

# Fourth Avenue UMC Newsletter



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## Pastoral Transition

By Pastor Amy Jo Bur

It has been inspiring to serve God as a pastor during the past twenty-three years. Each congregation where I have served has had a unique way of loving God and loving neighbor. At Fourth Avenue UMC, it has been a blessing to see all of the ways that people engage in mission: our mission sewing group, providing school supplies and warm clothing for children in need, supporting UMCOR's responses to



natural disasters, literacy tutoring, providing supplies for foster children during transitions, packing meals with Jesus food, giving the gift of

life with Red Cross blood drives, alleviating hunger with CROP, supporting REM in Liberia, and many other mission causes. The people of Fourth Avenue UMC have generous hearts for mission.



In our United Methodist tradition, the lay people of the church are empowered to lead in these ministries of Christ's outreaching love. As we anticipate a pastoral transition this summer, I encourage the people of Fourth Avenue UMC to continue our momentum for mission, knowing that our new pastor will be excited to join in with us, bringing new strengths of leadership. Strong lay leadership is one of the wonderful parts

of the United Methodist tradition, growing out of a history where one pastor had a circuit of many churches where they administered the sacraments, and lay leaders moved forward the mission of the church in the day-to-day.

As we think about the pastoral transition, it is good to remember some of the strengths of the United Methodist tradition of itinerant clergy. Within our itinerant clergy system, the bishop and Conference Superintendent are able to consider the leadership needs of each congregation and match the pastoral appointment with clergy whose gifts and experience are helpful in that specific context. The SPRC committee meets with the Conference Superintendent to share our congregation's profile, which helps to inform the process. During the appointment process, I will be praying for our Conference Superintendent and bishop. I encourage you to join me in those prayers. May the Spirit of God continue to bless us and empower us for mission together.

## ***On behalf of SPRC:***

**Submitted by SPRC Chairperson– Brad Prange**

On behalf of SPRC, information regarding Pastor Amy Jo's new appointment was communicated to the congregation. While this news is unfortunate for 4th Ave UMC, it serves to us all that God is constantly working in a wide variety of ways.

The phrase "God works in mysterious ways" is a reflection on the nature of divine action. This idea is rooted in faith, inviting believers to trust in God's ultimate plan, even when it seems unclear or unfortunate. What might seem like an unfortunate event may, in hindsight, be seen as a step toward personal growth, spiritual awakening, or a greater good that was not initially apparent. It is in this trust that believers find peace, knowing that whatever happens is part of a greater design, even when the reasons remain hidden from view.

Rest assured the SPRC team will be working with DS Michelle Hargrave on the appointment process to identify another appointee for 4th Ave UMC. The timing of this situation is in line on the calendar for the overall appointment process within the UMC conference which opens up all candidates to our congregation.

Lastly, Amy Jo is not leaving until June and will remain our pastor in providing our faith leadership and spiritual growing.

I am attaching a note for clarification:

It is the intention of Bishop Lanette Plambeck to appoint me to Centenary United Methodist Church, and I affirm this decision. The appointment will be a very good match for my spiritual gifts, training, and experience. I will complete my pastoral leadership in Faribault during June and begin the new appointment on July 1.

I give thanks for the ministry and love for mission of Fourth Avenue UMC— it has been inspiring to be your pastor while you have reached out to others with the love of Christ. I encourage us all to pray for our congregation, Conference Superintendent, and bishop during this time of pastoral transition. Please join me in a spirit of prayer: Almighty God, we pray for the church, here in Faribault and around the world. Fill us with your spirit and empower us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. During this time of transition, we pray for the next pastor whose heart you are already preparing for pastoral leadership in Faribault. Bless them and fill them with your wisdom, strength, compassion, and joy.

We pray also for our Conference Superintendent, Rev. Hargrave, and Bishop Plambeck— bless and guide their ministry as they appoint clergy to serve in Minnesota. Amen.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Amy Jo Bur

## ***Trustee Updates:***

Please help the Trustees in thanking John Streiff for all the wonderful work he has done around the church. John volunteered to take the old commercial refrigerator out of the Fourth Avenue room. After taking out the refrigerator he also did the research and purchased out of Trustee funds two new refrigerators and put them in the 4th Ave. Room. The new refrigerators can be either freezer or refrigerators and will be used to help with soup luncheons. Remember all those windows installed in the Education wing? John took it upon himself to refinish the window sills and replace wood where needed especially in the rooms upstairs. He has spent many days s working hard at the church to enrich its beauty. Trustees are currently looking into turning the bathrooms on main level into handicap accessible. Again, it was John that said he would look into it. A big thankyou from the Trustees for all he does and the support of our church.





**Mission Team:****By John Streiff**

Greeting from the Mission & Outreach team!

While writing this I lost count of all our blessings! On Sunday, February 16th, we sponsored the Valentine's Day potluck. It was colder than a well digger in January, but there was so much good food and a very nice turn out. What's amazing is all the people that jumped in to help. I love this community spirit! What a blessing!

We have a very exciting event coming in March! The first Fourth Ave. United Methodist St. Patrick's Karaoke celebration, Saturday, March 15th, from 6:30pm-8:30pm! Coffee, sodas, snacks, and sweets will be served; along with some crazy music. The New Year's karaoke event was so much fun and we wanted to do it again! If anyone needs a ride, please let me know and we will work something out with you.



The month of March is also food shelf month. So save your change and let's make some NOISE for the Noisy Offering. A fun way to help those less fortunate. So let's fill that bucket! Proceeds will go to the local food shelf.

We have lots of events coming in April! Can't wait to see you all then too.

I started tutoring and it is going awesome! Just imagine ME, yes me, and a little second grade girl learning together! Well, I am so proud of the progress she is making! Yet another special person to hold in my heart. Building relationships, what a blessing!

Once again I will mention, if anyone has a thought or idea or need, let us know. In this world we travel it's all about relationships, loving relationships! God Bless one and all my dear friends! That's all for now.

## *Lenten Soup Updates*

Here we go, SOUP-er Stars!

Lenten 2025 Soup to Go begins this week. We are incredibly grateful for your generous response and support. You have given much-needed food donations, you have signed up to volunteer your time and energy, and you have contributed financially to help buy groceries. To date: \$320.00 has been received in cash donations.

Veggie Preparation: starts at 12:30pm on Thursday, March 6th, 13th, and 20th.

Soup to Go sale: Friday, March 7th, 14th, and 21st (cooking begins EARLY, and we will sell soup and be open for pick up from 10:30 am through 1:00 pm)

We still need your prayers, and we welcome your presence on Fridays. We will have a fellowship area for coffee and treats for volunteers to take breaks and visit with each other and church family/friends. Please join us, please cheer us on, and please lift us up when we're tired.

Let's continue to be the hearts and hands of Jesus this Lenten season and every day. Thank you, everyone!

FOURTH AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 2025 Lenten Soup To Go

selling homemade soup to warm your hearts this Lenten season

**MARCH 7**  
**TURKEY WILD RICE, BROCCOLI CHEESE,  
HAMBURGER VEGETABLE**

**MARCH 14**  
**TURKEY NOODLE, CREAM OF POTATO,  
SPLIT PEA WITH HAM**

**MARCH 21**  
**TURKEY WILD RICE, CORN CHOWDER,  
HAMBURGER VEGETABLE,  
TURKEY NOODLE**

Selling 10:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Pints \$5 & Quarts \$10

Pre-orders are encouraged. Please call the church  
at **507-334-4308** Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday  
from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm to place your order.

**219 4th Ave NW, Faribault, MN 55021**  
**[www.fourthaveumc.org](http://www.fourthaveumc.org)**

## Community Events



**Sham-Rockin' at Fourth Avenue**

Join us for an evening of **KARAOKE** fun at Fourth Avenue UMC!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH**  
6:30 pm–8:30 pm (or later)

**SUBSTANCE FREE EVENT**  
(SUPPORTING THOSE IN RECOVERY)

**SNACKS, POPCORN, & BEVERAGES PROVIDED**

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church  
219 4th Ave NW, Faribault, MN  
507.334.4308  
fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

The Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf will be presenting their rendition of Peter Pan. The students invite everyone to come and experience their hard work, from stage setup to performing this beloved children's story. The play will be open to the public, with a voice interpreter available, on March 19th and 20th at 6 PM. It will be held at the school in Faribault. Please join us to support the students and their dedication!



**MSAD 6-12 DRAMA SHOW**

*Peter Pan*

PLAY ADAPTED BY JULIA FORTI & CHRISTINE ADAMS

**ADMISSION: \$5.00 PER PERSON**

**March 19th and 20th, 2025 - 6:00PM**  
(Open to the public)  
**VOICE INTERPRETED**

MINNESOTA STATE ACADEMY FOR THE DEAF  
NOYES HALL  
615 OLOF HANSON DR  
FARIBAULT MN 55021



## **Member Spotlight: Phyllis Ford**

Phyllis Ford grew up on a farm in Skyberg, MN, which is near Kenyon. There was a church nearby, and Phyllis grew up together with three brothers. When Phyllis completed school, she lived in Kenyon for a couple of years and worked in a bank. She married her late spouse, Robert, and moved to Faribault, where they raised seven children. One of her adult children has passed away, but six are still living nearby (although they sometimes travel to warmer areas during the winter.) Phyllis and Robert also used to enjoy traveling, with Alaska and Ireland being two of her favorite places. During some winters, she spent part of the winter in Texas. Phyllis and Robert operated the Farm and Home store in Faribault for a number of years. Phyllis is a longtime member of Fourth Avenue UMC and for her, it is a place that feels like home. "How Great Thou Art" and "How Firm a Foundation" are amongst her favorite hymns. She has thirteen grandchildren, and also great-grandchildren. Hosting Christmas was a favorite time with family throughout the years and she still enjoys many visits with family.

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### **Birthdays**

3/5 Ken Harren	3/19 Sara Steele
3/11 Harry Truman	3/21 Corrie Wikoff
3/12 Kelly Landsverk	3/22 Payton Wikoff
3/14 Lorraine Deming	3/25 Morgan Hale
3/15 Carole Evans	3/29 Sara Morris
3/17 David Buresh	3/30 Steven Grundman
3/17 Linda Hellevik Stoos	3/31 Heather Loken-Hale
3/19 Jesse Osmundson	

### **Anniversaries**

3/10 Nicholas & Mardea Sonpon
3/25 Sandra & Joseph Jandro

### **Unified Budget Receipts**

Feb. 2	\$6,651.00
Feb. 9	\$2,500.00
Feb. 16	\$3,545.00
Feb. 23	\$ 745.00



## Save the Date: Rule of Christ Training

Monday, April 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

This training explores the Rule of Christ teaching from Matthew 18, teaching us how to respond to conflict in a way that moves toward reconciliation. An annual conference facilitator will be with us to lead the training.

## Calendar of Events

Sat. March 1 ~ 10am–12pm Jesus Food at Faribo West Mall

Sun. March 2 ~ 9 am Worship/ Communion

Mon. March 3 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. March 5 ~ 12pm–12:30pm & 7pm–7:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Wed. March 5 ~ 1pm–3pm Spiritual Direction Group with Ruth

Thurs. March 6 ~ 12:30pm Vegetable prep for Lenten soup in Fellowship Hall

Thurs. March 6 ~ 6:30 pm Trustees meeting in Parlor

Thurs. March 6 ~ 7pm OP 23–O meeting in Library

Fri. March 7 ~ 10:30am–1pm Lenten Soup to Go in Fellowship Hall

Sun. March 9 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. March 10 ~ 6pm Mission/Memorial Meeting in the Parlor

Mon. March 10 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. March 12 ~ 530pm–7pm Confirmation

Thurs. March 13 ~ 12:30pm Vegetable prep for Lenten soup in Fellowship Hall

Thurs. March 13 ~ 6:30pm–8pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Training

Fri. March 14 ~ 10:30am–1pm Lenten Soup to Go in Fellowship Hall

Sat. March 15 ~ 6:30pm–8:30pm St. Patrick's Day Karaoke Event in Sanctuary

Sun. March 16 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. March 17 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Thurs. March 20 ~ 2:30pm Vegetable prep for Lenten soup in Fellowship Hall

Thurs. March 20 ~ 7pm Piecemakers in FH

Fri. March 21 ~ 10:30am–1pm Lenten Soup to Go in Fellowship Hall

Sun. March 23 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. March 24 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Sun. March 30 ~ 9am Worship/ UMCOR Sunday

Mon. March 31 ~ 7pm Lakelanders



## March Breakthrough Prayer

Holy and Mighty God,  
 You have called us to follow you—to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and walk in the way of Jesus. Yet too often, we hesitate. We cling to comfort instead of courage, to control instead of trust, to complacency when we are called to challenge the sin of this age. But you are the God of abundance, the One who

multiplies loaves and fish, who sends out disciples with nothing yet provides everything, who teaches us to engage ministry with boldness and expectancy.

Lord, we seek your kingdom first and your righteousness. Therefore: Break through our fears with the power of your Spirit. Break through our doubts with the assurance of your love. Break through our complacency with the urgency of your mission. Teach us to trust you, to give us a way to walk forward in faith, knowing that you are already ahead of us.

Jesus, let our hearts be set on fire with the passion of your gospel. Let our lives be marked by generosity, humility, and holy boldness. Let your will be done in us and through us—on earth as it is in heaven.

May your Spirit move in ways beyond what we can ask or imagine. And when you call, Lord, may we answer, “Here I am, send me.”

In the name of Jesus, our Savior and Guide, we pray. Amen.

**Mar. 2-8: Luke 9 Mar. 9-15: Luke 10 Mar. 16-22: Luke 11 Mar. 23-29: Luke 12**

**Mar. 30- Apr. 5:  
 Luke 13**

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