

First Family

Volume 59, Number 10



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

230 E. SKYLINE PARKWAY

DULUTH, MN 55811

WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM

On The Journey With You

I read this in a devotional some time ago and it spoke to my spirit. I hope it speaks to your spirit too.

A Blessing for Your Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey

Friend, today we bless your questions, your doubts, your wonderings, your discomfort: all unexpected invitations from the Holy Spirit to a new altar in the fresh air of God's goodness.

We bless your "I just don't know anymore," because now there is room for the Spirit to surprise you.

May you find courage in the midst of uncertainty and embrace the questions that lead you deeper into Love.

God's love has never been dependent on your right opinions, you can take a deep breath now.

Faith was never meant to be a stagnant pool of complacency anyway, but a deep and ever-flowing river of divine love. Let the currents deepen your trust in the One who knows the way.

May you never lose sight of the radical love at the heart of you, a love that calls us to care for the least of these, to speak truth to power, and to embody justice and mercy in the world.

May your questions be like stars in the night sky, guiding you onward into the vast expanse of the divine. Embrace the questions, for they are signposts on the road to deeper understanding and intimacy with the Divine.

May your evolving faith be a beacon of hope and healing in the midst of our world's dark night of the soul.

May your courage to be honest and resolutely human inspire others to embark on their own sacred journeys of exploration and discovery. May you be open to the diversity of beliefs and experiences that enrich the tapestry of faith. May you find good teachers and new companions and even a few old friends on this path through the wilderness.

May your faith be a wellspring of compassion, justice, and love, flowing out to those in need and nourishing parched souls - including your own.

May you experience unexpected healing even as you learn to map the stars into your scars. May you never lose your grip on the transformative power of grace. And may you extend that grace freely to yourself and to all who cross your path.

We bless your scrappy bit of stubborn hope, insisting on Love and demanding your honesty.

May your evolving faith be a testament to the infinite and boundless nature of God, and leading you ever closer to the heart of Love itself.

May you find peace in humble mystery.

Let the grace of the one who dances through the cosmos and whispers in the stillness of our hearts be with you as your faith evolves and transforms.

And may you begin to truly know, down to your bones, that you are loved, loved, loved right now - both as you are and as all that you will become. Amen.

*Beloved ones, may you know, down to your bones,
that you are loved ... so loved ... forever loved.*

On the journey with you! Pastor Jeanine



Each weekend, in the weekly e-mail, Pastor Jeanine sends you the link to the online worship service. If you don't get that email, there are other ways you can get to our worship video:

- Go to our church webpage. You will find the link on the homepage in the red and blue "Online Worship" box: fumcduluth.com/
- Go to YouTube.com and search for First United Methodist Church Duluth Minnesota and it will come up (you can also find past services there). If you "Subscribe" to the channel, you can receive notices and reminders, and it's easy to find us from your own YouTube account.
- Click on our YouTube channel to see all of our available online worship services. Here is the link: youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUsyV7xJ8b4cWww
- Go the FUMC's Facebook Page. There will always be a link there as well: facebook.com/FUMCDuluth

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER:

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.

- **Sunday, November 2nd** : All Saints Sunday – we will name, light a candle and remember those from our congregation who have died this past year. We will also celebrate Holy Communion. You will have the opportunity to light a candle(s) in memory of loved ones. Remember that it is daylight savings time so set your clock back an hour.
- **Sunday, November 9th** : We will reflect on how giving blesses everyone and brings about a more peaceful world. We will recognize Veterans Day.
- **Sunday, November 16th** : Consecration Sunday where you will be asked to make estimates of your financial giving to the ministry and mission of our church for 2026. You will receive a bowl of soup and bread following worship to enjoy at church or at home (see article for more information).
- **Sunday, November 23rd** : THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. We will learn about our Advent/Christmas Mission Project.
- **Sunday, November 30th** : 1st Sunday of ADVENT. Sermon title is, “Heaven & Nature Sings.”

40s/50s GATHERING: Saturday, January 24, 2026 @ 6pm at Margarita’s in the Denfeld Center on Grand Avenue.

For: Everyone in their 40’s & 50s (those in their 30’s who are old souls ... and those in their 60’s who are young souls are welcome too). Friends welcome

Your hosts: Steve & Jenna Mattson, Aaron & Jennifer Boyson, Jeremy & Karen Jeannette, Larry Ehresman & Jeanine Alexander.

What: Good food and time together. Your entrée will be covered for you by a special gift (people love us) ... you will only need to pay for drinks and appetizers. Watch for a sign up sheet in early January. Mark your calendars now so you can attend.

WEDNESDAY DINNERS for all – November 5, 12 & 19 from 6:00-6:30pm in the social hall.

Please consider contributing money to help cover the cost of the food so this service can continue and have creativity in our offerings.

Please let Larry Ehresman know if you are willing to help with prep or serving or clean up.

“We are excited to announce our upcoming **Children’s Christmas Pageant:** It will take place on Sunday, December 7th at the 10am worship service. All students are welcome – pre-school age through youth! We invite you to share your beautiful musical talents to tell the Christmas story on a journey to Bethlehem. Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings during Sunday School AND Wednesday evening 5pm (for kids 1st grade and younger) & 5:15pm (grade 2 and older). You can come to any or all rehearsals and still participate. You can even simply show up on December 7th , and be given a costume, to participate. Please contact children’s music director Beth Brophy, children’s music leader Christine Winkler Johnson, or ministries coordinator, Larry Ehresman (larry@fumcduluth.com) with any questions.

Consecration Sunday

Toward the end of the week of November 3rd you will receive a letter with your estimate of giving card and a participation survey letting us know how you want to share your time and gifts through our congregation in the year 2026. We will ask you to prayerfully fill them out and return them to church. Those worshipping in person will bring them to church on **Sunday, November 16** and place them in the offering plate. On that Sunday, as a way to celebrate our giving and our life together, Larry Ehresman and Pamela Brown will provide soup and bread and every person will eat their soup (and bread) in the social hall or leave with a bowl of soup (in a compostable container) to eat at home. You are also welcome to mail your estimate of giving card and participation survey, fill them out online, or bring them to the office during the week.

Please be prayerfully thinking of what this congregation means to you and others ... your values ... and what God is leading you to give financially in the coming year. Be blessed ... and be a blessing!

YOUTH (Grades 7-12)

Wednesday, November 5th

- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- CONFIRMATION CLASS – 6:30pm
- Youth Group with Jason (older youth) – 6:45p.m.
- Youth Bells/Class Ring - 7:30-8:30pm

Saturday, November 8th – Confirmation Retreat 10:30am-4pm

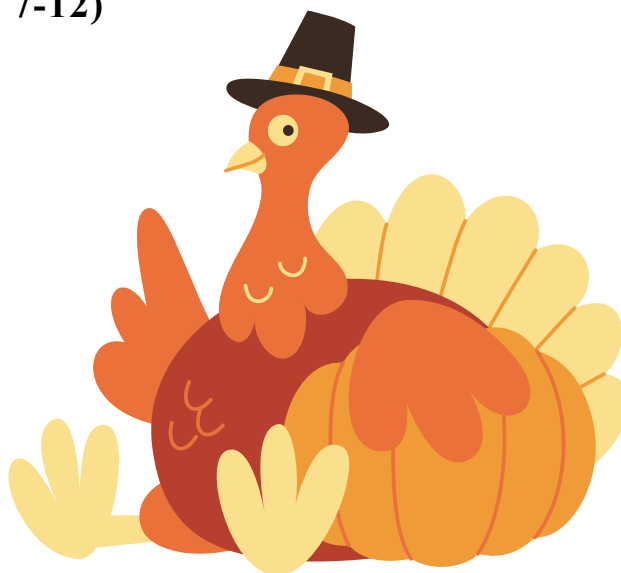
Wednesday, November 12th

- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- YOUTH GROUP - 6:45-7:30pm
- Youth Bells/Class Ring - 7:45-8:45pm

Wednesday, November 19th

- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- YOUTH GROUP - 6:45-7:30pm
- Youth Bells/Class Ring - 7:45-8:45pm

Wednesday, November 26th - No Youth Programs or dinner (THANKSGIVING break)



Children (Nursery - 6th grade)

Sundays, Nov. 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd – Sunday School @ 10am

Nursery/Sunday School (5 years and under) is open 8:30am through worship (kids can start in the nursery and then come up for the children's message ... or start in worship and then go to the nursery)

Elementary Sunday School – takes place after the children's message in worship

Sunday November 30th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL for elementary age children--- Activity bags in worship. The nursery will be open for younger children.

Daylight savings time ends November 2nd, so move clock an hour back

KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is Sunday, December 7th in 10am worship --- kids will be practicing both Wednesdays and Sundays all through November

Wednesday, November 5th

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery – 1st grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 1st grade and under
- 5:15-6:15pm – JOYFUL NOISE: 2nd-6th graders (Tween group ... bells ... drums ... singing)
- 6:00-6:30pm – Dinner
- 5:00-8:00pm – Nursery care available

Wednesday, November 12th

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery – 1st grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 1st grade and under
- 5:15-6:15pm – JOYFUL NOISE: 2nd-6th graders (Tween group ... bells ... drums ... singing)
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Wednesdays, November 19th

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery – 1st grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 1st grade and under
- 5:15-6:15pm – JOYFUL NOISE: 2nd-6th graders (Tween group ... bells ... drums ... singing)
- 6:00-6:30pm – Dinner
- 5:00-8:00pm – Nursery care available

Wednesday, November 26th No Children's Programs or dinner (THANKSGIVING break)



Planned Giving Event:

Rescheduled to a later date. Stay tuned for more information!

What: Come and learn about charitable and planned giving opportunities that allow you to benefit others using various tax-advantaged methods for current giving and estate planning.

Some options are more suited to seniors while others can be used at any age. Learn about leaving a non-material legacy of faith and values.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and an opportunity to ask questions of an expert in planned giving.

Leaders: Juhl Halvorson, financial advisor from US Bank, will share expert information. Hosted by Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Sandy Smith (FUMC director of operations) with FUMC Foundation leaders Brandon Veale and Tim Zager.

Who: Everyone is welcome.

A **Charge Conference**, for the sole purpose of approving pastoral compensation for 2025 will be held at the start of the church council meeting on Tuesday, November 18th at 7pm. All church members and friends are welcome to attend.

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.



Join Yoga Devotion 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: 11/3 - 12/15 and the cost is \$88.

Register at: bit.ly/FUMC-Fall

We Give Thanks

Gloria Erickson is lighting the church for the month of November in loving memory of her siblings - Ruth, Ruby, Marlene, Albin, Jim and Leland Johnson.

The remainder of gift will go to CHUM and Food Shelf

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!

Dear members of First United Methodist, we at Loaves and Fishes Community want to thank you so much for your consistent monthly donation. We could not do the work we do without the wider community support such as yours. Thank you for addressing the needs of those who live on the margins.

Thank you for First UMC's regular donation to the CHUM general fund and 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.

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.

2025 Bible Recipients

3 year old Bibles

Clover Brophy
Betty Bruce
Rowan Frost
Nora Geissler
Viola Maye
Hammond
Gabriel Hanson
Owen Allen Larson
Everleigh Misjak

3rd grade Bibles

Levon Craft
Lily Geissler
Bella Giuliani
Elena Giuliani
Liam Hedlund
Owen Hill
Zoey Kibler
Nora Yardley

Confirmation Bibles

Grace Bellefy
Zaida Lynn Bruce
Wilder Craft
Ella Maria Davis
Ty Decatur
Martin Hill
Rylie Fairchild
Adelynn Rae Larson
Brooke McKenna
Larson
Mariska Mercer
Alexander Earl Moses
Elijah Nielsen
Georgia Orman
Hadley Mary Walker



Keith Ball	Beth Hohenstein
Kathleen Beasley	Tommy Kishida
Holly Brown	Susan Kurth
Robert Chilberg	Dan Morgan
Elissa Downs	Judy Morgan
Kathy Eckstrom	Noah Nielsen
Bonnie Edwards	Daniel Niemi
Dudley Elliott	Bella Serck
Evy Fairchild	Teri Tangen
Alex Goodlet	Faye Topliff
Anne Gustafson	Patty Wallin
Tony Hauschildt	Marlys Wolden
Jennifer Hinnenkamp	

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 2: All Saints Sunday – we will name, light a candle and remember those from our congregation who have died this past year. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

John Kearney
Bill Alexander
Patrick Alexander
Carol Healy
Dorothy Gum

Jerry Norling
Walter Peterson
Ethel Lewis
Bob Krumwiede

Book Sale. Saturday, November 15, from 10 - 3

Looking for gently used books and for people who would like to volunteer to work at the sale or accept & organize book donations in the east lounge the week before the sale.

Books may be dropped off after church on Sunday November 9; on Wednesday November 12 1-6PM; on Thursday, Nov 13, 9 AM to 3PM & on Friday Nov 14, 9AM- 3PM.

Please contact Jean Walsh at jmbwalsh@gmail.com or Helen Smith-Stone at HSmith_Stone@gmail.com for more information or to reserve a time slot. No magazines, encyclopedias or textbooks please.

The 2025 Coppertop Bazaar

Saturday November 8, from 9 am-2:30 pm

A church sponsored event to benefit the ministries of FUMC.

Many volunteers and donations are needed to make this a successful event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Traffic Control- Volunteers are needed to direct traffic and find available parking spots. Sign up for one or two hours at church and indicate your availability or say yes if asked to join the team. Karl Lindgren and Todd Kurth, parking coordinators, provide excellent training,

Door Greeters-Karen Morgan welcomes new door greeters and will be contacting volunteers from 2024. Volunteers are needed for one- or two-hour shifts and information and maps are provided.

Bakery-Linda Harper and Barb Kim welcome the morning rush to the bakery. If you have been part of their volunteers and want to help again, let them know or sign up at church. **THEIR GREATEST NEED IS FOR ALL THE GOOD BAKERS AND HOMEMADE JAM AND JELLY MAKERS TO FILL THE BAKERY. LAST YEAR THEY RAN OUT OF BREADS VERY EARLY!**

New Volunteer Position for the 2025 Bazaar.

Volunteers are needed to ensure directions are followed by the person using the lift. The lift is located by the west door entrance. We are helping prevent damage to the lift if directions are not followed. Simple training will be provided. There is no physical contact with the person using the lift.

From The Welcome Desk

As the leaves fall and the air grows crisp, November gently reminds us of the importance of gratitude. It's a month marked by change—both in the seasons and in our hearts—as we draw nearer to the close of another year. In the quiet turning of the calendar, God invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks.

In many ways, November is a bridge. It carries us from the busyness of autumn into the sacred waiting of Advent. But before we rush ahead, we are given this space to remember all that God has done. We gather around tables on Thanksgiving, but more importantly, we gather in our hearts to thank God for His faithfulness.

Gratitude is more than a holiday tradition—it's a posture of the soul. Scripture encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18), not just when things are easy or abundant. Even in seasons of challenge, gratitude has a way of shifting our focus from what we lack to the goodness of God that sustains us.

As a church family, November is a wonderful time to practice gratitude together. Whether it's through testimonies, service projects, or simply encouraging one another, we are strengthened when we give thanks as a community.

Ways to Cultivate Gratitude This Month:

- Start a Gratitude Journal: Each day, write down three things you're thankful for—big or small.
- Serve Others: Thanksgiving becomes even more meaningful when we extend God's love to those in need.
- Reflect on the Year: Take time to look back and see where God has been present in your life.
- Pray Together: Gather with others to thank God through prayer and worship.



As we move toward Advent, may our hearts be anchored in thankfulness. Let us remember that every blessing, every breath, is a gift from the Lord. In this season of gratitude, may we be a church that not only gives thanks—but lives it.

Whispers of Autumn

Greg Leiviska

Amber leaves drift through the fading light,
Softly surrendering to the hush of night.
Each one twirls in a golden dance,
Caught in the lake's reflective trance.

The sunset spills its molten hue,
Painting ripples in copper and blue.
Shadows stretch where willows weep,
As day folds quietly into sleep.

A gentle breeze stirs the mirrored glass,
Carrying whispers as moments pass.
The air is tender, calm, and deep—
Where falling leaves and secrets sleep.

As the first wisps of snow gently fall,
Eventually covering the ground in all,
We huddle down through winter's sting,
And await the gentle breath of spring.

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: **November 17**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com

www.fumcduluth.com

From Our Faith Community Nurse



Minnesota

Greetings to all. Here it is November and the Holiday season is approaching. This is a time when many families gather together to celebrate and support one another. Adult children may return from school, or other married children with their children will visit too. It is also a perfect time to take a few minutes to begin to discuss important matters that can and will impact your lives. These conversations I'm referring to are about planning which is important should you find yourselves in the position of not being able to speak for yourselves in a health emergency. If you do not have a health care plan or also known as a health directive, the time has come for you to have an Advanced Care Plan (ACP). Now some may react by saying can't we talk about something more pleasant? Discussions around ACP should begin when your children reach 18 and be revisited at least each 8 to 10 years, or if a person has a life-threatening illness the ACP should be revisited and revised at that time. We make plans for most things in life, and this should be one of them. A series of conversations between loved ones and their healthcare providers should ensue. The goal is to have everyone understand each persons' values, goals, and wishes to *minimize* confusion, fear, anger and confrontation should communication be impossible. The word 'minimize' is used because any serious medical situation is extraordinarily stressful.

ACP is about each individual making choices for themselves in connection with their family and faith tradition. Having conversations with family is a **gift** to you and them. Death is a natural process which is a spiritual and a relational event. Each death is unique. Each person is unique with different beliefs and goals.

An excellent resource to begin conversations and help in filling out an ACP can be found at ***Honoring Choices Minnesota***. An ACP as well as "Terms to Know" are available on line at this site. Please watch the video on this same site so that you can understand more fully what some of the terms used in the ACP refer to.

I will be happy to assist any of you to help clarify what is needed to fill out the form prior to you having a discussion with family or your health provider. Once filled out you do not need a lawyer to sign. Two witnesses of your choice as long as it is not a health care provider can do the honors of watching you sign.

Another important form is known as POLST Minnesota which stands for Provider Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment. The POLST form is a portable medical order that can give patients with an advanced serious illness the option to exercise personal control over the treatment they do and do not want to receive at the end of life. Unlike an advance care plan (ACP) the POLST form converts a seriously ill individual's preferences for care into medical orders that are immediately actionable as the patient moves across the continuum of care whether it be at home or in a care facility.

If a person's physician thinks a person is nearing the end of life whether it be one or two years that person and physician, or an Advance practice nurse (APRN) or a physician assistant (PA) can sit with the person and complete the form and any of the above health providers can sign the form. This makes the form a portable standing medical order which then can be followed by EMT's and any other health provider. This form can also designate whether a person is a full code or a DNR (do not resuscitate). If the person is at home and there is not a POLST form in sight and EMS are called they are obligated to perform CPR.

Until some form of electronic registry is established the POLST form, if at home, should be posted on the refrigerator where EMT's can find it (not hidden in a drawer).

I will have copies of the Advance Care Plans in the office which you can pick up if you are unable to print from a computer and I will be glad to assist you.

Please be safe if you travel for the Holidays and remember whatever keeps love away isolates us and weakens our immune system. "The power of love to change bodies is legendary, built into folklore, and everyday experience, throughout history, 'tender loving care' has uniformly been recognized as a valuable element in healing" as written by Dr. Bernie Siegel in Love Medicine and Miracles. So when discussions ensue remember you are giving a loving gift to one another.

Music Notes

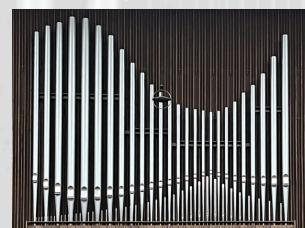
On **Sunday, November 16** at 3:00pm, our organist, Velda Graham Bell, will be joined by two of her colleagues, Karen Hanson Sande and Rachael Kresha, in presenting an organ concert that shines a spotlight on the incredible talents of women composers for the pipe organ. Until recently, compositions by women have been a rarity, particularly when you look at the “classical” repertoire. This concert, entitled *Music She Wrote*, will explore organ compositions dating from the 17th century up until recent times. Karen is the Director of Music and organist at First Lutheran Church in Duluth and Rachael is Cathedral organist at Christ the King Cathedral in Superior and adjunct professor of organ at UWS. The concert further celebrates the recent renovation and expansion of our church’s Austin pipe organ. Admission to the concert is free, with a freewill offering to be taken.



First United Methodist

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

Freewill offering
Reception following



Music She Wrote an organ recital exploring music by women composers

Featuring works by Emma Lou Diemer, Celina Kobetitsch, Rachel Laurin, Isabella Leonarda, Brenda Portman, Florence Price, Ghislaine Reece-Trapp, and Gwyneth Walker

Sunday, November 16 • 3:00pm

First United Methodist Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth, MN 55811

Organists



Velda Graham Bell



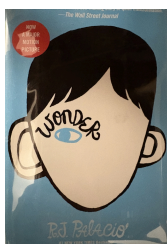
Rachael Kresha



Karen Sande

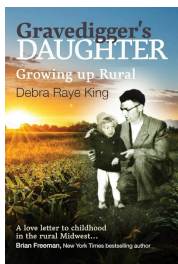
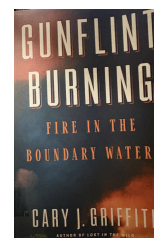
Library News

Recent Additions to the FUMC Library:



WONDER. A multi-award winning book by R. J Palacio. A fifth grade boy born with a disfiguring face deformity learns to navigate public school. Highly recommended.

GUNFLINT BURNING: FIRE IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS by Gary Griffith. A comprehensive account of the dramatic events around the Ham Lake fire of 2007, one of the largest wildfires in Minnesota history.



GRAVEDIGGER'S DAUGHTER: GROWING UP RURAL by our own Debra Raye King. A warm memoir to childhood in rural Wisconsin.



♥ A Big Shout-Out to Our Amazing Volunteers!

We're so blessed to have you.

Here at The Coppertop, we are incredibly blessed to have such a fantastic group of volunteers who help make everything run smoothly. Whether it's out front or behind the scenes, your time and energy make a big difference.



We've got gardeners who keep our grounds beautiful, kitchen crews who whip up delicious meals, ushers and greeters who welcome everyone with a smile, and office helpers who keep things organized. Then there are our committee members, spiritual leaders, musicians, tech folks—the list goes on and on!



Every task, big or small, helps build the community we all love to be part of.

So next time you see one of these awesome folks, take a moment to say thanks. Or better yet—join them! There's always room for more helping hands.

Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do. You truly are the heart of this church.







Chum is “people of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.”

Chum Fall Assembly - Thursday, November 6

6:30 pm at Duluth Seventh Day Adventist Church, 3210 Decker Road, Duluth Come to hear stories of the impact our shared ministry has had on people through Chum's programs. Get the latest on Chum's shelter expansion and the status of housing in Duluth, projects completed or still in the works. Bring canned vegetables or soup for the Food Shelf... Bring a friend... COME!

Register at <https://www.tfaforms.com/5195704>

Chum Thanksgiving Services - Tuesday, November 25

6pm at Norton Park United Methodist Church, 436 N 79th Ave W Duluth A group of West Duluth churches are joining together to share gratitude, followed by a reception and packing brown bag breakfasts to share with guests staying at the Warming Shelter. 7pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 219 N. 6th Ave. E., Duluth Reflections on gratitude in word and music, where the offering plate will be passed to support our shared ministries to our neighbors at Chum.

Election Day - Tuesday, November 4

Exercise your right and privilege to vote! Preview ballot: <https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov/>

Be Informed <https://www.chumduluth.org/>

For information on the impact of President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1 – 119th Congress), CNN has published an article that both summarizes the impacts and when the various provisions take effect. You can find the article here: <https://www.cnn.com/politics/trump-agenda-bill-provisions-timeline-vis>



Congress must work to reopen the federal government while supporting affordable healthcare access.

We cannot allow ourselves to be divided by health.

No Healthcare, NoVote. <https://naacp.org/take-action>

NAACP is calling on Congress to:

Pass a funding bill that protects affordable healthcare for ALL Americans.

Reopen the government ASAP.

Urge your federal lawmakers to protect affordable healthcare and work to reopen the federal government.

Call Rep. Pete Stauber - Washington DC Office (202) 225-6211 or Hermantown Office (218) 481-6396

or send email to: <https://stauber.house.gov/contact/email-me>

US Senators - Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or send email to:

Senator Amy Klobuchar <https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy>

Senator Tina Smith <https://www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>



Housing Update

Needs, in-the-works, & successes

Maxfield Study July 2025 Update:

Duluth's housing study was in the news this week, and identifies a demand for an estimate 8713 new housing units by 2035. Demand is divided between general occupancy housing (73%) and age-restricted senior housing (27%). The rental market is in dire need of new supply as the vacancy rate* is only 1.1% among affordable and subsidized rental units and 1.8% among market rate properties. The for-sale market is coming off the high of the pandemic housing boom as the median single- family home price has increased 43% since 2018. At the same time, supply is low and high mortgage rates are reducing affordability.



OUR SUCCESSES IN DULUTH!

Programs developed to support people's emergency needs while experiencing crisis:

- Safe Storage – accessible 5 days/week
- Laundry Love – serving 40-50 households/week
- Damiano Center -- expanded hours for the hygiene unit
- Safe Bay – serving 150-200 persons every summer
- Warming Center – average 70 persons per night in 2024/2025 winter season
- Another Door – 12 units of emergency housing for 18–24 year old youth
- Plover Place – 24 unit micro apartments for single adults that have experienced chronic homelessness
- Chum moved to Damiano temporarily for a construction project that will nearly double capacity, with more private and family beds
- United Gospel Mission planning to relocate, add hygiene services and 40 units of permanent supportive housing in 2027/28
 - Secured bipartisan support for a bill to allocate state funding
- Increased community awareness and education
 - Over 200 people trained in basic life saving and people centered skills like overdose prevention and trauma informed care
- Evaluation of Plover Place in process
 - Capital fundraising underway for the next project that will serve people re-entering from incarceration.

“Volunteers are Love in Motion!”

THANK YOU to the Supporters and Volunteers of the 2025 Fall Roast Beef Dinner.

Statistics:

2025

750 dinners served.
682 pounds of beef (30 roasts)
510 pounds of sliced apples
111 volunteers in 2 days
5 volunteers from Denfeld NHS
\$3,865.78 raised

2024

824 dinners served
595 pounds of beef
450 pounds of sliced apples
98 volunteers in 2 days
2 volunteers from Denfeld NHS
\$5,316.45 raised

Some leftovers were delivered to CHUM and some were kept and will be morphed into additional fundraising opportunities for ministries at FUMC. Thank you, Pamela Brown & Larry Ehresman for this ministry.

What is priceless is the offering of warmth and hospitality to the community and to do this important outreach ministry fundraiser together while strengthening our relationships.

We thank God for all of you and your gifts you so graciously give to the church community.

You are loved and appreciated!

Cindy and Scott Hedlund

Kenwood Lutheran Church had their community Spaghetti Dinner the same day as the fall roast beef dinner

Faith Forum Fall 2025

Sunday mornings in Fireside Lounge before the Service 9:00-9:45

Please join us as we share our stories, become more informed about our community, and challenge each other to grow in faith and mutual understanding.

Nov 2: Horseback Preachers, Tent Revivals and the Roots of Methodism: Naomi Yaeger on her new book Blooming Hollyhocks: Tales of Joy During Hard Times.

Nov 9: Kindergarten teacher Sara Hill reflects on teaching elementary students pre and post Pandemic. What's changed?

Nov 16: Allen Anway: A scientific presentation with an O'Henry ending.

Nov 23: Matt Rosendahl, Director of UMD Libraries, on the state of libraries today.

Dec 7: Ellen Hill

Faith Forum will start up again Jan 11th.

Questions, concerns, ideas for future topics? Please contact:

Shelley Gruskin sgruskin@css.edu or Jean Walsh jmbwalsh@gmail.com

2025 Fiber Art Fair and Church Library Sale complete with SOUP at FUMC

Once again, FUMC will be hosting the Fiber Art Fair on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

The Church Library Committee will be having its annual book sale. (See separate article.)

Our church kitchen will be open, serving vegetable beef soup and potato soup.

(Yes, these soups will be made from the famous leftovers from the Roast Beef Dinner.) Larry will be making his signature butter cream frosted cinnamon rolls. What could be more enticing!

Volunteers are needed to: wait counter, cashier, ladle soup, and serve hot and cold beverages. Please contact Pamela Brown (email:

pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us) to volunteer for 2-hour work slots.

Donations of soft drinks (preferably cans) would be appreciated.

Proceeds will go to updating the Atrium and Narthex.



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.

Thursday, November 13th at 10:00 AM at Coppertop in the Fireside Room

Friday, November 14th Online from Gary's Office – Zoom Link - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87984010825?pwd=IK4ECb2TqdNVwucMjZMPPrMgcUPLnmz.1>

Meeting ID: 879 8401 0825

Passcode: 026414

Scholarship Opportunities

ARDATH GIBSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Ardath Gibson Scholarship Selection Committee (AGSS) is inviting all eligible students to apply. To be eligible to apply for the Ardath Gibson Scholarship, one must be a member of First United Methodist Church or someone who has family who are members. The applicant must be pursuing at the undergraduate or graduate level a degree in health care, the physical sciences, or business. The \$1,000 scholarship, established in 2012 will be awarded on Sunday, December 28th.

The Ardath Gibson Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee will have discretion in determining if the applicant's studies meet these criteria. To apply, one must have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Ardath Gibson (1915–2012) practiced her faith as a United Methodist, ultimately making First United Methodist Church in Duluth her home. As a business professional, she recognized the importance of higher education, establishing this scholarship for individuals pursuing degrees in business or the sciences.

To apply, candidates must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The application packet must include:

- The completed AGS Form.
- A brief statement about how the candidate views their education/career choice would benefit the community.
- High School and/or College Transcript(s).
- Current letters of recommendations from two parties, unrelated to the applicant, who know the applicant well.

The completed application packet may be submitted between November 1 and November 22, 2025:

- Through the First United Methodist Church website at <https://fumcduluth.com>
- By mail to FUMC, 230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811, or
- Emailed to Pamela Brown, Facilitator for the AGS Selection Committee, pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us

LENNON-BERINI SCHOLARSHIP

The criteria for the applicants are:

- Be a member of Duluth's First United Methodist Church
- Have completed at least two years of college
- Be pursuing a people-centered career

Application Forms will be available on the church's website on November 1, 2025. They will need to be fully completed and turned in by 4pm on Friday, November 21.

Applicants will need to compile all materials (completed application form, transcripts, recommendations, and candidate statement) into a single electronic file and send to Terry Wallin at teto62@charter.net.

Previous scholarship recipients are expected to provide letters of recommendation that have not been previously submitted.

The Lennon-Berini Scholarships for 2025 will be \$2000 each. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The scholarships will be awarded during a worship service at the end of December.



MARGARET SWANBERG SCHOLARSHIP

The Margaret Swanberg Scholarship Selection Committee (MSSS) is inviting all eligible students to apply. The scholarship, established in 2012 for individuals who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate level degree, is \$1000 and will be awarded on Sunday, December 28th. Margaret Swanberg (1910 – 2012) practiced her faith at First United Methodist Church,

To be eligible, applicant must be:

- Be a member of First United Methodist Church or someone who has family who are members.
- A woman (divorced, widowed, single parent) who needs to return to school to be trained or retrained to find a suitable job in the working world, or
- A student graduating from high school who wishes to prepare to become a minister, Christian education director, counselor, or social worker, or
- A student graduating from high school who wishes to become an early education teacher, kindergarten teacher, or primary school teacher.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The Margaret Swanberg Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee will have discretion in determining if the applicant's studies meet these criteria.

The application packet must include:

- The completed MSS Form.
- A brief statement about how the candidate views their education/career choice would benefit the community. This statement should also include how they meet the criteria set in Margaret Swanberg's bequest.
- High School and/or College Transcript(s).
- Current letters of recommendations from two parties, unrelated to the applicant, who know the applicant well.

The completed application packet may be submitted between November 1 and November 22, 2025:

- Through the First United Methodist Church website at <https://fumcduluth.com>
- By mail to FUMC, 230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811, or
- Emailed to Pamela Brown, Facilitator for the MSS Selection Committee, pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us

"The more that you read, the more things you will know,
the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." —

Dr. Seuss

EARTHKEEPER

Artificial Intelligence and Our Call to Stewardship

*“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” —
Genesis 2:15*

By Naomi Yaeger

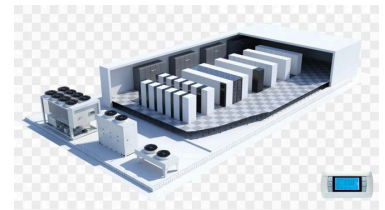
Lately a proposed data center has been in the news. First of all, let me tell you — I love AI. I use it to proofread my writing and catch those sneaky little mistakes that hide until after I hit “send.” You might think punctuation and grammar are the same across all platforms, but they’re not. As a news writer, I follow AP Style, which uses the Webster’s New World College Dictionary. As an author, I switch to the Chicago Manual of Style and the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. And guess what? They don’t always agree — not on spelling, not on punctuation, and sometimes not even on common sense.

AI helps keep me honest — though some might say it’s not honesty at all if I’m leaning on a digital crutch. Maybe so, but if it keeps my commas in line and my verbs out of trouble, I’ll take the help with a grateful heart. My nephew, who has built a wonderful career developing software for AI, likes to remind me how powerful and fast this technology is becoming. And my brother — his dad — sums it up with his plainspoken wisdom: **“Like it or not, AI is here to stay.”**

That truth comes with a challenge. Behind the marvel of AI’s intelligence are very human costs — energy and water. The proposed AI data-center campus in Hermantown, Minnesota, for example, is expected to use up to 50,000 gallons of water per day — about the same as 160 homes — to keep its servers cool. Data centers like this can consume 20 megawatts of electricity or more, enough to power a small town. For Christians, this invites reflection. We celebrate creativity and innovation, but we are also called to stewardship. How can we encourage the use of renewable energy and water-saving systems? How can our choices, both digital and daily, reflect care for creation?

Technology is here to stay — but so is our call to keep and tend the garden.

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



(Image from clipart-library.com)

2025 Fall Roadside Cleanup

“FUMC sponsors one of the St. Louis Co. Roadside Cleanup locations, and twice a year schedules a time to make our community a little nicer.” [Quotation from Bill Alexander, The First Family, May 2023 edition.]

This fall’s Roadside Cleanup was a rousing success. Participants included: Stacy, Lauren (Alexander), Will and Millie Carolan; Jon and Jill (Alexander) Anderson; Claude Williams and Tom and Pamela Brown. We were done in record time!

We also thank our church that advocates for caring for our Earth. For those of you who were not physically present, your prayers were much appreciated.

As you know, The Bill Alexander Family established the fall and spring Roadside Cleanup as part of our caring for the Earth. Our cleanup area is a two-mile stretch of Maple Grove Road, from Lindahl Road to Solway Road.

The Spring 2026 Roadside Cleanup time will be on Saturday, May 9th, from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM. Don’t miss the chance to put in your calendars!

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.



COPPERTOP BAZAAR

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

More than 40 area crafters are offering handmade gifts!

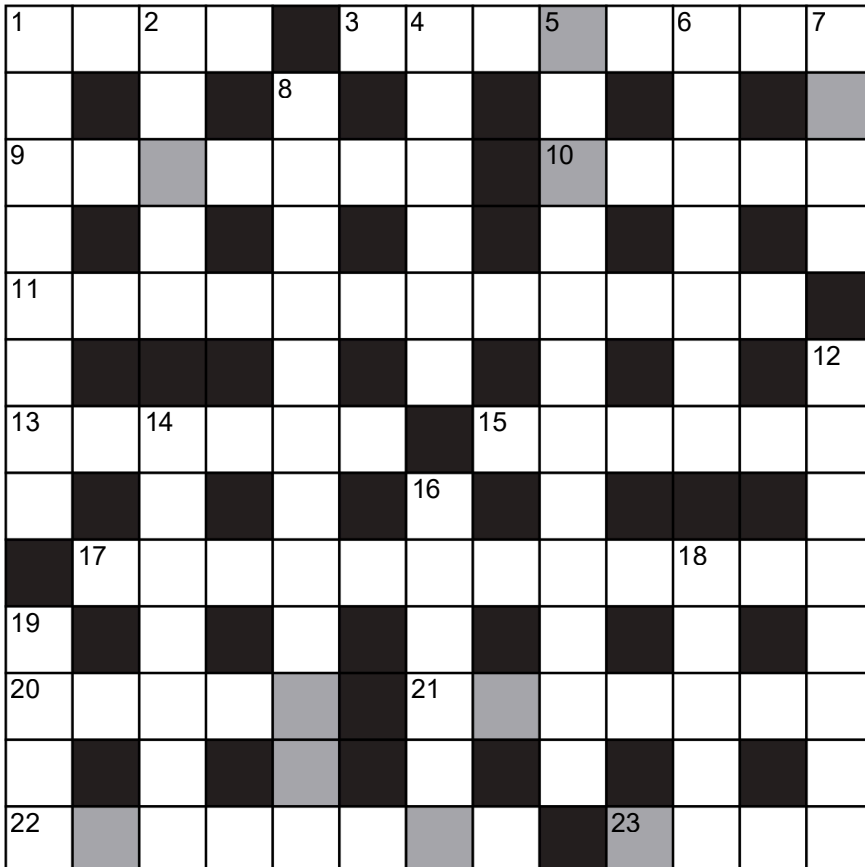
Jewelry Ceramics Accessories Home Décor
Woodcraft Novelties Stained Glass Knitted Items
Baked Goods Pickles Linens Sewn Items
Children's Items Doll Clothes Holiday Items And Much More !

Hot Cinnamon Rolls at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, please call the church office at
727.5021

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a popular Thanksgiving Day event.

ANNUAL AUTUMN CELEBRATION CORN CRANBERRY FAMILY FEAST FESTIVAL
FOOD FOOTBALL FRIENDS GATHERING



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



- 1 Deities (4)
- 3 Bodily (8)
- 9 Angered (7)
- 10 Proposal (5)
- 11 Framework for washed garments (7,5)
- 13 Sleeveless cloak (6)
- 15 Workroom of a painter (6)
- 17 Style of playing blues (6-6)
- 20 Ancient object (5)
- 21 Person learning a skill (7)
- 22 Take over the role of (8)
- 23 Sues (anag.) (4)

- 1 Eye condition (8)
- 2 Wild dog of Australia (5)
- 4 Strangest (6)
- 5 Commensurate (12)
- 6 Turned down (7)
- 7 Titled peer (4)
- 8 Based on legend (12)
- 12 Front limbs (8)
- 14 Pasta strips (7)
- 16 Manic (6)
- 18 Biological taxonomic grouping (5)
- 19 Push; poke (4)

[illegible]

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10am Worship All Saints Sunday	3 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	4 Election Polling all day 10am Connect with friends via Zoom 5pm KIT Women's connect	5 10am Book Club 5pm Evening Programs	6	7 8am Men's Group	8 Coppertop Bazaar 9-2:30pm
9 9am Faith Forum 10am Worship 11:15am Sustainability	10 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	11 4:45pm Trustees	12 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10am Book Club 5pm Evening Programs	13 10am Table of Eight In person	14 8am Men's Group 10am Table of Eight Zoom	15 Fiber Arts & Book Sale 10-3pm
16 9am Faith Forum 10am Worship Consecration Sunday "Music She Wrote" Organ Concert 3pm	17 9:30am Rachel's Circle 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	18 10am Connect with friends via Zoom 6:30pm Council	19 10am Book Club 9:30am Naomi's Circle 5pm Evening Programs	20 1pm Planned Giving Event in Chapel 4:30pm Ruby's Pantry	21 8am Men's Group	22
23 9am Faith Forum 10AM Worship 30 9am Faith Forum 10AM Worship	24 5:30pm Yoga Devotions	25	26 10am Book Club	27 	28 8am Men's Group	29

First United Methodist Church

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