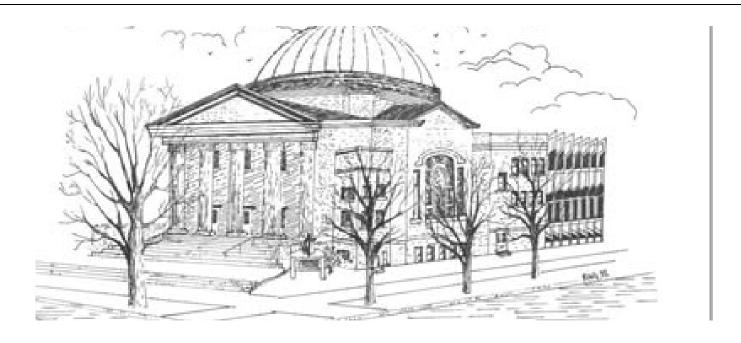
Fourth Teller



A Word From the Pastor

By Pastor Amy Jo bur

Member Spotlight

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." - I Corinthians 12:27

One of the joys of being part of God's family is being part of a community of faith and developing friendships with the many other people in the family of God. To help us get to know one another better and to celebrate the unique gifts and ministries of each member, we will begin to publish a Member Spotlight note in each newsletter, beginning with March. We hope that this strengthens our relationships with each other!



Shared Mission: Apportionments

John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church, was well known for saying "the world is my parish." This simple statement expressed his deep conviction that we are called to reach out with God's love in mission to all the world. The people of Fourth Avenue UMC show this spirit in our shared love of mission, with group mission projects like: the mission sewing group, supporting Falcon's Nest with school supplies and warm clothing, providing for the emergency needs of new foster children with gift cards, tutoring through Reading Partners, participating in Rural Evangelism Ministry, and so many other mission projects.



We also support mission through our participation in the wider denomination of the United Methodist Church. We provide this financial support through our apportioned giving. Apportionments are funding for our congregation's portion of the shared ministries of the United Methodist Church. The shared ministries that these apportionments provide support for include the ministries of the Minnesota Annual Conference and the ministries of the general church, such as the Global Board of Ministries (with missionaries in more than 60 countries), Discipleship Ministries (providing resources for worship services and small group ministries), and UMCOR (providing emergency disaster relief across the world.) While some of these agencies also have individual funding sources (like UMCOR Sunday or individual covenant supporters of missionaries), apportionments are an important part of their funding that is shared by the whole church.

During 2025, our apportionments will be \$4,255 per quarter (\$17,018 per year), which is a decrease of \$2,379 per year from 2024. The Minnesota Annual Conference has been making very significant efforts to decrease their budgeted expenses, and this has resulted in a smaller amount of funding needed for apportionments. Several people have asked me about how apportionments are calculated. The amount that is our share is based 85% on our congregation's average operating expenses over a three-year period and 15% on average membership over a three-year period. The Minnesota Annual Conference apportionment formula was updated most recently in 2023.

During 2024, Fourth Avenue UMC did not pay our apportionments in full, but we are planning to do so during 2025. How can you help? Watch for special giving opportunities that include apportionments (like this year's Christmas offering), include an extra "over-and-above" offering designated for apportionments in the offering plate with the word "Apportionments" on the envelope, and support fundraising events for the Unified Budget, which includes apportionments. Thank you all for your generous contributions toward the shared ministries of the UMC! The world is our parish!



The United Women of Faith will be meeting at Carolyn Minshall's house at 1208 Mitchell Drive, Faribault, MN. on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 12 noon.

Please bring a bag lunch. Beverage will be furnished. February is Prayer and Self Denial Month.

Please come for the gathering and fellowship!

Carolyn Minshall

Trustee Updates:

The Trustees are very pleased with the new windows in the education wing. A big thankyou to those that supported the "Adopt A Window" program. We had fifteen that donated and we will be deciding on a plaque to acknowledge them at our next meeting. We are able to continue to accept money for the Adopt a window even though the bill has been paid. We are happy with the work of Sammon Home Improvement and their communication during the process. The bill was paid with the Adopt a Window program and from the Trustee Edward Jones account that money goes into from estate donations.

A big thankyou to John Streiff for building frames to support the Chapel stained glass windows so they can be hung again. John has also been refinishing the window ledges in the Parlor.

The Trustees appreciate your support in taking care of our church.

Co-chairs Dale Hauptli and Marcia Speiker

Introducing Christina Arillo

On behalf of SPRC, I would like to introduce Christina "Chrissi" Arillo as our newly hired 4th Ave administrative assistant reporting to Pastor Amy Jo. Chrissi grew up in New Jersey and has lived on the east coast in New York City, West Virginia and found her way to Minnesota. She currently is employed at the deaf school as a residental educator providing supervision to the students.

Her hobbies include photography, movies and reading. She is also a sports enthusiast and her favorite teams are of course the New York Yankees baseball team, the New Orleans Saints football team and the New Zealand rugby team. Chrissi enjoys traveling and her adventures have taken her to several states and countries thus far. She plans to visit more!

Chrissi began her orientation in the church office on January 7th and she has picked things up quickly. Her schedule is as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and Friday – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

If time permits stop in the office and say hello! And once again, welcome Chrissi to 4th Ave! Submitted by Brad Prange – SPRC



Mission Team:

Greetings from the Mission team!

Happy New Year!

We have been busy lately. We finished off 2024 with another successful Falcons Nest Project. This year started, I hope to be, the first annual New Year's Eve Karaoke Night; as an event for church members and an outreach to non-members. It was a night of so much fun and entertainment that was in a safe environment. Pizza, soda, and snacks were provided. A huge thank you to Sara D. for leading this project.

I want to wish a warm welcome to new Mission/Outreach Committee members, Kim Bossmann, Donna Smith and Kirsten Grunnet. Them combined with Sharon Nelson, Lori Streiff, Carolyn Hanson and Kathy DuChene, I am honored to work with them.

January 19th after service was our first meeting, that went very well. We have planned thus far for the year 2 fun events, a pot luck on **February 16th** with a Valentine's Day theme. The next is the first ever St. Patrick's Day karaoke night on **Saturday, March 15th from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm,** or later if the fun is funning. So hopefully all the Irish will be out to sing all the great St. Patty's Day songs! Again, we will have soda, snacks, pizza, popcorn, and lots of fun celebrating and honoring God.

Oh! Start saving your change, the month of March will be Noisy Offering for March's food drive month! Lots of clatter doesn't matter!

That's it for now, if anyone has any ideas for something as an activity or a project to support a missionary, please talk to me or someone on the committee.

God bless one and all and hopefully soon a Happy Spring!

John Streiff- Mission/Memorial Chair

New Songs for the New Year

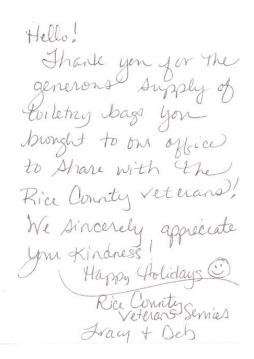
Our very first Karaoke Event was a great success! Just over 40 people gathered on New Year's Eve to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and music together. Half of those attending were community members who helped us celebrate a safe and substance–free start to 2025.

We were able to extend our usual warm, friendly Fourth Avenue welcome to over 20 people from the community and invite them to worship with us in January when Pastor Amy Jo preached her message series on Faith in Recovery. Our welcoming atmosphere encouraged nearly everyone to share their voices and favorite songs. It was heartwarming to have new faces, smiles, and laughs fill our sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen. The karaoke idea was a perfect fit for both our congregation and the recovery community. Stay tuned for more outreach efforts in 2025 and watch for ways you can help build community in our congregation and beyond.









4th Avenue UMCThank you for hosting the
District Chage Conference last
menta. Your hospitalif was
lovely, and it was so good
to hear about the ministries
in the community.
BlessingsSuperinterdent Middle Hagrave

Unified Budget Receipts

Jan 5 \$1,937.00

Jan 12 \$2,156.00

Jan 19 \$ 671.00

Jan 26 \$2,075.00

Human Relations Sunday

Jan 19 \$30.00

UMCOR

Jan 26 \$25.00

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church Lay Leadership (Nomination Committee) Report

Trustee

Dale Hauptli, Co-Chair

Marcia Speiker, Co-Chair

Ken Harren

Jackie Luedke

Robert Nelson

John Streiff

Robert Nelson

Finance

TBD, Chair

Kathy DuChene, Treasurer

David Hanson

Jim Miller

Wayne Rossow

Julie Schiffer, Financial Secretary

Phyllis Wegner

Missions/Memorials

John Streiff, Chairperson

Kim Bossmann

Kathy DuChene

Kirsten Grunnet

Carolyn Hanson

Sharon Nelson

Donna Smith

Lori Streiff

Bequest and Gifts

Sara Steele, Chairperson

Lauri Lammin, Vice-Chairperson

Jim Heyer

Deb Jindra-Pope

Elizabeth Prange

Staff Pastor Relations

Brad Prange, Chairperson

LuAnn Heyer

Kelly Landsverk, alternate reporter for Ad. Council

Jack Luedke

Lisa Miller

Shari VanDerVeen, Lay Leader

Nominating Committee

Shari VanDerVeen & Pastor Amy Jo Bur, Co-Chairs

Carole Evans

Deb Jindra-Pope

Sharon Nelson

Administrative Council

TBD, Chairperson

Brad Prange, SPRC Chairperson

Kathy DuChene, Treasurer

Sara Steele, Bequests-Gifts Chairperson

Carolyn Minshall, UWF Chair

Dale Hauptli or Marcia-Speiker, Trustee Co-Chairs

John Streiff, Missions/Memorial Chairperson

Kelly Landsverk, Member at Large

Shari VanDerVeen, Lay Leader



Calendar of Events

Sat. Feb. 1 ~ 10am-12pm Jesus Food at Faribo West Mall

Sun. Feb. 2 ~ 9 am Worship

Mon. Feb. 3 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. Feb. 5 ~ 1pm-3pm Spiritual Direction Group with Ruth

Thur. Febr. 6 ~ 6:30 pm Trustees meeting in

Thur. Feb. 6 ~ 7pm OP 23-0 meeting in Library

Sun. Feb. 9 ~ 9am Worship

Mon. Feb. 10 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Wed. Feb. 12 ~ 530pm-7pm Confirmation

Thur. Feb. 13 ~ 12pm Women's Group

Sun. Feb. 16 ~ 9am Worship

Sun. Feb. 16 ~ 10am Potluck

Mon. Feb. 17 ~ 7pm Lakelanders

Tues. Feb. 18 ~ 11:15am-1pm Faribault

Ministerial Association in Parlor

Thurs. Feb. 20~ 7pm Piecemakers in FH

Sun. Feb. 23 ~ 9am Worship

Birthdays

2/3 Julie Schiffer 2/3 Wanda Weber

2/5 Gerald Hildebrandt

2/6 Carolyn Hanson

2/7 Phyllis Ford

2/9 Tamara Kern

2/12 John Baldwin 2/14 Kenneth Geary

2/18 Kevin Vrieze

2/20 Alexander Sonpon 2/21 Landon Hatfield

2/22 Sandra Jandro 2/22 William Sonpon

2/25 Dustin Hale

2/27 Marcia Morris-

Beck

2/28 Dibble Flaine

2/28 Blair Waterston

2/28 Dwayne Weber

Anniversaries

2/11 Jacob & Verus Kandakai 2/12 David & Carolyn Hanson 2/14 Kathie & Kevin Vrieze 2/16 Nathan & Kari Rosett 2/23 Raymond & Jo Ann Schulz



Beginning in January 2025, Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites clergy and laity across the Area to join in a journey through Luke and Acts, reading one chapter each week throughout the year. This shared experience will foster a sense of encouragement, challenge, and community as we delve into the seamless story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and the Spirit's work through the early church. Comprised of 52 chapters together, they provide a natural framework for intentional spiritual practice through 2025.

February Breakthrough Prayer

God of liberation and light,

The ministry of Jesus brought good news for the poor, freedom for the captives, sight for the blind, and release for the oppressed. Today, we hear this promise anew as we live as ambassadors of your goodness and grace. Break through our doubts, fears, and complacency. Break through our routines and awaken us to your Spirit moving in our midst. Break through every barrier that separates us from fully embodying your love in our communities and world. Anoint us with boldness to speak truth, with compassion to heal wounds, and with courage to set others free. As your Word is fulfilled in our hearing, may your justice roll down like waters and your righteousness like a neverfailing stream. We trust You, O God, for the breakthrough we cannot yet see, knowing your Spirit is already at work. In the name of the One who proclaimed good news, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Feb. 2-8: Luke 5 Feb. 9-15: Luke 6 Feb. 16-22: Luke 7 Feb. 23-Mar 1: Luke 8 Mar. 2-8: Luke 9