

Come and Join the Spirit's Movement, Part 2

*Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,
for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ
from the time you first heard it until now.*

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you,
will continue his work until it is finally finished
on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

-Philippians 1:4-6



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

God is on the move in fresh, dynamic ways among the people of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church! In the June edition of the *Fourth Teller*, I announced the theme "Come and Join the Spirit's Movement." Since then, the Spirit's presence and power has continued to be on full display in the life of our church. I want to encourage you with evidence of this as our church continues in a regathering phase after the pandemic put our church's life and ministry on a pandemic pause.

One of the gifts of the pandemic is how it has helped us to grow in our appreciation for the Christian faith and the precious gift of Christian fellowship. Together, we are tapping into the spiritual hunger which has developed through this long extended Covid season. While Sunday worship has been in place since February (after a November- January hiatus), we are now worshipping enthusiastically without masks (and singing with gusto again) and now expanding times of fellowship.

In recent weeks, our church building has received a face lift. Our building and grounds have been cleaned up with landscaping, flowers, and outside banners to give a warm, inviting and lively feel to our beautiful historic building. In addition, our Annex (gathering space), Berean Room, and Library spaces were newly decorated with round and high-top tables, appealing décor, table cloths, coffee bar and new furniture to invite fellowship before and after worship celebrations. People are starting to come to church early and staying late! These spaces and the fellowship that's unfolding therein creates a buzz before, during and after worship and is heightening a sense of the near presence of God among us.

Every Sunday, a group of people gather to commend in prayer the upcoming worship celebration to God and invite the Holy Spirit's anointing upon the leaders of worship. I believe this new discipline is forming us more deeply in our Christian discipleship. It is cultivating our desire for, awareness of



and dependence upon God. We trust these acts of devotion are impacting the way people encounter and respond to God in worship. This commitment to prayer was a direct fruit of our 40 Days of Prayer (Lenten daily devotional campaign on revitalization) and study on prayer earlier this spring.

Children's messages are back every Sunday. It is my personal commitment to offer a children's message every Sunday no matter how many or few children are present. The Church has a special calling to invite and form young disciples and I am committed to teach the faith of our children and youth even as I pray for God to send us more young souls we can form as disciples. I invite you to join me in this fervent prayer as well. I see many smiles and an eagerness to engage in these informal dialogues and humorous moments happen spontaneously. There is joy in God's house.

There are pockets of energy developing in the church. Small groups are meeting to plan an evening VBS ("One Grand Day"). Efforts to reinvigorate our children's ministries in the fall are underway. With our support, our brother **Nicholas Sonpon** is on mission in his native Liberia. Plans are being made for some fall groups starting afresh (Choir and Praise Band) in September. A newly designed weekly published newsletter has replaced the bulletin. And spontaneously, fellowship gatherings are being planned this summer as a part of our Regathering Phase.

And our invitation to the community continues to be extended. A colorful banner outside our historic building invites people to "Come and Join the Spirit's Movement!" Newly designed lawn signs are popping up around town extending the invitation wider. There's one reserved for your lawn and you can pick it up this Sunday. With these actions and our renewed commitment to pray our Church's Breakthrough Prayer daily, can't you feel the spiritual temperature rising and reinvigorating our desire to reengage in the church and recommend it to others. With this new momentum, we are sent out from worship to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Come and Join the Spirit's Movement! This invitation is for us and for our community. In closing, let me ask you to continue taking up the task of connecting with members of our church family that have yet to return and renewing your commitment to invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to join the Spirit's movement through Fourth Avenue UMC.

For the Spirit's movement, I am sincerely yours,

Pastor Greg



Our sympathy to **Betty Homeier** and family on the death of her brother **Walter Barfknecht**, age 88, of Owatonna, died Saturday, July 10, 2021, at The Homestead of Rochester.

Walt was born and grew up in Faribault the son of Walter Barfknecht, Sr and Ella (Klatt) Barfknecht. He attended McKinley and Faribault High School. Walt had many jobs during high school and after, a man of many trades. Some were Southern Minnesota Woodcraft and greens keeper at Shattuck school.

Walt is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marjorie; daughter, Brenda; sister Betty Homeier and nieces and cousins.

Welcome, Lois Fowler



On Sunday, July 18, we received **Lois Fowler** as an associate member of Fourth Avenue UMC. A native of Pennsylvania, she's lived in Arizona for the last forty-one years. She came to Faribault for the summer of 2019 with her friend Gerry Hildebrandt who's been a long-time member of our church family. Since her first visit, she has developed a deep affection for our church and follows closely what's happening back here even when she's in Arizona the rest of the year.

A mother of two sons, grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of three more, Lois has enjoyed an adventurous life's journey with faith in Christ guiding her for the best years of her life. For many years, she worked in the automotive industry performing every task necessary for the success of the business. For thirteen years, Lois served as a Director of Administration for a vibrant non-denominational congregation.

Much of Lois' life she has served as a caregiver as mother, daughter, and wife and is no stranger to adversity. She is a cancer survivor herself. As she was in recovery, she was inspired to design special hats for cancer patients who were coping with hair loss, called "Hats for Hope." While she is not making these hats anymore herself, these hats continue to be made and provided to many hospitals in Florida and Arizona.

Lois takes the words of Jeremiah 29:11 as her life verse:

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

It is truly a joy to welcome Lois Fowler into the Fourth Avenue UMC family!



Nursing Home Visits

On August 26, 2021 Pastor Greg will be providing a service and communion at our area nursing homes. **Individuals are needed to support him in this ministry.** Please contact the church office or Pastor Greg directly to share in this experience.

- 10:00 AM at the Emeralds
- 10:45 AM at Pleasant Manor
- 1:30 PM at New Perspective Senior Living

One Grand Day

- *A mini VBS evening of food, fellowship, fun and faith for young disciples.*



- *Recreation*
- *Supper*
- *Bible Drama*
- *Science*
- *Music*
- *Crafts*

Wednesday, August 25, 4:30-7:30 pm

to be held at

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

Mark your calendar TODAY!

**Registration Forms Available
In The Annex**

“Come and Join the Spirit’s Movement”



VBS Registration Form

Knight's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Home Church (if any) _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: _____

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS _____

Photo Release: _____ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned to Knight Group: _____

Are family members helping with Knights of North Castle? ____ If yes, where? _____

August Memory Verse

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

- Ephesians 6:10

Worship Servers for

August

Ushers

Robert and Sharon Nelson

Lay Readers

August 1—Deb Jindra-Pope

August 8—Sharon Nelson

August 15—Rod Mahler

August 22—Mary Jo Olson

August 29—Ian Pope

Acolytes

August 1 -Ella Prange

August 8 -Comfort Sonpon

August 15—Khaler Grant

August 22—Williams

Sonpon

August 29—To be

Announced

Students in the News

FARIBAULT SENIOR HIGH

B Honor Roll

10th Grade

Ella Prange

Comfort Sonpon

11th Grade

Aubrey Hatfield

Miles Schiffer

FARIBAULT MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Honor Roll

8th Grade

Annabel Schiffer

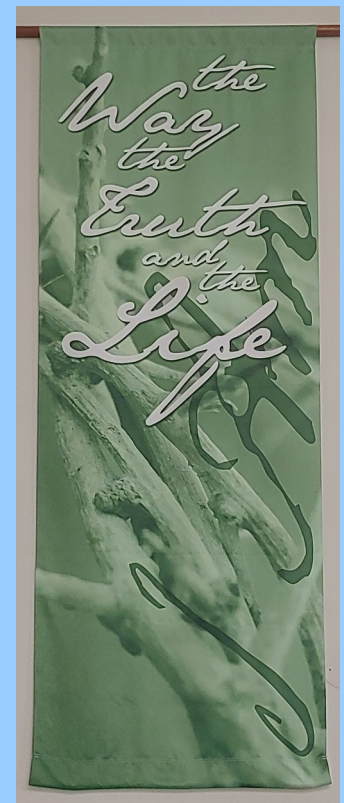
Bible Presentation

July 18, 2021 was a **SPECIAL DAY** for **Khaler Grant**. At Khaler's initiative, Pastor Greg presented him with a Bible on behalf of our Fourth Avenue congregation. Khaler is currently attending two weeks of summer church camp at Paynesville and Park Rapids, MN. Khaler is the son of April ORara and grandson of Julie ORara and is his family's fourth generation of membership at FAUMC. Please continue to keep him in your prayers during this time.



Kati Quigg, 2021 graduate of Culver Girls Academy in Culver, Indiana.

Kati will be attending Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts in the fall.





Upper Room
July/August



The Upper Room devotional booklet includes a daily reading of the scriptures & a brief life story.

Upcoming Events

- August 1—Recognition of Graduates and Scholars
- August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30—Lakelanders Practice 7:00 PM in FH
- August 5—Trustees 6:30 PM in Parlor
Operation 23 to Zero 7:00 in Library
- August 12—UMW 1:00 PM in Parlor
- August 17—Finance 6:30 PM in Parlor
- August 18—Ad Council 6:30 PM in Parlor
- August 19—R. C. Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall
- August 24—SPRC 6:30 PM in Parlor
- August 25—VBS 4:30 to 7:30 at Fourth Avenue
- August 26—Nursing Homes Services With Communion
10:00 AM at The Emeralds
10:45 AM at Pleasant Manor
1:30 PM at New Perspectives Senior Living

Just a heads up—Choir practice will be starting in September

August Birthdays

Robert Ford	04
Shari VanDerVeen	05
Ron Landsverk	07
Julie Moen	10
Shawn Steele	14
Liz Hartman	17
Jake Kandakai	19
Kim Bossmann	21
Phyllis Wegner	21
Gideon Goebel	21
Aubrey Hatfield	27
Elizabeth Prange	27
Leon Dibble	28
Josh Moen	28
Bernice Beardshear	31

August Anniversaries

Jerry & Julie Moen	06
Michael & Marcia Grundman	09
Chris & Julie Schiffer	10
Shawn & Sara Steele	14
Don & Jeanne Michel	19
Russell & JoEllen Schulz	19
Tom & Kim Bossmann	22
Donald & Cheryl Kleeberger	27



Thank you to everyone who helped make the REM breakfast a success.

- **Kelly Landsverk:** My right-hand gal. Your ideas and decorations were phenomenal! Your help with the crowd and clean up was spot on as well.
- **Irene Eiler:** Your expertise in Fellowship Hall was so helpful. Keeping Mayzie busy with different jobs made her feel so special. Serving water and O.J. was so appreciated as well.
- **Ron Landsverk:** Your help in the kitchen and making two egg bakes made everything run smoothly.
- **Jean Vincent:** Your willingness to help serve and clean up at a moments notice is what makes you a true treasure.
- **Pastor Greg:** Your egg bake was fantastic, along with the prayers you offered up were cherished by many.
- **Jeanne Michel:** Your two egg bakes were fantastic along with serving the cinnamon rolls and pitching in on clean up.
- **Jan Barbo:** You are a true gift. Calling to offer to make an egg bake and staying to clean up was highly respected.
- **Tom Bossmann:** So helpful from the start. Gathering items at Hy Vee and staying for the duration to help with coffee and clean up.
- **Carol Evans:** Your donation towards an egg bake was greatly appreciated.
- **Mayzie Stenbakken:** Helping set up Saturday night and then coming back on Sunday for the breakfast to help again is something I will treasure forever.
- **Volunteers** are unpaid NOT because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.
- **Congregation:** Thank you for showing up and giving your support financially and spiritually.

With Love,

Kim Bossmann, Mission Chair

CROP Walk

Attention Fourth Ave UMC walkers! We may be in the middle of summer but before long fall will be here and with that comes the annual Crop Walk. The Crop Walk gives each of us the opportunity to participate and/or support efforts to stamp out hunger. Funds raised benefit our local food shelf as well as the global fight against hunger. Typically, it is held the first Saturday in October. Watch for more information. Please contact **Deb Jindra-Pope** with any questions. 952-237-9693

Leave a Legacy Have you remembered the church in your will?

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor with fifteen individuals present.

Carole Evans served. Carolyn Hanson presented the program on the Community Café. She is on the Board of Directors of this organization and provided us with lots of historical information from the origin to the present date. A check for \$50.00 payable to the Community Café was given to Carolyn as a thankyou to share with the organization.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Khaler Grant will be sharing his camping experiences with us. Jeanne Michel is scheduled to provide the treats. Please mark this on your calendar – it's always a fun time!



Soup Luncheons Update

The Church Council met on **Wednesday, July 21, 2021**. It was hoped that we would hold a Fall Soup Luncheon, but due to the resurgence of Covid cases, it has been decided to wait until the Lenten season.

Meals On Wheels

It's that time of year again. Fourth Avenue UMC is scheduled to assist with Meals On Wheels deliveries the last two weeks in August. We will have three routes for those two weeks and we need drivers willing to bring meals to shut-ins in our community. The delivery times are M-F from 11am - noon. Please call **Shari VanDerVeen @ 507-491-6570** to volunteer or to answer any questions. Thank you!!!



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

◆ Sunday Worship/9:00 AM

Website:

www.fourthaveumc.org

Like us on Facebook

Join us at 2:42 PM daily as we pray our church's Breakthrough Prayer.

August 2021 Fourth Teller

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

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gmail.com

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Fourth Teller Editor:
Sue Allen

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fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 507-334-4308

Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday-Thursday

Staff

Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk

Accompanist: Doug Madow

Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke

Custodian: Ken Harren

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Allen

Rural Evangelism Mission Liberia



Fourth Avenue has continued to receive funds designated for Rural Evangelism Mission - Liberia. **Thank you for providing a blessing to this mission.** As of this writing, a total of **\$2,027** has been donated. The funds will be used for ministry expenses in the upcoming mission trip of our own **Nicholas Sonpon**. Nicholas will be in Liberia for 30 days. Please join his Facebook page directly by asking to be his friend, so you can follow along with his activities. **OR** you can enter his Facebook page from the church's website via the link Grant has made for us.