Fourth Teller Newsletter

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

June 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Fourth Avenue UMC members and friends,

We have spent the last month sitting in the Lord's Prayer, contemplating how life is to be lived in such a way as to bring God's Kin-dom of God/heaven forward into the present. When asked for instruction on how to pray, Jesus responds with a call to forgive. For your consideration, here is the passage in a modern translation:

> Matthew 6:9-14 (NLT) Pray like this: *Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kin-dom come soon. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

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

Why give it in a modern translation? I felt that when we recite the Lord's Prayer every Sunday, in the same traditional translation, we may be tempted to simply recite without considering the weight of the words we are uttering. By changing translation, we are hearing this prayer with new ears; and maybe considering the meaning again.

My prayer is that, like me, you have been challenged to reconsider, and grow! And speaking of growth, my wife and I are reworking the material we have used in small group Bible study for the last 20 years. If you would be interested in walking through it with us in a small group Bible Study, please let me know. We are wanting to start a few of these groups at various times, and on various days, this summer! Let me know asap.

Your friend,
Pastor Shawn

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WELCOME

Welcome to the third edition of our new e-newsletter! Pastor Shawn has been asked on several occasions about producing a newsletter. Due to the costs and time constraints, we are proud to offer a low cost, high quality newsletter that will enable us to communicate important information to you.

Our new office manager, Sarah Clark, will be helping with the production of this newsletter, which is available to anyone in an electronic format. Please make sure a current email address is on file for you. If you want a hardcopy, you may stop in to the office, and a copy will be printed for you at that time

Leadership team members may submit articles they would like included in the next months newsletter by the 26th of the month. Articles submitted after 1:00pm on the 26th will be published in the following months newsletter. This enables the newsletter to be delivered to your email by the 1st of the month.

HOW DID WE PAY FOR THAT?

Common questions Trustees receive:

General Budget

Part of your offering goes toward the General Budget which has a Trustee section. The Trustees have maintained the same budgeted amount for the past several years - even though prices have risen. Our General Budget covers items like paper products, cleaning supplies, snow removal, minor repairs as well as the technology booth, lease on the office printer/copier/scanner and our licenses and certificates.

Building Preservation and Improvement Fund

This covers items like the recent repair of boiler #1, the electrical box in the Fourth Avenue Room, updated wiring of organ components, clean up of the wires in the church office and the leak in the women's bathroom in the education wing basement.

Estate Gifts

Estate Gifts were used to pay for the remaining balance due on the education wing windows, the parking lot ramp and sidewalk, parking lot resurfacing and striping, the main floor bathrooms in the education wing, new carpet in the chapel and pastors office, painting of the dome inside the sanctuary and a new air conditioner in the Parlor.

As the Trustees receive funds from **Estates**, the money is deposited into our **Edward Jones Investment Account** which is separate and stands apart from the Bequest and Gift account.

Estate Money that is not designated but left to the church is deposited into the Trustee Edward Jones Investment Account. We have also received money designated to the Trustees from Estate funds, some of which individuals have said is only to be used on the building.

Please remember Fourth Avenue UMC in your future decision making when doing your Estate Planning or writing your will so we can continue to maintain our church for our church family.

FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS

A crucial update

As Chair of the Finance and Investment Team, I want to share an update on our church's finances for the first quarter of 2026. Currently, our expenses exceed our income by nearly $23,000.

Through the first quarter of 2026:

- **average monthly income has been approximately $10,500**
- **average monthly expenses including payroll and operating costs (electric, gas, water, insurance, etc.) are about $18,000**,
- **resulting in an average monthly shortfall of roughly $7,500**.

This ongoing gap between income and expenses has contributed significantly to our current financial position. To meet our immediate financial obligations, we have relied on investment earnings above and beyond our principal funds in Bequest & Gift as voted on and approved by our church Administrative Council. As of today, $40,000 has been transferred to meet operating expenses for the first half of 2026 and to pay off our outstanding 2025 Apportionment balance.
While our investment earnings have helped us cover essential costs, it is important that we begin to plan strategically for the future so that we do not depend on these earnings to meet our ongoing needs. We are committed to transparency and to working together to find sustainable solutions. Your continued support and engagement are vital as we move forward in faith and stewardship.

With gratitude and hope,

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

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. The air conditioners in the sanctuary are being worked on by Luiken's because one doesn't work at all and another has a slow leak. Please dress accordingly. If you feel the temps need to be changed, please contact a Trustee.
Our current Trustees:
Dale Hauptli, Marcia Speiker as Co- chairs, members are Robert Nelson, John Streiff and 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!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Greetings!

It has been a very rewarding six months sharing in fellowship with the Warm-Up Wednesday breakfast crowd. We have really enjoyed the blessings of the awesome donations of food and time. What a blessing it is to serve and share. That is why we are sad to announce we will discontinue breakfast through June, July, August and September. We plan to restart in October or November. Watch your bulletin calendars for the grand opening for Season 2. I cannot express my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of our friends.

We are working on another project with other local organizations to help support youth in our community. We have a few details to work out with the Trustees that can be handled in the June Trustees meeting. I am very confident all matters will be resolved and hope to do a "soft" start later this summer. If there are any questions or concerns, please talk to any one of us on the team.

Back to food. We are thrilled to be a major part of the worship Celebration in Central Park in the band shell by organizing and serving the meal. It's from generous donations this is possible. We pray all enjoy the joyous celebration!

As summer rolls on, I want to remind everyone of the July 10th blood drive. In April we donated 18 units, let's go for 25! We can save lives. See the flyer below for more information.

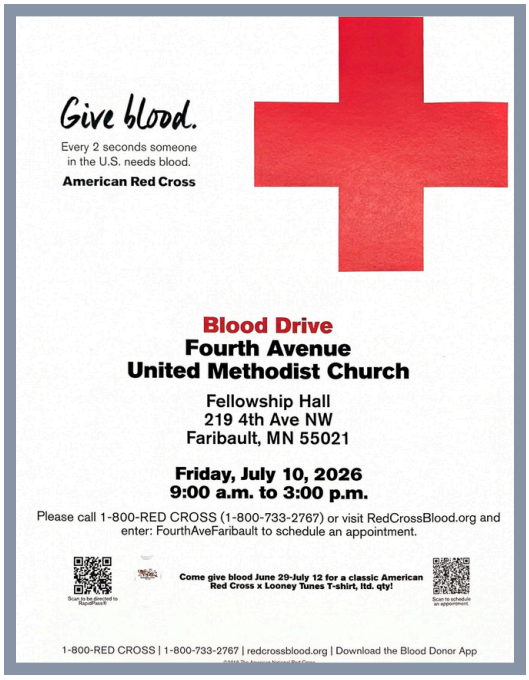
There will be more going on with our mission and outreach team so stay tuned and don't miss out! As always, if anyone has any ideas or thoughts, let's visit. And if I forget to thank anyone or mention something, please know you are all appreciated.

May God bless one an all. And always remember, God loves you… and so do I!

As a congregation, we have a unique opportunity to provide an immediate safety net for our neighbors in need. By taking just an hour out of your day to donate, you are quite literally offering the gift of life. Let's work together to fill every slot at our upcoming drive!

💖 The Incredible Impact

- 1 donation = up to 3 lives saved
- There is no substitute!



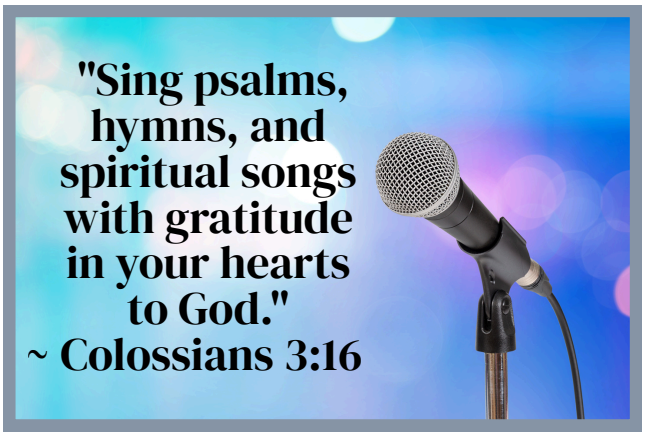
🚨 The Critical Need

- Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood
- 40,000 units of red blood cells, platelets and plasma are required daily across the country
- 3% = the number of eligible people who actually donate each year

SING TO THE LORD

Dust off your song books!!!

I think we all agree that special music is very “note” worthy and strikes a great “chord”, enhancing our church services. I am looking for volunteers to share their talents during the summer, as the choir takes a “rest” until this fall. Please let me know if you are interested in doing a solo, duet, trio, quartet, small group…you get the idea!! Or – if you know of a special guest(s), “pitch” the idea to them to join us. Let’s set the “tone” for a “harmonic” summer! ~ Kelly Landsverk



MISSION SEWING

Sewing with Purpose

Our Tuesday afternoons Mission Sewing Group has been meeting weekly for a few years. We have accomplished so many great things as needs and requests have been brought to our attention. Some of our projects include the joy stockings, comfort quilts for veterans, personal hygiene bags distributed around the community and reusable feminine pads that are distributed in third world countries. We look forward to finishing many projects that are in the works this summer.

The Mission Sewing Group is comprised of just four members that meet from 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday. During the summer months we will meet the **first** and **third** Tuesday of the month. We welcome new members! ~ Respectfully submitted, Lu Ann Heyer

SERMON SERIES RECAP

The Lord's Prayer

As Pastor Shawn stated in his letter on the cover, the last five weeks have been gathered around Matthew 6:9-14. Here is a look back at the powerful truths and questions we explored each week:

Week 1: You Know the Way

- "We are the advertisement of Heaven, are we creating hunger?"

Week 2: Tell Our Story

- "Although we do not know much about the other side of the veil to Life, we begin to see a glimpse when we experience the Life of Jesus here. When we pray "May your Kin-dom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." we are asking God to help us live out the Kin-dom of heaven here."

Week 3: That We May All Be one

- "But forgiveness is freeing to yourself. It is just between you and God. Forgiveness is seeing something I am holding against another, and opening my hand with it before God, "Lord, here is this thing I have not allowed you to take. And it is eating me alive. Please take it now, and help me to let go of it. Do not let it poison my life any longer." And then you let it go."

Week 4: Keep Us From Evil

- "Have you had an experience when it seemed like something amazing was withheld from you? Maybe a promotion, or a gift, or a trip? How long was it until you were able to see the great love and grace of God in not allowing that "blessing" to happen? Have you come to a place where you were able to see, and thank God, for withholding that "gift"? Have you… thanked God?"

Week 5: God of Mercy

- "'Who am I' explores the frailty of humanity and the overwhelming, unconditional nature of God's love. When we consider the generous love and forgiveness of God toward us, why is it so hard to let go of the grudges we hold against another?"

A Challenge for the Week Ahead > Scripture challenges us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers. We invite you to carry these sermon themes with you daily. Ask yourself: How am I creating a hunger for Heaven? What do I need to hand over to God today? Let's allow these questions to shape our hearts and transform our daily lives.

THE UPPER ROOM

The mission of The Upper Room daily devotional guide is to provide a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day.

The May/June issue is now available. Stop by the information center to pick one up, or call the church office and we will mail you one.
(Suggested donation $2.00)

CELEBRATIONS ALL AROUND

Recent Graduates

May you always remember that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" for a purpose. As you embark on this new journey, may the Lord clear your path, grant you the desires of your heart, and make you a beacon of light, love, and hope wherever your next steps lead.

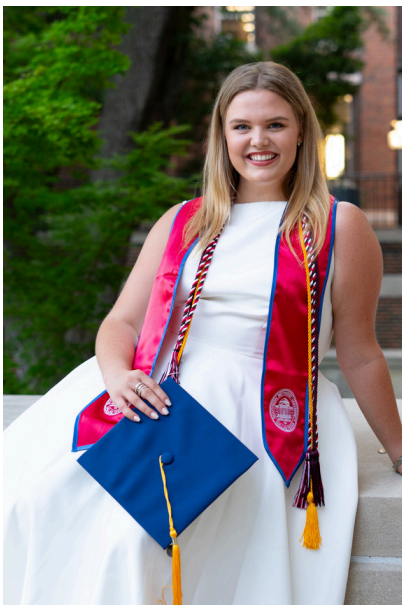
Anya Stoll

Perpich Center for the Arts

Kati Quigg

Southern Methodist University

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics
- With honors



Miles Schiffer

University of St. Thomas

- Bachelor of Arts
- Magna Cum Laude

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to our celebrating church family members! Whether you are marking another year of life or a milestone of shared love, we praise God for His faithful goodness in your lives. May He fill your upcoming year with joy, health, and abundant grace! "Every good and perfect gift is from above..." — James 1:17

June Birthdays

1 Parker Morrow	18 Nicholas Sonpon
5 John Streiff	21 Nathan Rosett
6 Jean Bauernfeind	23 Kathie Vrieze
7 Chris Schiffer	24 Dan Kucera
12 Nicholas Speiker	24 Darlene Nichols
12 Amanda Weber	27 Joe Purfeerst
13 Comfort Sonpon	29 Raymond Schulz
15 Miles Schiffer	

June Anniversaries

1	Dale & Karen Doehling
10	Leon & Elaine Dibble
11	Dale & Karen Hauptli
11	Wayne & Marlys Rossow
14	Jim & Lu Ann Heyer
14	Robert & Sharon Nelson
27	Cody & Julie O'Malley

JUNE CALENDAR

Mon.	June 1	Lakelanders, 7-8:30 pm
Tues.	June 2	Mission Sewing, 1-3 pm
Wed.	June 3	Trauma Group, 1-3, Berean Room
Thurs.	June 4	Trustees Meeting, 6:30 pm, Parlor Operation 23 to Zero, 7 pm, Library
Sat.	June 6	Jesus Food, 10 am - 12 pm, Faribault West Mall Spring Clean Up & Mulch, 9 am
Sun.	June 7	Worship with Communion, 9 am
Mon.	June 8	Lakelanders, 7-8:30 pm
Tues.	June 9	Mission/Memorail, 6 pm, TBA Ad Council, 6 pm, TBA (Ad Council meeting moved from the 16th because of attendance at the Annual Conf.)
Thurs.	June 11	United Women in Faith, 12 pm, TBA
Sun.	June 14	Worship, 9 am
Mon.	June 15	Lakelanders, 7-8:30 pm
Tues.	June 16	FACMA, 11:30 am Mission Sewing, 1-3 pm
Thurs.	June 18	Finance and B & G, 5:30 pm, Parlor Piecemakers, 7 pm
Sun.	June 21	Worship, 9 am
Mon.	June 22	Lakelanders, 7-8:30 pm
Sun.	June 28	Worship, 9 am Fit for Britt Walk/Run, 1 pm, Shager Park
Mon.	June 29	Lakelanders, 7-8:30 pm

Church Grounds Clean-Up Day
Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 am

Grab our gardening gloves and join us as we spruce up the chruch grounds and spread some fresh mulch. It's a great way to enjoy the fresh air and care for our shared space together.

Questions? Please contact John Streiff

JUNE CALENDAR con't

Remembering Brittney
at the Fit for Britt Walk

***DATE:* Sunday, June 28th** at Shager Park at 1:00 PM

We'd love to have you join us as we walk (some don't walk), wear a Fit for Britt t-shirt (if you have one from other years), and remember Brittney…

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!
Hope to see you on June 28th!

Thank you from the Administrative Assistant!!!

I've been here about a month now, and I just want to share how much I've enjoyed being part of this church family. Creating the bulletins, calendars, worship visuals, and even the extra signs has truly been a joy. Since stepping into this role, I've found myself serving in more ways than I ever expected — custodial work, audio/visual, Praise Band, and more. I truly feel God called me here, not simply to a job, but to a place where I can grow and serve alongside all of you. Thank you for being so welcoming, kind, and encouraging. What started as a job is already beginning to feel like a home.

Here is a church bulletin typo that I enjoyed:

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

I'll continue to do my best and serve you in every way I can. ~ Sarah Clark

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