

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 2024

**Renewal Leave
Begins May 20**

**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Photo by Douglass Buell



Our First Family

Gifts to Light the Church

During the week of May 13, our church's exterior will be illuminated to commemorate what would have been Mary and Kent Giese's May 17 60th wedding anniversary. A portion of Mary's donation will go toward the Memorial Gardens.

A gift to light the church for the week of June 16 was made by the 2x2s in memory of Pete LaTour. The gift will also benefit the doughnut fund.

A gift to light the church for the week of May 5 was made by the 2x2s in memory of Dolores Taylor. The gift will also benefit the doughnut fund.

Easter/Lent Giving Results

- Many loads of food donated to the Food Shelf
- Many blankets and warm clothes donated to the Union Gospel Mission
- \$1,472 given to the Food Shelf since January
- Just under \$3,000 for the Easter financial offering, split among the church, Harbor House, and NAACP

Thank you for your generous, loving giving! You make a difference!

On the Journey With You



You are such a loving, caring church! Thank you for making my birthday special and fun. And it wasn't even a significant birthday, although I guess every birthday is significant because each year is a gift. You are good for my soul, and I love being your pastor. I love you all!

On May 20 I begin my three-month renewal leave. I am going to miss you. But I also believe that this time away from regular ministry will renew my spirit in a way that will bless and benefit our congregation. And I think you will enjoy the variety of voices in worship you will experience this summer. Thank you for the gift of making this time away possible.

And now I have a gift for you. While I am gone, our own Reverend MaryAnne Korsch will be the pastor in charge. She will lead our church and be there to give you pastoral care and love. There is no one I would rather leave you with. Many of you know MaryAnne, as she has been a member of our church for decades. Her parents, the late Dick and Barbara Carlson, were beloved members here, too. Those of you who know her well already deeply admire, respect, and love her.

There is so much I want to make sure you know about MaryAnne. She is an educator, spending time both as a classroom teacher and an administrator. She has a theology degree and is an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church. She is a hospital chaplain. She is an accomplished musician: we often see her playing piano with Tapestry, and she was in Strikepoint for many years. In fact, among the bell ringers she is known as a "walking party." She has maturity, wisdom, compassion, warmth, humor, and is great fun. I consider MaryAnne a cherished and trusted colleague and friend. She is simply a stellar human being! She is humble so she will

First Family

First United Methodist Church

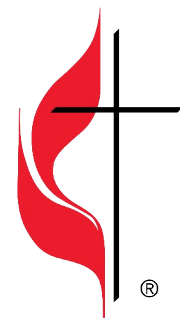
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
218-727-5021, Info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor: [Jeanine Alexander](#)

Editor: [Bill Alexander](#)

Next First Family deadline: **May 19**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

probably be uncomfortable with this article. But I want to make sure all of you know what great spiritual hands you are in. And I know you will partner with her in ministry over the summer and show her great love and care and appreciation just as you do for me.

As we move into the summer, be good to each other, and to yourself... find ways to show love in the world... know that God loves you deeply, and I do too. I'll see you on Sunday, August 25 when we have an outdoor picnic and come together as pastor and congregation once again.

Many blessings and much love. On the journey with you!

~Pastor Jeanine

The Journey Continues



Dear Friends in Christ,

I greet you this month as we prepare to make a temporary transition in our church's leadership structure. As you undoubtedly know, Pastor Jeanine will be taking a well-deserved and much-needed Renewal Leave, starting May 20, and she will return to us at our outdoor worship service on August 25. For 13 weeks this summer, she will concentrate

exclusively on strengthening ties with her family, resting, and enjoying life at a much less frenetic pace.

I have agreed to fill in during these weeks in her absence, knowing how important it is for her to have some time away, and knowing that our church will move forward much as we have in past summers. Our weekly worship services will continue to provide an opportunity for us to gather as the Body of Christ, learning and sharing life together. I will preach some weeks, and I have invited some guests to fill our pulpit as well. We will provide activities for children and youth as usual. We will welcome our intern Lydia Kantonen for the first five weeks of the summer, and she will assume leadership for some of those activities, along with Larry Ehresman.

The arrangement with our Staff Parish Relations Committee is that I will work half-time throughout the summer, as well as be available for a couple of weeks before and after Jeanine's leave, to give us time to transition well. In general, that means that I'll be in the office Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. I will use her email (pastor@fumcduluth.com) and respond to voicemails left on her office phone. I will collaborate with Linda Wiig and the lay pastors to make visits to the hospital or in homes as needed. I will oversee worship planning and participate in the committees that meet over the summer months. We have an excellent staff and a dedicated

cadre of volunteers who will continue to carry out the regular functions of the church. I am available for weddings, funerals, baptisms, or other rituals – but, of course, if you'd rather delay those events until Pastor Jeanine's return, I am completely in support of that.

For those of you who don't yet know me well, I offer this brief overview of my journey to ministry: Actually, my first career was in education. I served as a special education teacher, an elementary classroom teacher, a building principal, and a school district administrator prior to my (first) retirement. I graduated from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2016 and am an ordained Deacon in our Conference. I'll continue working at St. Mary's Hospital as an on-call chaplain throughout the summer, although I will limit my time there in order to be more present for our Church.

It is my deep desire to serve you well this summer. This is an opportunity for our church to carry out our ministry and offer our Pastor the chance for deep renewal, so she can return to us with restored energy for several more years of ministry in our midst. Please feel free to reach out by phone (218-343-8813), email (maryanne.korsch@gmail.com), or on social media.

Please make every effort to be in worship on Sunday, May 19, when we will celebrate Pentecost, high school and college graduates, our music ministry, and bless Pastor Jeanine as she prepares to depart for this leave. I look forward to seeing you then and throughout the summer months.

Together in the love of Christ,
~Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

From Our Faith Community Nurse



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 ingestion or a possible exposure. They are always there to answer your questions—holidays, day or night, seven days a week. Nine times out of ten, they can keep many suspected or actual poisoning cases out of the hospital, allowing patients to stay 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 health care settings. In teens and those above 20, more serious outcomes are seen as the poisoning is due to intentional exposures.

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

Actions to take before calling Poison Control:

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 eyes: Rinse (irrigate) the eye immediately. Every second matters. A delay could result 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.

For more information consult mnpoison.org; Minnesota Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 for 24-hour emergency treatment information

Blessings and stay safe, ~Linda Wiig
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Sunday 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.)
- 10am livestreamed service on Sundays as worship is taking place
- Anytime afterwards on our [YouTube channel](#).

May 5: Garden Sunday – We will celebrate Holy Communion and will continue our sermon series called *Brave Faith*. The focus this week will be "The Courage of Fortitude." *Following worship at our fellowship time, we will have the opportunity to thank Mary Giese for her years of service as our Director of Welcome. She has done an outstanding job living "welcome" in her every word and action.*

May 12: Mother's Day/Children's Music Groups – We will continue our sermon series, *Brave Faith*, and the focus this week will be "The Courage of Love."

May 19: Pentecost, Music Appreciation, Graduate Recognition, and Commissioning Pastor Jeanine for her renewal leave – Most of our adult music groups will be participating, and we will conclude our sermon series, *Brave Faith*. The focus this week will be "The Courage of Hope." Following worship there will be a reception thanking our musicians and celebrating our graduates.

May 26: Memorial Weekend – A focus on baptism. Our guest preacher is former FUMC member, Rev. Nancy (Wheeler) Handlon.

Annual Conference

The Minnesota Annual Conference will take place from May 29–30 in Bloomington, MN. Representing our church this year are Cindy Hedlund, Elizabeth Nelson, Kelby Werner, Pastor Jeanine Alexander, and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch. (Pastor Jeanine and Rev. MaryAnne will go a day earlier for pre-conference meetings.) Please pray for them as they represent First United Methodist Church.

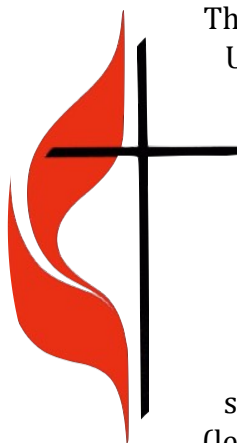
Annual Conference Love Offering

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 from May 29–30. 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. The Offering this year will help our neighbors, in Minnesota and around the world, heal from trauma and find safety.

- Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine; thirty percent will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network; thirty percent will go to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services' new Restoring Waters facility; and, each year, ten percent goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

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

The UMC General Conference



The postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, a denominational gathering of elected delegates from around the world, is meeting April 23 through May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is the gathering that should have happened in 2020 but didn't, due to COVID-19. We gather as a very different church than in 2019, the year of the last General Conference. At that Conference, the delegates voted to affirm a very traditional view of human sexuality and provide for a path for disaffiliation (leaving) from the United Methodist Church.

General Conference will gather, having had 25% of our churches disaffiliate. (The majority, if not all, of those churches held to a traditional view of human sexuality.) That changes the landscape of how the General Conference might speak for the United Methodist Church. Inclusive United Methodists are working to leverage this season in the United Methodist Church to officially become a place of welcome, love, and inclusion, while making space for our siblings in the Global Church to have a regionalized expression of Methodism. As President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, said at their gathering this week ahead of General Conference, "I want to see the next expression of Methodism arise."



Our congregation is ready for an officially more-inclusive United Methodist Church that mirrors the values we have established at First United Methodist Church. But even if that doesn't happen, we know who we are as followers of Jesus and of the inclusive ministry to which we have been called. We know what our values are as a local congregation and we will continue to live into them, no matter what. The Minnesota Annual Conference similarly has adopted a fully inclusive commitment and strategy. Let us hope and pray that the General Church follows this loving lead.

At a General Conference, delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination. Some of the key legislation include proposals to shift to regional conferences in The United Methodist Church, revise the church's social principles, and

—continued on next page

Graduates To Be Recognized On May 19

At the 10am worship service on Sunday, May 19 we will be honoring all high school and post-secondary school graduates. Let Pastor Jeanine or the church office know if you, or a family member, are graduating from high school, college or beyond so we can celebrate you.

We will need to know where you are graduating from and your future plans.

High school graduates: Following worship that day you are invited to lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings to connect with each other. Pastor Jeanine and Larry Ehresman will be your hosts.

—General Conference, cont. from page 5

deal with disaffiliation matters. You can learn more here: minnesotaumc.org/general-conference-2020

If you want to keep up with the happenings at General Conference, here is the primary source for accurate reporting:

resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020

You can watch the entire Conference livestream by going to resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/livestream

At the Sunday morning Faith Forum on May 5, at 9am in the Fireside Lounge, Pastor Jeanine and Rev. MaryAnne will discuss what is happening at General Conference.

It's Spring – Think Plants!

As all gardeners know, spring is an exciting time as we start planning our summer gardens.

We welcome all interested members to get involved in our many church gardens. We will graciously share our skills and tools with anyone who is interested in helping. Most needed this summer will be watering and weeding. Don't know a weed from a flower? Don't know how to use the church garden hoses? It's easy, and we will gladly show you.



- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 5 | Garden Sunday Geraniums and dahlias for sale |
| Thursday, May 16 | 9am – garden cleanup |
| Friday, May 17 | Rain date for cleanup |
| Thursday, May 30 | 9am – geranium planting |
| Friday, May 31 | Rain date for planting |
| Wednesday, June 5 | 9am – annuals planting 10am – mulch spreading |
| Thursday, June 6 | Rain date |

Please let Marlene Bowen know if you'd like to help in any way. Thanks so much! mbowen73@gmail.com, 218-343-1314

Roadside Cleanup May 18, noon-2pm

*Meet at the corner of Maple Grove and Midway Roads
(Faith Baptist Church parking lot) at noon.*

We will supply bags and beautiful yellow safety vests. Bring gloves and wear boots for the potentially wet ditches. Dress for the weather... we've had it all, including the perfect day!
Bill Alexander, bill@strikepoint.com

End of the Year

Picnic, Games, and More!

Wednesday, May 15
Food served 6:00-7:00pm
Outdoor Games 6:30-7:30pm

Picnic Food!
Chips!
Brats!
Hot Dogs!



This day is for everyone! Please feel free to come even if you aren't a regular Wednesday dinner participant. BUT, to make sure we have enough extra food, please let the church office, Pastor Jeanine, or Larry Ehresman know you are coming.

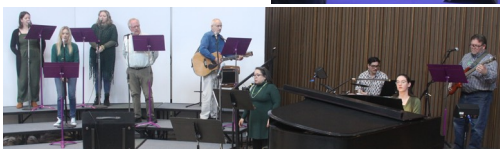
Music Notes

Thank you to First UMC's musicians for joyfully sharing their music with our congregation each Sunday. It is a great joy to lead these dedicated musicians.

Our "music season" is ending soon. The last time our children and youth music groups will be playing and ringing during a Sunday service is May 12. Jam, Ringtones, and Class Ring will all be part of leading music during this service. Then on May 19, all our adult music groups—Tapestry, Sanctuary Choir, Strikepoint, and Cast in Bronze—will participate in our annual Music Appreciation Sunday. We have wonderful and inspiring music planned for these services. You don't want to miss them!

May 15 is the last Wednesday rehearsal for all music groups. After that, our summer worship services will include musical offerings from soloists and small groups. If you would like to offer your musical talents on a summer Sunday, please talk to Velda Bell at music@fumcduluth.com, or 218-393-4006. She will be happy to sign you up!

With our gratitude,
~Velda Bell
~Bill Alexander
~Derek Bromme
~Beth Brophy
~Corey Hulst
~Leah Hulst



An Opportunity to Make Some Real Dough

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival Is Saturday, June 29.

We have pledged again to make 200 strawberry rhubarb pies, 100 coffee cakes, 35 large pans of rhubarb crisp (for their coffee shop), scones, and jam. All volunteers are welcome! Please feel free to invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help out. It has been a fun and lively group, and there are tasks for everyone.

FUMC needs volunteers to

- Pick rhubarb
- Make pie dough
- Clean and chop rhubarb
- Clean and slice strawberries
- Assemble pies
- Stir jam
- Clean up
- Mind the ovens
- Box, label, and transport to Holy Rosary by 5pm on Friday, June 28



Debbi King, Pamela Brown, Linda Harper, Paul Sapyta, and Anita Zager are leading the project. Send an email to anitazager@gmail.com to volunteer.

Make Pie Dough, Monday May 6 – FUMC Kitchen

9:30am–2pm: Mix, roll, and freeze – This is a new scheduling wrinkle. Come for an hour or however long you want. Bring your own rolling pin, or we have extras. Bring a buddy if you like. We are a fun group to work with!

Drop Off Rhubarb Beginning June 2

You can start dropping off rhubarb stalks on Sunday, June 2 after church. If you need someone to pick it for you, let us know and we'll send a rhubarb-wrangler to your home. Dropping off on Sundays and Mondays in June is best, but we'll take whatever you have whenever it's ready.

Kitchen Schedule in June

Every Tuesday – Chopping/Prep: 1–4pm (or, if your group would like to come after work, let us know)

Every Wednesday – Assembling pies: 9:30am–3pm – wrapping and freezing pies, making jam and coffee cakes

Festival Week June 24-28

- Monday, 1-4pm – Chopping/prep
- Tuesday–Thursday, 9am–3pm – pie and coffee cake assembling and baking
- Thursday afternoon – Boxing and labeling
- Friday, 8am–5pm – Boxing, labeling, baking, and transporting

From the Welcome Desk

by Mary Giese, Director of Welcoming and Hospitality



Hello FUMC friends.

When I applied for the Director of Welcome and Hospitality position in June of 2019, I felt it was an exciting opportunity, and I've enjoyed it for almost five years. My job is to meet and greet guests and visitors and to reach out and follow up with invitations for their involvement as it fits their needs. It has been a gratifying five years.

Guests come to church for a variety of reasons—here on vacation, curiosity, summer residents, someone told them what a great church this is, some are church-shopping, a church member invited them, others are one-and-done, and some say, "This is where we want to be," and are welcomed into our church family.



I love the tag-line, "We are the church with a welcome for everybody, always!" and I know that will continue forever. One of the things I most enjoy is seeing new members connect with established members. That is a real key to energy within the congregation.

Pastor Jeanine gave me a true lifeline the last few months. When Kent passed away, she gave me "grace and space" as I began a new and different reality in my life. Volunteers were recruited to help with the welcome tasks, and, as I was able, I reached out to welcome new folks and connect with members of the church in other ways. What a blessing in my life that has been. Thank you, Pastor Jeanine and all those who stepped up and helped in any way.

As of April 1, Greg Leiviska will be the new Office Assistant/New Member/Welcome Person, and I am very excited about what will happen now! Greg brings great people skills, is fun, and is tech-smart (Yay!, what a gift.). Please stop by the Welcome/Information Table to meet Greg and offer to help at the table on Sundays. You never know who you might meet.

As I share my last *First Family* message, I send "The Blessing of Aaron" to each of you again: "The Lord bless thee, the Lord keep thee, make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen."

~Mary

EarthKeeper

by Naomi Yaeger

Beyond Recycling: A Call to Prevent and Protect

As an EarthKeeper I often worry that people believe we can recycle ourselves out of the pollution problem. While recycling is fantastic, preventing the need for recycling should be our focus.

You likely already know about "Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce," but there's more we can do.

Refuse: Say no to unnecessary plastic and products with excessive packaging.

Resist the urge to constantly buy more.

Repair: Learn to fix things instead of tossing them out. Seek DIY solutions or advocate for repair-friendly laws.

Restore: Get involved in cleaning up polluted areas or supporting reforestation efforts. Every bit helps heal our planet. Our church participates in roadside cleanup. The next date is May 18, contact Bill Alexander, bill@strikepoint.com.

Regenerate: Compost, let parts of your property go wild, and support natural growth. Nature can thrive if given the chance.

Rethink: Support eco-friendly companies, buy locally, and regularly assess your consumption habits.

Review: Take stock of your actions, recommit to sustainability, and discuss with others. Our church reviewed and rethought our lighting needs and decided to replace incandescent and florescent lighting with LED bulbs.

Remember! Remember who you are and Whose you are: a beloved child of God. The very first commandment God gave humanity was to care for creation (Genesis 1-2). In your approach to all things created by God and by humans, remember you are a caretaker. Let that sacred charge be your guide.



These tips were provided by Crys of United Methodist Creation Justice Movement. Learn more at umcreationjustice.org.

Naomi is a commissioned EarthKeeper with the United Methodist Church. Contact her at 218-591-5277 or sun_dog_press@yahoo.com.

FUMC Recognized as Climate Justice Congregation

First United Methodist Church was nominated and received the Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) Climate Justice Congregational Certification for 2023!

MNIPL's Bret Pence, announced the recognition:

"Congratulations on your climate justice action in 2023! We are glad to certify you as one of 35 congregations and spiritual communities across Minnesota who are leading the way to change the climate crisis from a story of fear to one of hope. As you know, your commitment has never been more vital. 2023 was the hottest year in 125,000 years, and the structures of power and wealth that benefit from fossil fuels are doubling down on burning at an increasing rate. At the same time, our

collective witness—thousands strong in Minnesota—has led to unprecedented response at the federal and state level. From the largest federal climate legislation in history to our state committing to make all its electricity from renewable energy by 2040, we are healing the planet for ourselves, and our children, and their children.

"Thank you for enlivening the climate movement and bringing the critical lens of justice, values, and spirituality to our collective work. Communities like yours galvanize more people of faith, spirituality, and conscience to respond to climate change and heal our relationship with the earth. We look forward to our continued partnership. With gratitude for your leadership,

~The Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light Team"

FUMC was specifically recognized for our partnership in co-hosting the Paul Douglas climate discussion last fall, a "very large hosting effort from your congregation... The efforts of your congregational members Bob Krumwiede and Charlie Orsak in assisting with organizing the event were critically helpful to the event occurring at all."



What Happens While Pastor Jeanine is on Leave?

submitted by SPRC chair Aaron Boyson



As many of you know, Pastor Jeanine has been awarded a three-month renewal leave which begins next month.

This leave was approved by the church council, District

Superintendent Kantonen, and Annual Conference.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) also helped Jeanine forward a grant application to the Lilly Foundation, which she was awarded. This grant also gives us financial support to help ensure her leave away is as seamless as it can be. As SPRC Chair, I write this article in two parts: first to detail some things about her leave, and second to explain how First United Methodist will operate while she's gone.

Leave Particulars

Pastor Jeanine's last Sunday in church will be May 19, and her leave officially begins on May 20. She will return to Sunday worship on August 25. I write to let folks know how our congregation will be served in her absence.

You may recall most pastors in the United Methodist Church earn a renewal leave every seven years or so. Our pastor has not had one in 20 years. Needless to say, she deserves every ounce of this leave. Pastor Jeanine has said she is excited to take it so she can come back and serve our congregation for many more years to come. Meanwhile, we hope everyone will be mindful of the space she needs for the leave to actually be a leave. To assist that **please know that Pastor Jeanine will not respond to electronic communications (email/text/phone) while she is away, and we do not expect her to do so.**

Reverend MaryAnne Korsch will assume pastoral duties in Jeanine's absence. We are so incredibly fortunate to have her talents on hand, and she will provide excellent care and coverage. She will work half-time as our pastor, while staying on part-time in her current role as a hospital chaplain. Here's how she will do that: First, she will be in the office typically on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. In general she will take Tuesdays off. Second, while

not in the office, Reverend Korsch will be available for pastoral emergencies by phone, text, and by email. Importantly, all emails sent to pastor@fumcduluth.com will be received and read by Reverend Korsch (again, do not expect Pastor Jeanine to read or reply to emails sent to that address while she is on leave). Third, Reverend MaryAnne will be available to officiate weddings, funerals, and baptisms throughout the summer. Of course, these events can also be postponed until the fall when Pastor Jeanine returns. Please note that in case of emergencies, Reverend Korsch can and would be in touch with Pastor Jeanine.

Programming Coverage

Some may be concerned about coverage for the children and youth ministries, given Jeanine's role there. Rest assured all family ministry, including summer activities, will continue under the guidance of Larry Ehresman. Larry will continue in his role serving the children's ministry, aided as needed by Reverend Korsch, who also has a background in education. Our intern from last year, Lydia Kantonen, will also be hired back for six weeks this summer, which is wonderful for those children and youth who built relationships with her last year. All the rest of the church functions where staff are concerned will go on as normal. We truly are blessed with an outstanding staff who are well-equipped to handle things that come up while Jeanine is rejuvenating.

It deserves mention here that our dedicated pastor has taken extra strides to make sure we are fully staffed prior to her leave, and has thought through planning for summer and early fall so that her transitions away and returning will be smooth.

On behalf of all of us on the SPRC, I am confident you are as excited as we are to let Pastor Jeanine take these few months to restore and rejuvenate so she can best serve us when she returns. Please feel free to reach out to me with any staffing concerns at aboyson@d.umn.edu. Be aware that Reverend Korsch will step in immediately on May 20 to care for our congregation.

Let's Brighten Up the Coppertop

by Geoff Bell, on behalf of the Sustainability Committee



“Draw the lightbulb wide!”

In church we often sing the hymn “Draw the Circle Wide.” It’s an admonition for us to become as inclusive as we can be, inviting everyone to feel they are fully part of us.

I’ve been thinking about that hymn in the context of “Let’s brighten up the Coppertop” – our campaign to replace all our old lights with new LED lights. When she recently visited my class, Mindy Granley, for the City of Duluth Director of Sustainability, mentioned that her mandate is to reduce the city’s carbon emissions to zero. However, when she looked at the data, she realized that the city’s direct contribution to emissions is less than 30% of them – over 70% of emissions coming from our city are from businesses and people like you and me. Therefore, even if she completely succeeds, she’s only accomplished about 30% of the task!

What does this have to do with our “Brighten up the Coppertop” campaign? Well, if we succeed, we will indeed reduce our church’s emissions (and power costs), which is good. But we could have far more impact if each of us reflects on our personal electric consumption and finds ways to reduce it. For example, look around your house/apartment and see whether you personally have “old-style” (incandescent, CFL) light bulbs. For all those with “normal” lights (like the ones you find in table lamps), you could replace them with new LEDs for very little money and reduce both your carbon footprint and your electric bill.

If you have an electric water heater, MN Power is offering free kits to reduce your electric water heating costs. You can get yours by visiting mnpower.com/WaterKit.

Also, look for sources of “phantom power” usage. For example, when you turn your TV off, it’s not really “off,” but rather in standby mode, which STILL uses power. You could reduce your electric consumption (and carbon footprint) by putting your TV on a power strip and turning the strip off when you go to bed at night. This could potentially extend to other appliances too, like gaming consoles.

Since we have just celebrated Earth Day, let’s find opportunities to “draw the lightbulb wide” and take our carbon reductions from our church and into our homes, multiplying our impact.

Faith Forum in

May

COPPERTOP

FAITH FORUM

Our Faith Forum series

continues on Sundays in May from 9–9:45am in the Fireside Lounge.

May 5: Pastor Jeanine and MaryAnne Korsch update us on the latest from Annual Conference.

May 12: David Peterson discusses his African safari photos on display in the Fireside Lounge—and maybe his circuitous journey to FUMC.

May 19: Dan Schutte from Shore View Natives discusses replacing lawns with native plants.

Big Wave Dave and the Ripples

*Returning
This Summer to the FUMC
Parking Lot!*

Save the Date!

• **Monday, July 15** •

6:30-8:00

*Food will be available
starting at 5:30*

• **Rain Date, July 29** •

Children and Youth Schedule for May

Nursery–5th grade

Sunday School – held at 10am on Sundays, May, 5, 12, 21, and 19

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

Nursery Care for five-year-olds and younger from 8:30am to the end of worship

Wednesday Schedule

May 1

- Nursery care available 5-7pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible lesson
- 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

May 8

- Nursery care available 5-8pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible lesson
- 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

- 6:30pm – Tweens (3rd-5th grade)

May 15—*End-of-Year Picnic and Games*

- Nursery care available 5-8pm
- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music (nursery–2nd grade) in the Chapel, includes Bible lesson
- 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

• **6-7:30pm – Picnic Dinner (served from 6–7pm) Outdoor Games (inflatable... GaGa pit... more)**

A Look Ahead at Summer (Save the Dates)

• **Preschool Learning and Play Day:** Wednesday, June 26, 9am–noon

• **Day Camp** dates for students finishing K–5th grade: July 1–3 from 9am–4pm.

• **Family Night Out:** July 29, 5:30–7pm

Text Larry Ehresman, 218-260-9577, with any questions

Youth – Grades 6–12

Wednesday Schedule

May 1

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

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

May 8

- 6-6:30pm – Dinner
- 6:45–7:30pm – Mission Trip Info Meeting – Lakeview Social Hall
- 6:30-7:30pm – Youth Group
- 7:45-8:45pm – Class Ring – Bell Room

May 15—*End-of-Year Picnic and Games*

• **6-7:30pm – Picnic Dinner (served from 6–7pm) Outdoor Games (inflatable... GaGa pit... more)**

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

May 19 – Graduate Sunday

• Graduates will be recognized in church at 10am and will receive a gift.

—continued on next page

FUMC's April Photo Album



—Children/Youth continued

- Pastor Jeanine and Larry will take graduates out to lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings.

A Look Ahead at Summer (Save the Dates)

- Mission Trip – June 17–19 (for students completing grades 6–12)
- Helping with Day Camp – July 1–3, 9am–4pm

Friends are always welcome

Text with any questions:

Pastor Jeanine 763-443-0570

Larry Ehresman 218-260-9577





Summer Fun at First

CHUM Rhubarb Festival

Saturday, June 29
Holy Rosary
parking lot.

Ways you can help:

- 1) Donate rhubarb
- 2) Mondays in June: help prep rhubarb and strawberries in the church kitchen
- 3) Tuesdays in June: make pies and jam in the church kitchen
- 4) Rhubarb Week June 24-28: make and bake pies, crisps, and other goodies; box and transport pies

Email anitazager@gmail.com to volunteer.

Big Wave Dave and the Ripples

Monday, July 15 • 6:30pm
(Raindate: Monday, July 29)

Join us for a rockin' concert in the parking lot! Big Wave Dave has been such a hit in previous years that we asked them to come back again. A "Room at the Table" food truck will be on site beginning at 5:30. Chairs provided, or feel free to bring your own. Freewill offering will support CHUM.

Strikepoint Concert

Sunday, August 4
7pm

Strikepoint will be leaving this week for the 21st International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan, and will be representing the U.S. in a special concert there. Let's give them an enthusiastic send-off and enjoy some of the music they'll be sharing with the world! Admission free; \$18 suggested donation.

Ice Cream Treats following worship Sunday, July 21

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 25
10am

Our worship band, Tapestry, will lead morning worship in our parking lot overlooking our glorious lake. We'll celebrate Pastor Jeanine's return from renewal leave. Following worship, we'll have a picnic and a concert by Tapestry.



Fun for Kids & Teens



Save the dates!



**Youth Mission Trip
June 17-19**

Youth completing 6th-12th grades are invited to go on a mission trip to Minneapolis. We'll work on a variety of mission projects and still have time for lots of fun! Friends are welcome! Sign up at church as soon as possible or talk with Pastor Jeanine. There's a \$25 nonrefundable deposit to register.



**Preschool Learning
and Play Day
Wednesday, June 26
9am-noon**

Kids ages 2-5 (and their caregivers) are invited for a fun morning of activities, songs, projects, and stories. Don't wear your fancy clothes; there just might be glitter involved!



**Day Camp
July 1-3
9am-4pm**

Day Camp is for kids completing K-5th grades. There will be music, stories, science, and games in the mornings, and swimming, parks, and serving opportunities in the afternoons. Sign up at church as soon as possible, or talk with Larry or Pastor Jeanine. The cost is \$30; there's a \$10 nonrefundable deposit to register. Let us know if you need daycare before or after.

Teen Counselors Needed!



**Family Fun Evening
Monday, July 29
5-6:30pm**

All families and kids of all ages are invited for a pizza picnic. There will be supervised games and activities for kids while adults have a chance to visit.



First United Methodist Church

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