

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.*

February 2024



*Where will following
the path lead you?*

**First United
Methodist Church**

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



Our First Family

Pastor Jeanine and FUMC: Thank you so much for all the support—the prayers and kind messages, the quilt, the gifts, gift cards, and donations. Please share our immense gratitude with the congregation. We feel very loved. Blessings,
~Sarah and Billy Davis and family

Thank you, FUMC, for your monthly donation to CHUM's chaplaincy program and for the general fund. Thank you also for the additional donation in December. CHUM started in 1973 with the purpose of overcoming the increase of hunger, poverty, homelessness, and isolation in Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood. Fifty years later we are still here, providing life-saving services to our most vulnerable neighbors. The needs are great and growing, and our services are expanding to meet those needs. Thank you for being part of our community.
~Grace Swensen,
CHUM Development Director

Pastor Alexander and Congregation: Thank you for your thoughtful note, blessing, and prayers. My faith life is core to me, and I believe God has called me to this work. Thank you also for all that The Coppertop does in our community—both a force for faith and civic good.
~Mayor Roger Reinert

—continued on next page

On the Journey With You

On Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day, we begin the season of Lent. Each year Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent by focusing our hearts on repentance and prayer through personal and communal confession. Here are some helpful things for you to know:

- Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter Sunday.
- Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays). The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness where he fasted and where Satan tempted him.
- The season of Lent is a time set aside each year for marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.
- On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality (from dust you have come and to dust you shall return... from God you have come and to God you shall return...) and marked with the sign of the cross.
- Some people give up, or take on, something for Lent to help them focus on their spiritual life. A devotional booklet for each day in the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday–Easter) will be available for you at church. It contains a short Scripture, prayer, and reflection for each day. You may also receive it electronically. Email the church office at: info@fumcduluth.com.

We will have dinner and worship together on Ash Wednesday (see article later on in the newsletter). At the Ash Wednesday service, we will kick off our sermon series, which will take place each Sunday during Lent. It is a study of the New Testament book of James. It is called, *Putting Feet to Our Faith*. We will look at becoming mature in our faith and putting our faith to action.

- **Ash Wednesday, February 14:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith: Introduction."

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: **February 21**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

• **First Sunday of Lent, February 18:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith #2: Developing Perseverance"

• **Second Sunday of Lent, February 25:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith #3: How Good Do We Need to Be?"

• **Third Sunday of Lent, March 3:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith #4: The Power of Words"

• **Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith #5: Smart Living"

• **Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17:** "Putting Feet to Our Faith #6: Patient, Prayerful Planning"

• **Palm Passion Sunday, March 24:** "From Cheers to Jeers... Is Feeling Good Enough?"

And finally, on Easter:
"Resurrection Rocks!"

I hope you will take seriously the journey of Lent and that we will grow together in this important season.

On the journey with you,
~Pastor Jeanine

Nyah Ratcliff

Nyah Ratcliff has been one of our nursery attendants since September. Due to her school schedule and weekend commitments, she will be leaving us. Wednesday, January 17 was her last day with us. The nursery will continue to be staffed with church staff and volunteers—and the beautiful, caring ministry to our children and families will continue.

Singles Event

Singles are invited to join each other for **Duckpin Bowling at Skyline Lanes** on Saturday, February 24 from 3:30-5pm. Singles of every age, gender, or station in life are invited to experience the fun and social interaction. We will all split the costs, and food is available at the facility.

Please sign up on the sheet at church, or by calling church, by February 13. We will need to confirm our number of people with the bowling alley.

Annual Meeting/Church Conference February 11

We will be having our annual meeting to elect leadership, take action on membership, hear the financial report, receive an update on the UMC, and have a time of connection on **Sunday, February 11 at 11:15pm following worship**. We will meet in Lakeview Social Hall over cookies, doughnuts, and coffee. All church members and friends are invited to participate. If you cannot come in person and would like the information sent to you, please let the office know.

Childcare and activities will be provided for children (5th grade and younger) in the Nursery and Theater Room. If you can donate two dozen cookies, please bring them to the kitchen before worship.

Ella Davis Update

Ella Davis (10 years old), has been diagnosed with B cell leukemia and is undergoing a stem cell transplant. Ella will be spending the next several months in the Cities for the transplant. Cards of love and encouragement can be sent to her and her parents (Sarah Walker Davis and Billy Davis) at Ella Davis, Ronald McDonald House, 621 Oak St SE, Minneapolis 55414.

Worship in February

February 4: Holy Communion and Spiritual Guides: Noah

February 11: The Difference Love Makes

February 14 – Ash Wednesday: (Soup supper, 6–7pm) Service in the Sanctuary and livestreamed at 7pm. Intro to the Lenten Sermon series *Putting Feet to Our Faith*.

February 18: "Putting Feet to Our Faith #2: Developing Perseverance."

February 25: "Putting Feet To Our Faith #3: How Good Do We Need to Be?"

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 livestreamed service on Sundays as worship is taking place
- Anytime afterwards on our [YouTube channel](#). Please make worship a soul destination this year!

From Our Faith Community Nurse

by Linda Wiig



Hello folks! This month I will be including information about the Minnesota Poison Control Center, located at Hennepin Health Care, where there are pharmacists and consulting toxicologists at the ready to address all kinds of possible poisonings. Everyone is urged to call them if they have any concerns about a possible poison that has been ingested or a possible

exposure. They are always there to answer your questions. Holidays or at 3am, seven days a week, they will respond. For many suspected poisonings or an actual poisoning, nine times out of ten they can keep you in your home with instructions on symptoms that could occur and recommendations about basic home remedies.

Approximately 36% of poisonings occur in children under six. More than half of the calls come from residences and over one-fourth come from healthcare settings. In teens and those above 20, more serious outcomes are seen, due to intentional exposures to poisons.

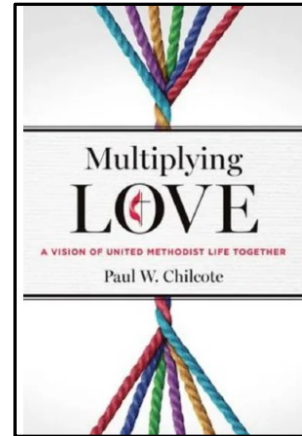
The top five substances involved in poisoning that are not drug related are household cleaners, cosmetics or personal care items, alcohols, foreign bodies (like toys and silica gel packets), and plants. In the drug category are analgesics, antidepressants, sedatives, antipsychotics, hypnotics, cardiovascular drugs, stimulants, and street drugs. We must keep all of these out of the reach of children.

Actions to take before calling the poison number:

- **Swallowed poisons:** If the product swallowed is burning, irritating, or caustic, AND the person is conscious, not having convulsions, and able to swallow, have them drink a small amount of water or milk immediately. Then get help from Poison Control.
- **Poison in the eye:** Rinse (irrigate) the eye immediately. Every second matters, with a delay resulting in loss of sight. Remove contact lenses, use lots of room-temperature water, and irrigate for at least 15 to 20 minutes. Let the water hit the bridge of the nose and gently run into the eyes rather than pouring the water directly into the eye.
- **Poison on the skin:** Rinse the skin immediately. Remove contaminated clothing first (that's clothing with a spill). Don't delay. Use lots of room-temperature running water. Use mild soap to remove material that sticks to the skin. **Important:** Rinse for at least 15 minutes.
- **Inhaled poison:** Move to fresh air immediately.

Stay Safe! For more information, consult the Minnesota Poison Control Center, 1-800-222-1222 for 24-hour emergency treatment, mnpoison.org.

Lenten Class— Multiplying Love



We will be reading *Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together*, by Paul Chilcote. There will also be weekly videos to facilitate

discussion. Our world needs love during these desperate days of radical polarization and division. Our United Methodist churches yearn to embrace love more completely because God first loved us. Our "faith" (including doctrine) is important; Christian "hope" (including renewal) is important; "love" of God and neighbor is more important. *Multiplying Love* underscores what matters most and helps us embrace anew the Wesleyan vision of love of Jesus as central to what we believe and how we live.

Thursdays 10am in person at FUMC
February 22, 29; March 7, 14, 21: in

Thursdays 6:30pm on Zoom
February 22, 29; March 7, 14, 21

- Please sign up at church or call the office, 218-727-5021. We must have at least eight participants registered in each session.
- We have copies of the book available at church for \$15. You can participate in the class without reading the book, but the book adds to the experience.

Class facilitators are Pastor Jeanine, Rev. MaryAnne, and Maryjane Burdge.

Our First Family, contined from page 2

A gift to light the church for the week of December 31 was made by Rebecca Peterson in appreciation of Linda Wiig. The gift will be shared with the Parish Nurse fund.

If you would like to contact Bud Hanson, his new address is 924 Bayside Bluff Road, St. Johns, Florida 32259, and his phone number remains 218-391-0162.

Thank you to Linda Wiig, who served as preceptor for Rebecca Peterson as she completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Thank you also to the other FUMC members who allowed Rebecca into their homes as part of this project.

Former FUMC member Peg Moore passed away on December 8, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy.

Thank you to everyone who has brought in empty egg cartons over the last few years for the Hulsts and Pastor Jeanine and Larry. Unfortunately their flocks of chickens have been either eliminated or greatly reduced, and they no longer need to collect egg cartons.

Thank you to everyone who participate in this year's Extollers, a handbell ensemble made up of anyone who is currently in, or has ever been in our handbell program. They had one rehearsal, then played for the evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Roast Beef Dinner Blessings Continue

You may wonder what we do with the leftovers from the annual Roast Beef Dinner.



• Shortly after the Dinner, we sent some leftovers to CHUM with a second batch delivered to them on January 5.

• Pamela Brown made soup out of the beef and potatoes to raise money for the curtains on the stage in the social hall. The soup was also delivered to shut-ins.

• The remainder of the food just multiplied! Pamela Brown was asked to take care of the leftovers. Her ministry to feed others with all of the leftovers was accomplished with abundant love and generosity.

We recently received this correspondence from Pat Benson, a staff member at CHUM:

“I’m happy to report that the roast beef you donated fed the crowd at the Warming Center twice! Last weekend was wet and snowy, and more folks came in to get warm. Folks from St Paul’s and St Michael’s joined together to make a meal complete with mashed potatoes, roast beef and gravy, corn, bread, milk, and five different cookies and bars to choose from. We had so much meat left that we sliced it up and served roast beef sandwiches on Monday!

Thank you for thinking of us. I think your offering was multiplied to feed about 125 people! Our folks are accustomed to getting food sometimes but usually not a meal like that. The smell of hot roast beef was competing with the smell of warm brownies when they walked in, and it set the tone for the whole night.”

What a roast beef blessing!



Children and Youth News

February

Nursery–5th grade

Sunday School – held at 10am on Sundays, February, 4, 11, 25

Children (K-5th grade) leave for Sunday School after the children's message in worship.

- **February 18 (Presidents' Weekend)** – Children will stay in worship. There will be a children's message, and activity bags will be available.
- **Nursery Care** for five-year-olds and younger from 8:30am to the end of worship

Wednesday Schedule

February 7

- Nursery care available 5-8pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible learning
- 5-5:40pm – Ringtones – 3rd–5th grade – Bell Room
- 5:40-6:05pm – Jam Music (3rd-5th graders) singing/drumming in the Chapel
- 5:30-6pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and younger
- 6-6:30pm – Dinner

February 14

- Nursery care available 5-8pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible learning
- 5-5:40pm – Ringtones – 3rd -5th grade – Bell Room
- 5:40-6:05pm – Jam Music (3rd-5th graders) singing/drumming in the Chapel
- 5:30-6pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and younger
- 6-6:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 – Tweens Group (3rd-5th grades)
- **7pm – Ash Wednesday Service with Special Kids' Activity**

February 21

There will be no groups or meal today

February 28

- Nursery care available 5-8pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible learning
- 5-5:40pm – Ringtones – 3rd -5th grade – Bell Room
- 5:30-6pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and younger
- 6-6:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 – Tweens Group (3rd-5th grades)

Youth – Grades 6–12

Wednesday Schedule

February 7

- 6-6:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30pm – Confirmation Class. Youth who are not in Confirmation may hang out in the Youth Room.
- 7:45-8:45 – Class Ring – Bell Room

February 14

- 6-6:30pm – Dinner

7pm – Ash Wednesday Service (Youth will help lead)

- 7:45-8:45pm – Class Ring – Bell Room

February 21

There will be no groups or meal today

February 28

- 6–6:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30-7:30pm – Youth Group
- 7:45-8:45pm – Class Ring

Looking ahead:

- Confirmation – Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm
- Confirmation and Youth Retreat – Friday, March 8, 6pm, through Saturday, March 9, 11am. (Confirmation, both Friday and Saturday; older youth, Friday only)

Thank You From UGM

Dear First United Methodist Church; Thank you for your recent donation to the Union Gospel Mission. Here at UGM we are driven by a belief that everyone deserves food, shelter, and hope. And because of the generosity of our donors, the Mission has been on that mission for over 100 years. Your thoughtful gift ensures we can continue serving our guests in a way that preserves pride and inspires belief in a better tomorrow. Because shelter fills a need and food fills stomachs—but hope fills the soul. Thank you for making a difference in the Northland!
~Katie Hagglund, Executive Director

Dear First United Methodist Church; thank you for your recent donation of toys and gift cards to the Union Gospel Mission. Your support helped provide gifts to over 250 local children this Holiday Season. Merry Christmas!
~Katie Hagglund, Executive Director

Bring Food for the Food Shelf on Communion Sundays

Every Communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month) we are asking you to bring a donation of food (or a monetary donation) for the CHUM Food Shelf. That way when we come to the communion table to be fed spiritually, we are also feeding others who are physically hungry. The Food Shelf cart will be available for donations. If you make a financial donation please note "Food Shelf" in the check memo or envelope and make checks out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.



Sustainability Team

The Sustainability Team will meet on Sunday, February 18, in the Library ten minutes after the service. All are welcome to attend and see what's going on.

MLK Breakfast Report

On Monday, January 15, the MLK Breakfast was held in our Lakeview Social Hall. Jean Walsh welcomed the community on behalf of our congregation and gave information about our sustainability practices (directions for composting/recycling).



MLK Breakfast held at First United Methodist Church on January 15.

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday, February 14—What a great way to spend Valentine's Day!

Ash Wednesday is the start of the season of Lent. At the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in our Sanctuary, you will receive the sign of the cross with ashes on your forehead or hand. There will be a special activity for children, and the nursery will also be available.



Preceding the service, at 6pm, there will be a soup dinner in Lakeview Social Hall. Please let the church office know if you are able to provide a crockpot of soup.

The service will be livestreamed at 7pm on our YouTube channel and will also be available to view later at your convenience.

A devotional booklet for each day in the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday–Easter) is available at church. You may receive it electronically instead by contacting the church office at info@fumcduluth.com.

Strikepoint Announces Japan Summer Tour

It's been a busy year of planning, budgeting, rehearsing, and communicating for Strikepoint, our touring handbell ensemble. This August the 11-member group will travel to Hamamatsu, Japan to participate in the 21st International Handbell Symposium.

It has been 38 years since Strikepoint last visited Japan. That was for the 2nd International Symposium, held in Gotemba. Many of the friendships formed at that 1986 event are still strong to this day. Three members of Strikepoint who participated at Gotemba are returning this year: Sue Marquardt, Nancy Eaton, and Bill Alexander. This year's event will host 700 handbell musicians.

The International Symposium is held every two years and rotates among the world's eight countries with national handbell organizations. Strikepoint has previously participated in five symposia—Japan, USA (Albuquerque and Orlando), England (Birmingham), and Canada (Toronto). It's going to be an exciting year!

Velda Bell to Play Lenten Recital

Velda Graham Bell will be playing an organ recital at FUMC on Wednesday, February 21 from 12:15-12:45pm. This is the first recital in a series of Lenten noontime recitals sponsored by the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. As you know, our Austin pipe organ has been undergoing various repairs and improvements over the last few years and it now sounds better than ever. The recital will include music composed by Louis Couperin, J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Frank Bridge, and Brenda Portman. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for the Arrowhead Chapter's Organ Scholarship Fund.

THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR WINTER TOUR CONCERT

Jill Mahr, *conductor*

Friday, March 1st
7 p.m.

SALEM COVENANT
2655 Fifth Street NW
New Brighton, MN

Saturday, March 2nd
7 p.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
230 E Skyline Pkwy
Duluth, MN

Sunday, March 3rd
3 p.m.

FAMILY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
16345 Polk St. NE
Ham Lake, MN

*Featuring a handbell quartet,
bell tree soloist, vocal quartet,
and a handbell premiere!*

Freewill offering



ARROWHEAD
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

THE ARROWHEAD AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

2024 LENTEN RECITALS

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM

DULUTH:

VELDA GRAHAM BELL
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN

GRAND RAPIDS:

JANET BILDEN, DARCY REICH & FRIENDS
ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
501 NW 16th St., Grand Rapids, MN

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.
ALL DONATION PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ARROWHEAD AGO SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

St. Olaf Handbell Choir to Perform at FUMC

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, from St. Olaf College, will be performing a concert at First United Methodist Church in Duluth at 7pm on Saturday, March 2. Admission is free but a freewill offering will be taken. This performance is part of their Winter Tour.



The St. Olaf Handbell Choir has an adventurous and engaging tour concert planned this year. The widely-varied program features original compositions and arrangements—everything from tangos to J.S. Bach, and a little jazz. A highlight will be the premier performance of "Fantasy," a fascinating work by student member Henry Rye '26. Another piece combines bells, vocal quartet, French horn, and piano. Ringer Katie Nail will solo on bell tree, and a handbell quartet will be performing as well.

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir was founded in 1983 under the direction of Robert Thompson, Professor of Organ. In 1985 the group was taken over by Norman Heitz, who equipped the group with the five octaves of Malmark bells that are used today. In 1993 the group was handed over to Karl Zinsmeister. Since 1995 the program has been under the direction of Jill Mahr and has grown to include four handbell ensembles: Jill directs the St. Olaf Handbell Choir and the Chapel Ringers, and the Manitou Handbell Choir and Valhalla Ringers are student-directed.

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir is the premier ensemble of the handbell program at St. Olaf College. The ensemble is an auditioned group that meets twice a week. On campus they perform for daily chapel and Sunday church services, student recitals, and an annual spring concert featuring all the handbell choirs. In addition, they regularly perform off campus at church services, retirement centers, and various concerts. They performed their first Kids'

Concert in 2007 and enjoyed it so much that they have made it an annual event. Sixteen years ago the group began touring—performing in many cities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa. They have participated in the critically-acclaimed St. Olaf Christmas Festival, premiering "Glories Ring," "Joyous Noel," and "Gladsome Bells," written for handbells and orchestra by former faculty member Steven Amundson. The choir has premiered over 30 pieces during Jill Mahr's tenure. The St. Olaf bell program offers an ensemble ringing experience (duet, trios, quartets) during the month-long January interim.

Women's Retreat, March 9

Hierarchical Patriarchy has long dominated Christianity and Western society; however today, thanks to feminist theologians and archeologists, we are learning more about goddess religions and the sacred feminine within the history of Christianity. Our radically exciting and informative women's retreat will be held at beautiful Camp Amnicon on Saturday, March 9, and will address the important re-emergence of the sacred feminine within the Church.



Lest you think this will be only a time of learning, there will be plenty of time for play, conversation, and enjoying the beautiful natural surroundings of Camp Amnicon. There will be delicious food and plenty of time for relaxation—knitting and such.

There is a limited amount of room, so we can only take the first 30 women who sign up in the office. Our day will start at 8:30am with breakfast served at 9am, lunch served at 1pm, and dinner at 6pm. You may sign up for any or all of the meals. Cost is \$12 per meal. There will be a one-time \$4 camp use fee for all participants. Therefore, if you come for one meal, your cost is \$16 (two meals, \$28; three meals, \$40).

Women's retreats are a great way to get to know other fabulous women in our church, so we do hope you will seriously consider attending.

MaryAnne Korsch and Anne Miller will be leading the program. Scholarships are available.

From the Welcome Desk

by *Mary Giese*,
Director of Welcoming and Hospitality

Hello, friends.

Mike Donahue, volunteer extraordinaire, shared a card with me several years ago for the Hospitality Team. It's the 5-10-Link Rule of meeting and greeting guests at church. It's a great idea to help us be welcoming to all that come to church.

5-10-Link Rule

(5 refers to time)

Fellowship and visiting with friends is so important in church. **5** minutes before the service starts, and **5** minutes after it ends, meet someone you don't know!

(10 refers to space)

Even if you are with a group of friends, when someone you don't know comes within **10** feet of you, reach out and invite them into your group!

(Link refers to connecting)

When you meet someone new, immediately link them to someone else based on some common affinity (occupation, home state, interests, etc.).

If we all practice **5-10-Link**, imagine how welcome our guests will feel and, in turn, how good we will feel, too. They will know for certain that, "We are the church with a welcome for everybody, always."

I want to share a personal note with you. As most of you know, my husband, Kent, passed away last August. His one request of our daughters was that they help me get moved to Grand Rapids before winter. The good Lord has His hands on us (and I believe Kent was encouraging Him), and what seemed an impossible task was accomplished by November 30.

I don't have the correct or adequate words to express my gratitude to the many people that helped us in some way. It truly was, and is, a sad/glad situation. I'm very sad to leave our home, our church, our neighbors, and our friends, but very glad to be in Grand Rapids with

our immediate family. That is a true blessing.

Pastor Jeanine asked me to continue working remotely while decisions are made about the Welcome and Hospitality position at church, and I am happy to communicate with anyone and everyone. Don't be surprised if there is a message encouraging you to volunteer for the Welcome Desk, or to be a greeter or a coffee host. Please change my information in your Church Directory. My address is Mary Giese, 21280 US Hwy 169, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. The phone number is my cell: 218-343-0171.

My prayer for each of you is Aaron's blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you." I wish the choir would sing that every Sunday! With love and gratitude,
~Mary

PS. The coffee pot is always ready for visitors!

FUMC Staff Finally Has Christmas Party!

by *Bill Alexander*

When you really think about it, December is way too busy for a church staff to have calendars clear enough to hold a Christmas Party. There are countless details on countless events, meetings, phone calls, Zoom sessions, bulletins, newsletters, mailings, bookkeeping, worship service planning, emails, and don't even get started on all that our musicians do in December! But they did it... sort of. On **January 11**, just a little bit late, they all met at Sammy's Pizza with gifts in hand and a Sammy's buffet on their minds.

It was so nice to get together with our church staff family without having to even think about deadlines, or Facebook, or whether the boiler was still working... well, a few may have thought a bit about the boilers.

I hope you know what a dedicated, caring, kind, knowledgeable, and compatible church staff we have. Except for the rare Christmas pizza in January, they constantly have our best interests in mind and heart.



Faith Forum for February

Our Faith Forum series continues on Sundays, in February from 9–9:45am in the Fireside Lounge.

February 4: Ukrainian-born Bogdana Krivigirsky, part of the UMD Community, will speak on her work on behalf of Ukrainian orphans.

February 11: Anne Schilling, Community Ed Director, on community learning and teaching opportunities through Community Ed

February 18: Reflection on the need, or call, to change our crazy world toward more life-sustaining cultures and economies: What does that mean for us personally? How can we help?

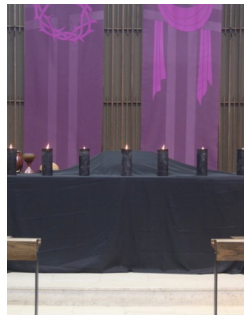
February 25: Beth Miller: Photography as a Spiritual Practice

New Leadership for Fine Arts Committee

After many years of dedicated service to Fine Arts at FUMC, Tina Farrell has moved on to another chapter in her life.

Adair Ballavance has stepped in to continue Tina's tradition of presenting our worship space in the best possible light. Adair would like all to know she is available for thoughts, questions, or interest in serving on this committee.

Contact Adair at adairsusan@yahoo.com or 218-340-1046.



Thank you, Adair, for taking this on, and thank you, Tina, for a job well done.

A Remarkable Street Outreach Story of Transformation

submitted by Sarah Maddy

A man, whom we'll refer to as Dave, came to Duluth in pursuit of better opportunities, a brighter life, and a fresh start. However, upon his arrival, both his housing and job prospects fell through, leaving him with nowhere to turn. This setback took a toll on him, and for two long years he struggled to make ends meet, experiencing homelessness throughout this time. He found himself constantly moving from one camp to another, never knowing where he would end up next.

For those two years, Dave endured the hardship of sporadic shelter and sleeping outdoors in the unforgiving Duluth winter. Many cold nights were spent in solitude, but he had his loyal companion, his dog Tisha, to keep him company. Then on one chilly autumn day, CHUM Outreach Worker, Deb Holman, stumbled upon his tent. Her heart ached at the thought of someone enduring the bitter cold outdoors. She promptly provided him with a sleeping bag, a warm blanket, and a gift card for a hot meal. While it was an arduous journey, Dave eventually secured housing. It wasn't for lack of effort on his part. Dave spent nearly the entire time grappling with homelessness, waiting on a specialized housing list. He endured almost two years on that waitlist, underscoring the severity of our housing shortage.

Nonetheless, Deb managed to assist him in finding stable housing. Today he resides in his very own apartment, along with his dog. He now has a comfortable bed to sleep in, a place to store his food, and a space he can truly call his own. CHUM is proud to have played a part in Dave's story, but they continue to encounter more individuals living without shelter. Regrettably they struggle to keep up with ensuring that these individuals gain access to the necessary resources.

This is why they are raising funds for the Street Outreach Program.

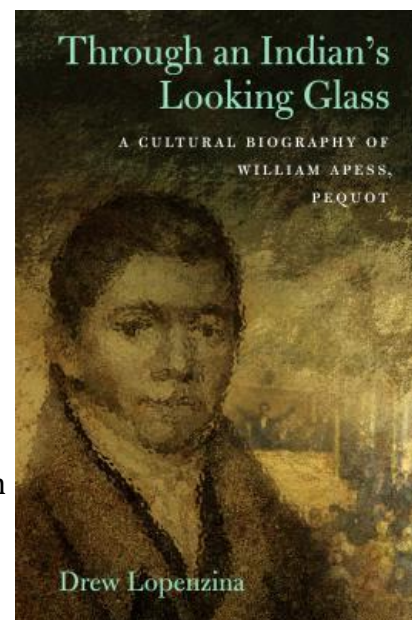
The Street Outreach Program needs your support. One person alone cannot care for an entire city. If we reach our goal of \$75,000, CHUM will be able to hire additional Outreach Workers, and those sleeping in inhumane conditions will get more of the support they desperately require.

With your help, we can make Duluth a more just and

compassionate community. With your support, we can end Duluth's rising homeless crisis. Let's offer vital support to those who need it most.

Gifts of cash or check (payable to FUMC and designated for Street Outreach) can be placed in the offering plate or sent to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811. To give online, go to chumduluth.org/giving.

included in his 1833 publication, [*Experiences of Five Christian Indians of the Pequot Tribe*](#). A major focus of both is on his early conversion to Christianity and on his calling and experiences as a Methodist exhorter and, later, preacher. Many of his writings, including the appendix to the latter volume, [*An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man*](#), challenge the white supremacy and racism common in his day.



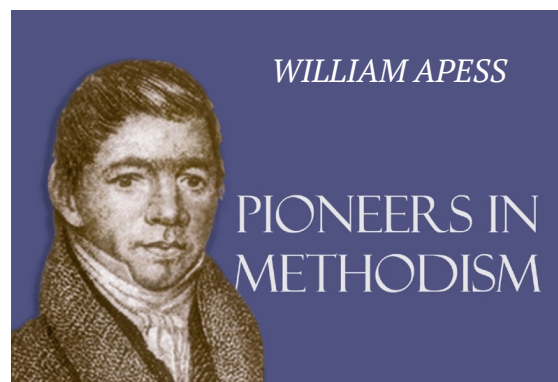
William Apess was born on January 31, 1798, in Colrain, Massachusetts. Early in his life, he was abandoned by his parents, raised by abusive grandparents, and became a ward of the town. The town put him under indenture to three different white families. During this time he received some formal education and attended various religious services, but found himself most drawn to the Methodists, in part because they were despised by higher class people who had shown disdain for him and his Native relatives.

While with the Methodists, Apess experienced conversion at age 15. He wrote, "I felt convinced that Christ died for all mankind—that age, sect, color, country, or situation make no difference. I felt an assurance that I was included in the plan of redemption with all my brethren" ([*A Son of the Forest*](#), p. 41).

But his sense of assurance did not last long. Persuaded to join the war effort (the War of 1812), he ended up serving at the Battle of Châteaguay, near Montreal, and found himself deeply impacted by the whole experience, and soon deeply affected by alcohol as well. His period of spiritual despond would continue for four years until he made it home in 1817.

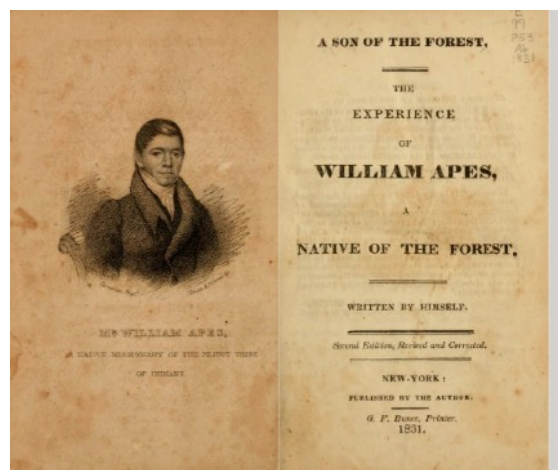
About a year after his return home, he began to discern a call to preach and began exhorting. He traveled as a day laborer, a shoemaker, and occasional preacher throughout southern Connecticut, living wherever he could find work. This way of life was common for many day laborers at that time. Married in December 1821 to Mary Wood, in 1825 Apess moved his growing family to Providence, RI, where one of his sisters was living. While there he became a class leader, was granted a license to exhort from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and felt called to become a missionary. Supporting himself and his family by selling religious books, Apess traveled throughout New England (including Rhode Island, Boston, and eastern New York), holding meetings and exhorting.

—continued on next page



William Apess was the first Native American licensed to preach by American Methodists. Photo from "A Son of the Forest. The Experience of Will Apes (sic), A Native of the Forest," courtesy of Internet Archive; graphic by Laurens Glass, United Methodist Communications.

William Apess, born among the Pequot of Massachusetts, was the first Native American Methodist exhorter in New England and the first Native American licensed to preach by American Methodists. He is also credited as the first Native American to write and publish an autobiography. That book, [*A Son of the Forest*](#), was published in



1829, then re-edited and re-released with a considerable appendix in 1831. A briefer version of the story was

In April, 1827, Apess attended the regional conference in Albany, NY, and applied for a preacher's license. The clergy session denied him the license, claiming they did not know enough about his character. Apess questioned their logic. How could he be known well enough to receive an exhorter's license but not well enough to receive a license to preach? In his writings he implies that something other than his character was the issue.

Disillusioned and disappointed, he decided to leave the Methodist Episcopal Church to join the newly forming and more democratic Methodist Society, soon to become the Methodist Protestant Church (1828). After becoming known among the Methodist Protestants, he was licensed as a local preacher in 1829.

Missionary and Advocate

Beginning in 1831, Apess was assigned by the Boston Methodist Protestant conference as a missionary to the Pequot Indians in southern Connecticut. He served as a missionary and preacher, traveling among the Pequot in southeastern Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

In 1833 he made a visit to the Mashpee, a Christian Indian community on Cape Cod—a visit that would change the direction of his life.

Among the Mashpee he became involved in their long-standing struggle against overseers who had been imposed upon the Native community by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Harvard College appointed its pastor, who refused to let the Mashpee (who built the chapel) use the facility for their services, and the overseers both controlled the land and exploited its natural resources for personal profit.

Apess worked with two others to write a declaration in July 1833 forbidding any further export of fur or timber by the white overlords. And in January 1834, he addressed the legislature of the Commonwealth on behalf of the Mashpee to dismiss the overseers, dismiss the pastor, support the creation of a system of self-governance, and repeal other discriminatory laws affecting them. In his address he enumerated many offenses of the overlords against the Mashpee people, decrying their cruelty and the long history of abrogating basic rights guaranteed in the Constitution. The petition asserted, "That we as a tribe will rule

ourselves, and have the right so to do, for all men are born free and equal says the Constitution of the country." In response Massachusetts released some of its control over their lands, supported the creation of local self-governance, and, while not dismissing him, ordered the Harvard-appointed preacher to grant the Mashpee, with Apess as their chosen pastor, the right to use the chapel they had built. In 1835 Apess published his account of the incident in *Indian Nullification of the Unconstitutional Laws of Massachusetts Relative to the Marshpee Tribe; or, The Pretended Riot Explained*.

Apess continued to serve among the Mashpee as these matters were being resolved, then moved to Boston. During these years he lost his first wife, Mary, but continued to write extensively, including his greatest political work, *Eulogy on King Philip*, which he delivered twice as a public address in 1836. In it, Apess offered a view of American history not as a triumph of pious British colonists, but as an ongoing struggle in which America as it had become had two founders of at least equal note: George Washington and Metacomet of the Wampanoag, more commonly known among whites as King Philip. This address drew more attention to him as a lecturer. By the end of the year, he had withdrawn from the ministry to launch a new career on the public lecture circuit around the Boston area.

A financial panic in 1837, combined with lawsuits and escalating debts, led him to move to New York City, where he hoped to make a new start with his new wife, Elizabeth. And he did. He was able to resume his livelihood as lecturer until his death in April 1839 from what may have been a stroke.

Pequot by family, Methodist Protestant by choice; missionary, preacher, prophet, and lecturer by calling; William Apess was a leader among Methodists and Native Americans alike. He was bold to proclaim the gospel of Jesus and to call Americans to follow their own Constitution, if not their Lord; to reject white supremacy and racial discrimination; and to recognize the full humanity and full rights of all people in this land.

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

Please use [this link](#) to read this story online with all of its links and comments in William Apess' own words.

FUMC's January Photo Album





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