

Fourth Avenue UMC Newsletter



Pastoral Transition

By Pastor Amy Jo Bur

During the Lenten season, it is my hope that each of us is building up our spiritual foundation in anticipation of the celebration of Easter. Thank you for your feedback, as we have practiced different styles of prayer and meditation during worship each week. When we meditated on an expanding circle of lovingkindness, I heard appreciation

for the round architecture of the sanctuary dome and the fabric art depicting an ever-widening circle of God's love. You also expressed being spiritually uplifted by both praying traditional prayers that you have prayed since childhood and also by praying in new styles. It is my hope that you have grown in your faith through this



Lenten experience. As we move into April, Easter is coming soon! There will be many Holy Week opportunities to reflect on the last week of Jesus' life and celebrate his glorious resurrection:



Sunday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
Worship

Thursday, April 17, noon Maundy Thursday
Communion

Friday, April 18, noon Good Friday Ecumenical
Worship at the Cathedral

Sunday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday
Worship

I am honored by the invitation to preach
during the Good Friday worship service at
the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour.

It is the tradition of Fourth Avenue UMC to receive a special Easter offering in celebration of the resurrection of Christ. This year the Easter offering will be designated 50% to apportionments that support shared ministry in the UMC and 50% to a local mission: Ridgeview Heights, a new affordable and emergency housing development being developed by the Community Action Center. Ridgeview Heights anticipates groundbreaking in 2025 for two emergency housing units and six affordable, market rate housing units. This development responds to urgent community needs for both emergency housing and affordable housing. I encourage you to generously support both of these missions to reach out with Christ's love to those in need.

As Easter approaches, I hope that you will also reflect on the question: "Who needs to know?" Who needs to know about the new life that comes through Jesus Christ? Who needs to know about the power of loving community to overcome isolation? Who needs to know about the unending love of God? As you reflect on this question, perhaps the Holy Spirit will surprise you with some of the answers and prompt you to invite others to join us for Easter worship, as we celebrate the gift of new and eternal life. Easter blessings to you!

On behalf of SPRC:

Submitted by SPRC Chairperson– Brad Prange

Welcome Pastor Shawn Stoll!

On behalf of SPRC, I am excited to announce Shawn Stoll as the new pastor for 4th Ave beginning his appointment in June. Pastor Shawn comes from Faulkton, SD where he is currently serving that UMC community. He and his wife Julie, have four children: Josiah, Nate, Daniel and Anya. All three boys are grown and navigating adulthood and Anya is finishing her junior year at Perpich Center for Art Education.

Pastor Shawn brings many gifts to his ministry concentrating on teaching, encouragement and discipling. He has a passion for impactful conversation with persons listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit in chorus with the community. Pastor Shawn's call to ministry is rooted in reflecting accurately our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life, and to equip people to be disciples of Jesus. Pastor Shawn shared his vision for the Church with our SPRC team and I would like to summarize it as follows: The Church is the gathering of those who are following Jesus back into a right relationship with our Creator. His role as a pastor is to represent the message to the best of his ability, while resting on/in the Spirit's power to lead us in the Way of Jesus.

Pastor Shawn's leadership style is that he is a firm believer in "his ceiling becoming your floorboards". He is always watching for the opportunity to allow others to step beyond what they thought possible, and into God's call on their life. He respects the Sabbath, a time to stop, listen, ponder and be filled with the Spirit of God so empowered to respond appropriately in step with Jesus. In his spare time, Pastor Shawn enjoys relaxation/fun with family, friends, constructing things with his hands, cooking, hosting, playing guitar, reading and walks at sunrise or sunset. Please join me when appropriate, in welcoming Pastor Shawn to 4th Ave.



Mission Team:**By John Streiff**

Greetings from Mission & Outreach!

Happy April! Hope you're all enjoying our winter roller coaster. So amazing how time flies, soon we will welcome our friends home from down South.

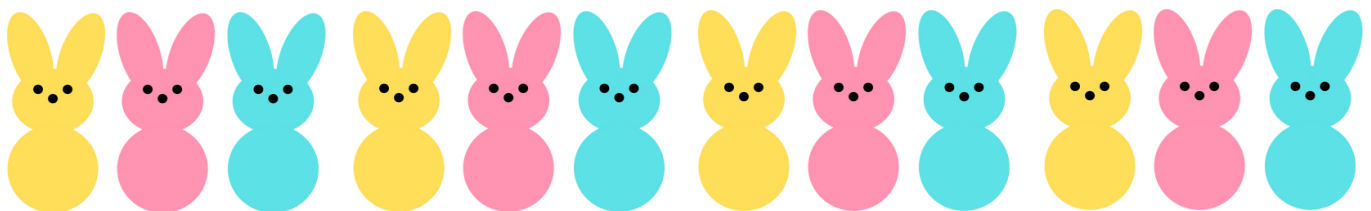
The St. Patrick's Karaoke night was another success, was so much fun singing and listening to all the talent and fun. It was such a blessing when Keith and Bill sang the Irish Blessing and Amy sang Danny Boy! What a blessing to be there. Many thanks for all the support and help from so many.

I am so grateful and excited to see the final count on the noisy offerings for the month of March. I am amazed at the generosity of everyone. As you know these proceeds will benefit our Community Action Center, we are helping people hungry right here at home, Thank you!

For the month of April our project on the books is hosting the Red Cross blood drive on Friday, April 11th, from 9am until 4pm. I want to thank, in advance, those that will be there to greet, welcome and give an inviting atmosphere to all that will donate. I anticipate a fun and fulfilling day.

Other than that, all seems quiet for now, but we know how fast that can change. So, I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter. A time of great suffering to infinite victory over death itself from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the greatest missionary of all time!

Farewell for now and may God bless you all with health and happiness. Never forget God loves you and so do I.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Fourth Avenue United Methodist
Church

Fellowship Hall
219 4th Ave NW
Faribault, MN 55021

Friday, April 11, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: FourthAveFaribault to schedule an appointment.

**Come give April 1 to 13 for \$15 Gift Card (email) plus
chance to win \$5K prize. See rcblood.org/hope**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2016 The American National Red Cross

[31] - Order ID: 1785504 - Item ID: 883523 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 25001 - 3D+APL 303- APR17 - 26147

Lenten 2025 SOUP-erb Update!

Week 1: 295 quarts sold	\$3,043 in sales
Week 2: 299 quarts sold	\$3,027 in sales
Week 3: 363 quarts sold	\$3,608 in sales

Total: 957 quarts sold	\$9,678 in sales
------------------------	------------------

Cash Donations to date:	\$1,600
-------------------------	---------

Expenses:	\$2,031
-----------	---------

Profit for Lenten 2025 Soup to Go	\$9,247
-----------------------------------	---------

This was a HUGE team accomplishment, friends; and all of YOU helped make it happen. Sincere thanks to everyone who touched this project in some way. Every dollar given, every food item donated, every prayer offered, every carrot chopped, and every soup kettle stirred helped us achieve our goal. Thank you for believing in this project and coming together to make it a success!

With much joy and gratitude,
Sara DuChene-Boyd



6 to be inducted into FHS Alumni Award program

Jan 29, 2025, Faribault Daily News

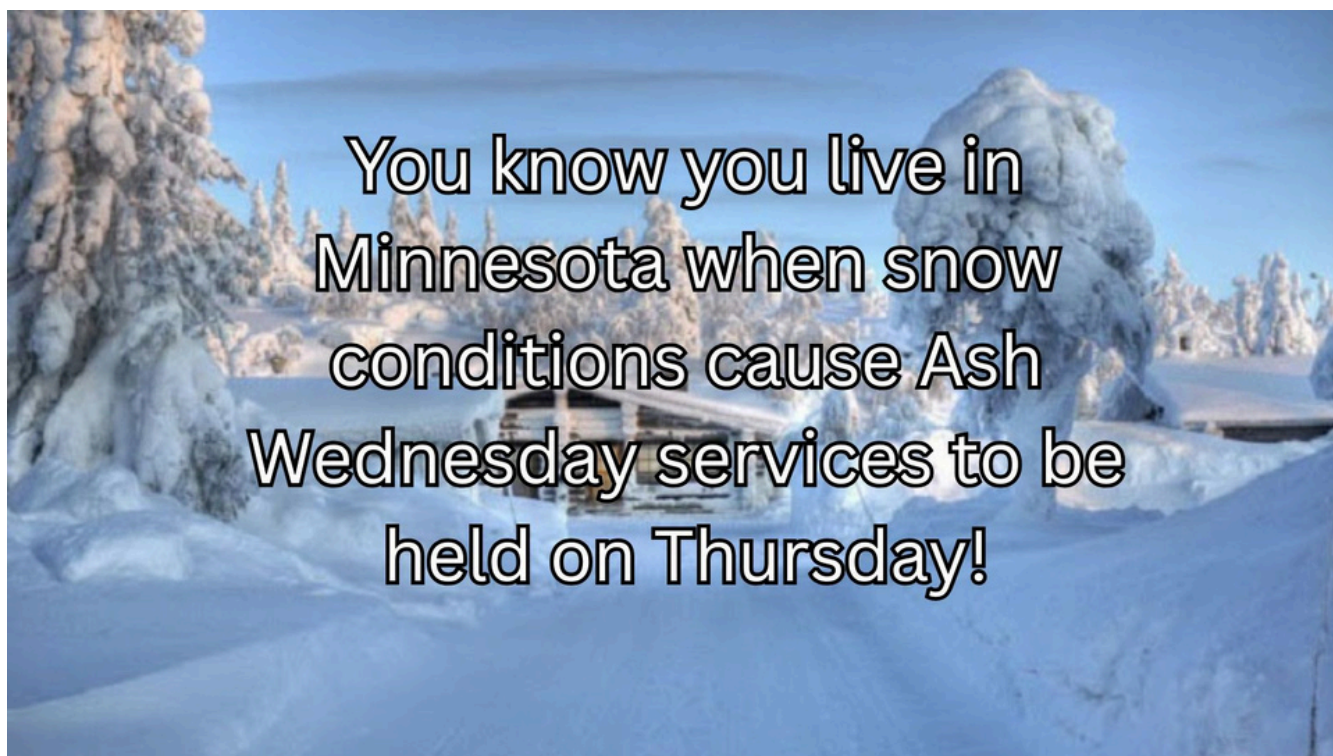
The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes graduates of FHS who have made distinctive contributions to benefit others through humanitarian activities or extraordinary personal and professional accomplishments following high school.

The 2025 honorees are Jennifer (Meese) Green (class of 1989), Gary Kindseth (1965), **Rod Mahler** (1951), Drew Sande (1980), Jason Tako (1990), and Nancy Lee (Meyer) Van Buren, MD (1975).

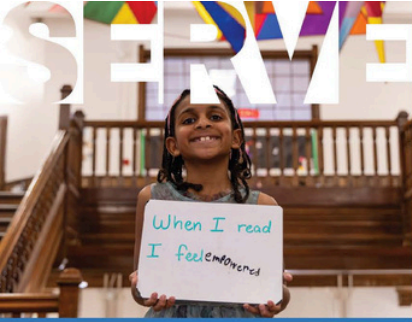
A reception for the award winners will be held Saturday, April 26 at 5pm at the Faribault American Legion.

The public is invited and may reserve tickets by April 1 by emailing jfagerlund69@gmail.com and sending payment of \$25 per ticket to: Faribault Alumni Award, 701 E. Division St., Faribault, MN, 55021

Sponsored by FHS Distinguished Alumni Award Committee



Community Events




SERVE


Become a
**Literacy
Intervention
AmeriCorps
Member**

This position involves:

- Completing 1700 hours over an 11-month term from August 2025 to June 2026.
- Leading the daily operations of tutoring programs at a reading center in Faribault.
- Providing direct tutoring and support to students.
- Building and maintaining positive relationships with students, caregivers, volunteers, and school staff.





IMPACT




GROW


Serve with AmeriCorps at Reading Partners and you'll receive:

- Bi-weekly living allowance
- Segal Education Award of \$7,395
- Medical, dental, and vision coverage at no cost
- Childcare assistance for qualified individuals


APPLY TODAY





**Come join the
Kenyon Area
Internship Committee**

***Taste all 8 flavors and
vote for the best one!***



**Soup Cookoff
with
Live Cake Auction**

Sunday, April 6th

Proceeds to benefit KAIC

**Soup serving from
11:30 to 1:30 pm**

Live auction at 12:30pm featuring Kevin Maring auctioneer

601 Lutheran Highway 60 Kenyon

Additional support from Thrivent Action Team funds

Church Newsletter | Issue #3

Page 8

Member Spotlight: George Smith

George Smith was born in Chisholm, Minnesota (in the iron range), and spent his K-9 school years living in Saint Paul. He was the oldest child of seven siblings. George first came to Faribault during a summer as a teen, to help friends on their farm, then stayed for high school. After high school, George worked for the candy company and then the post office from 1960-1990. George was the postal superintendent in Faribault. He also served in the army corp of engineers doing construction during the Korean War. He was married for almost 67 years to his late wife, Sandra Jean, and they enjoyed traveling together, visiting China, Hong Kong, Germany (to visit their son in the military), Italy, Austria, Norway (visiting with Sandra's family), Sweden, and Denmark. At the time that they visited China, it was a carefully controlled country, with many restrictions on travel. The people there were very hospitable, and he enjoyed seeing the Great Wall and learning about the history.

George became connected with Fourth Avenue UMC through Sandra Jean, and enjoyed many past years of working together with Jack and Rod at the soup luncheons. Now, George is part of our online worship and is enjoying having been retired for 35 years, which is a longer time than the 30 years for which he worked at the post office! George has three children, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Noisy Coin Offering for March Food Shelf



Mar. 2	Week 1	\$44.25
Mar. 9	Week 2	\$128.15
Mar. 16	Week 3	\$110.44
Mar. 23	Week 4	\$ 60.68
Mar. 30	Week 5	\$ 77.61

Total: \$421.13

Thanks to all who participated in the Noisy Coin Offering for the March Food Shelf month. A total of \$421.13 was raised in the five week time period. A check has been mailed to the Commuinity Action Center designated for the Food Shelf in the amount of \$421.13.

Unified Budget Receipts

Mar. 2	\$2,533.00
Mar. 9	\$2,154.00
Mar. 16	\$2,203.00
Mar. 23	\$ 771.00
Mar. 30	\$ 580.00

Calendar of Events

Wed. April 2 ~ 1pm- 3pm Spiritual Direction Group w/ Ruth in BR

Wed. April 2 ~ 6pm Choir Practice

Thurs. April 3 ~ 6:30pm Trustees in Parlor

Thurs. April 3 ~ 7pm OP23-O in Library

Sat. April 5 ~ 10am- 12pm Jesus Food Pack at Faribo Mall

Sun. April 6 ~ 9am Worship/ Communion

Mon. April 7 ~ 6pm- 8pm Rule of Christ Training

Mon. April 7 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. April 9 ~ 5:30pm- 7pm Confirmation

Wed. April 9 ~ 6pm Choir Practice

Thurs. April 10 ~ 12pm Woman's Group in Parlor

Fri. April 11 ~ 9am- 3pm Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall

Sun. April 13 ~ **Palm Sunday**

Sun. April 13 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. April 14 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. April 16 ~ 6pm Choir Practice

Thurs. April 17 ~ 12pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Thurs. April 17 ~ 7pm Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall

Fri. April 18 ~ **Good Friday**

Sun. April 20 ~ **Easter**

Sun. April 20 ~ 9am Worship

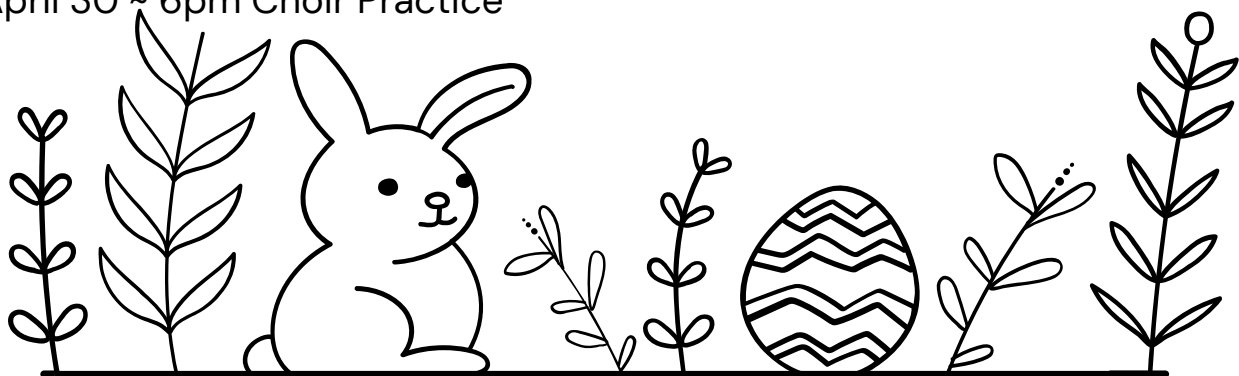
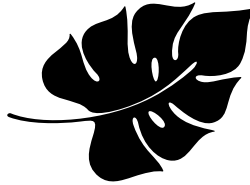
Mon. April 21 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. April 23 ~ 6pm Choir Practice

Sun. April 27 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. April 28 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. April 30 ~ 6pm Choir Practice





God of resurrection hope,
As we journey through these final
days of Lent, we bring before you the
weight of our waiting, the longing for
renewal, and the deep need for
transformation. We confess that we
are often stuck—in our ways, in our
fears, in our doubts. Yet, you are the
God who breaks chains, rolls away
stones, and calls forth new life.

Break through the walls of our resistance.

Break through the places of despair with your light.

Break through our complacency with holy urgency.

Break through our divided hearts and make us whole.

By the power of your Spirit, stir within us a bold faith. Where we have settled for the ordinary, awaken us to the extraordinary movement of your grace. Where we have turned inward, send us outward in love. Where we have grown weary, breathe into us new strength.

We long to see your kingdom come in our lives, our churches, and our communities. So we pray, O Christ, who walked the road to the cross and rose victorious: Break through, O God! Break through in us, and through us, for the sake of the world. Amen.

Apr. 6-12: Luke 14

Apr. 13-19: Luke 15

Apr. 20-26: Luke 16

Apr. 27- May 3: Luke 17

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
219 NW 4th Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021