

SEPTEMBER 2025

First Family

Volume 59, Number 8



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

230 E. SKYLINE PARKWAY

DULUTH, MN 55811

WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM



On The Journey With You

There is a lot of turmoil in society today. Political division is all around us. It seems that folks have a hard time disagreeing with each other without seeing the other as the enemy. In our church we have a variety of theological and political beliefs, but together we focus on spiritual values, serving together in God's name, over and above other ideology. We believe we are called to stand up for, and help, the marginalized and vulnerable ones. We look to the example of Jesus as to how we are to treat one another. We remember when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, he said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40).

This means when we see injustice, when the vulnerable and marginalized are overlooked or mistreated, we seek to respond by standing with and for them in word and action. As Desmond Tutu declared, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Diana Butler Bass reminds us: "Awe is the gateway to compassion. It is a deep awareness that we are creators, creators who work with the Creator, in an ongoing project of crafting a world." We're called to be co-creators with God, actively crafting justice.

Today, we cannot ignore:

- 2.3 million people in Gaza facing humanitarian crisis
- Systemic racism that still determines zip codes, school quality, and life expectancy
- A climate emergency that hits the poor first and hardest while the wealthy build higher walls
- Economic inequality where CEOs' purchasing power has increased over 1,000% since 1978 while typical workers have barely seen any real gains
- 40 million people trapped in modern slavery and human trafficking worldwide
- Veterans who served our country now facing homelessness and suicide at an alarming rate
- People held in ICE detention, and those living in fear, some who have only known life in the United States - detainees and migrants treated poorly, even inhumanely
- Our LGBTQIA siblings who are in fear of losing safety, protection and welcome.
- There is much you can add to this list ...

These aren't distant political issues—they're the cries of God's children. We are called to leave our zones of comfort and join God in the messy, costly work of liberation. So what can we do? Some in our congregation are writing letters offering encouragement and care to those held in detention ... many in our congregation are helping provide food and other necessities to those that need them ... we share openly that we are a reconciling congregation that fully welcomes/celebrates/includes all people, including those who are LGBTQIA, and we fund organizations that seek to protect and increase rights and freedoms ... some write their legislators and actively make their voices heard ... some recycle and compost and do other intentional actions to care for creation ... we take the values of Jesus with us when we cast votes at elections ... many of us pray How do you respond in the face of injustice? How can you help your church join you in responding and how can your church help you?

In the midst of all that is happening, let's remember that our calling above all is to love God and love thy neighbor. In the midst of all our differences, let's live God's love together and demand that the face of God be seen in all people.

On the journey with you! Pastor Jeanine



CONFIRMATION

A new class is beginning

Every other year, we begin a new two-year confirmation program. We will start a group this fall; they will be in a class together, and will be confirmed in April of 2027. Then in the fall of 2027, we will start another two-year class. Students must be at least a mature 12 years old to participate (classes will typically be 7th - 9th grade students and older students who haven't yet been confirmed). It will involve classes one Wednesday per month (typically the first Wednesday at 6:30pm), and a variety of hands-on faith, service, learning, and growing experiences that will take place retreats (not overnight). We want the kids to experience following Jesus and faith. The Wednesday evenings when they don't have confirmation class, they are invited to be a part of the youth group. Information will be coming out soon. If you have a child/grandchild/friend who is 12 years or older who is interested, please let Pastor Jeanine know.

Confirmation Orientation (parents and students, please attend one)

- Sunday, September 14 11:15am (following worship) OR
- Wednesday, September 17 6:45pm (come early for smashburgers/dinner)

SENIORS LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

Our 4th annual lunch social is Tuesday, September 16 at 11am.

For: All Seniors (65+ or anyone who considers themselves a senior)

Hosts: Pastor Jeanine & Larry, Linda Wiig, Greg Leiviska,
Sandy Smith, Rhonda Montavon...

Where: Lakeview Social Hall at church

Why: To honor and celebrate YOU!

What will we do: Eat a light meal together
Entertainment

Derek Bromme, Alex Flinner,

Larry Ehresman & Pastor Jeanine

Enjoying each other

SIGN UP BY Tuesday, September 9 (so we have enough food)

Please RSVP at the church office (there is a sign up sheet there) or
call the office (218-727-5021) or e-mail Pastor Jeanine
(pastor@fumcduluth.com) to sign up.

Let us know if you need a ride and we will make that happen

Worship In SEPTEMBER:

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. The service on YouTube is a livestream
of the service happening in the sanctuary.

Sermon Series: Re-Shaped – what we were made for:

We will be steeping ourselves in the idea that change is
what we are made for...that we are actually made and
equipped by a Creator that knew we would need to be
partners and agents of change throughout history. We
must be called to change. We must spend time discerning
and deepening our understanding of the call that is luring
us until we are ready to let go of “what was” in favor of the
new creation.

September 7 – Holy Communion. “Re-Shaped – what we
were made for # 1 : We Were made for this” Jeremiah 18:1-
6

September 14 – KICK OFF SUNDAY. The start of
Sunday School. Many of our music groups will participate.
“Re-Shaped – what we were made for # 2 – Inside Out”
Mark 1:1-15

September 21– “Re-Shaped – what we were made for #3 –
Everything Changes” John 12:20-26

September 28 – BIBLE SUNDAY (3 year olds ... 3rd
graders ... Confirmation students will receive Bibles). “Re-
Shaped – what we were made for # 4 – Be Encouraged”
Matthew 14:22-31a

Announcements/Offering time in worship – If you have an announcement you wish made in worship, please let me know and I (or the person making the announcements) am happy to make that announcement (and you can e-mail it to the church for inclusion in the weekly e-mail). If you/your group want to share about a ministry you are a part of, a social justice concern, an opportunity you wish to invite others to participate in ... you/your group are welcome to do that as part of our offering time. You could do that in person or by making a video (we can help you create a video). The offering time is a perfect place to highlight areas of ministry and living out our faith – our lives are offerings to God. Let me know if you/your group want to share at the offering time and we will happily & joyfully get that scheduled. Wouldn't it be great if every Sunday a group or individual shared at the offering time about ministry that is happening!!!!

WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY TAUGHT BY LYNN MILLIKAN

This in-depth Bible study meets every
Wednesday at 6:30pm on Zoom and is taught
by Biblical scholar, Lynn Millikan. For more
information contact MaryAnne Korsch
(maryanne.korsch@gmail.com) or Lynn
Millikan (millikan.lynn@gmail.com)
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622239029?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622239029?pwd=YUoyZE1sZ2dwVTRzSE9RTVQ5MU1sQT09)
[pwd=YUoyZE1sZ2dwVTRzSE9RTVQ5MU](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622239029?pwd=YUoyZE1sZ2dwVTRzSE9RTVQ5MU1sQT09)
[1sQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622239029?pwd=YUoyZE1sZ2dwVTRzSE9RTVQ5MU1sQT09)

Meeting ID: 876 2223 9029

Passcode: 675928

Bible Presentation

Bibles will be presented to 3-year-olds (and 4
& 5 year olds who haven't received a 3 year
old Bible) and 3rd graders (and 4th & 5th
graders who haven't received a 3rd grade
Bible) and confirmation students on Sunday,
September 28 during our 10am worship
service. If you cannot be in worship on
September 28 we will find an alternative way
to present the Bible to your child. Please let
Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com)
know if you would like to have your child
receive a Bible.

ADULT FORUMS happen on Sunday mornings at 9am.
It will be a 45 minute experience before worship. If you
would like to lead a forum, or invite a speaker, please let
Jean Walsh or Shelley Gruskin know so they can schedule
and advertise it. Forums begin mid September and meet
in the upstairs fireside lounge.

Faith Forum Schedule

Sunday mornings before the Service 9:00-9:45

- **Sept 14:** Lauren Carolan shares her experiences
and work with persons with Parkinson's Disease.
- **Sept 21:** Laurie Ash: “Why should Christians
Care: A Breastfeeding Mother Is Taken by ICE.”
- **Sept 28:** Tim Zager: “Leaving a Legacy and
Testimonial for Future Generations”
- **Oct 5:** UMD Library Director Matt Rosendahl:
“The State of Libraries today.”

YOUTH SEPTEMBER 2025

(7th – 12th grades)

CONFIRMATION – 12+ year old students

Every other year, we begin a new two-year confirmation program. We will start a group this fall; they will be in a class together, and will be confirmed in April of 2027. Students must be at least a mature 12 years old to participate. It will involve classes one Wednesday per month, and a variety of hands-on faith, service, learning, and growing experiences. If you have a child/grandchild/friend who is 12 years or older who is interested, please let Pastor Jeanine know.

Confirmation Orientation (parents and students, please attend one)

Sunday, September 14th 11:15am (following worship) OR

Wednesday, September 17 6:45pm (come early for smash burgers/dinner)

Wednesday, September 17 – Kick off Wednesday

Dinner anytime 6:00-7:00pm for SMASHBURGERS. Come after your sports practices, eat and connect! (free – donations welcome) 6:45-7:30pm Hang out in the youth room with Jason and re-connect

6:45pm – CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION (tween room – across from social hall)

Class Ring bells 7:30-8:30pm (please talk with Derek Bromme if interested)

Wednesday, September 24

Dinner at 6:00-6:45pm

6:45-7:30pm - Youth Group

Class Ring bells 7:30-8:30pm

Confirmation Students Receive Bibles in Worship – Sunday, Sept. 28 10am

Friends always welcome ... Text Pastor Jeanine (763-443-0570) or Jason Abbott (218-348- 3857) with any questions/needs/or just to connect

Save the dates:

The first CONFIRMATION CLASS will be Wednesday, October 1 6:30-7:30pm.

Roast Beef Dinner (we need the help of youth) – Thursday, October 2

Trunk-or- Treat – Wednesday, October 29 6:00-7:30pm

CHILDREN SEPTEMBER 2025

(nursery – 6th grade)

Sunday, September 14–Kickoff Sunday (Sunday school every Sunday)

Worship at 10am - SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS (you will leave for Sunday School following the children's message ... the extended nursery space will be available – come and see)

Sunday school is for birth –6th grades(5th/6th grade students are helpers)

Wednesday, September 17 – Kick off Wednesday

Dinner anytime 6:00-7:00pm for SMASHBURGERS (free – donations welcome)

5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery – 1st grade in the chapel, including Bible learning

5:15-6:15pm – Joyful Noise - 2nd – 6th grade (Tween group ... bells ... drums ...

singing ...) 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 1st grade and under **PARENTS –**

PLEASE COME WITH YOUR CHILDREN THIS ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, September 24

5-5:30pm– Jam Jr. Music: nursery – 1st grade in the chapel, including Bible learning

5:15-6:15pm – Joyful Noise - 2nd – 6th grade (Tween group ... bells ... drums ...

singing ...) 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 1st grade and under; Dinner at

6:00-6:45pm (*please send your child with a couple \$ to contribute to dinner*)

Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Bible Presentation for 3 year olds and 3rd grade

(and older children who have not received a Bible. Please let Pastor Jeanine know if you would like your child to receive a Bible)

Friends always welcome ... Text Larry with any questions (218-260-9577)

Save the dates:

World Communion Parade – Sunday, October 5 -

Roast Beef Dinner (we need the help of older children) –Thursday, October 2

(meet at back of church before worship)

Trunk-or- Treat – Wednesday, October 29 6:00-7:30pm

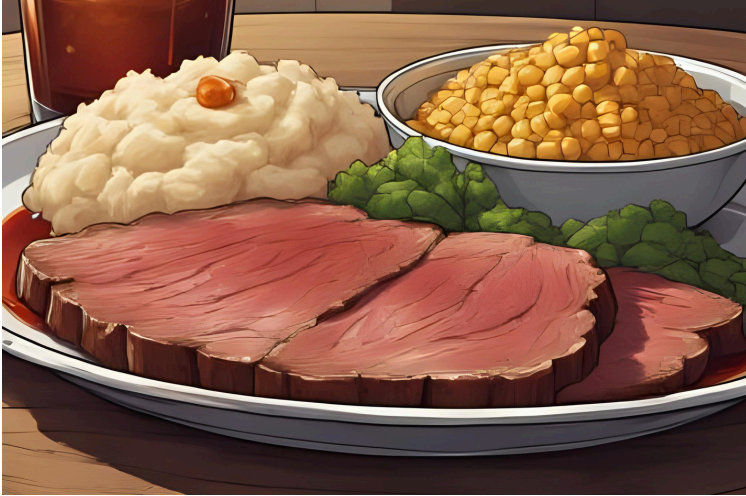
Children's Christmas Pageant and Rehearsals – Sunday, December 7 10am

(start rehearsing late October on both Wednesdays & Sundays)

Annual Roast Beef Dinner!

Thursday, October 2, 2025

4:30-6:30 pm



The dinner will be 100% DRIVE THROUGH!

Tickets will be available for sale in advance at the church office and on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers sign up online at this link
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-57987603-fall> or call the church office
(218) 727-5021.

\$15

Per meal

We accept Cash, Checks, and
Credit/Debit cards.
Checks can be made out to
FUMC.

Opportunities to help:

Wednesday, October 1, 9am-noon or noon -3:00pm—Apple Dessert Day

- Bake apple dessert
- Put foil in to go containers

Thursday, October 2, all day—Dinner Day

- 7:30-10:30am-trim beef, prepare coleslaw, wash dishes
- 10:30-4:00pm-wash dishes, put rolls in bags, prepare drive through outside, help where needed
- 1:00-4:00pm-cut apple dessert and put in to go containers
- 2:00-6:30pm-meat cutter, potato maker, gravy maker, corn maker, dishwashers
- 3:30-5:30pm-deliver meals
- 3:30-5:30pm-serving line crew-1st shift
- 5:30-7:30pm-serving line crew-2nd shift & clean-up
- 3:30-6:30pm-directing traffic
- 3:45-6:30pm-drive-through order takers, car delivery volunteers, and youth runners
- 4:00-6:30pm-dishwashers
- 6:30-8:30pm-dishwashers
- 6:30-8:30pm-cleanup crews: kitchen, drive through serving area inside & outside, volunteer room, roast beef dinner closet organization

If you show up at different times, we welcome you & will find a job for you!

Other ways to help:

Flyers—post flyers around your work (available at church office)

Invite friends to dinner via Facebook, email, word of mouth.

Prayers—pray for a God-filled successful event & that we can bless people.

This is a fundraiser. Please purchase a meal before or after your shift. (Youth enjoy the dinner compliments of FUMC.)

Something for everyone—ALL ages can participate!

All volunteers: please park on the day-care side of the building.

Thank you! Cindy Hedlund, 218-348-2634 (cell) text or call or schedlund@gmail.com
or church office at 218-727-5021.

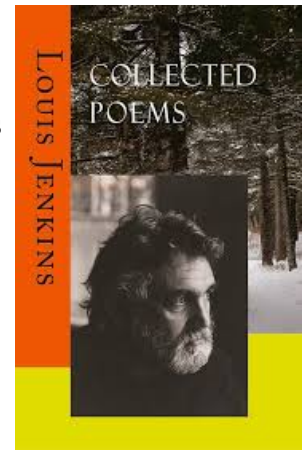
New Library Titles

“Collected Poems” Louis Jenkins, 2023. Milkweed Press.
There is a good chance of finding your favorite poems here as well as reading a few that you have not experienced before. Selected poems from the years 1973 to 2018 fill this book.



“Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid To Ask” (Young Readers Edition), Anton Treuer, 2021. Levine Querido.

Dr Treuer has a great table of contents that lists the specific topics in each chapter. There are numerous black & white photographs scattered through the book. A good read for adults as well as young people.



“Building a Moral Economy”, 2024. Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda. Fortress Press.

The author warns the reader about a feeling of “overwhelming helplessness” from reading the first two chapters of her book in which talk about heading toward a climate crisis. Moe-Lobeda sees hope though as she talks about a faith based plan of action to avoid “climate catastrophe” by joining with others to correct injustice & inequity and build a moral economy.



Fall Book Club

In her book “Big Magic - Creative Living Beyond Fear”, Elizabeth Gilbert asks “Do you have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within you?”

Come and join others as we explore creative living and hunt for those hidden treasures within. This 6 week group discussion begins Wednesday, September 24 and will meet in the library at 10:00 - 11:30 AM.

Anne Miller will be the group discussion leader. To facilitate a good group experience we will limit the size to 10 participants. If interested, please sign up in the Narthex. Please read the first part of the book before the first session.

Mark Your Calendar



FUMC's annual book sale will be **Saturday, November 15.** We will again share the space with the **Fiber Arts Sale.** Books may be dropped off starting **November 9.**

Welcome new staff:

We welcome Greg Leiviska as our new staff Communications Coordinator. Greg will add that to his current role as Director of Welcome

We welcome Jason Abbott as our staff leader for Wednesday Youth Group (meets Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm)



A Support Circle for Families and Friends of Loved Ones Living with Dementia
You are warmly invited to pull up a chair or pull up the link on Zoom.

At the heart of the Table of Eight experience is the encouragement we find in each other's dementia caregiving stories. By sharing our personal journeys, we create a deep well of insight and self-healing — for ourselves and for one another. Every dementia journey is as unique as a fingerprint. We are all amateur caregivers, constantly learning, unlearning, and adapting as we care. We are fellow travelers navigating two unknown worlds. Each person brings a story filled with hard-earned lessons, door-opening tips, and golden nuggets of wisdom; all forged through trial and error. In the end, sharing our stories is the most meaningful gift we can offer — to ourselves and to each other.

The first in-person, Table of Eight, dementia caregiver support group, will be held on **Thursday, September 11 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Coppertop**. This gathering will NOT be online. The **first zoom session** will be held the following day, **Friday, September 12 at 10:00 AM**. The link is below. Please write or call me with any questions: Gary@Virtical.Live or (612) 810-1683.

Topic: Table of Eight 10:00 AM CST for dementia caregivers

Time: Sep 12, 2025, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82137642460?pwd=1ly405p0zaZKwRbfS0KS9omCI2NRRn.1>

Meeting ID: 821 3764 2460

Passcode: 885142



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HOMECOMING & PICNIC

- For everyone who has ever worked on or supported a Habitat for Humanity project anywhere in the world
- Share your stories and your memories
- Bring your family, bring a friend

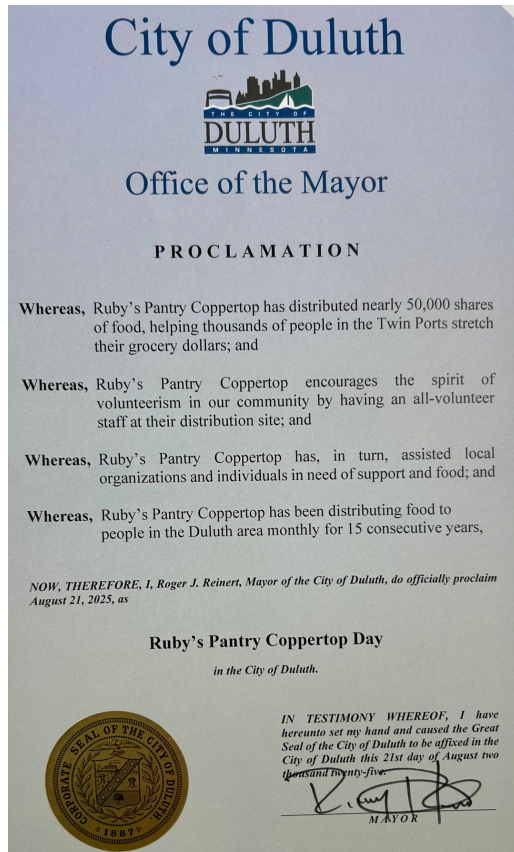
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28

Noon to 3pm

Munger Park, 1114 East 8th Streetth, Duluth
(right next to Trinity Lutheran Church)

Food Trucks Games Music Storytelling House Painting

For more information text 816-716-2019



Ruby's Pantry Celebrates 15 years.

Ruby's Pantry - Coppertop is a food distribution site that operates the third Thursday of every month. Located at First United Methodist Church (The Coppertop) is part of a larger organization called Ruby's Pantry that is located in North Branch, Minnesota. Volunteers operate a drive through distribution center at the east entrance, parking lot volunteers provide directions. Distribution begins at 4:30pm and continues until 6:00. Each participant donates \$25.00 (cash only) for a grocery cart of food.

Our distribution site began to organize the first part of 2015. Barb Hill, a member of the Coppertop, assembled a small group of people (many of whom still serve on our local steering committee) to investigate establishing a local organization to help assist people who were food insecure or simply needed/wanted to stretch their food dollar. Rev. David Bard, the Coppertop's minister at the time, supported having such a program at First United Methodist.

In addition to the Coppertop, our local Ruby's Pantry partner with local organizations and churches for supplies, volunteers and publicity.

Mayor Roger Reinert proclaimed August 21, 2025 as Ruby's Pantry Coppertop Day.





Music Notes



by Velda Graham Bell, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

CHURCH MUSIC GROUPS will resume rehearsals soon. New members are always welcome!

- Sanctuary Choir begins their season on Wed, Sept 3. They rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:10-6:10 in the East Lounge. For more information, contact director Derek Bromme (dbromme@css.edu or 218-590-0087).
- Tapestry (worship band) resumes their fall season Wed, Sept 3. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 in the sanctuary. Contact co-directors Corey Hulst (chulst70@gmail.com or 218-428-5520) or Leah Hulst (ljghulst@gmail.com or 218-428-9190) for more information.
- Cast in Bronze, our adult handbell ensemble, begins their fall season on Wed, Sept 3. They rehearse at 6:30-7:30 in the Bell Room. For more information, contact director Derek Bromme (dbromme@css.edu or 218-590-0087).
- Class Ring, our youth handbell choir for 7th -12th graders, begin rehearsals on Wed, Sept 10. Class Ring meets at 7:30-8:30 on Wednesdays in the Bell Room. Contact director Derek Bromme for more information at (dbromme@css.edu or 218-590-0087).
- JAM Junior begins rehearsals on Wed, Sept.17. JAM Junior meets on Wednesdays at 5:00-5:30 in the Chapel. This is a “fun-with-music” group for children ages 1st grade and younger. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend with their children. Contact director Beth Brophy (musickids@fumcduluth.com or 507-990-2959) for more details.
- Joyful Noise, our new music program for 2nd -6th graders, begins rehearsals on Wed, Sept 17. Co-directed by Beth Brophy and Christine Winkler Johnson, Joyful Noise meets at 5:15-6:15 on Wednesdays in the Tweens Room next to the Social Hall. This new music group will involve handbell ringing, singing and drumming on our World Drums, along with a weekly spiritual lesson or activity. For more information, contact Beth Brophy (musickids@fumcduluth.com) or Christine Winkler Johnson (christinewinklerjohnson@gmail.com or 218-464-3652).

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNERS also return on Wednesday, September 17.

Join us for smashburgers that evening served from 6:00-7:00pm.



For the past five years or so, our Sanctuary Choir has sponsored a Choral Scholar Program. This program gives an opportunity for a local college student to pursue choral singing in a community that is committed to excellence in sacred music. In turn, we benefit from their participation in our choir. In this five-year period, we have had two wonderful Choral Scholars: Riley Hinnenkamp, a UWS student and member of First UMC, and Henry Mattson, a student at St. Scholastica. We have been blessed by these young adults and their willingness to share their musical gifts with us!

Our Choral Scholars have received a monthly honorarium which has been paid with funds received from memorials, donations, and the Carol Donahue Scholarship Fund. We have been especially grateful for memorial gifts from the families of Dick Peterson and Al Merry, two dedicated members of our Sanctuary Choir.

Music Programs For Children & Youth at First United Methodist Church

Class Ring



Wednesdays at
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Class Ring is our youth handbell program for grades 7th-12th. Led by Derek Bromme, youth learn musical styles and handbell techniques for worship and outreach.

Joyful Noise



Joyful Noise is our new program, co-lead by Beth Brophy and Christine Winkler Johnson, for grades 2nd-6th. Children will explore a variety of musical activities – bells, singing and drumming on our world drums. This program includes a weekly spiritual lesson or activity.

Wednesdays at
5:15-6:15 p.m.

JAM Junior

JAM Junior is designed for our youngest musicians in first grade and under. Beth Brophy leads this “fun with music” program. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend with their children

Wednesdays at
5:00-5:30 p.m.



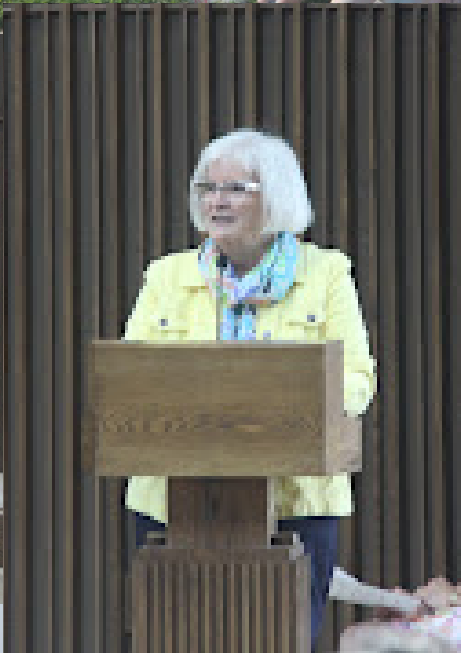
For more information contact
the church office:
218-727-5021
info@fumcduluth.com

Duluth Area Shape Note Singers host Singing of the Sacred Harp on October 11

An all-day Singing of the Sacred Harp will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 W College Street, on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Registration begins at 9 am, with singing from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. There will be a potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. This event is free and open to the public, although freewill donations are accepted.

Sacred Harp, or shape note music, is an early American folk music tradition. A form of hymn singing in four-part harmony, it is sung unaccompanied (acapella) and with great feeling. Everyone is welcome, even if you've never sung before. Come for an hour or stay all day!

For more information, contact duluthshapenote@gmail.com






OUR OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC on August 3 was AMAZING ... the food was great ... the attendance excellent ... the worship inspiring ... the joy being together outstanding. People really stepped up to make this happen. Thank you to all who helped, and all who came. Included are pictures from this great event!!!



Strikepoint is home safe and sound, and the 2025 summer concert tour is over. This year's tour consisted of nine concerts in ten days, across four states, with 2500 miles driven. The tour destination this year was Mt. Rushmore and visiting a longtime Strikepoint friend in the area. Mt. Rushmore is the ultimate giant statue, so to work up to it, the group stopped at as many "World's Largest ____" attractions as they could find. Check out Strikepoint's Facebook page to see the group photos. Highlights of the tour included wading in the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park, fields and fields of sunflowers in bloom, visiting the Crazy Horse Memorial, driving through Badlands National Park, exploring the South Dakota state capitol building, and visiting the Clemens Munsinger Gardens in St. Cloud. For the fourth year, 20% of the freewill donations collected at each site were returned to the host organization. Bill Alexander started this in 2022 as a way to help smaller local bell or church music groups recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also serves an incentive for the host to get as many people to the concert as possible! While there were, of course, tears on the first tour without Strikepoint founder Bill, hugs and shared memories helped, along with the knowledge that he would have been so very proud that the organization is continuing to flourish. Strikepoint has been traveling and performing annually since 1984.

STRIKEPOINT



I have been thinking about how many of us around the USA will be impacted by the revocation and lessening of the Environmental Protection Standards by the EPA. There are over 31 clean air and water regulations so far that I know of that have been weakened or eliminated. This an assault on public health.

The EPA is charged with protecting air and water, control over pesticides, toxic exposures, response to emergencies, regulation of wetlands and many other aspects of the environment such as research, the safety of the food we buy and chemicals.

The core values that EPA are to uphold and follow the Law, follow the Science and be Transparent. William Ruckelshaus was the first administrator of the EPA and outlined these core values which many of the administrators have followed for 54 years. The EPA has been controversial since its inception with many industries suing over regulations.

Now the EPA, under Lee Zeldin, has stopped the Endangerment finding. This finding showed that Green House Gas emissions from fossil fuel fired power plants contribute significant air pollution. Another action taken involved that all emission standards for “light, medium and heavy duty vehicles and heavy duty engines, and for light duty vehicles be abolished. The Vehicle standard proposed rule will have a public comment period to the EPA by September 15th. Hopefully some of us can take that action. You can go to: www.epa.gov and scroll down to the bottom of site to “Contact the EPA”. Follow the suggestions below.

If these new “non” standards go into full effect there will be health consequences! Children and adults will be affected. I should also mention PFAS’s regulation will slow down drinking water and wastewater PFAS treatment for another 10 years.

In conclusion, the population will suffer more harmful effects from emission rollbacks. Increases in asthma, heart disease, cancer, and other respiratory illnesses, not to mention environmental degradation will all occur.

Where is the integrity, the concern for human health, health of the environment, and all inhabitants of our lands? Lets take the actions we can and pray to God that we the people can and will take actions.

To make comments to the EPS about environmental impact, follow theses steps:

Identify the Topic

Determine the specific issue or proposal you want to comment on. This could be related to air quality, water regulations, or other environmental concerns.

Access the EPA’s Comment Portal

Visit the EPA’s official website and navigate to the sections for public comments. This is often found under the relevant program or rulemaking page.

Prepare Your Comments

- Clearly state your position supporting evidence or examples.
- Keep comments concise and focused on the specific issue.
- List respectful and professional language.

Submit Your Comments

Follow the instructions provide on the EPA’s website for submitting comments, which may include online forms, email submissions, or mail. Ensure to meet any deadlines for public comment periods.

EARTHKEEPER

Faith, Justice, and the Air We Breathe

In February of this year, Cody Hanson, with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MNPCA), visited the sustainability committee to share about the MNPCA's commitment to environmental justice and a new state law called the Cumulative Impacts and Air Toxics Rule.

After his visit, I agreed to serve on the Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Community Input Panel, helping shape how this important rule will be put into practice. So, what's this all about? For too long, pollution has piled up unevenly. Some neighborhoods live with more smoke in the air, more lead in the pipes, and more sickness because of where they are. And often, these are low-income areas, Native communities, or neighborhoods of color. In fact, 36% of Minnesotans live in places disproportionately affected by pollution.

This new law says companies can't just look at their own emissions anymore. If they want to build or expand in they must look at the whole picture—what already exists in a neighborhood—and ask: Will this add to the burden?

“Learn to do good; seek justice.”

— Isaiah 1:17

If the answer is yes, they don't automatically get a green light. Instead, they have to give something back—things like planting trees, hiring local workers, or repairing sidewalks and green spaces. That's where the Community Benefit Agreement comes in, and where local voices—including ours—make a difference.

What excites me most is that the MPCA isn't just posting information online and calling it good.

Cody and his team are sitting down at libraries, community centers, and even over shared meals to listen to people's lived experiences. That's a big change—and a hopeful one. As people of faith, this connects directly to our call to care for creation and our neighbors pollution is not just an environmental issue—it is a justice issue that affects health, housing, and community well-being. Scripture reminds us: “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

Call to Action: The MPCA is gathering input right now. You can share your thoughts, suggest community benefits, or simply learn more by connecting with Cody Hanson or attending a listening session. Together, we can help build a healthier, fairer Minnesota for all of God's people. Cody's email is cody.hanson@state.mn.us and his phone number is (218) 302-6687

Naomi Yaeger is passionate about environmental sustainability and writes to educate. She is a commissioned Earthkeeper in the United Methodist Church.

Puppa's Pals: Fostering Hope for Pets and People

By Naomi Yaeger

Homelessness affects every part of life, including the care of beloved pets.

For many in crisis, a dog, cat, or bird is a source of comfort and stability.

Yet when owners cannot provide care, they often fear surrendering their animals for good. That's where Puppa's Pals, a true grassroots nonprofit with no paid staff or building, steps in. The group provides safe respite foster homes for pets until their owners are back on their feet.

My daughter, Rebecca Bischoff, has fostered about a dozen dogs in the past two years. She shared, “Every dog I've fostered has been a different breed and personality. It's fun to learn and form bonds with each one.” While goodbyes are hard, fosters remind themselves how joyful reunions are when pets return to their families. Terry and I have fostered two cats, and I also help in “paperwork” ways.

Our church is part of the solution through Stepping On Up, a community-wide plan to end unsheltered homelessness in Duluth. Guided by dignity, community, choice, respect, and collaboration, the program provides person-centered pathways to housing and stability.

<https://www.puppaspals.org/>





Garden News

Hope this finds you all enjoying the seasonal change from summer to fall. We are setting up dates for you to put on your calendars for closing down the growing season at FUMC. If you can make both of these or one, even for a short period, it does help the group to complete things faster.



Wednesday, Sept 17, 9:00am is Geranium Lifting Day (Rain Date Thursday, Sept 18, 9:00am) to overwinter the geraniums in the building. It takes us a couple hours with the veteran workers that have done this event in the past. This event saves us a lot of money each spring, as some of the plants are going on four or more years old. They were so beautiful again this year, as so many folks have told us. But the dead heading is intense right now, so signs of a season of rest is upon us.

Second Fall Clean Up Date is Tuesday, October 7, 9:00 am. (Rain date Wednesday, October 8, 9:00am) This is putting the gardens to rest and preparing for the winter months ahead. We cut back the greenery, so tools associated with that clean up would be needed. An appreciation lunch will be provided by Marlene Berntson.



If you have not attended either of these events in the past, no experience is necessary; we will train you and make it a fun event. This is an awesome group, a wonderful ministry and a great way to meet people you have seen and never had a chance to interact with.

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.





Embracing a New Season Together

It's hard to believe summer is already winding down. Children are heading back to school, the days are growing shorter, and the cooler breeze is beginning to settle in.

For many, Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer—a reminder that a new season is upon us. With this seasonal shift comes a fresh start for many of our church activities. Wednesday night programs have either begun or will be starting very soon. These gatherings offer wonderful opportunities for all ages to connect, grow in faith, and build community. I encourage you to take a look at what's happening and consider joining in—whether it's a Bible study, youth group, or a fellowship class.

Music has always been a meaningful part of our ministry here, and that continues to be true this fall. Our music programs for both youth and adults are always welcoming new talent. If you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or simply have a heart for worship, we would love to have you be part of one of these groups.

We're also looking for Sunday morning greeters—friendly, welcoming individuals who can help create a warm atmosphere for everyone walking through our doors. It's a simple but powerful way to serve and make people feel at home, whether they're longtime members or first-time visitors.

As we move into this new season together, I invite you to take a step in, try something new, or reconnect with a ministry that speaks to your heart. Let's embrace the opportunities ahead with open hands and open hearts.

Blessings,

Greg Leiviska, Director of Welcome

FIRST FAMILY

First United Methodist Church

230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811

218-727-5021, info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor: Jeanine Alexander

Editor: Greg Leiviska

Next First Family deadline: **September 19**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com

www.fumcduluth.com

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.

A few weeks ago, Tom Wiig posted an interesting graphic on Facebook about Canadian wildfire smoke. In response to that, I suggested that the only way to deal with the smoke is to tackle carbon emissions head on, as there's a strong relationship between Canadian wildfires and global warming, and that includes feedback loops: a warming climate causes wildfires which burn forest and emits carbon dioxide, which increases warming... Pastor Jeanine responded to my comment by suggesting that it's a good educational opportunity to tell people how to reduce their carbon footprints. Her comment gave me angst, as there's increasing evidence that it's too late for individual actions to stop climate change. Even Canada's leading environmentalist, Dr. David Suzuki, recently mused that it's too late to stop climate change, and now we need to focus on mitigating impacts. So Jeanine's comment initially made me feel helpless, but after a few days of musing, I feel (somewhat) better. How did that happen? Well, I asked my "friend" Claude.ai (an AI chat engine) about the role of individual action in mitigating climate change. It ("he"??) came up with several good ideas:

- Individual action really will be insufficient. "The math is stark: even if every person in wealthy countries dramatically reduced their carbon footprint, it wouldn't be enough to meet climate targets without major changes to energy systems, industrial processes, and economic structures. The biggest emissions sources - power generation, industrial manufacturing, shipping, and agriculture - require systemic transformation." (Claude.ai, July 31, 2025)
- However, "Personal emissions do add up across millions of people. Transportation and household energy choices, while small individually, become significant collectively. More importantly, individual actions influence social norms and market demand. When enough people adopt electric vehicles, solar panels, or plant-based diets, it drives down costs and increases availability for everyone else." (Claude.ai, July 31, 2025)

Therefore, we need both individual and collective action on climate change. What can we as individuals do? We can:

- Reduce our automobile reliance.
 - Can we carpool to church? Jean Walsh and I have been carpooling to bell rehearsals for a couple of years now.
 - If you have several cars in your household, use the more efficient one for travel. Velda's Honda gets about 29 mpg in the city, while my Subaru gets 23. We should use my car whenever possible.
 - Can we use alternative transportation? Can you cycle or walk to church? Take the DTA?
- If you must drive, as a stopgap measure can you offset your driving emissions? For example, the Nature Conservancy has planted over 13 MILLION trees in Minnesota over the last 2 decades. Maybe donate to them or a similar organization to offset your vehicle's emissions. However, remember that using your vehicle less is way better than offsetting its emissions!
- Duluth has a notoriously old housing stock. Is yours? If so, can you make your house more energy efficient? New windows? More insulation? Have you converted all your lights to LEDs like we've done at church? (If you're using compact fluorescent bulbs - CFLs - you need to take them to Household Hazardous Waste rather than throwing them in your garbage.)
- Are you composting your organic waste (food waste) rather than throwing it away?
 - We've been doing this at church for years now. From a carbon emission perspective, composting reduces methane gas generated by landfills because it's instead turned into reusable compost.
- Also, are you buying only what you can eat? Almost 1/3 of food purchased by Americans is wasted rather than eaten (Claude.ai, July 31, 2025). Moreover, almost 60% of all US food waste occurs before food is bought by consumers (Claude.ai, July 31, 2025)!

At a systemic level, you can also act to mitigate climate change. For example:

- Don't just "vote like normal." Carefully examine the positions of all candidates standing for election and determine where they stand on climate change. Don't assume that party labels will "tell me everything I need to know" about where they stand. Vote - and make a vocal commitment to vote - for candidates who prioritize climate action.
- Refuse to put up a campaign sign in your yard! It'll be in your yard for 2-3 months tops and then be recycled or worse, sent right to landfill! What a WASTE of resources.

Support local action to combat climate change. For example, for several years the City of Duluth has sought state bonding money to use waste methane generated by the Resource Renew (formerly known as WLSSD) plant on West 27th St to fuel the downtown heat system. Let your Legislators know that these types of actions that reduce costs and emissions are a priority to you.

- Find out which companies you buy from are working hardest to reduce their emissions, and support those companies with your dollars. Tell businesses that their climate efforts are an important part of your choice. Buy local if you can - the more local the product you buy, the less energy consumed shipping it to you.

Well, that's a start. Thanks to Jeanine for stimulating my thinking.

Geoff Bell

Chair, FUMC Sustainability Committee

Denfeld High School Hall of Fame

Class of 2025

Saturday, September 20th at 10am

Denfeld Auditorium

Please join us in celebration of these inspiring members of the Denfeld community!



Claudia Anderson - Staff, Class of 1970



Adair Ballavance - Teacher



Angelo Florestano - Teacher, Class of 1978



Dave Mooers - Coach and Teacher



Mark Overland - Teacher



Mike Tusken - Class of 1987



Tim White - Teacher



Sandy Winklesky - Class of 1964

Congratulations to Adair Ballavance who will be inducted into the Denfeld High School Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 20 at 10am in the Denfeld Auditorium.

Coming soon:
A women's night out with food, conversation and childcare. Watch the bulletin and emails for details.



Join Yogadevotion at First United Methodist this fall for a Somatic Yoga practice, sure to be the unwind you need to begin your week!

Mondays from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

This 8-week session runs from: 9/8 - 10/27 and the cost is \$88.

Register at: bit.ly/FUMC-Fall

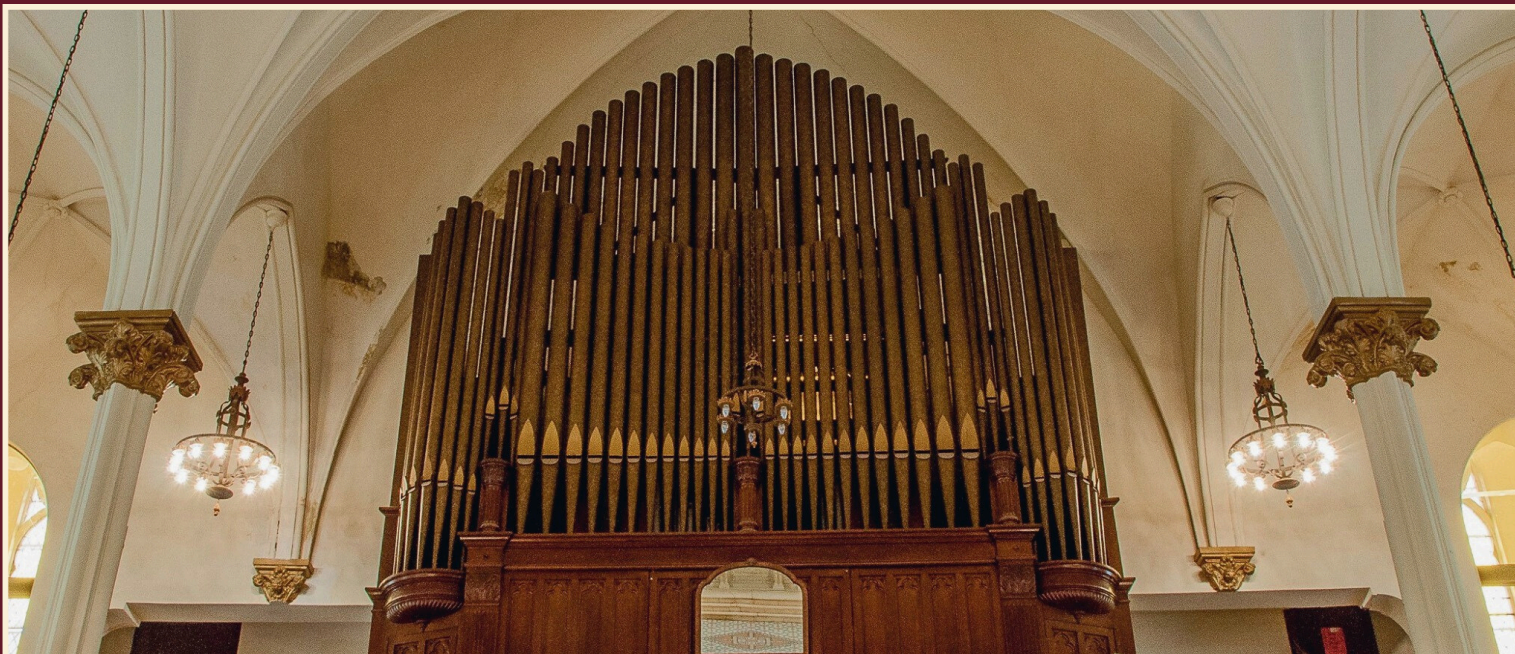
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan Ball
Marilew Barnidge
Alex Bellefy
Marlene Berntson
Maryjane Burdge
Dave Christensen
Mary Draxten
Nicole Ehresman
Aly Fairchild
Jan Gibson
Jessica Glander

Grant Goodlet
Ann Gummer
Mark Harvey
Preston Hedlund
Jude Ling
Sarah Mayne
Rebecca Miles
Rod O'Bey
Laura Ouren
Mike Racette
Mayson Whitlock

Kick off Wednesday
September 16th
*6:00-7:00pm:
Free Smashburgers and other
picnic food (donation welcome)
Everyone welcome!

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



FRIENDS OF THE FELGEMAKER PRESENT

REQUIEM

FOR THE LIVING

DAN FORREST

CHARLES SUNDQUIST, CONDUCTOR

RACHAEL KRESHA OPENS THE PROGRAM ON THE 1898 HISTORIC FELGEMAKER ORGAN
PERFORMING WORKS BY HOWELLS & DURUFLÉ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

3:00 PM

VOCAL SOLOISTS

Brian Kapp, tenor; Tasha Kapp, soprano; Cole Ottjes, treble

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Velda Graham Bell, organ; Paula Gudmundson, flute; Betsy Husby, cello;
Janell Lemire, harp; Madeline Miller, oboe; Deborah Rausch, horn; Kristin Sande, violin

SACRED HEART MUSIC CENTER

201 W 4TH ST, DULUTH, MN

\$20 TICKETS AT [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com) OR AT THE DOOR
\$5 STUDENT RUSH TICKETS AT THE DOOR



AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

FIND THE WORDS ASSOCIATED TO AUTUMN. THEY MAY BE VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL OR DIAGONAL.



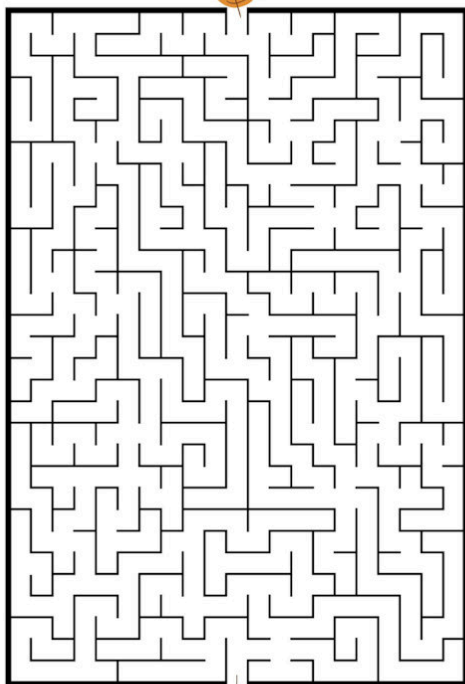
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B	J	E	X	O	J	J	N	E	J	P	D	I	W	U
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SEASONEDTIMES.COM

ACORN OWL SQUIRREL
DEER SCARF CORN
RAKE CIDER SCARECROW
APPLE PUMPKIN SUNFLOWER



MAZE



SEASONEDTIMES.COM

HIDDEN OBJECTS

Find 10 hidden objects (shown at right) in the picture below. Colors may be different.



SEASONEDTIMES.COM



SUDOKU PUZZLE



Each row, column, and inner section (9 squares) must be filled with numbers 1 - 9, without repeating any numbers. Numbers already printed may not be changed.

	4	3				1		
8			9				4	
2		9			3	6		
		6	7	1			3	5
		7		8	4	9		
					9	7	8	
7			2			5	1	
	9		4	5	1			6
		2		3				4

SEASONEDTIMES.COM

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3 5pm Adult Choir	4	5 8am Men's Group	6
7 10am Worship	8 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	9 10am Connect with friends via Zoom	10 9:30am Prayer Shawl 5pm Adult Choir	11 10am Table of Eight 4:45pm Trustees	12 8am Men's Group	13
14 9am Faith Forum 10am Worship 11:15am Sustainability	15 9:30am Rachel's Circle 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	16 11am Senior Luncheon 6:30pm Council	17 9am Geranium lifting 9:30am Naomi's Circle 5pm Evening Programs	18 10am Table of Eight 4:30pm Ruby's Pantry	19 8am Men's Group	20
21 9am Faith Forum 10am Worship	22 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	23 10am Connect with friends via Zoom	24 10am Book Club 5pm Evening Programs	25 10am Table of Eight	26 8am Men's Group	27
28 9am Faith Forum 10AM Worship	29 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	30				

First United Methodist Church

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