

First Family

JUNE 2025

Volume 59, Number 5



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

230 E. SKYLINE PARKWAY

DULUTH, MN 55811

WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM

On The Journey With You

Have you noticed how many high school students, college students, and young adults we have engaging with our congregation? Derek Bromme has invited several young people to be a part of music group participation and leadership... Alex Flinner has engaged several in our technology ministry... Larry Ehresman has invited many to be part of leading our children's ministry. It is really exciting and effective and energy bringing! Young people want to serve and lead and make a difference. What a blessing it is to be in ministry all of us together.

One of our recent college grads shared this story: A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him. While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it. When he finished painting, he received his money and left. The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a check, much higher than the payment for painting. The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat!" The boat owner answered, "But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat." "Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant." "My friend, when I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."



No matter who, when or how, let's actively look for ways to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, encourage, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' we find. We never know who is in need, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone. Along the way, with our actions of care and compassion, we may help repair many 'boat holes' for others without realizing how many lives we have blessed and maybe even saved.

Thank you to all of you who quietly repair holes! It does not go unnoticed. And if you have a hole(s) that need to be repaired, your pastor and church are here for you. Let me, or someone know. We are together in the hole repair business.

WORSHIP IN JUNE 2025

June Sermon Series: Moments That Take Our Breath Away from PSALMS

June 1: Communion & Baptism

Psalm 118:19-24

Moments that are Breathtaking: Moments of love, gratitude, inspiration

June 8: PENTECOST

Portions of Psalm 51 & Acts 2:1-4

Moments of The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit melts us ... molds us ... changes us ... shapes us ... redeems us ... fills us ... uses us

June 15: FATHER'S DAY ---- TEEN CHALLENGE

June 22: Psalm 23

Moments when God Redeems Us: God is with us ... God can redeem our troubles ... God can help us help others

June 29: Psalm 139:7-12

(The Runaway Bunny book will be the children's message)

Moments when God Meets Us: God meets us at the "dropping off" places (when we are at the edge) ... God meets us at the places of darkness and trouble ... God meets us with open doors/open tombs

**Ways to give to support
your church:** give online
at fumcduluth.com or
use the QR code. or text
COPPERTOP to **73256**
or mail to FUMC
230 E. Skyline Parkway,
Duluth, MN 55811.



Summer Music Opportunities

During the summer months while our music groups take a break, many people in our congregation share music with us by singing or playing an instrument during our worship services. If you are interested in providing special music, please contact Velda Bell at music@fumcduluth.com or 218-393-4006.

Conversation with Church Friends: A group is meeting over Zoom every second and fourth Tuesday at 10am to catch up with each other and talk about what comes up that day. If you're interested in joining the group, contact Pamela Brown at pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us

The Coffee Hour after worship on Sundays is a perfect way to connect with the people of our church and is viewed as a ministry. Currently, we have a 4-week rotation, working in teams of 2. Would you consider volunteering for this important mission? Training is provided. You may contact with either Linda Wiig (linda.wiig@hotmail.com) or Pamela Brown (pr.brown1906@gmail.com) should you like to find out more.

CHILDREN & YOUTH JUNE 2025

VBS (Vacation Bible School) Experience for Children & Parent's Night Out

When:

- Friday, June 20 5-8pm

What:

- For Children: Supper Provided ... Crafts ... Games ... Bible Stories ... Science ... All sorts of fun
- For Parents: 3 hours to go to dinner or do whatever you want

Who:

- Children - babies through kids entering 6th grade

Cost:

\$5 ... Please sign up by Sunday, June 15th with the church office (218-727-5021), Larry (218-260-9577), Abbi (218-721-7626) or Pastor Jeanine (763-443-0570)



YOUTH MISSION & FUN DAY

When:

- Friday, June 27 10am-5pm

What:

- Helping with the Rhubarb Festival & Food and Fun at Canal Park

Who:

- Youth entering 7th grade-12th grade ... and their friends

Cost:

\$10 (includes lunch, transportation and activities).

Please sign up by Sunday, June 22nd with the church office (218-727-5021), Larry (218-260-9577), Abbi (218-721-7626) or Pastor Jeanine (763-443-0570)



COMING THIS FALL: TABLE OF EIGHT

This September, new member Gary Solomonson will begin organizing and facilitating Table of Eight—a monthly support group for families and friends of loved ones living with dementia. Whether you're just beginning the journey, have walked it for years, or are navigating life after loss, this group offers a welcoming space to share stories, explore caregiving approaches, and support one another.

Gary brings 45 years of experience in senior living, having helped launch similar groups across the U.S. and U.K. During June and July, he'd love to meet informally with two or three people over coffee after Sunday services to explore interest in this new ministry. Please let Pastor Jeanine know if you would like to meet with him or talk with him directly.

An online version of the gathering will also be offered for our virtual members and friends. Plans are underway to host two gatherings each month—one in person and one online. Look for a flyer in the foyer for more details.

P.S. To spot Gary, he's usually the Norwegian in the bow tie and corduroy sport coat.



People of faith working together
to provide basic necessities,
foster stable lives, and organize
for a just and compassionate
community.

The Rhubarb Fest is Moving West!
The 20th Annual Chum Rhubarb Festival is moving
to Asbury United Methodist Church
6822 Grand Avenue, Duluth
Saturday, June 28
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Practicing Our Faith



FUMC volunteers needed to deliver donations to Chum.

- Our Food Shelf Cart runneth over! Volunteers are needed every other week to take donations to the Chum Food Shelf at 120 N 1st Ave W, Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Park in the alley and ring the doorbell.
- Household supplies go to the Chum Admin Office at 102 W 2nd St, Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Just knock on the door for assistance.
- If you have a car, this is an easy way to put your faith in action by serving our neighbors. Do it once, or commit to making regular trips. Contact the church office if you would like to help.
- Donations of these items are always needed and deeply appreciated. Look for the Chum donation basket in the church office or stack them next to the Food Shelf cart.
Sponges, Mops, Brooms, Laundry baskets, All-purpose cleaner, Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Lysol wipes, Toilet bowl cleaner, Toilet paper, Paper towels, & Toiletries
- Steve O'Neil is in a constant turnover of apartments. Sometimes we need lots of furniture to fill units and assist new families and sometimes we have no need for several months. Please call Steve O'Neil Services at 218-740-2501 if you have furniture to donate so we can determine if we're in need at the moment.
- St. Francis Apartments is running out of "nonessential" furniture for tenants, especially the ones just moving in. Call 218-491-7811 to schedule a drop-off.
Comfy chairs, Bookshelves, Small dressers, Tables

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Drew Adamec	June Kreutzkamp
Nathaniel Anthony	Susan Latto
McKenzie Ball	Doug MacIver
Mitchell Boyson	Sarah Maddy
Darlene Brown	Jake Marquardt
Chuck Campbell	Doris Nygaard
Kate Campbell	John Nygaard
Andrew Conley	Charlie Orsak
Charles Conner	Kevin Peterson
Ava Davis	Linda Peterson
Nancy Eaton	Rebecca Peterson
Marian Flammang	Verna Porter
Rachel Frost	Eli Redepenning
Dan Hendershot	Lisa Rhoads
Olive Jeannette	Gary Tangen
Stanley Jeannette	Nancy Westman
Angela Johnson	Linda Wiig
Erika Johnson	

*If your birthday isn't listed, please contact
the church office so we can update our database*

We are excited to welcome Michelle Rowley to the FUMC staff as the new Communications Coordinator. She brings many years of experience in communications, marketing and fundraising. She enjoys the theater, live music events (is very lucky at winning free tickets!) and her favorite color is purple! Michelle will start on June 2 and is excited to learn about FUMC and all the wonderful things happening here

From Our Faith Community Nurse

Arrowhead Agency on Aging/Arrowhead Changemakers

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAAs) were established under the Older Americans Act. Our agency located in Duluth carries out a localized plan for long-term services and supports customized services for our region for persons aged 60+. The region includes Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St Louis counties. This support and these services are supplied for this region based on information shared by the Arrowhead Changemakers-a group of ambassadors who are working towards an Age-Friendly Minnesota to end ageism. This is a volunteer group of community persons 50+ who make meaningful, lasting change in their communities. They bring local issues and experiences to inform the AAAA, the Governors Council on an Age-Friendly MN, and other local leaders working on policies and practices that prioritize quality of life as persons age and living longer. In the US, the number of people aged 65+ exceeds the number of children aged 5 and under. Keeping that in mind, you see that keeping people as healthy as possible as they live longer is a priority, especially now with cutbacks to Medicaid and Medicare looming. Access to health care will not be as readily available and we know that rural hospitals in some areas will close. Input from this volunteer group of Changemakers is even more vital now. One thing I agree with the new HHS director on is emphasis must be placed on chronic disease--its prevention.

Examples of what these changemakers can do are:

- Presentations to City Councils and elected officials to advocate for housing.
- Contact local elected officials.
- Foster collaboration by group discussions with community leaders.
- Submit articles to local media informing them of aging advocacy.
- Help to develop campaigns on the end to ageism (discrimination, prejudice and negative stereotypes based on age).
- What can I bravely do today in service of something I'm passionate about?

Blessings, Linda

Dear First Family Readers,

Since the unforeseen passing of our dearly beloved editor, Bill Alexander, I have assumed the role as the interim editor of "First Family". Stepping into his role has been both an honor and a formidable task. Bill's unique touch and dedication to our church community were unparalleled, and while it's impossible to replicate his contributions, I have strived to uphold his legacy by delivering church news and updates with the same clarity and engagement he championed. As I prepare my final issue for June as interim editor, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and patience throughout this transition. It has been a privilege to serve this remarkable church community, and I am eager to witness the continued flourishing and success of "First Family" as it embarks on a new chapter under fresh leadership.

Warmest regards,

Greg

Our faith and God's creation - what's the relationship?

How does our faith affect our thoughts about God's creation? Have you ever reflected on that? After all, God calls us "stewards" of creation, which suggests care rather than dominance. Or maybe it's God's creation that affects our faith in God. After all, Jesus talks about how God's concern for tiny birds should build our faith in God.

Maybe you had an "ah-ha! moment" when you were out one night and saw the aurora "dancing" in the heavens. Maybe you see God's goodness when you crest the hill on I-35 and see the majesty of Lake Superior unfold before you. Maybe it happens when you read the stories of creation in Genesis and realize anew the tight bond between God and God's creation. Maybe... well, you get the point!

I'm thinking it might be interesting in compiling your stories of faith and creation into a newsletter article that "tells our stories of faith and creation." If your faith has impacted your perspective on the environment, I'd love to hear them. Send them to me at ggbell@d.umn.edu and I'll compile OUR story of faith and creation. THANKS, and happy summer!

Geoff Bell

FUMC Sustainability Committee Chair

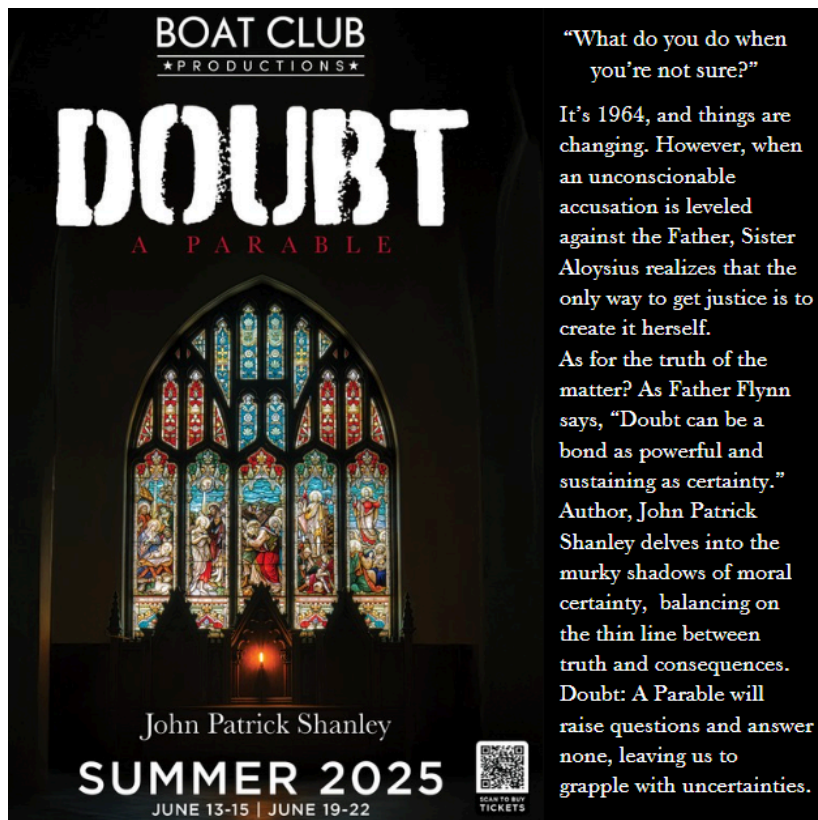
Note

Church Office Summer
Hours

Monday - Thursday 9-3

Friday 9-12

Some days the office may
close early, please call ahead





Bella Serck is graduating from Duluth East High School. Next year she will be studying exercise science at the University of Iowa.



Mayson Whitlock graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana with a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and biology.



Evy Fairchild graduated from Minnesota State University–Mankato, majoring in applied health science. She is pursuing a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders, and wants to be a speech therapist.



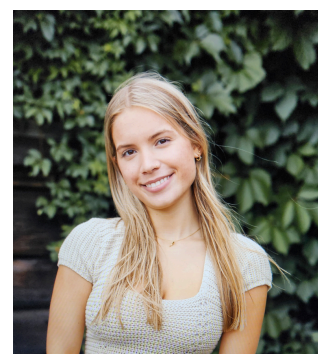
Marcus Giuliani graduated from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.



Erin Wiig graduated with an MBA in leadership and change from St. Scholastica.

She plans to continue working at the University of MN Medical School in Admissions. Erin thanks the scholarship committees for the Ardath Gibson and Lennon-Berini scholarships.

They were such an honor and a great help along this journey.



Olive Jeannette is graduating from Duluth East High School Academic Excellence Online. She will be pursuing a Dental Assistant degree.



Sandra Moe is graduating from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana with a master's degree in physician assistant studies.



Rhonda Montavon graduated from UWS with a master's degree in counseling - both clinical mental health and marriage and family therapy. She will be working at Duluth Counseling Center, specializing in the treatment of eating disorders, personality disorders, and trauma as well as providing couple's therapy.



Henry Mattson graduated from St. Scholastica with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He plans on working and performing at the Duluth Playhouse, and within two years expects to attend law school in the Twin Cities.



Brennen Werner graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and a minor in sports coaching. This summer he will begin a doctorate of physical therapy program at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.



Clair Thomsen - UMD - Bachelor of Business Administration, Starting MBA graduate program in June.



Emily Wetzel earned a Bachelor of Science in exercise physiology and a music minor from St. Scholastica. She will be starting the doctorate program for physical therapy at St. Scholastica in mid-June and will also be performing with the Two Harbors City Band and Strikepoint over the summer.



Nancy & Steve Gibson



Jean & Claude Williams



Gary Solomonson



Barbara Porter

Welcome New Members



Lisa Rhoads

WLSSD rebrands to Resource Renew

By Naomi Yaeger

This spring, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD), changed its name to Resource Renew—a name that better reflects its mission: transforming waste into something life-giving. Though, if you are one of the “cool kids” into sustainability, the letters WLSSD probably roll off your tongue. But others—especially those not steeped in the environmental world—might think WLSSD sounds more like a radio station.

“WLSSD is a difficult acronym, and it doesn’t really explain what we do,” said spokesperson AJ Axtell. Resource Renew better captures what the agency is all about.

Resource Renew is now generating its own electricity.

Biogas pulled from digesters that break down organic waste is about 65% methane. Rather than flaring it off as waste, the agency now routes it into large engines that produce electricity. Have you ever noticed a flame while driving over the Blatnik Bridge? That is the biogas flare. You will no longer see it as that gas is now being put to work for a greater good.

Founded nearly 50 years ago to clean up the St. Louis River, the agency leads regional efforts in sustainable waste and water management. Its work includes composting, hazardous waste handling, recycling, and education—all focused on renewing creation.

While the legal name WLSSD still applies in government settings, Resource Renew now tells the public story: a mission of stewardship, not just sewage.

“We’re not just about sewage—we’re about sustainability,” Axtell said.

And speaking of renewal, there’s been a leadership transition, too. Longtime executive director Marianne Bohren has retired, and Carrie Clement has stepped into the role.

The website remains the same wlssd.com

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





CHURCH LIBRARY

Having a library at the church is a fantastic resource for the community, offering a wealth of knowledge and entertainment for people of all ages. The idea of borrowing books for free is a great way to encourage reading and learning, especially during the summer months when many are looking for leisurely activities to enjoy. Whether you're interested in fiction, non-fiction, or spiritual texts, the church library likely has something for everyone. Plus, reading while enjoying the pleasant weather can be a delightful way to enhance your summer experience. Don't forget to explore the diverse selection and maybe even discover a new favorite book!



Adult & Teen Challenge Duluth Minnesota

Freedom from addiction starts [here](#).

Duluth ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE will be with us in worship on Sunday, June 15th. They will share music and stories of recovery.

Their theology is more conservative than the typical person in our congregation, but in listening to them we will certainly hear stories of hope and God at work. This is an important story for all of us. If you know others who need to hear stories of hope and healing from addiction, please make sure to invite them.



Building Security

Please check in with the church office when entering the building during the week

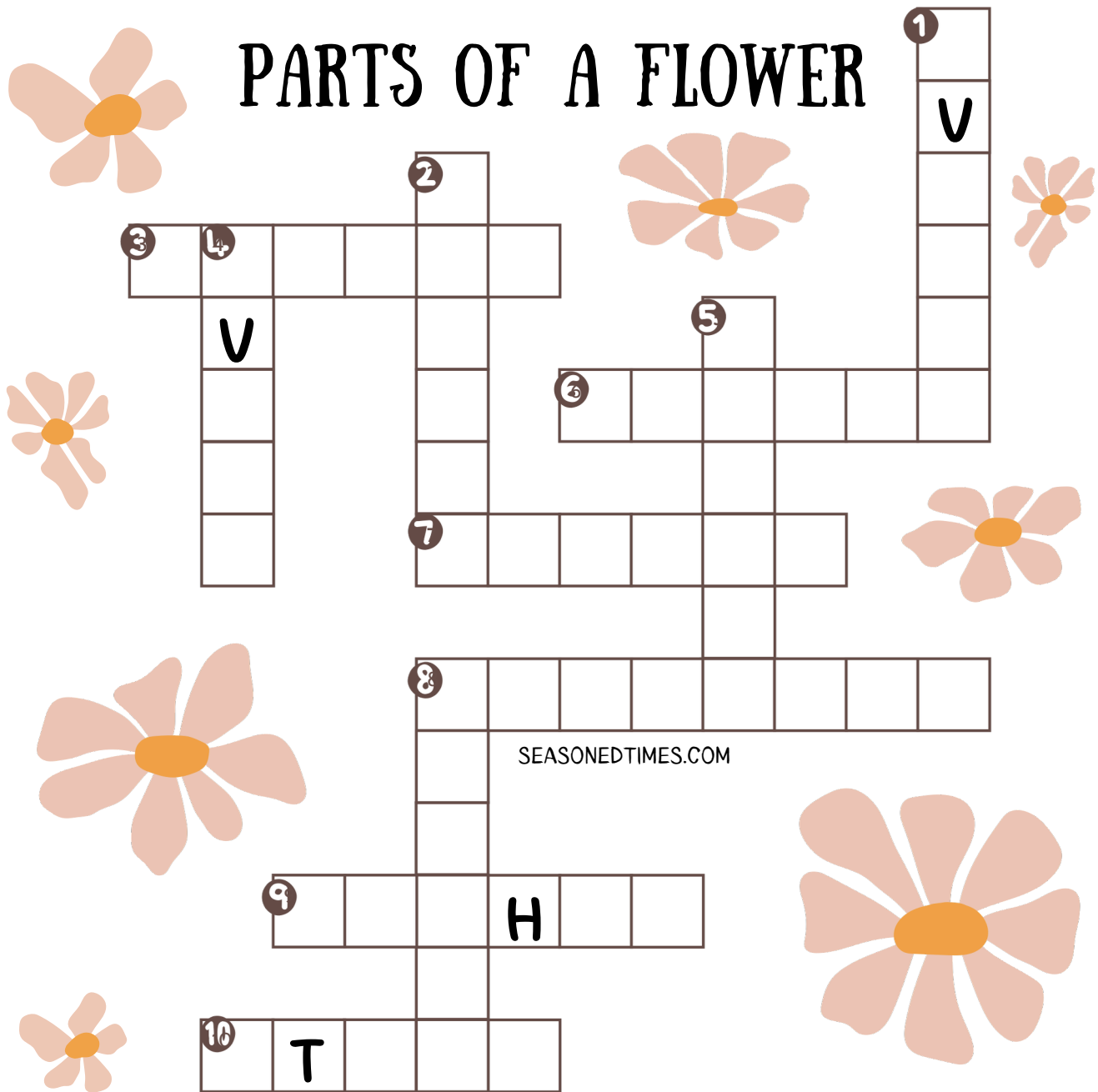
Congratulations to Derek Bromme! His first piece of handbell music has been published! If you attended a Strikepoint concert over the last two summers, then you've heard "Sparrows of Keshum," with its Middle-Eastern-sounding melody and the Strikepoint-invented Aqua Bend technique of dipping a bell in water. Well done, Derek!

A gift to light the church for the week of June 22 was made by Nancy Eaton, in honor of her birthday on June 28 and in memory of Bill Alexander's birthday on June 30. They spent many birthdays together at handbell events, and so the gift will also support the handbell program.

FIRST FAMILY

First United Methodist Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
218-727-5021, info@fumcduluth.com
Pastor: Jeanine Alexander
Interim Editor: Greg Leiviska
Next First Family deadline: June 18
Submit to welcome@fumcduluth.com
www.fumcduluth.com

PARTS OF A FLOWER



FLOWERS HAVE MANY PARTS. SOME WE ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH AND SOME AREN'T SO WELL-KNOWN. SEE IF YOU CAN NAME THESE PARTS OF FLOWERS.

DOWN

1. FORMS SEEDS OF FLOWER
2. ENCASES DEVELOPING BUD
4. WHERE OVULES (FUTURE SEEDS) ARE PRODUCED
5. POLLEN PRODUCING PART OF A FLOWER
8. USUALLY LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF FLOWER

ACROSS

3. POWDERY SUBSTANCE INSTRUMENTAL TO FERTILIZATION OF FLOWER
6. BRIGHTLY COLORED PARTS OF FLOWER
7. WHERE THE POLLEN LANDS AND STARTS FERTILIZATION
8. STALK OF FLOWER
9. PRODUCES AND HOUSES POLLEN
10. SUPPORTS THE STIGMA, CONNECTING IT TO THE OVARY OF THE PLANT





CHUM Rhubarb Festival Prep Schedule at the Coppertop

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival is Saturday, June 28 this year at Asbury UMC. We have pledged again to make 200 Strawberry/Rhubarb Pies, 100 coffee cakes for resale, and 35 large pans of crisp for their coffee shop. All volunteers are welcome! Please feel free to invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us in June. 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. You can direct questions to our Rhubarb Team – Pam Brown, Larry Ehresman, Linda Harper, Debbi King, or Anita Zager

FUMC needs Volunteers to – Pick Rhubarb, work in the church kitchen, chop rhubarb, clean and slice strawberries, assemble pies, run the dish washer, mind the ovens, box, label and transport baked goods. Drop off Rhubarb Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays in June beginning June 1st . If you need someone to pick it for you let us know and we'll send a rhubarb wrangler to your home.

Kitchen Schedule in June


- Every Tuesday – Chopping/Prep- 1:00—4:00 (or if your group would like to come after work let us know)
- Every Wednesday – Assembling pies 9:30 – 3:00, wrapping and freezing them

Festival Week 23-29

- Monday 1:00-4:00 - Chopping/Prep.
- Tuesday -Thursday 9:00-3:00- pie/coffee cake assembling, baking, boxing, labeling.
- Friday 8:00-5:00 Baking, Boxing, Labeling, and Transport.

To Volunteer email anitazager@gmail.com or look for the sign up sheets in the church narthex.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Rhubarb prep 1-4	4 Rhubarb prep 9:30-3:00	5	6 Men's group 8am	7 Monarch Festival 10-1
8 Worship 10am Sustainability 11:30	9	10 Rhubarb prep 1-4 SPRC 5:30pm Conversation with Church friends via zoom 10am	11 Rhubarb prep 9:30-3:00 Prayer Shawl 9:30am	12 Trustees 4:45pm	13 Men's group 8am	14
15 FATHERS DAY Worship 10am	16 Rachel Circle 10am	17 Rhubarb prep 1-4 Finance 5:30pm Council 6:30pm	18 Rhubarb prep 9:30-3:00	19 Ruby' Pantry 4:30-6pm	20 Men's group 8am Vacation Bible School 5-8	21
22 Worship 10am	23 Rhubarb prep 1-4	24 Rhubarb prep 9-3 Conversation with Church friends via zoom 10am	25 Naomi Circle 9:30am Rhubarb prep 9-3	26 Rhubarb prep 9-3	27 Men's group 8am Rhubarb prep 8-5 Youth Mission/Fun Day 10-5	28 Rhubarb Festival
29 Worship 10am	30				JUNE	

First United Methodist Church

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