

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 residential 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.



NEW YEAR KARAOKE NEW SONG

Fourth Avenue UMC invites you to enjoy a fun evening of Karaoke. We'll have food and door prizes, too! Must be 18 and over to attend. Don't miss out on this enjoyable, substance-free event!

Tuesday, December 31st
from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
219 4th Ave NW, Faribault, MN
507-334-4308
fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com



Hello!
 Thank you for the
 generous supply of
 toiletry bags you
 brought to our office
 to share with the
 Rice County Veterans!
 We sincerely appreciate
 your kindness!
 Happy Holidays 😊
 Rice County
 Veterans Series
 Tracy + Deb



4th Avenue UMC -
 Thank you for hosting the
 District Charge Conference last
 month. Your hospitality was
 lovely, and it was so good
 to hear about the ministries
 in the community.
 Blessings -
 Superintendent Michelle Hargrave

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
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UMCOR

Jan 26	\$25.00
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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 Parlor
 Thur. Feb. 6 ~ 7pm OP 23-O 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	2/22 Sandra Jandro
2/3 Wanda Weber	2/22 William Sonpon
2/5 Gerald Hildebrandt	2/25 Dustin Hale
2/6 Carolyn Hanson	2/27 Marcia Morris-Beck
2/7 Phyllis Ford	2/28 Dibble Elaine
2/9 Tamara Kern	2/28 Blair Waterston
2/12 John Baldwin	2/28 Dwayne Weber
2/14 Kenneth Geary	
2/18 Kevin Vrieze	
2/20 Alexander Sonpon	
2/21 Landon Hatfield	

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

Luke~Acts 2025

Join us in reading one chapter
each week throughout 2025.



Dakotas-Minnesota Area
The United Methodist Church

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 never-failing 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
