



Our First Family

Thank you to my church family.

Your varied support was so appreciated during Ollie's illness and his Celebration of Life. The staff support, the kind words and embraces from individuals, the lovely floral arrangements, your memorial donations, which were divided between FUMC and CHUM, and in any way you showed support, it was so greatly appreciated. Your love and kindness brought comfort to the family and will always be remembered.

~Mary Ann Lucas Houx, ~Paul Houx Family, ~Michael Lucas Family ~Kenneth Lucas Family

Dear Friends, Thank you for your prayers for my Mom, Jackie Devaney. Chris and I were in Omaha recently and spent every day with her while she was receiving care in a rehab center following her Kyphoplasty. She made great progress and she was able to return to her assisted living/memory care community on November 8th! We know prayers are powerful! With Gratitude! ~Jeanne Carroll

Thank you to all our volunteers who donated yummy bakery goods. Also, thank you to volunteers who gave their time helping in the Bazaar Bakery. We completely sold out of bakery goods. You made the bakery

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On the Journey With You



One morning when I got up, my home internet was not working. I waited a bit to see if it would start working. It didn't. Then I turned the power strip off to re-boot it. That didn't work. Then I unplugged the system from the power strip. That didn't work. Finally, I pulled out the TV stand (a fairly big task) and unplugged everything from the actual wall outlet. THAT WORKED! Sometimes you have to go

straight to the source – nothing else will do, as much as we might want it to.

This made me think of how we look for meaning, purpose, comfort, hope and healing in so many places, but ultimately we find it in God and in following the ways of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our power source that we need to plug into. And when we get off track, we need to go to that power source to re-set ourselves.

This Advent season and the start of 2025 are great times to think about our power source and how we can plug in to God. As you seek to do so, here are some thoughts to ponder:

- Let's abide in Jesus, plug into God's power source by committing ourselves to following the ways and path Jesus shows us in Scripture.
- Let's "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). I love the concept of praying without ceasing! it reminds us that we don't have to have a special time or place for prayer but we can continually be talking to God throughout the day.
- Let's remember John 15:4-5 where Jesus says, "Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."
- We are in the season of winter. Embrace this darker, slower

First Family

First United Methodist Church

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Pastor: <u>Jeanine Alexander</u> Editor: <u>Bill Alexander</u>

Next First Family deadline: January 15
Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

time. Katherine May writes, "Plants and animals don't fight the winter; they don't pretend it's not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives that they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through. Winter is a time of withdrawing from the world, maximizing scant resources, carrying out acts of brutal efficiency, and vanishing from sight; but that's where the transformation occurs. Winter is not the death of the life cycle, but its crucible. Once we stop wishing it were summer, winter can be a glorious season in which the world takes on a sparse beauty and even the pavements sparkle. It's a time for reflection and recuperation, for slow replenishment, for putting your house in order. Doing those deeply unfashionable things; slowing down, letting your spare time expand, getting enough sleep, resting..."

• On November 19, teacher and speaker Tony Campolo died. When I was fairly theologically conservative as a high school and college student, he inspired me to see faith through a broader perspective and way. He first helped me to understand Jesus as a radical, counter-cultural leader, having special focus on the poor, the left out, and the marginalized. He started me on the quest of seeing the real social justice-seeking Jesus. I am thankful for his influence on me in my early years of beginning to develop my own faith beyond conservative Christianity. Go to YouTube and search his name and you will find many sermons he preached. Although certainly you won't resonate with all of his theology, I believe you will be inspired to abide in Jesus and live out your faith through social action. One of my favorite quotes from Tony Campolo is, "Justice is love turned into a social policy."

I am so thankful to be your pastor. Let me know how I can be of help and inspiration as you abide in Jesus and live out your faith.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You are loved!

~Pastor Jeanine

Worship in December, January

We worship in person in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10am and online on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10am. The service can also be watched anytime after 10am Sunday morning.

December

December 1– The 1st Sunday in Advent and Holy Communion–Sermon: "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

– We Acknowledge Our Weariness."

December 8 - The 2nd Sunday of Advent - Our annual children's Christmas Pageant

December 17 – The 3rd Sunday in Advent –Lessons and Carols with choir, bells, and more.

December 22 – The 4th Sunday in Advent - Sermon: "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? – We Find Joy in Connection."

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 4pm and 10pm. *(both in person and livestreamed)*. Music will be led by Tapestry and Velda Graham Bell at 4pm and by the Sanctuary Choir, Extollers (our reunion bell choir), and Velda Graham Bell at 10pm.

December 29 – Christmas carols in story and song – Presentation of the Lennon-Berini and Ardath Gibson Scholarships.

January

January 5: Holy Communion

January 12: TBD

January 19: Our sermon will be "Digging Ourselves Into a Hole."

January 26: Our sermon will be "Listen to Jesus." We will also have an all-church potluck and birthday party following worship.

Christmas Eve Worship

Both the 4pm and 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services will be offered in person and streamed/recorded online. (Editor's note: There's really nothing like beinging there in person!)

The 4pm service will include a children's message, Velda Graham Bell, and the worship band, Tapestry.

The 10pm service will include Extollers, our reunion massed bell choir; the Sanctuary Choir; and our organist, Velda Grahm Bell.

From Our Faith Community Nurse



Greetings. As of this writing, we actually are getting a little snow, which brings me to a topic I've been asked to revisit: the topic of falling.

We are now in the season of snow and ice and should be extra careful when going outside, whether you are young or not so young. Many falls can be prevented, and by making some changes,

you can lower your chances of falling.

- First, review your medicines with your health care provider/ pharmacist
- Exercise to improve your balance and strength
- Have your eyes checked
- Make your home safer

If you feel any unsteadiness, you should check with your provider to find out why. It could be due to a medication that you are taking, either a prescribed one or an over-the-counter one. Do you take vitamin D? As you know, many of us in the northern region are deficient in D, which can improve bone, muscle, and nerve health.

Exercise is good to help fall prevention, too. Exercise can increase your muscle strength, flexibility, and reaction time. As we get more into winter, make it a habit to walk inside. Many people go to the mall and, if one walks the complete distance including the small hallways, one lap is actually about one mile. If you use a walker that has brakes, be sure to set them any time you stop. It is imperative that you have comfortable shoes that fit well—no clogs. Stand up as straight as possible and look straight ahead. As you walk you want your heel to touch the floor first then your toes. Usually, it is best to warm up with a bit of marching in place for about a minute. Tai Chi and yoga and swimming are also good practices.

A few good exercises that can help your balance include the following:

- First, stand by an object that can give you support, such as a counter, a chair with a firm back, or a wall. You can do the heel to toe stand while holding on to the chair back or counter and do it 10 times. Practice standing on one leg, then the other, and try to hold for 10 seconds. Work up to 30 seconds.
- You can do the side-step by leading with your right leg for eight steps then back with your left leg and repeat five times. Ask your provider for other exercise recommendations, join a class like Bone Builders, or get a referral for PT to design a program especially for you.

Safety indoors is imperative to prevent falling. Improve the lighting in your home. Have night-lights on at night. Install grab bars in your bathroom. Put frequently used items close at hand. If alone, avoid using a stepstool unless it has handles to hold on to. If possible, have page 4

a friend help. No scatter rugs. Coil or tape cords and wires next to the wall out of the way, and generally declutter. Stairs also pose problems so consider installing handrails on both sides. It's a good idea to have light switches at the bottom and top of the stairs. Secure loose carpet. Watch out for pets!

There is a handout by the Orthopedic Trauma Association in the church office, if you want more information.

During this time of giving and receiving, please, if you are able, give the present of life by donating blood. There is a continued emergency need for blood donations and it only takes about an hour of your time. You may phone the Memorial Blood Center, 888-448-3253, to see if you are eligible to donate or to make an appointment. Their address is 14 E Central Entrance. Check out their website *mbc.org* for more information. Thank you!

As we approach Christmas, I always think of Jesus, the Light of the World. I would like to share this poem by Howard Thurman:

I will light candles this Christmas;

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all year long.

To refresh your memory, New Year's Eve became a celebration and religious feast in 1582 when Pope

Gregory XIII developed the Gregorian Calendar. Prior to that, the new year began in March. Let's look back over this past year and remember the moments of joy, the moments of celebration, and the moments of growth—and even the moments of defeat. May this New Year be filled with blessings and with grace, and may we always have hope for tomorrow.

Grace be with you and many blessings, ~Linda Wiia

Thank You For...



Thank you for your generous giving of time, talents, gills, service, and witness in 2024. If you wish to check on the status of your financial giving

with Sandy Smith, our Director of Operations, feel free to call her at the church office, 218-727-5021, or email admin@fumcduluth.com. Thanks also to evervone who has made estimate-of-giving pledges for 2025 and turned in your participation surveys. If vou have vet to do that, we have additional estimate-of-giving cards and surveys at church; contact us and we will get them to you. You may also make an estimate of giving online at onrealm.org/FirstUMCMN/-/form/ pledge/2025pledgedgiving

Thank you for the wonderful ways you share the love of God. We are blessed to be a part of FUMC. Our community and world are better because we

Annual Church Conference

We will be having our annual meeting to elect leadership, take action on membership, hear the financial report, and have a time of connection on Sunday, February 9 at 11:15am following worship. Watch your weekly email for information. All church members and friends are invited to participate.

Holiday Sale for Refugees

On December 15, please come and support refugees by purchasing woven baskets, hand-carved giraffes. handmade nativity scenes, stuffed Noah's Arks, slippers, dolls, batik drawings, and greeting cards. All proceeds will go to refugees in Kenya. I apologize, but I can only accept cash and Venmo. Peace. ~Haii Dokhanchi

Thank You, FUMC!

Thank you for your wonderful donation of supplies to our special education department! We appreciate your church and your support. These supplies will help a variety of students in many ways.

~Pike Lake Elementary School, SPED Department

Pastor Jeanine and the entire FUMC

Congregation: Thank you once again for thinking of Companies to Classrooms Duluth after this year's school supply drive! We have such a thoughtful and generous congregation!! We now serve teachers in 16 school districts and are proud that 100% of all financial and supply donations go directly to help teachers and students. Thank you for your help. ~Carolyn Schroeder

Dear First United Methodist Church, thank you for your recent donation to the Union Gospel Mission (UGM). 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! ~Union Gospel Mission

Thank you for First UMC's regular donation to the CHUM general fund, CHUM's emergency shelter, and the Chaplaincy program. Your monthly gifts allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy, and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents. ~CHUM

Thank you for the generous gift to the Damiano Center! Your support is crucial to serving the most vulnerable in our community. Each day, hundreds of people visit Damiano seeking to have their most basic needs met. Thank you for partnering with us to strengthen our community by providing for the most vulnerable among us.

~Damiano Center

Have you moved? Dropped your landline? Please be sure to let the church office know your updated contact information!

Communion on First Sundays of Month

Every communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month), we are asking you to bring food or monetary donations 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.

-our first family, continued from page 2

a big success. We are so grateful. Blessings to you all, ~Linda Harper and Barb Kim

Regarding historic pictures in the *November First Family*, the bottom right is my father, Winfield Haycock and his associate Paul Englund (sp?) in the Sanctuary at the 3rd St. church. Above that is my father again, at, I suppose, his desk in his office, on 3rd Ave. West between 2nd and 3rd Streets. I believe the picture of a person at a door to again be Rev. Paul Englund; the upper left photo is the main entrance to the church on 3rd Ave. West. The sign says, "Chapel open to all" and was just inside the door; I cannot, however, identify the people. *~Eliot Haycock*

Baptisms

November 9, Liam and Theo Hedlund November 24, Maverick Alander

Thanks to Daryl Harper for collecting and transporting our collected plastic to Cub Foods to be made into decks and park benches. He reports that from May 2021 to mid October, FUMC has donated over 584 pounds of plastic. Way to go, Coppertop! Collection bins for plastic film (it's stretchable and doesn't crinkle loudly like chip bags) are located in the Narthex and the kitchen.

EarthKeeper

by Naomi Yaeger, EarthKeeper

Celebrate a Greener Christmas: Eco-Friendly Tips for the Season



John 3:16 tells us that God loves the world, not just humanity. This holiday season, consider how you can reflect that love through sustainable choices that honor creation.

Eco-Friendly Wrapping: Many wrapping papers

are non-recyclable due to plastic coatings. Choose 100% paper wrapping without glitter



or metallic elements to ensure recyclability. Avoid shiny or embellished paper, which belongs in the trash.

Thoughtful Gift-Giving: Instead of asking "What do you want for Christmas?," ask "What do you need.?" Consider zero-waste gifts like shampoo bars, bamboo toilet paper, or local preserves. Sustainable gifts, such as items made from recycled materials or plantable seeds, help foster long-lasting environmental change.

Embrace Experiences Over Gifts: If a loved one doesn't want material gifts, suggest experiences you can enjoy together. Focus on creating memories while caring for creation and promoting justice.

Sustainable Clothing: Choose gifts made from natural or recycled fibers, such as organic cotton, linen, or bamboo. Avoid synthetic materials like polyester, which release microplastics into the environment.

Digital Cards: Send digital cards to family and friends, which are cost-effective and environmentally friendly, especially if your recipient list is long.

Food Waste Awareness: Be mindful of food waste, as it contributes to methane emissions in landfills. Aim to prepare just enough food, and compost leftovers as a gift to the Earth.

Treecycling: After Christmas, recycle your tree by donating it to be composted or chipped into mulch, rather than burning it, which releases harmful CO2. WLSSD and other local sites provide drop-off locations for your real holiday trees. Visit <u>wlssd.com</u> and search for "treecyling" for more information.

Most of these ideas were suggested by Crys Zinkiewicz, a writer, editor, and EarthKeeper with the General Board of Global Ministries, based in Nashville, TN. For more, visit <u>umcreationjustice.org</u> or <u>greenmatters.com</u>.

Calling All Children and Youth

Our Children's Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 8 at 10am. It will be "A Rehearsed/Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant" with a reception following worship.

Rehearsals are Sunday mornings, during Sunday school AND every Wednesday evening at 5pm for kids 2nd grade and younger, and 5:40pm for grades 3 and older. There will also be a final rehearsal on Saturday, December 7 from 10am-noon with doughnuts and costumes. Kids at that rehearsal will get their costumes and will have a picture taken. An ornament will be made of those pictures.

Children can participate even if the Sunday of the program is the only time they are there. There will be costumes for them. Invite grandkids and children you know. We need our youth to help with the children and to lead readings. Please contact director Beth Brophy with any questions: musickids@fumcduluth.com

Note: We think participating in the Christmas Pageant is a fun and important learning activity for our kids. Please let Pastor Jeanine, Larry Ehresman, or Beth Brophy know if your kids plan to participate. We have lots great costumes and want to make sure we have more than enough.

Mission Update

The next mission team meeting is Monday, January 27 at 6:30pm on Zoom. Everyone interested in mission is welcome to attend. Join the Zoom meeting at us02web.zoom.us/j/915188407

Meeting ID: 915 188 407

End-of-the-Year Giving

For your contributions to be included in your 2024 IRS giving starement, they must be in the office and/or postmarked by December 31, 2024.

Twin Ports MLK Events

The Duluth NAACP is leading the organizing of a series of events on January 19-20, 2025 to honor and carry on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Worship Service - Sunday, January 19 Time and location TBD.

This service will be a modern-day expression of the Black Church tradition that nurtured the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Breakfast - Monday, January 20

Time: 7-9:30am

Location: First United Methodist Church, 230 E Skyline Parkway

This breakfast will feature a brief local program and a community viewing of the broadcast of the Minneapolis Keynote (still being confirmed). Food will be served starting at 7am. The broadcast runs from 8-9:30am.

A freewill offering will support the United Negro College Fund, which supports students of African heritage throughout Minnesota in attending college. For more information, visit *mlkbreakfast.com*.

Gathering and March - Monday, January 20

Time: 10-11:45am

Location: Gather at the Family Freedom Center (Washington Center Gymnasium) entrance between 3rd and 4th Streets on 1st Ave. West: the March will begin on Lake Ave., between 3rd and 4th Avenues.

MLK Rally - Monday, January 20

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: DECC-Symphony Hall





December, 2024

SPRC Welcomes Larry Ehresman to New Position:

On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I (Aaron Boysen, chair) am thrilled to share with the congregation that we have hired Larry Ehresman in a new position he helped us create. As you may recall from a previous article, SPRC has been trying to think outside the box to find new ways to increase stability and efficacy in our staffing, a problem that intensified during and following the pandemic. Larry was kind enough to pilot a new approach for the better part of a year, and to keep a logbook of successes, challenges, workload feasibility, and in the end, whether a new position could work. He did so under the supervision of SPRC Co-chair Maryjane Burdge, who filed a report to us following the trial period.

After consulting with Maryjane, the SPRC recommended we hire someone in a permanent part-time position that is now called "Congregational Ministries Coordinator." We then posted this new position and received five applicants. After the interview period, SPRC unanimously settled on Larry for the position, and he has accepted.

We want to thank Larry for making this possible. He not only has demonstrated exceptional diligence and care in developing the position, he also has expertly and gracefully led along the way. Larry has helped to grow our children's ministries, and as mentioned previously, brings to our church previous experience and expertise working with children in a professional capacity.

Children's ministry is only one of many responsibilities of this new position, which consolidates other staff duties. If you are around church during the week or on the weekends, there's a good chance you'll see him engaged with something or someone. Larry's presence in our congregation makes him a perfect fit. We are delighted he said yes to continue with his work on a part-time, permanent basis.

Next time you see him, please join me in welcoming Larry as our first and so far, wonderfully successful Congregational Ministries Coordinator.

Aaron Boysen, SPRC chair

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All Church Birthday Party and **Potluck**

We're having a party!

Make sure you circle **Sunday**, **January 26** on your social calendar and take down all the information below. Who wouldn't want a good excuse to get out and party in January?

Sunday, January 26

After worship, around 11:15am in Lakeview Social Half Please sit at the table of **your** birthday month. Enjoy new and old friends.

This is a very FUN event for all ages!

Does your family want to decorate a birthday round table and make a cake for your favorite month?

Sign up for your preferred month at the sign-up table in the Narthex. **Details:**

- Decorate a round table and make a cake.
- The church has black cloth table cloths that can be used or bring your own cloth tablecloth. (No plastic tablecloths please.)
- We will provide plates for lunch and dessert, napkins, cups, drinks, silverware, and ice cream.
- Decorate your tables on Saturday, January 25 from 3-4pm or on Sunday, January 26 from 9-10am.
- We will seat eight people at each round table.
- All cakes will be on a special cake table, on display for everyone to see.
- Following our dining experience, there will be a parade of cakes while singing *Happy Birthday* and then each cake will be brought to the corresponding birthday-month table to enjoy.

If you are not decorating a table, please bring a dish to share.

Details:

- If gluten-free, dairy-free, or your dish has nuts or peanuts, please specify.
- Bring the dish to the kitchen before worship on Sunday, January 26, around 9:45am.
- If you have hot food, please bring it in a crock pot or roaster. We will have outlets available and will assist you plugging them in.

Last names A-M, bring salads/appetizers Last names M-Z, main dish

Thank you very much for helping to continue a very popular tradition from Chester Park United Methodist Church.

Welcoming questions at any time. ~Cindy Hedlund 218-348-2634



FUMC Annual Book Sale

Another successful book sale! We raised over \$1,300 to be used for church projects,



thanks to our supportive community who donated and purchased books. Special thanks to those who showed up-some for multiple shifts-to sort and sell books:

Sharon Alexander, Karen Alseth, Linda Rau, Linda Harper, Barb Lindgren, Mark Harvey, Nancy Gibson, Karen Morgan, Helen Smith Stone, Marla Yoho, Laura Krumweide, Mardy Rodman, Jeanine Alexander, Mary Grant, Jean Walsh, and Anita and Tim Zager. What a crew, many of whom had worked the Church Bazaar the week before! Anita Zager pointed out that a book sale is another way of being sustainable. Books are passed on to new owners, not discarded. It's another way FUMC shows its care for the earth.

~Anita Zager, Jean Walsh



Faith Forum for December and January

Faith Forum continues on Sundays in December and January from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge.

December 1: Are composting and recycling confusing? Emma Pardnini, Environmental Program Coordinator at WLSSD, will demystify the process. Bring your curiosity and questions.

December 8: What book had such an impact that it changed your thinking, maybe your life? Anne Miller will coordinate our discussion. Come with vour stories.

January 5: Reverend Karen Schuder returns to **FUMC** to talk about resistance, sustainability and caring. She preached at FUMC earlier this fall.

January 12: How does geography affect people's sustainability attitudes and behaviors? Geoff Bell will let us in on the extensive research study he and his colleague at UMD are conducting.

January 19: Debbi King discusses her memoir: Gravedigger's Daughter: Growing Up Rural. Her book is a collection of tales and essays recalling her family's experiences during the 1950s-1970s in west-central Wisconsin.

January 26: Joel Sipress, local professor and **former city council member** on the topic "Dilemma of an American Jew."

Contact Shelley Gruskin or Jean Walsh if you would like to share your faith story, or have other topics for Faith Forum.

Faith Forum Follow-up

"Sold a Story"

Nationally acclaimed journalist Emily Hanford's work is changing the ways schools around the country teach reading. In this award-winning podcast, she investigates why so many schools continue to use an approach that cognitive scientists debunked decades ago.

View the podcast at podcast at podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ sold-a-story/id1649580473

Some Good Sustainability News

Global good news

Do you ever feel that all your efforts to combat climate change are to no avail? That it's hopeless? Well, take heart! A report published in early November (see *the link*) suggests that global carbon emissions will PEAK in 2024 and begin DECLINING in 2025! It's neither fast nor steep enough to stop climate change, but it IS a start!

Local good news

Meanwhile, here at the Coppertop, work is continuing on the LED project. Sandy Smith's husband Joel has completed converting the library over to LED lights, and by the time you read this, Tom Brown should be working on Lakeview Social Hall. This room has proven somewhat challenging, as apparently there were wiring issues as well. PLEASE thank Tom when you see him for working through all of this mess!

How about YOUR house lights?

As you begin seeing the new lights in church, have you also converted your old lights at home to LEDs? For screw-in lights, it's normally just a matter of unscrewing the old and screwing in the new. For fluorescent tubes, you may need to hire an electrician. If you have fluorescent or CFL bulbs, be sure to dispose of them safely by taking them to WLSSD's household hazardous waste dropoff site just off the 27th Ave. W. exit from Interstate 35.

Merry Christmas from the sustainability committee! ~Geoff Bell



CHUM Events – Save the Dates

Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7.

O Holy Night Concert – College of St. Scholastica benefit for CHUM.

Tuesday, December 17 at 5pm

Homeless Memorial Vigil – Details to follow. Volunteers will be wanted to serve hot cocoa and cookies, carry signs, assist with set up, etc.

Saturday, January 12, 9-noon.

Advocating for Housing event at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Learn about successes, continuing needs, policy proposals, and how you can advocate for housing in Duluth.

Sunday, February 9

Little Match Girl Passion –
Presented by College of St.
Scholastica with proceeds to benefit
CHUM.

Tuesday, February 18 from 6-8pm

CHUM Assembly and Annual Meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. We need a quorum for this meeting, so please try to hold the evening free.

Thursday, February 27

CHUM Expansion Extravaganza at Clyde Ironworks.

Not all details are confirmed, but this fundraising event (replacing the fall dinner) is one of CHUM's major fundraisers of the year. It will include a quilt raffle and both a live and silent auction. We are collecting auction items, and encourage everyone to think about experiences (dinners, timeshare weekends, tickets, classes) and, as always, your beautifully crafted items to share in support of CHUM's ministries.

As promised last month, here is a third photo of a circa 1960 First Methodist Church. Let us know if you recognize anyone... Bob Ball?





If you are currently involved in our handbell program, or have EVER been a member of one of our handbell ensembles, you are invited to be a part of Extollers, our Christmas reunion massed handbell choir, usually drawing 30 handbell ringers.

There will a single rehearsal on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 from 9:30–11:00am. The group will then play for the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service that evening.

Contact Bill Alexander 218-340-4100 or bill@strikepoint.com

Music Notes

by Director of Music Velda Graham Bell

Christmas Pageant Special Music

Children and youth are invited to share a piece of music during the prelude time before the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 8. If you have a song, piano piece, or other instrumental piece that you've been working on and would like to share with our congregation, please contact Velda Bell at 218-393-4006 or music@fumcduluth.com or Beth Brophy at musickids@fumcduluth.com.

Christmas Music Invitation

Both the Sanctuary Choir and the worship band, Tapestry, would love to have you join them for the Advent/Christmas season. If you've ever wanted to "try out" one of these groups to see if it's for you, this is a good opportunity. Both groups rehearse on Wednesdays—the choir at 5:10pm and Tapestry at 6:30pm. Please contact either Choir Director Derek Bromme, dbromme@css.edu or Tapestry Co-Directors, Corey Hulst, chulst70@gmail.com or Leah Hulst, lighulst@gmail.com.

Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians

Sunday, December 8 at 7:00pm - Twin Ports Wind Orchestra's Holiday Concert

The Twin Ports Wind Orchestra will be celebrating the 2024 Holiday Season by performing their 11th "Happy Holidays Brass and Percussion Concert." Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by FUMC's Dr. Mark Whitlock, the concert will feature wonderful arrangements of the most popular and memorable Christmas selections that we hear at this time of year. Tickets are available at the door.

Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 14 at 3pm – Holiday Traditions and Jubilations: O magnum mysterium

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert at First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior Street. The Chorale and Orchestra are delighted to celebrate the profound mystery and joy of the Christmas season with settings of *O magnum mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, Daniel Pinkham, and Morton Lauridsen, along with carol settings by Dan Forrest, John Rutter, Mack Wilberg, and more. Strikepoint will provide a musical page 12

prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our own Velda Graham Bell will be playing organ. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available at the door or online at *arrowheadchorale.com*.

Sunday, December 15 at the 10am worship service – FUMC's annual Lessons and Carols service.

This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by FUMC's Sanctuary Choir and handbell ensemble, Cast in Bronze, along with a variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

Strikepoint and Friends Holiday Concert, A Bell Noël, ringing in the holidays! – Friday, December 20 at 7pm in our Sanctuary.

Upcoming Worship Services:

Sunday, December 8 – the Children's Christmas Pageant: "A Rehearsed/Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant."

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00 and 10:00pm. Both services will also be livestreamed.



Sunday, December 15, 2024 10:00 am worship service

Discover the beauty of this traditional service of nine lessons and carols during the morning worship service at First United Methodist Church. The story of Christ's birth will be told through scripture readings and music offered by First United Methodist's Sanctuary Choir and handbell ensemble, Cast in Bronze, as well as a variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.



ringing in the holidays!

Friday, December 20 at 7pm

First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway 💄 Duluth, MN



Tickets available at the door Adults \$25; Students and children, \$10

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT

This year we will again have three ways to participate in our mission project:

Financial donations

Donations will be shared between the mission and ministry of our congregation and Union Gospel Mission, in the form of a general gift for wherever the need is greatest.

Give your time:

Volunteer at the Damiano Center on Monday, December 2 from 1-3:30pm sorting clothing donations.

Help prepare and serve lunch at Union Gospel Mission on Monday, December 9 from 11am-1pm.

Help with Ruby's Pantry at FUMC on **Thursday, December 19, starting at 4pm**. December is our month to provide extra volunteers.

Volunteer at Laundry Love, hosting people at the Spirit Valley Laundromat. See their website for more information and to sign up: <u>steppingonupduluth.org/laundry-love</u>

Donate items:

Toys for Union Gospel Mission. See the giving tree in the front of the Sanctuary for ideas, or pick up a toy for any age child or youth. Bring unwrapped toys to church and put them on the ledge behind the communion table in the Sanctuary.

Diapers and baby blankets for ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education). Newborn and size one diapers are particularly needed.

Bake cookies for inmates at the St. Louis County Jail for their Christmas parties. The chaplain is asking for cookies without nuts, peanut butter or coconut, to avoid problems with allergies. Bring your cookies on Monday, December 16 to the jail (4334 Haines Road in Duluth) between 10am and 3pm, or to church by noon that day and the mission team will deliver them.

Food and items for the Food Shelf. CHUM often needs items like: canned soup (not cream soups), canned fruit and vegetables, canned stew and pasta, canned fish, canned beans, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, toilet paper (this is a chronic need and is rarely available in the quantities needed), cat food (apparently dog food is more readily available), stuffing, gravy mix, juices, and coffee. Of course, cash donations are always welcome!

First United Methodist Church 230 E. Skyline Parkway Duluth, MN 55811 www.fumcduluth.com



Children in December and January

Sundays in December and January Nursery-5th grade

Sunday, December 1

- 10am Sunday School
- Rehearse for Christmas Pageant and get costumes

Saturday, December 7, 10am-noon

- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and doughnuts.
- Come even if this is the only rehearsal you attend. Grandkids, friends... welcome.
- Those who attend Saturday will get their costumes, have a picture taken, and an ornament made.

Sunday, December 8

• 10am Children's Christmas Pageant ("A Rehearsed/Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant") with reception following worship. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings during Sunday school AND every Wednesday evenings at 5pm (for kids 2nd grade and younger) and 5:40pm (grade 3 and older).

Children can participate even if that Sunday is the only time they are there. Please contact director Beth Brophy with any questions:

musickids@fumcduluth.com

Sunday, December 15

• 10am - Pajama/Movie Day

Sunday, December 22

• 10am - Christmas Crafts & Games

NO Sunday School on December 29 or January 5. Activity bags and nursery are available. NO Wednesday Groups or Dinner December 25 and January 1 and 8.

Sundays, January 12, 19, and 26

- 10am Sunday School
- Children K-5th grade leave for Sunday School after the Children's Message.

Sunday, January 12

- 10am Pajama/Movie Day
- Nursery care for ages five and under from 8:30am-end of worship

Sunday, January 26

All Church Birthday Party and Potluck Meal (food, games, cake, and more!)

Wednesdays

Wednesday, December 4

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:00-5:40pm Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Bell Room
- $\bullet~5{:}30{-}6{:}00\text{pm}$ Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)

Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, December 11

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:30-6:00pm Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)
- 6:45-7:30 Tweens CHRISTMAS PARTY in Lakeview Social Hall – 3rd-5th grades Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, December 18

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:00-5:40pm Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Bell Room
- 5:30-6:00pm Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)

Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

No Wednesday Groups or Dinner on December 25, January 1, and January 8 – Christmas and New Year Break

Wednesday, January 15

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:00-5:40pm Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Bell Room
- 5:30-6:00pm Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and mac & cheese)
- 6:45-7:30 Tweens Group 3rd-5th grades Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, January 22

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:00-5:40pm Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Bell Room
- 5:30-6:00pm Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)

Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, January 29

- 5:00-5:30pm JAM Jr. Music (nursery through 2nd grade) including Bible lesson Chapel
- 5:00-5:40pm Ringtones (3rd-5th grade) Bell Room
- 5:30-6:00pm Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- 5:40-6:05pm JAM Music (3rd-5th grade) singing and drumming Chapel
- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and mac & cheese)
- 6:45-7:30 Tweens Group 3rd-5th grades Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Please bring money to contribute toward Wednesday dinner, as you are able, so we can keep them going. Friends are always welcome—Text Larry Ehresman with any questions (218-260-9577)

Youth in December and January

Youth, 6th-12th Grade

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner Come anytime (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)
- 6:30 Confirmation Class

Youth who are not in Confirmation may hang out in the Youth Room.

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

Saturday, December 7

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and doughnuts Come to help with the younger kids and participate in the Christmas program. Let Pastor Jeanine know if you want a reading part.

Sunday, December 8

- 10am Children's Christmas Pageant ("A Rehearsed/Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant") with reception following worship.
- 11:30am Youth Christmas Party We will go to Pizza Ranch for lunch, games, and tons of fun. Bring \$10 to go toward the cost of food, etc., and the church will pay the rest.

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)
- 6:30-7:30pm Help with Tweens or hang out in the Youth Room.
- 7:45-8:45pm Class Ring Bell Room

Wednesday, December 18

- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner Come anytime (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)
- 6:30 -7:30 Youth Group, something Christmassy
- 7:45-8:45pm Class Ring Bell Room

Thursday, December 19

• 4:00-7:00pm – Volunteer at Ruby's Pantry Let Pastor Jeanine know if you are coming (and if you need to be late). We will organize food, pack it, and put it in cars. This is a GREAT way to serve for the holidays.

No Wednesday Groups or Dinner, December 25, January 1, and January 8

Wednesday, January 15

• 6:00-6:30pm – Dinner – Come anytime (salad,

fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and mac & cheese)

• 6:30 – Confirmation Class

Youth who are not in Confirmation may hang out in the Youth Room.

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

Wednesday, January 22

- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner Come anytime (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and noodles)
- 6:45-7:30 Youth Group

Youth who are not in Confirmation may hang out in the Youth Room.

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

Sunday, January 26

All Church Birthday Party and Potluck Meal (food, games, cake, and more!)

Wednesday, January 29

- 6:00-6:30pm Dinner Come anytime (salad, fruit, veggie bar, bread and PB, and mac & cheese)
- 6:45-7:30 Youth Group
- 7:45-8:45pm Class Ring Bell Room

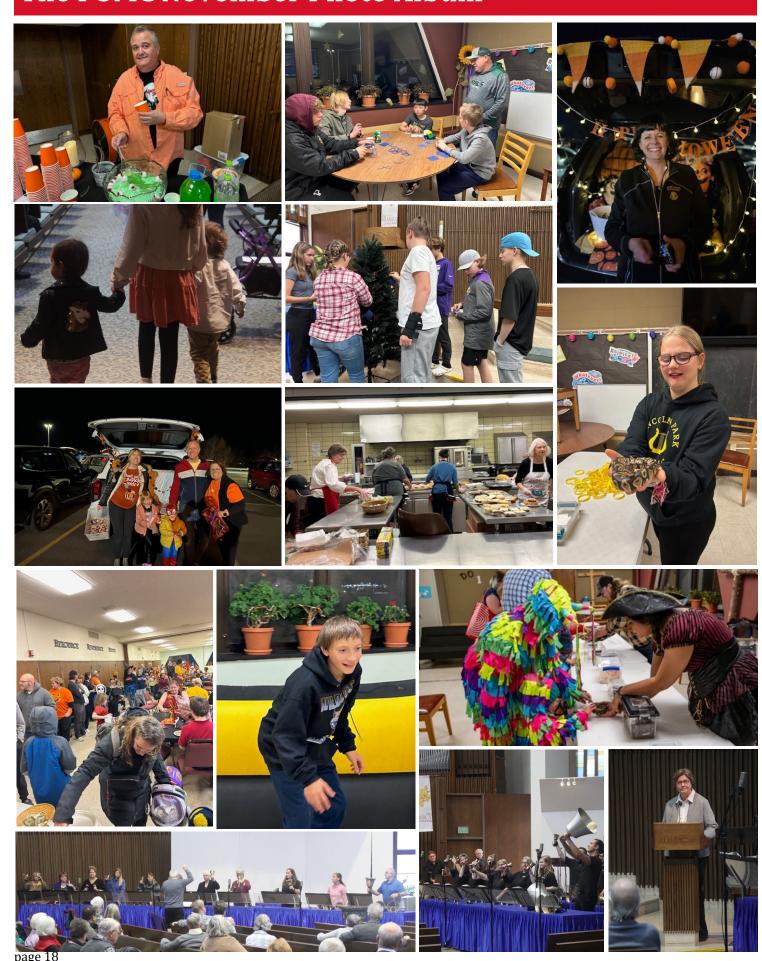
Please bring money to contribute toward Wednesday dinners, as you are able, so we can keep them going.

Friends are always welcome—Text Larry Ehresman, 218-260-9577 or Pastor Jeanine, 763-443-0570 with any questions or needs.





The FUMC November Photo Album





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First United Methodist Church

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