Fourth Teller Newsletter

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

September 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Hello Friends,



Shawn Stoll - "We are a community moving forward together in Jesus."

Welcome to autumn, cooler temps, harvest and back to school days. By the time you read this we will have had our praise band, root beer floats, and prayer of blessing over students, teachers and staff. What an opportunity to serve our community! We also provided, and filled, over 80 backpacks for high school students of the Faribault community, through Falcon's Nest. What a gift to those youth!

We are now well into Paul/Saul's letter to the churches of Galatia, and are having a good response in our discussions on Sunday mornings. What new thought are you having as we build our collection of perspectives around this letter? How are you being challenged in the way we walk forward together?

In our round table discussion on July 12, we came up with lots of thoughts and ideas. As we pray and discuss with each other over the next few weeks, I hope you are becoming excited over what can be as we go forward together. September 20 is the next date for potluck and discussion, and we want to walk away with the 1-3 things we want to commit to doing really well in our community. What will we be known for going forward?

Our annual charge conference is coming up soon. With that comes nominations for our various committees, and opportunities for involvement. How would you like to serve in the next year? What part do you feel compelled to play? We have lots of roles; maybe you have served on a committee before, but it has been a while. Or maybe you have a skill or interest you would like to offer. Let us know! We would love to help you find an active place to get involved!

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FROM THE PASTOR *con't*

Our building has been a blessing for those creating a third space for youth, and it has been good to hear the sounds of youth within our walls again. Please pray with me as we seek to utilize this great space more often, and be of greater service to our community.

As always, I welcome your calls and visits, and want to hear your thoughts and ideas. Call, text, or email me if you would like to get together, and let's get it on our calendars!

Your friend,
Pastor Shawn



MONTHLY BLESSINGS

Celebrating Life & Love

Wishing a joyful birthday and anniversary to all who celebrate this month! We praise God for the gift of your life and the love in your marriages. May you be wrapped in His love and carried forward by His grace into a truly blessed year. It's a joy to celebrate alongside you!

September Birthdays

4 Kim Luedke
12 Zach Waterston
14 Rick Rabeneck
14 Fern Schiffer
18 Irene Eiler
20 Melva Ochs
25 George Smith
26 John Evans
28 Cheryl Kleeberger

September Anniversaries

5 Toby & Corrie Wikoff
14 Brent & Tamara Kern
18 Jack & Jackie Luedke



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you..." — Numbers 6:24-25

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Scholarship Opportunity for College Students

We would like to remind our church family about the scholarship funds available to members of our congregation who are attending college. While we are a bit behind in getting this announcement out, we encourage you to help spread the word to students and families who may benefit from this opportunity.

The current scholarship award is $1,000. If you or someone you know may be eligible, please reach out for application information as soon as possible. We value the educational pursuits of our members and are pleased to provide support to students as they continue their academic journeys.

Financial Update

As we continue to monitor our financial position, we remain concerned that our monthly expenses are exceeding our income by approximately $8,000. Based on current projections, we anticipate needing to once again use a portion of our investment earnings to cover operating expenses during the fourth quarter of 2026.

We are encouraged by the upcoming Fall Soup to Go sales and expect those proceeds to help reduce our current deficit. However, it is important that we plan for a sustainable future that does not rely on investment income to balance our budget. Developing that path forward is a shared responsibility that will require the ideas, prayers, and support of our entire church community.

We also encourage you to continue sharing your suggestions and creative ideas with any member of the Church Administrative Council. Together, we can identify opportunities to strengthen our financial foundation and support the ministry and mission of our congregation for years to come.

Consider Gifting Your RMD to Fourth Ave UMC

Did you know you can reduce your taxable income while supporting our mission? For those who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their retirement accounts this year, you can make a charitable gift directly from your RMD to Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church! By doing so, you not only help support our church's ministries and outreach, but you may also reduce your taxable income for the year.

This option, known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), allows individuals aged 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from an IRA directly to a qualified charity like ours. The amount gifted is excluded from your gross income, which can potentially lower your tax bill and even help you stay in a lower tax bracket.

Your generosity makes a meaningful impact - whether it's sustaining our worship, supporting community programs, or maintaining our facilities. If you're interested in this giving option or have questions about how it works, please speak with your financial advisor to ensure it fits your circumstances.

Thank you for supporting Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church and for considering this tax-wise way to give. Your thoughtful planning helps us continue sharing God's love and serving our neighbors.

With gratitude,

Members of the Finance & Investment Team: Sara Steele Kathy DuChene, Julie Schiffer, Wayne Rossow, Deb Jindra-Pope, Jim Heyer, Jim Miller, David Hanson, and Elizabeth Prange

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Greetings from the Mission Team!

3rd Space

The 3rd Space project is off to a great start after a successful soft launch. While students are currently trickling in, we hope to see even more joining us as the school year kicks into high gear. Thank you all for your support and signing up to chaperone. I really appreciate it while I'm gone.

Falcon's Nest

The altar area in the sanctuary has a great message -- "Be The Hands and Feet of Jesus" – and Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church has accomplished a great task by doing just that!

Tuesday afternoon, Falcon's Nest coordinator, Gabby and two assistants pulled up to the church to load 83 backpacks and all the needed school supplies to fill them! Thank-you to all who took the message to heart – to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

~Rev. Sharon Nelson

(See page 5 for more about Falcon's Nest.)

Final Blood Drive for 2026

Mark your calendars for October 2nd. That will be our final blood drive for 2026.
WIth the generous blessings of God, we will break our donation record again. None of this is possible without your support so thank you and may God bless each and every one of you!

Wednesday Warm-Up

We are talking about starting the Wednesday Warm-up Breakfast after Thanksgiving weekend. Stay tuned so as to not miss out!

A Personal Mission Project

I am writing this from our camp in northern Minnesota; this is our personal mission project. We guide disabled veterans and children that have survived or still fighting life threatening illnesses, all free of charge. We have received some very generous donations from our suppliers, and we do have some paying customers, but I just love seeing the smiles and thrills from all my brothers and sisters from another mother but the same mighty father. I really love seeing the children experience the thrill of the hunt as well!

Black bear hunting is going on now, later is upland game birds, then white tail deer. I'm sorry to ramble on, I'm just very passionate about this, ask anytime, I'd be happy to visit.

That's all for now, until we meet again never forget, God loves you, and so do I!

~John Streiff

P.S. If anyone has ideas, I'd love to hear from you. If anyone wants to join the fun that would be awesome! Mission meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Parlor.

At right: For those who have not seen these yet, here is the Fourth Avenue UMC t-shirts



FALCON'S NEST

As mentioned on page 4, the Falcon's Nest Supply Drive was a success. As a congregation, $490 was donated as well as a few bags of supplies. **83 backpacks were filled and donated to the Falcon's Nest!**

Did You Know?

The Falcon's Nest at Faribault High School is a student-run store that provides essential items to students at no cost established to address the growing need for basic necessities among students, including clothing, toiletries, and other essentials.





The Falcon's Nest initiative is supported by donations from the community and local organizations, fostering a sense of collaboration and support. Being that the store is entirely student-run, it has provided leadership opportunities and has encouraged student involvement in community service.

A Picture Says a Thousand Words

Below are pictures taken of the donations and when they were passed on to the Falcon's Nest.





FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND THE FUTURE

Join us for a potluck and all-church meeting

Mark your calendars for September 20th our upcoming church potluck and all-church follow-up discussion! We'll gather to enjoy a delicious meal together and continue the conversation surrounding the future vision of our church.

Building on our previous gathering, this is a wonderful opportunity to share your heart, listen to fellow members, and help shape our path forward. Please come prepared with your thoughts, questions, and new ideas - your voice and participation are vital as we seek God's direction for our congregation's next chapter.



CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS

Sing a New Song Unto the Lord

Our church choir will began fall rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30pm.** Please note the new start time this year.

If you are a seasonged singer, or if you simply love to lift your voice in fellowship, you are warmly invited to join us.

Together we'll make beautiful music for the Lord and fill our sanctuary with song. We would be blessed to have you with us.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing" ~ Psalm 100:2

FOURTH AVENUE UMC T-SHIRTS

T-Shirt Sales Continue

The Fourth Ave UMC t-shirt sales are going very well! Profits from the sales will fund more mission projects like maybe a Wednesday warm-up or maybe a mission trip somewhere, who knows. With the help and wisdom of the committee I'm sure it will be put to good use.

~John Streiff

To Purchase a T-shirt

Once John returns from his cabin there's a good chance he will have the t-shirts available for purchase after Sunday's worship service. The cost is $18, cash or check are welcome. If you are unable to snag one after church, please stop by the office during normal business hours to purchase.

BLOOD DRIVE

October 2, 2026

An hour of your time can mean a lifetime to a neighbor in need. Giving blood is one of the most tangible ways we can share God's love and support those around us. Help us make an impact - sign up today and let's fill every slot for our upcoming drive!

Donations accepted at the upcoming October 2nd blood drive:

- **Blood**: The most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.

- **Power Red**: A Power Red donation collects the red cells but returns most of the plasma and platelets to the donor. These donors must meet specific eligibility requirements and have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood.



CROP HUNGER WALK

Walk. Give. Change the World.

What:

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held across the United States, created to support the global mission of **Church World Service**, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. **25%** of funds raised is returned to the host community to fight hunger. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen. Register for your local CROP Hunger Walk, raise funds, and take us one step closer to ending hunger once and for all. Join the movement!



When:

Saturday, Octover 3 the CROP Walk takes place.

8:00-9:00 Registration in the Cathedral Cloister

9:00-10:00 The Walk begins

LIGHT OF HOPE CANCER FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

LightOfHopeMN.org

When you hear the word "Cancer", it can take your breath away. Facing this disease takes all you have and often your family is right there alongside you. Often, we find there are needs that are not covered by insurance or an association. There is a saying, "Plant at least one small signal fire at the end of the dark road so I may keep plodding steadily toward it." Light of Hope Cancer Foundation is that fire. We are the hope, the beacon where you and your family can find help.

The Mission of Light of Hope

To empower local cancer patients and families to focus on treatment and healing by providing immediate and practical financial support while advocating and fundraising for research, education and cancer prevention.

What They Do

In Faribault and Rice County, we are proud to take care of our own. There are a number of ways you can support cancer patients with the Light of Hope Cancer Foundation - from monetary donations, to joining our events, to showing your support by volunteering at an event. Money raised here stays here! Regardless of how you contribute, your donations are put to good use, specifically for the benefit of cancer patients and their families in Rice County.

~ Provided from lightofhopemn.org





STRONGER TOGETHER

A Quick Survey

Dear Church Family,
Our congregation is participating in a research study about congregational life and health. Adults aged 18 or older are invited to share their perspective. The study is part of a PhD dissertation in Organizational Leadership and looks at how people participate in the life of their church and how that may be connected to a congregation's overall health.

25 Minutes to Share Your Thoughts
The survey takes about 25–30 minutes and is best completed in one sitting.

Take the survey here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C039-Lay
Or using the QR code below.

100% Confidential & Voluntary
The survey will remain open for about three weeks. Participation is completely voluntary, and you may stop at any time. The survey will not ask for your name or email address. Responses will be handled confidentially, and church leaders will not be told who did or did not participate.

How Your Answers Are Used
Dissertation findings will be reported as group results rather than identifying individual participants. Because our congregation has its own survey link, responses are not completely anonymous to the researcher at the congregation level, but the researcher cannot connect an individual response with your name.

Thank you for considering participating. Hearing from a broad range of people will help provide a fuller picture of congregational life and health.

~Pastor Shawn
Fourth Avenue UMC

PILLOW CLEANING

Carlson Fluff-n-Puff Pillow Cleaning

Tuesday, September 22, 7:30am-3:00 pm First English WELCA group is hosting a fundraiser to provide support to the community. Pillows are cleaned, deodorized, sanitized, and fluffed. New pillow ticking is included in the price and new feathers may be added for an additional cost.

Feather/down comforters or mattress pads are also able to be cleaned or made into pillows. This process allows for each pillow to be like new again for a fraction of the cost of purchasing a new pillow.

Pillows may be dropped off and picked up later or folks may wait to have them cleaned by this mobile same day service.

The mobile cleaning service will be located at:

First English Lutheran Church
204 2nd St NW, Faribault

Check out their website:
https://carlsonpillow.com/

LOST FOR WORDS

Help us get our sign talking again

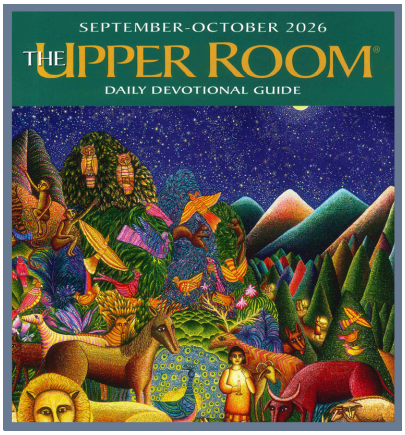


If you've walked down the hallway, we are sure you've probably noticed our sign is stuck on repeat! For quite some time, it's faithfully declared, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice," . While we definitely still agree with the sentiment, we're currently missing the box of plastic letters to post any new updates! If you accidentally tucked them away, put them in a "safe spot", or simply know their whereabouts, we'd love to have them back. Drop them off at the office or leave them right by the board so we can give our classic verse a well-deserved rest and get back to sharing fresh scripture! Thank you!

~Sarah Clark

THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Room is a daily devotional to help keep you connected to scripture. The reading starts with a passage from scripture and then a reading to help you reflect on the meaning of the passage followed by a "Thought for the Day". Each reading only takes a few minutes.



The September/October issue is now available. Stop by the information center to pick one up, the church office, or call the church office and we will mail you one.

If you would like to be on the list to receive a copy bi-monthly, talk to Kathy DuChene or contact the church office.
(Suggested donation $2.00)

GENTLE REMINDERS

Thermostats

Please do not change the thermostats. Some are run by an app on phones, and some are controlled by the thermostats on the wall. The boilers are off. Please dress accordingly. If you feel the temps need to be changed, please contact a Trustee.

Our current Trustees:
Dale Hauptli, co-chair
Marcia Speiker, co-chair
Robert Nelson
John Streiff
Tom Bossmann



Custodial Attention

To ensure our church building remains a welcoming, clean, and safe environment for worship and fellowship, we kindly ask for your help in caring for our shared space. If you notice any maintenance issues, spills, or areas requiring custodial attention, please submit a request to Sarah Clark in the church office. Alternatively, you can directly reach out to any of the trustees listed in the column to the left. Thank you for your watchful eyes and partnership in keeping our church beautiful!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

hello SEPTEMBER





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Celebration in the Park	31	1	2 Trauma Group 1:00 -3:00 pm	3 Trustees 6:30pm Parlor Operation 23-0 7:00pm Library	4	5 Jesus Food 10:00 - 12:00pm Faribault Mall
6 Worship w/ Communion 9:00am	7 Lakelanders 7:00pm	8	9 3rd Space Meeting 10:00am	10 UWIF 12:00pm Parlor Bring a bag lunch Dessert provided	11	12
13 Worship 9:00am	14 Mission & Outreach 6:00pm Parlor Lakelanders 7:00pm Ad Council 7:30pm Parlor	15 FACMA 11:30am River Valley Church Lunch Provided Mission Sewing 1:00 - 3:00pm	16	17 Finance & B&G 5:30pm Parlor Piecemakers 7:00pm	18	19
20 Worship 9:00am Potluck & Meeting immediately following	21 Lakelanders 7:00pm	22	23 FourthTeller Deadline	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:00am	28 Lakelanders 7:00pm	29	30	1	2	3

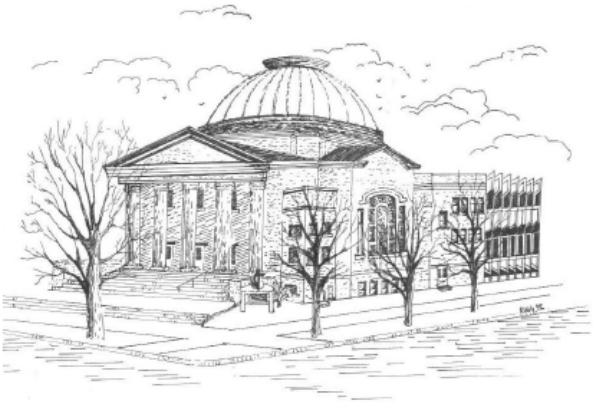


STAY CONNECTED

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

Reach Out	The Details
Visit the Office	219 4th Ave NW, Faribault, MN 55021
Give Us a Ring	507-334-4308
In Your Inbox	fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com
Doors Open	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our Team	
Pastor	Pastor Shawn Stoll
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Clark
Office Volunteer	Kathy DuChene
Choir Director	Kelly Landsverk
Pianist/Organ Accompanist	Doug Madow
Audio/Visual	Jim Heyer & Dale Hauptli
Nursery Attendant	Kim Luedke
Custodian	Sarah Clark



JOIN US!!!

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

We would love to see you this Sunday! Whether you're joining us in person or tuning in online, there is a place for you in our church family.

Worship Service: 9:00 AM

Fellowship & Treats: Immediately following service in the Annex (come grab a cup of coffee and connect!)

Holy Communion: Observed on the first Sunday of every month

Can't Make It in Person?

Catch our service broadcast live every Sunday on YouTube at @FaribaultFourthAveUMC!



"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." --- Matthew 18:20