let us know what you think. Does this statement reflect our mission to “welcome all people, guided by the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus, and to participate as faithful disciples of Christ”? Contact Sarah Maddy with your thoughts.

[shmaddy@outlook.com](mailto:shmaddy@outlook.com)

## CHUM Dinner

The CHUM Dinner is bigger and better than ever this year!

Big, community-building events are so important because CHUM’s mission is, in part, building a more just and compassionate community. That is why they host so many events to nurture this reality.

This fall on October 17, CHUM is hosting their Golden Gala in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary. CHUM is hosting the Gala to bring their mission and stories to more people than ever before. There will be a gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions, inspiring stories, and awards.

They are also making this a bigger event because they need more

—continued on next page

—CHUM Dinner, continued from previous page

support. Over the last few years, CHUM has seen a decrease in contributions, which has led to heavy reliance on grants and other sources of funding.

CHUM hopes that with your help they will be able to raise money for their general operating budget. The goal this year is to raise \$250,000 at the Golden Gala.

How can you help? Attending is one great way. Another would be to host your own table. Table hosts gather like-minded community members to attend the event with them. There is also a need for volunteers, silent auction donations, and sponsors for the event.

If you are interested, contact CHUM Development Director Gracia Swenson, [gswensen@chumduluth.org](mailto:gswensen@chumduluth.org)



Chum's  
Golden Gala

Honoring 50 years of service in the Northern Region. Join us for a fun night of pleasant company, good food, and regional impact.  
More Info to Come.

OCTOBER  
TUESDAY | 17 | AT 7 PM  
2023



50  
chum  
Food • Shelter • Equity • Hope

## ...And Compassion for All

Commentary by the Rev. Mel West  
August 18, 2023 | COLUMBIA, MO. (UM News)

I'd like to see us add one word to our beloved Pledge of Allegiance.

Let it say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, justice and compassion for all."

In all my 99 years of living, I have never seen our country so completely splintered and so downright mean in its social discourse. The growth of social media has added tinder to a fire already burning.

The two major forces of politics and religion are both embedded in the problem. Families sometimes hesitate to hold a family gathering, and some school boards have asked armed police to be present at their meetings for safety and security. My lifelong denomination, The United Methodist Church, is in worldwide disarray and confusion over LGBTQ issues.

I suggest that adding the word "compassion" to our flag pledge would implant a spirit, an attitude, and an action into the hearts and minds of all who recite it. Millions of school children would recite the pledge each school morning, as I did 90 years ago. Teachers would begin to explain the new word and relate it to classroom and playground issues. Parents would become learners with their children. Service clubs and others would weekly ponder the word "compassion" and how it might relate to their daily lives.

It was my reading of the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and writer [Karen Armstrong](#) that triggered my interest in this issue.

The Dalai Lama wrote, "Our basic human nature is compassionate. The problem is that children go to schools where they are not taught to nurture these deeper human values, so their basic human potential becomes dormant. When we relate to others from the place of compassion, it



The Rev. Mel West  
Photo courtesy of the Rev. Mel West.

goes to the first level, the human level, not the secondary level of difference. Then you can even have compassion on your enemy.”

Armstrong points out that the Golden Rule—“Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you”—is the common name given to compassion, but that all ten of the world’s great religions have identical statements as a central part of their faith. Hinduism, for example says, “... do not to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.” Sikhism says, “... as thou deemest thyself, so deem others. Then thou shalt become a partner in heaven.”

And our founder, John Wesley, in his sermon, “[On Zeal](#),” reminded Methodists of the necessity of showing compassion if they wished to experience compassion from God. “If you have not ‘compassion on your fellow-servants,’ neither will your Lord have pity on you,” he wrote.

Imagine a community, a nation, a world, where compassion in both creed and deed is the norm of life. Let us officially place it in our flag pledge, and let us celebrate that on July 4, 2026, the day we celebrate our 250th anniversary as a country.

*West is a retired United Methodist pastor in Columbia, MO. The founder of Mobility Worldwide, he has been honored for his commitment to humanitarian work.*

## How Are United Methodists Present in Ukraine?

United Methodists have both congregations and mission partners on the ground in Ukraine, offering hope, support, and aid in every way they can.



The nation of Ukraine is included, with Moldova, in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, part of the [Eurasia Episcopal Area](#), led by [Bishop Eduard Khegay](#).

This episcopal area also includes the Central Russia Conference, Eastern Russia and Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference, Northwest Russia Provisional Annual Conference, and Southern Russia Provisional Annual Conference. These include the nations of Russia, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. There were 1,123 professing members recorded across these conferences in 2017.

Methodism in Eurasia began with a missionary pastor from Sweden, Carl Lindborg, in 1882. He founded the first Russian Methodist congregation in St. Petersburg in 1889. A few congregations were planted in Ukraine prior to the first World War, notably near Uzhgorod and Ternopil, but of these, all but the community in Uzhgorod were shuttered during the Soviet era. The outreach that would lead to the current churches in Ukraine began after the end of the Soviet Union, which brought an influx and spread of United Methodist missionaries from the United States, Germany, and Liberia into many of the newly independent nations in the 1990s.

While numbers of United Methodists in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference are small (351 total across six congregations based on 2017 data), the congregations are strategically located in or near larger cities, including Kharkiv, Kyiv, Poltova, and Chernivtsi, as well as the two breakaway areas recognized by Russia in Donetsk and Luhansk. This means that they are well positioned for outreach across the whole of the country and that several of their cities are among those most under attack at this time. Indeed, many in the church at Luhansk had previously fled in 2020 because of attacks by pro-Russian insurgents that hit their church building.

Global Ministries encourages United Methodists to give generously to UMCOR’s [International Disaster and Recovery fund](#) to enable United Methodists and other mission partners on the ground to deliver support where it can do the most good.

We pray with the people of Ukraine and all those affected by this campaign of war against its sovereignty within its own borders

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



# 2023 Fall Roast Beef Dinner

Thursday, October 5

4:30–6:30pm

## Sign Up to Volunteer:

[signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-fall2](https://signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-fall2)

or call the church office at 218-727-5021,

or sign up at the Roast Beef Dinner table in the Narthex

Sunday mornings in September

- The dinner will be 100% drive-through
- We will not be making chocolate chip cookies or cutting apples (apples will come pre-sliced from our supplier).
- Tickets will be available for sale in advance in the church office and on Sunday mornings.

## Opportunities to Help

**Wednesday, October 4, 9am-noon – Apple**

**Dessert Day**

- Bake apple dessert
- Put foil in to-go containers

**Thursday, October 5, all day – Dinner Day**

- 7:30–10:30am – trim beef, prepare coleslaw, wash dishes
- 10:30–4pm – wash dishes, put rolls in bags, prepare drive-through outside, help where needed
- 1-4pm – cut apple dessert and put in to-go containers
- 2–6:30pm – meat cutter, potato maker, gravy maker, corn maker, dishwashers

- 3:30–5:30pm – deliver meals
- 3:30–5:30pm – serving line crew (1st shift)
- 5:30–7:30pm – serving line crew (2nd shift)
- 3:30–6:30pm – directing traffic
- 3:45–6:30pm – drive-through order takers, car delivery volunteers, youth runners
- 4–6:30pm – dishwashers
- 6:30–8:30pm – dishwashers
- 6:30–8:30pm – cleanup crews (kitchen; drive-through serving area, inside and outside), volunteer room, roast beef dinner closet organization

*If you show up at different times,  
we will find a job for you!*

## Other ways to help

- Post fliers around your work and neighborhood (available at church office)
- Facebook, email, word-of-mouth—invite friends to dinner via direct invitation and social media
- Prayers—pray for a God-filled and successful event.

## This is a fundraiser

- Please purchase a meal before or after your shift. (Youth will enjoy dinner compliments of FUMC)
- We have something for everyone—ALL ages can participate!
- All volunteers: Please park on the west (day-care) side of the building.

## Thank you!

For additional information contact Cindy Hedlund at 218-348-2634 (text or call), email at [schedlund@gmail.com](mailto:schedlund@gmail.com), or contact the church office at 218-727-5021.



**First United Methodist**  
THE COPPERTOP CHURCH DULUTH, MN

230 E SKYLINE PARKWAY  
DULUTH, MN 55811  
218-727-5021

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
**4:30-6:30PM**

**\$ 15**  
**PER MEAL**



## **Fall Roast Beef Dinner**

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw,  
dinner roll, and a homemade apple dessert!

**DRIVE-THROUGH PICKUP ONLY**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 4:30-6:30PM**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
230 E SKYLINE PARKWAY, DULUTH MN  
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*A Reconciling Congregation*



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