

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.*

June 2024

What are we
doin'?
Explore? Food?
Swimmin'?

What are YOU doin'?
Are you as excited as
Kevin to "just go"?
Find your adventure.

**First United
Methodist Church**

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

Photo by Sebastian Sørensen



Our First Family

A gift to light the church for the week of May 26 was given by Richard Gurske to celebrate his sister-in-law, Alice Gurske, who turned 95 on May 3, and his sister, Diane Ray (Gurske) Bottorff, who turned 79 on May 8. Half of the gift was designated to go to the Doughnut Fund.



Dr. Geoff Bell was awarded the Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year for his dedication to excellence in

teaching. Geoff said, "This honor is particularly meaningful since it was awarded by the top students in UMD's Labovitz School of Business and Economics." Geoff has been given this award three times! Congratulations, Geoff! Your passion and dedication are inspiring.

Alice Bubacz, our dear church



member and friend, passed away Sunday, May 12. Services were held Saturday, May 18 at FUMC. Many prayers and much love for Larry and family as

they miss Alice's earthly presence.

Thanks for the prayers, encouragement, and support during my recent total knee surgery. I am truly blessed by our church family!
~Helen Kampa

On the Journey With You

by Deacon Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Remember Your Baptism, and Be Thankful



What do you remember about your baptism? If you were an infant, you may remember the stories about your baptism more than the actual event; maybe you precociously splashed in the water or howled throughout the ceremony. Your family undoubtedly looked on with a mixture of pride and trepidation as they made big promises and realized the grand responsibility of bringing a child into the world.

I was baptized at the age of 12 at the former United Baptist Christian Church in Duluth—a beautiful old stone building across from St. Luke's Hospital that was recently demolished to provide more parking. In the American Baptist tradition, babies were dedicated in infancy, and baptism took place in early junior high. On that spring Sunday morning, I vividly remember stepping into the baptistry—the water was surprisingly warm and deep, and the white robe I had been given to wear swirled almost magically around my ankles. The pastor wore a black clerical robe and hip waders. After church we ate cake while my wet hair left a puddle on the floor.

Whether administered to infants, to adolescents, or to adults, John Wesley taught that baptism is a "means of grace," an important way that we experience God's love and care through the tangible elements of water and words.

In baptism we are named and claimed by God. During the baptism ritual, I often reflect on the verse from Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." This is God's promise to us: that we are included as God's beloveds as infants, before we can do anything to "earn" this position. We acknowledge that becoming people of God happens, in part, with the support of a faithful

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: **June 19**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

congregation who pledge to pray and surround the one baptized with a community of love and forgiveness. This is God's prevenient grace at work in our lives; before we even know we need it, that grace is poured out upon us like water.

Throughout this summer season, we will take time to reflect on the gift of baptism and how we can more fully live into our call, as people of God, to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." What a daunting promise we affirm when we say those words. As our Book of Worship states, "Baptism is an act that looks back with gratitude on what God's grace has already accomplished; it is here and now an act of God's grace, and it looks forward to what God's grace will accomplish in the future (page 81)." Let us embrace the healing and life-giving gift of water as we grow in grace and wisdom this summer.

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

The Coppertop Bazaar Returns

Mark your calendars!

We are excited to announce that the 2024 Coppertop Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, from 9am to 2:30pm in Lakeview Social Hall and surrounding areas.

The event includes over 30 crafters in addition to bakery items and a delicious lunch. There will be many opportunities for members of our congregation to volunteer to ensure another successful event, to again open our church doors to members of our community, and to support our local crafters. The Bazaar is an all-church event, and all proceeds benefit the ministries of the church in the Duluth-Superior area and worldwide. For more information, please contact Karen Alseth at kadal319@msn.com or 218-879-5194.

Watch for more information!

Sunday Worship in June

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](#).

June 2: We will celebrate our former intern Pastor Kelby Werner as he preaches on "God's Mission, Our Call." We will send Kelby off with prayers and love as he prepares to lead the Glenwood United Parish beginning later this month.

June 9: We will begin our summer sermon series on the book of Ephesians, this week with a focus on the "Riches of Grace."

June 16: Rev. Jesse Bale, chaplain at the St. Louis County Jail, will give us pointers on "Taming the Tongue" from the book of James.

June 23: Our summer intern Lydia Kantonen will share thoughts on "A Life of Service," including a review of the youth mission trip to the Ronald McDonald House, the Dignity Center, and Feed My Starving Children.

June 30: What did Jesus do when things got overwhelming? Rev. Tiffany McDonald returns to the Coppertop with wisdom about the need for rest and sabbath.

Lennon-Berini Scholarship Application Announced

For the last three years, the Lennon-Berini Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships in August for the current school year. Prior to 2021 the committee awarded the scholarships in December. Mr. Joseph Berini enjoyed presenting the awards in December while the students were possibly home for the holidays and attending church.

The committee recently decided to change the awards back to December.

Keep your eyes and ears open for further information on the Lennon-Berini Scholarship application that will come out in October 2024.

Terry Wallin
President/Trustee
Lennon-Berini Scholarship

From Our Faith Community Nurse



America is facing an opioid crisis.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, and most drug overdoses involve opioids. Among Minnesota students surveyed, the percentage of 8th and 9th graders who reported inappropriate use of pain medications (e.g., OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin) in the past 12 months has continued to increase. Inappropriate use among 11th graders remained steady from 2019 to 2022. And adult use of all opioids and illicit drugs has drastically increased.

Opioids are highly addictive, and they alter how the brain works. An overdose occurs when too much of the drug is taken. Many overdoses result from mixing prescription painkillers or heroin with alcohol or other sedative hypnotics. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It comes in two forms, prescription and unlawfully manufactured. Manufactured fentanyl is responsible for the increase in overdoses seen in Minnesota and nationally in recent years. A very small amount can be lethal.

Fentanyl is widely available, so it is often added intentionally or unintentionally to other drugs such as heroin or even cocaine and methamphetamines to increase profits and sometimes even without the user's knowledge. It has been reported that China is behind much of the fentanyl that comes into this country. Another drug, xylazine, is a long-acting sedative, but it is not an opioid. Using xylazine in combination with opioids like fentanyl can also result in an increase in overdose and death. The Minnesota Health Department reports that there were 19 deaths in 2019, and by the middle of 2022 there were 39.

Dr. Elizabeth Bilden is a toxicologist here in Duluth and has outlined signs and symptoms of opioid misuse or use. These include nausea, itching, pinpoint pupils, runny nose, impaired memory or attention, sleepiness, slurred speech, stupor, slowed breathing, being unconscious, and respiratory failure that can lead to death. If you or a family member comes across a person who is unconscious or is exhibiting the signs and symptoms, call 911 immediately. If the person is unconscious, try to awaken and check for breathing and pulse; if none, give two rescue breaths (if a shield is available, obtain an AED). Check for a pulse, if none, begin chest compressions and use AED as appropriate. If the person is breathing, place them in a side position and administer naloxone if available; wait 2–3 minutes and if the person doesn't awaken, repeat the dose again. If the person appears to have overdosed, always administer naloxone.

Xylazine is a sedative and does not respond to naloxone, but it is usually found to be in combination with fentanyl, which does respond to naloxone. Naloxone is available over the counter at Walmart, CVS, Target, and Walgreens. Minnesota has a Good Samaritan law which covers any person giving naloxone. If you know of someone who is a drug user and possibly a family member, it would be prudent to have naloxone on hand. The nasal spray is the easiest to use.

A preventative measure is the use of fentanyl strips, which can detect fentanyl in any type of pill that could contain fentanyl. If you have received any type of opioid from your health care provider and you do not use all of it, return it to the pharmacy to keep away from children.

Blessings, ~Linda Wiig

Spring Roadside Cleanup Completed

On May 18 six volunteers from FUMC cleaned two miles of Maple Grove Road, between Lindahl and Solway Roads. It took the team two hours to complete the job, removing ten garbage bags' worth of litter.

The fall cleanup will be in October. We hope you will be willing to help protect our planet and make it a better place to live—one small bit at a time.



Music Notes

Even though it's summer, music doesn't sleep at FUMC! Special music groups and individuals continue to offer their gifts of music during each of our summer services. In addition, we are creating or sponsoring many musical opportunities to enrich our summer months.

Northern Lights Music Festival Concert Saturday, July 13 at 3:00pm at FUMC

Music students from the Northern Lights Music Festival return to our church to perform some of music they have polished and performed during the three-week classical music festival that takes place each summer on the Iron Range. Featured on the program will be both chamber music and music for solo piano performed by outstanding young musicians from all over the country. The concert is free with a freewill donation.

Big Wave Dave and the Ripples Monday, July 15 at 6:30pm, FUMC Parking Lot



Don't miss out on this summer parking lot celebration featuring Duluth's finest R&B/soul/funk band. The "Room at the Table" food truck will be selling food beginning at 5:30pm. Chairs are provided, or feel free to bring your own. We will take a freewill offering to support CHUM. The rain date is Monday, July 29.

Strikepoint's Japan Send-Off Concert Sunday, August 4 at 7:00pm at FUMC

Strikepoint will be leaving the week of August 4 to attend 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.

Tapestry Concert

Sunday, August 25 following morning worship

Our worship band, Tapestry, will lead our Sunday worship service in the parking lot overlooking our glorious lake. Following worship, Tapestry will play a concert filled with some of their favorite tunes (and ours too!).

Pipe Organ News



Our organ refurbishment project is nearing completion! If you wander up to the balcony, you'll see that the upstairs console is now on a dolly, and its "guts" are being reinstalled! This will bring the console up to 21st-century technology standards, like the main level console.

In anticipation of the completion of the project, FUMC will host a celebratory organ concert on **Sunday, November 3 at 3:00pm**. Our guest organist is Dr. Isabelle Demers, Professor of Organ at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, and one of the premier concert organists in North America. Our organist, Velda Graham Bell, has heard her in concert before, and this should be a delightful afternoon of music. Book your calendars now! Additionally, our morning worship service on November 3 will include a time to "rededicate" our organ, acknowledging the individuals who have helped to make this refurbishment possible.

Strikepoint to Represent the U.S.

Strikepoint has been selected by the Handbell Musicians of America to represent the United States in a special public concert being held during the International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan. The concert will feature just one group from each of the eight recognized national handbell guilds or organizations around the world.

The piece Strikepoint has elected to play was written for Strikepoint by internationally recognized composer Hart Morris and dedicated to the memory of Cindy Alexander, co-founder and eternal driving force of Strikepoint. *Strollin' Along* was commissioned by Bill Alexander, Strikepoint, and, unusually, by the composer.

The Symposium happens every other year and rotates among the member countries. Strikepoint will be in Japan from August 8-18 but will present a send-off concert at FUMC at 7pm on August 4.



Hamamatsu 2024



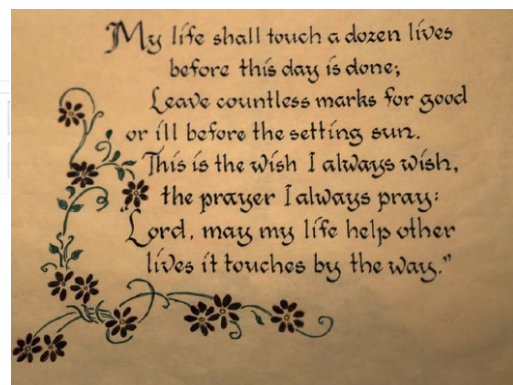
From the Welcome Desk

by Mary Giese, Outgoing Director of Welcoming and Hospitality



Dear FUMC Family;
Thank you for the wonderful service and special treats on Sunday May 5. Everything you shared—music, hugs, conversation, beautiful cards, the orchid, and flowers from the Memorial Gardens—all touched me and my family deeply.

*"My life shall touch a dozen lives
before this day is done;
Leave countless marks for good
or ill before the setting sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
the prayer I always pray:
"Lord, may my life help other
lives it touches by the way."*



My dad had the prayer/poem above in his study as long as I can remember. The author is anonymous. I share it with you (again), and thank you for touching my life in our 35 years at FUMC.

Love,
~Mary

Youth Mission Trip

Fourteen young people from our congregation, plus three adult chaperones, will spend three days later this month engaged in mission projects around the Twin Cities. From June 17-19, they will support the Ronald McDonald House, the Dignity Center (a community outreach program from Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church), and Feed My Starving Children. In between service projects, they will enjoy some fun recreational activities and shared meals as well. Our summer intern, Lydia Kantonen, will be leading the trip. Please be in prayer for our students and their adult chaperones for meaningful experiences and safe travel. We will hear more about their adventures in worship on June 23.

FUMC Rolls Out QR Code

FUMC, in an effort to add an additional and convenient way to give online, has begun placing this QR code in multiple places, including our website, Facebook, bulletins, and even on projections during services. Simply focus your phone camera on the code and click the link.



Welcoming Our New Members

David Hoffman



David loves cycling, enjoys eating in fine culinary establishments (that's why he goes to the Cities often), and is already singing in our church choir. Kevin Walsh first brought him to FUMC.

Why FUMC: "I have a desire to be in a healing community. This is such a place!"

Pamela Montz



Pamela is retired from University of Wisconsin, where she worked doing lake monitoring research. She moved from northern Wisconsin to Duluth 14 months ago, one week before her grandson was born. Her son, Will, and daughter-in-law,

Kate are members here.

She chose FUMC because it is such a welcoming church with a strong focus on serving the community.

Marla Yoho



Marla has lived in the Twin Cities, Florida, and Brainerd over the last 48 years, and has been the clerk of a township along Gull Lake in Brainerd for the last 31 years—a job she's still doing on a more remote basis. She and her husband have two children, who both live in Colorado, and three

grandchildren.

They lost their first business in Hurricane Andrew and have lived through major damage in Hurricanes Charley and Ian. She has just gone through the process of building a house in Superior.

Marla first came to this church when she was 12 and became involved with the youth fellowship program. She was confirmed, married, and baptized her daughter in this church, and even sang in the

choir. She then moved away for 48 years and never found that same sense of belonging again. Now that she is a widow, she has moved back to the area and has again found the sense of community that this church provides.

She really enjoyed the camaraderie of recently making more than 250 pie crusts with other church members for the Rhubarb Fest!

Matthew and Julie Moses



Julie loves to sing and is in our choir, loves anything in the arts, running, being outdoors, and camping. She also enjoys going on photography excursions with her husband. She

works at Piedmont Dental as a treatment coordinator.

Matt is a part-time professional photographer, a consultant at IBM, and an adjunct professor at The College of St. Scholastica. He loves running and board games and is an aurora and space weather chaser. He also dabbles with painting.

Matt and Julie are the parents of two college kids and two middle schoolers.

An Early Reminder

The Ardath Gibson Scholarship Selection Committee is inviting all eligible students to plan ahead.

To be eligible to apply for the Ardath Gibson Scholarship, one must be a member of First United Methodist Church or have a family member in the church membership. The applicant must be pursuing, at the undergraduate or graduate level, a degree in health care, the physical sciences, or business. The Ardath Gibson Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee will have discretion in determining if the applicant's studies meet these criteria. To apply, one must have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The First United Methodist Church's Memorial Funds Committee, which oversees the Ardath Gibson Scholarship Fund, encourages all individuals who meet the criteria to apply.

There will be a formal announcement in *First Family* detailing the criteria, the application process, and the award date. Stay tuned.

Congratulations to Our High School and Post Secondary Graduates

High School Graduates

Grace Abbott



Grace is graduating from Proctor High School and plans to attend The College of St. Scholastica.

Abbi Adamec



Abbi is graduating from Hermantown High School and is planning to attend Northwood Technical College for architecture commercial design.

McKenzie Ball



McKenzie is graduating from Duluth East High School. She plans to attend The University of Minnesota Duluth, working toward veterinary school.

Jamie Ehresman



Jamie is graduating from Proctor High School, and plans to study maintenance engineering and join the National Guard.

Izy Fairchild



Izy will be graduating from Hermantown High School and plans to attend Bemidji State University, where she will play hockey and study sports management.

Marcus Gutman



Marcus is graduating from Proctor High School. He plans to attend Fond Du Lac Tribal Community College to study criminal justice.

Niklas Jeannette



Niklas is graduating from Duluth East High School and plans to attend Lake Superior College. He is interested in learning more about property management, real estate, and business.

Kiki Langdon-Larson



Kiki will be graduating from Duluth East High School. This summer she is going to be an exchange student in Germany. She plans to attend Hamline University, where she will study criminology and forensic psychology.

Sofia Orman



Sofia is graduating from Duluth East High School. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to study environmental sciences, either with a major in political science on a pre-environmental law track, or biology on a wildlife veterinary track.

Ella Walker



Ella will be graduating from Proctor High School and plans to attend the University of Sioux Falls to major in business administration and sports marketing and management. She will also be playing volleyball.

Post Secondary Graduates

Anna Abbott

Anna graduated from The College of St. Scholastica with an MBA.

Mitchell Boyson

Mitchell graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN with two majors: physics and math.

Holly Brown

Holly graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a degree in studio art. She hopes to illustrate children's books.

Rachel Frost

Rachel graduated *magna cum laude* from North Dakota with a masters degree in nursing. She will be working as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

Jacob Ginocchio

Jacob graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a BA in music and a BS in computer science with academic honors.

Riley Hinnenkamp

Riley graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance with emphasis on classical art song and choral conducting. He plans to join local music ensembles to sing and perform as often as possible and intends to explore options to open a private voice lesson studio.

Ben Hintzman

Ben graduated from Harvard with a Bachelor of Mathematics degree and will be pursuing a Master of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Julie Hulst

Julie graduated from Lake Superior College working toward an RN license. She is planning to work in women's health.

Josephine Peterson

Josephine graduated from Loyola University – Chicago, Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She is now studying to pass the board exam to become an RN.

Carrie Rossow

Carrie graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Masters of Education in parent and family education.

Annika Swanson

Annika graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an associate degree in applied sciences—vehicle refinishing and repair.

Kelby Werner

Super Rhubarb Festival

The Super Rhubarb Festival will happen from 9am–3pm on Saturday, June 29 at Stella Maris Academy (Holy Rosary Campus).

CHUM's Rhubarb Festival started as a way to turn an abundant resource (rhubarb) into a fundraiser for the ministries of CHUM, but also a great place to gather all the congregations to work and play together and to get to know each other. It takes hundreds of us to make this happen! There are a lot of different volunteer shifts available, from June 1 through July 1.

Use this link (which includes specific tasks, dates, and times) to sign up to volunteer for the Super Rhubarb Festival:

chumduluth.org/rhubarbfestival

Job Opening at IET

The NAACP's Ignite Empower Transform Foundation, who received part of our Easter offering, is looking to hire a



Community Coordinator to get their Economic Empowerment Center up and running. Their vision is centered on cultivating economic safe spaces and services that empower generational success and wealth, ultimately leading to a sustainable and thriving ecosystem for BIPOC communities.

They are looking for someone experienced with program development, who is passionate about social justice, community empowerment, and cultural inclusivity.

To learn more, please follow the link to the job description.

[View Posting Online](#) [Download PDF of Posting](#)

CHUM Rhubarb Schedule

CHUM Rhubarb Festival Prep Schedule at FUMC

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 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. Any church group is welcome to sign up for a block of time. Many hands make light work! There are tasks for everyone. Please sign up by emailing anitazager@gmail.com or on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex at church.

FUMC needs volunteers to

- Pick rhubarb
- Work in the church kitchen
- 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.

Drop Off Rhubarb Beginning June 2

If you need someone to pick rhubarb for you, let us know and we'll send a *rhubarb wrangler* to your home! Rhubarb drop-off on Sundays and Mondays in June are best, but we'll take whatever you have whenever it's ready.

Kitchen Schedule in June

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

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

Festival Week 24-28

Monday, 1-4pm – Chopping/prep

Tuesday–Thursday, 9–3pm – Assembling and baking pies and coffee cakes

Thursday afternoon – Boxing and labeling

Friday, 8am–5pm – Boxing, labeling, baking, and transporting

Thank You and Invitation From NAACP

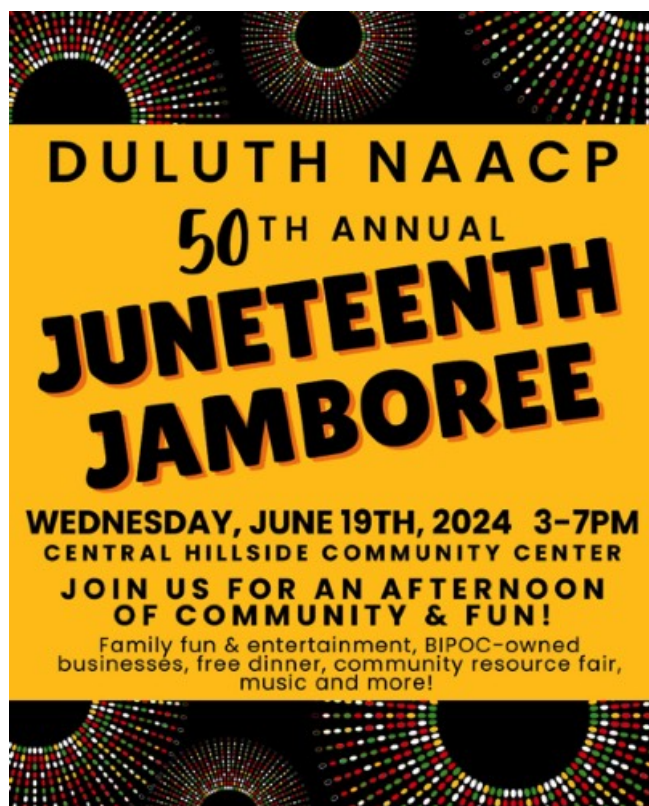
submitted by Sarah Maddy

As a member of the Duluth Branch NAACP, I am delighted to announce that FUMC has contributed \$200 to support the Juneteenth Jamboree this year.

Help spread a message of welcome and joy to friends and allies by word of mouth or on social media. Volunteers and donations of any amount, big or small, are needed for this free family event. Add your gift marked “NAACP” to the offering plate, or send it to the church office anytime.

Roughly 30 volunteers are needed to be sure the celebration runs smoothly by doing everything from cleaning up the park before the event to serving food. In-kind donations are also greatly appreciated (plates, cups, silverware, trash bags, etc.). Please email juneteenth@duluthnaacp.org to offer your help.

In celebration and gratitude, I invite Coppertop Church folks to join me in supporting the Juneteenth Jamboree—a joyful and loving opportunity to build relationships and show solidarity with all who advocate for justice.





**First United
Methodist**

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



**SUMMER
PARKING LOT CONCERT
AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



MONDAY, JULY 15

(rain date July 29)



6:30 - 8 PM

**Freewill donations will cover
concert expenses and support CHUM.**

Chairs available, or bring your own!

Room at the Table food truck beginning at 5:30.

Activities for children.

Justice Ministries

Mission Team members joyfully announce gifts made to local outreach



Our 2024 Lent/Easter offerings have been shared with gifts in the amount of \$727.50 each to Harbor House, a ministry of

Faith United Methodist Church, and to Duluth Branch NAACP's Ignite Empower Transform Foundation.



In addition, contributions to Stepping On Up totaling \$1,087 were sent to CHUM in May. Tim Zager reports that Stepping On Up is actively engaging its Three-Phase Plan to address chronic

homelessness in Duluth. The pace has not slowed in working toward the five-year vision to increase affordable and safe supportive housing options.

The Three Phases

- Establish outdoor safe place ("Safe Bay") for those living in vehicles and tents
- Establish "shelter next" style of indoor buildings (multi-unit living modules in shared building)
- Facilitate community-oriented, permanent housing

Phase 1 was launched with the first location in the Damiano Parking Lot. The city has been slow at identifying more spaces suitable for supervised locations where hygiene stations and service delivery can be coordinated.

Phase 2 was initiated in February 2024 with the first of two 12-efficiency unit buildings set into the ground at "Plover Place" just off of Central Entrance. In addition, a former education wing at Peace Church is being remodeled for dedicated use as a young adult supervised residence/shelter.

Phase 3, a permanent housing approach, will require ongoing planning and multiple partners to develop processes and resources. Strong advocacy for funding remains a critical tool.

Stepping On Up is actively engaging its plan, and our gift will be put to immediate use.

As a congregation dedicated to serving our community, we can celebrate the generous spirit

that makes these gifts possible.

Stepping On Up leaders advocate for investment in current affordable housing projects



The City Council is split on how best to use the unspent \$3.9M provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. These dollars need to be dedicated to projects by the end of the year, and we

expect the matter to be taken up by City Council in June. Some Council members want the funds given to HRA for housing uses, whereas the city administration is proposing it be given to DEDA for economic development and/or housing.

The 2019 Maxfield Housing Study identifies a Duluth need of 1,031 market rate units and 3,509 affordable + senior housing units. (Affordable in this context is tiered, beginning with a single person household earning \$50,000 or less.) To date, Duluth has added or is currently adding 3,963 market rate units, while only 838 affordable + senior units have been added. This leaves a shortfall of 2,671 affordable housing units. A group of providers in the city, representing the homeless and housing, contend that the \$3.9M should be dedicated to current projects specified to provide shelter and affordable housing units within the next 9–18 months.

Now is the time to speak up for people who need a home. Contact your City Council members today at council@duluthmn.gov, urging them to allocate funds to HRA to secure these dollars for affordable housing projects in progress.

1st District Wendy Durrwachter

2nd District Mike Mayou

3rd District Roz Randorf

4th District Hannah Alstead

5th District Janet Kennedy

At-Large: Lynn Marie Nephew, Arik Forsman, Azrin Awal, Terese Tomanek

Minnesota Government Data Practices Warning: Emails sent to council@duluthmn.gov are classified as PUBLIC DATA and released to the public.



Our Mission
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision
Grow in Love of God and Neighbor
Reach New People
Heal a Broken World

Expression of Our Vision as Lived Out Values
Rooted in Jesus
Grounded in Wesleyan Theology
Inclusive of All Persons
Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

April 15, 2024

Dear First United Methodist Church Duluth,

In unison with your sister congregations of the Minnesota Conference, thank you for paying 100% of your 2023 apportionment allocation! You generously support congregational ministries and local missions. This giving is truly, "a portion meant" for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual, no one church could accomplish alone.

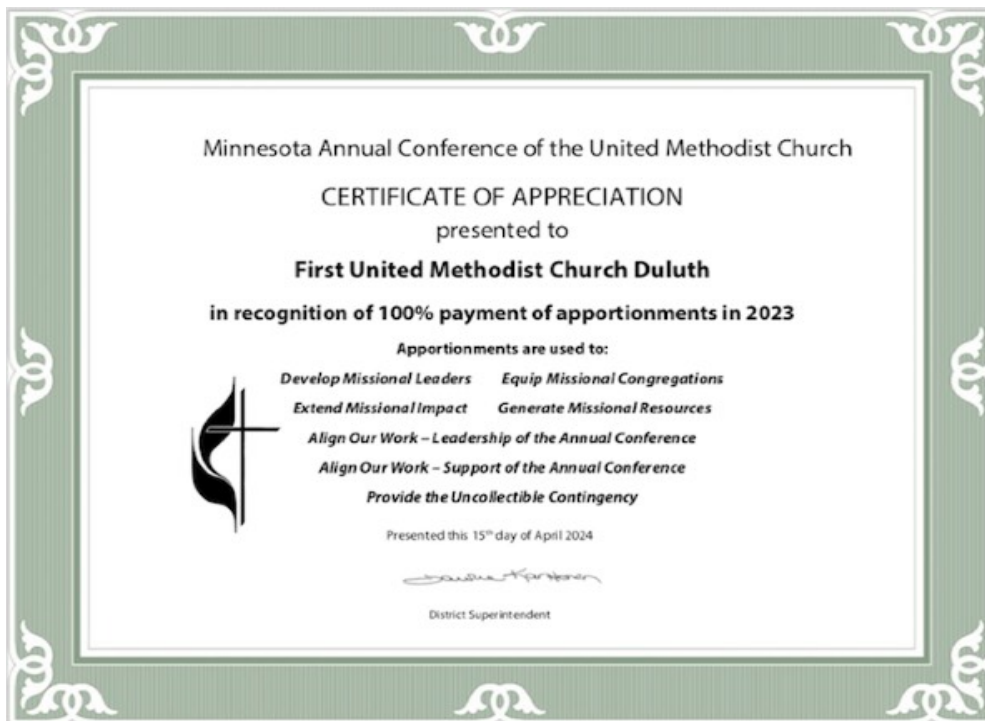
We are living through times that challenge our understanding of how to be in ministry, but we know that we are always stronger together. As we accept the challenge to envision and embody church in new and nimble ways, I am awed by the creativity and commitment I see in our North Star District congregations. As United Methodists, we faithfully strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – disciples that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training, and support for this vision to bear fruit in and through our local churches. Yes, we're in this together and together we are making a difference!

I know such dedication does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship, and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! Thank you for the impactful ministry in which you are engaged! It is an inspiration to serve with you as a partner in offering Christ's light and love.

With joy and appreciation,

Rev. Laurie Kantonen
District Superintendent, North Star District

Ianette Plambeck, Resident Bishop • Laurie Kantonen, District Superintendent
www.minnesotamc.org/northstar
122 W. Franklin Avenue, Suite 400 • Minneapolis, MN 55404 • 612-230-6144



ASSE Looking for International Host Families

My name is Allie Davies, and I am the local area representative for the American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE) here in the Northland of Minnesota and Wisconsin. ASSE is a fully accredited international student exchange program and we are looking for local host families in Northern Minnesota for high school students 15–18 years old. asse.com/home/

These students come from countries all over the world, and I think that the community surrounding the Coppertop would be perfect stewards for these students. I have attached a poster with some additional information and I'm also open to joining a meeting where I can introduce the program to your community and give them additional information.

Thank you,
Allie Davies
651-785-4747, asse.com



FUMC's May Photo Album



Blessing Mary Giese

Stories to Share

Happy Mother's Day
Thank you for everything
I love you





General Conference Highlights

A message from Bishop Lanette Plambeck

At the conclusion of the postponed 2020 General Conference, I give thanks to God, to our Dakotas and Minnesota delegations, and to United Methodists from around the world who demonstrated what it means to engage in holy conferencing at the intersections of our diversity. The Holy Spirit broke through in powerful ways, and it was a gift to be able to witness how delegates worked together to discern a way forward for our beloved Church. Throughout this gathering, persons from across the theological spectrum, all deeply committed to the now and future United Methodist Church, showed us that we can indeed lead and live together as the body of Christ.

We engaged over 1,000 pieces of legislation that will guide and ground us as we move forward, dedicated to growing in our personal relationship with God and in our commitment to social holiness. Among the key actions taken were

Removing exclusionary language from our Book of Discipline, adopting revised Social Principles that address the major social concerns of today, and approving a plan for regionalization that will allow contextual modifications to the Book of Discipline for greater missional effectiveness.

I am deeply grateful that we have affirmed the sacred worth of our LGBTQ+ siblings and declared our commitment to full inclusion while also creating space for each pastor and church to determine the ways in which they do ministry.

Whether you are celebrating or lamenting specific decisions made throughout these past two weeks, I am committed to being your bishop—and you are welcome and wanted in the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences. As we go forth, let us be steadfast in our commitment to our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let us continue to share God's love with all we encounter, and to find ways to heal our hurting

world. I leave Charlotte with great hope for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area and The United Methodist Church. The best is yet to be. Thanks be to God!

[Access online version of message](#)

Regional News Coverage

The United Methodist Church has been in the national news following the historic decisions that have come out of General Conference. In case you missed it, KSTP Eyewitness News in Minnesota did a fantastic segment featuring Rev. Becky Sechrist, who serves Minnehaha UMC in Minneapolis, and Rev. Cindy Gregorson, clergy assistant to the bishop and director of connectional ministries.

[Watch segment](#)

Volunteering and witnessing history at General Conference

By: Karla Hovde



Jacob Holck came to General Conference to be where the action is. As a self-described “Methoner” who loves church polity, he is thrilled to be in Charlotte as history is made.

Holck, a licensed local pastor serving Sauk Centre and Grey Eagle UMCs, is serving as a volunteer for the local host team—meaning he cheerfully greets attendees and helps them navigate the convention center.

“It’s great to see all the diversity in the UMC—people from all races, all nations; the cooperation, the smiling,” said Holck, who is attending seminary. “We’re all one big United Methodist family.”

Being in the room when the ban on LGBTQ+ clergy was lifted and clergy were given permission to preside over same-sex marriages has been powerful for Holck. “I watched the 2019 General Conference, and it made me really sad for my LGBT friends,” he said. “Being here for this moment where things are 100 percent different, it’s something I’ll probably remember for the rest of my life.”

He will bring home the message that equality has come to the UMC—one that he thinks will resonate across Minnesota. “We view people for who they are, not their sexuality, because they are beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,” he said. “We view them as just the same as everybody else. It’s

something that we can be very proud of."

Holck encourages other seminary students to volunteer at future General Conferences if they have the opportunity. He calls it a "no-brainer" to take part in such a unique and moving experience, especially if one can earn seminary credit at the same time.

Karla Hovde is the communications specialist for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Are We There Yet?

By Rev. Jeff Ozanne



The Minnesota alternate delegates, including Rev. Jeff Ozanne (far right)

Over the long slog of General Conference, it can start to feel like one of those classic car trips many of us remember as children, where the miles inch by, the time creeps along, and it

seems like we are never going to get there. Days are spent in legislative committees, working slowly through the more than 1,100 petitions submitted. Once that work is done, the whole body begins to consider those petitions that were approved by the committees. Amendments, referrals, and other parliamentary actions often tie up the discussion, sometimes leaving us all feeling like we will never get anything done or that the week will never end.

Beyond the legislative inertia, many of us have been on a seemingly endless journey towards full inclusion for all of our LGBTQ+ siblings. Over the years we have seen little progress forward, and often we have seen our journey take turns that have brought us further from our goal. In 2019, we found ourselves at a point where it seemed like we would never get there, and our beloved church would forever be closed to so many of God's beloved children. This year General Conference has done monumental work and removed so much discrimination and harm from our Book of Discipline. It might feel like we have finally arrived.

The challenge before us is that while we have removed hatred from our rules, we still need to remove it from our churches and our hearts. General Conference did good work this year. We made important changes not only around discriminatory language, but in other areas of ministry as well. We approved sacramental rights for deacons. We

committed to use less plastics and for local churches to do a study of their carbon footprint. We began a process of repenting for the role of the church in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom. We made the eradication of racism, white nationalism, and geo-colonialism a part of our missional strategy. Despite all of that, there is still work left to be done. Petitions giving equal voting status to licensed local pastors and associate ministers were not adopted, leaving them disenfranchised. We continue to struggle with how to balance our investment priorities to better care for God's creation and be a force for good in the world. When it comes to the work of justice for all, we are not there yet.

In spite of this unfinished work, I leave Charlotte hopeful. We made historic moves, but we also made important structural ones. We approved a plan for regionalization that, if ratified by the annual conferences, will allow for better contextual ministry across the world. We reduced the number of bishops in the U.S. to reflect our declining membership and better steward our resources. We adopted a new pension plan that will hopefully balance the costs to local churches with the need to provide for clergy in retirement. While these changes might seem small, they are important shifts that reflect a growing desire to adjust our structures to meet the needs of being the church today and into the future.

Finally, there was a different spirit in the room. While I recognize that some of that comes from my own position (as someone who wanted these changes), I would say a key part of the difference was that we were no longer split on one issue. I saw people who were all "on the same side" when it came to inclusion debating about whether we should spend more on shared ministries through the global church or reduce general church apportionments to keep more resources in the local church for ministry there. Petitions were considered on their own merits, rather than as proxies in the fight between "traditionalists" and "progressives." What I saw was a church that was ready to move boldly into the future. I leave Charlotte believing that we are a church working to build the kin-dom of God. We are not there yet, but we are well on our way!

Rev. Jeff Ozanne is an alternate clergy delegate to General Conference. He serves Faith United Methodist Church in St. Anthony.



**First United
Methodist**

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

**SAVE THE
DATES**

Summer Fun at First

CHUM Rhubarb Festival

Saturday, June 29
Holy Rosary
parking lot.

Ways you can help:

- 1) Donate rhubarb
- 2) Tuesdays in June: help prep rhubarb and strawberries in the church kitchen
- 3) Wednesdays 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



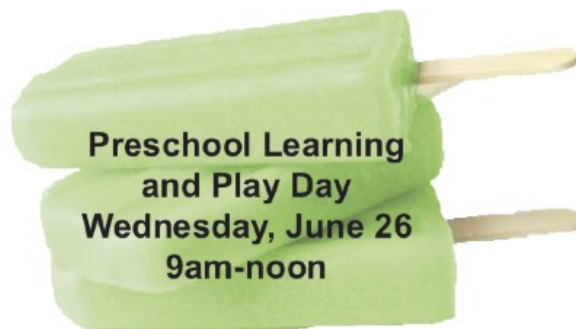
S U M M E R

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

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

Volume 58, Number 6

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

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