

Fourth Avenue United
Methodist Church
219 Fourth Ave. NW
Faribault, MN 55021
507-334-4308

December Fourth Teller

A Promise of Hope

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.*

-Isaiah 9:2

December 2022



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

We have entered the season of Advent! A new Christian year has begun! This year as we enter this season, we yearn with ancient Israel for the coming of the promised Messiah. As we yearn and pray the powerful prayer of Advent, “Come, Lord Jesus, Come!” we do so with confidence because we know God is faithful to his promises and is faithful as the day is long. When we doubt his faithfulness, we remember the story of God’s entering into human history to bind up the brokenhearted, make peace and reconcile sinners to a holy God, and to bring salvation to all who believe. And because of Christmas, we are a people of hope.

This promise of God’s faithfulness is so very important because we live in a world that is very uncertain. You remember the story of the Grinch that stole Christmas. The Grinch hated Christmas and was hell-bent on stealing it for everyone. Well, there are many forces at work in this world hell-bent on stealing what God intends for his beloved children.

Rebekah and I returned to Faribault last Saturday after a week away. While we were away, we began to make plans for celebrating Christmas and ordered some books and other things to help us celebrate and lead others in this significant season. We were excited on Friday when we received notification that our package arrived and even received a picture of it on our front steps. We could hardly wait to get home to decorate our home for Christmas and tear into that package and discover the good things inside. Imagine our disappointment and sense of betrayal when we arrived at home and discovered someone has taken the boxes right off our front step. The good things we were anticipating were gone, stolen.

That Grinch stole something more than the contents of those boxes from us. He took a bite out of our confidence and sense of well-being and even sowed doubts in our otherwise trusting hearts. Yet, in the midst of a world where wrong is everywhere and evil lurks in the shadows, Advent proclaims a God who is faithful to his promises, a God who is engaged in the world he loves and is acting to restore all things. And this is the ground of our hope. And the foundation of our fervent prayer. And the source of our robust hope as we wait in anticipation of God’s mighty hand to bring newness of life.

A few days after I was violated by the “porch pirates,” I ran into the FedEx guy and was told who sent the original package would likely be able to restore my order. Imagine my delight when I called the company that shipped my stolen package and told my story and the customer service man delivered the good news my order would be restored! Tomorrow that order will be on my doorstep again!

Advent proclaims God has come in Jesus Christ to set the upside-down world right side up. The wrongs of this world will one day be made right and all things will ultimately be restored. While we will still suffer many painful things in this world, we know a powerful God who is faithfully ruling the world with truth and grace, listens and answers bold and big prayers, and is alive and living among us. And so, we petition God with boldness and trust in his goodness and live with confidence. Our God is *with* us and *for* us, his plans are for a future with hope, and nothing can separate us from his love. Great is God's faithfulness.

For an Advent season of anticipation and robust hope, I am sincerely yours,

Pastor Greg

This Sunday, December 4

**“The Promise, 2:
God Promised to Bring Us PEACE
(Shepherds)**

Pastor Greg preaching

“Christmas Communion Song”

Anthem sung by Choir

Second Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Gary and Jennifer Braun Family

**Jesus Food Packing Event
Saturday, December 3rd
10 am - 12 noon
Faribo West Mall**

Join us **Saturday, December 3rd from 10 am - 12 noon** at the Faribo West Mall to pack food for individuals in need.

Be a part of this fellowship and make a difference in many lives.

Please bring a friend to share in this meaningful experience.



Christmas Open House

Greg and Rebekah Ciesluk invite you to their marital home at 1630 Mitchell Drive in Faribault on Saturday, December 31, 1-4 pm.

Come, rejoice, relax, and reconnect with friends and neighbors as the Christmas season unfolds and the new year commences.

Prayer Chain

We're always looking for people willing to join us in our ministry of intercession, especially in moments of crisis.



When a need becomes known, email alerts are sent out and people pray. What a difference our prayers make!

YOU can join the growing ranks of Fourth Avenue UMC's prayer chain.

You can be an important part of this ministry without having email. Phone calls can be made.

To join, please contact our Coordinator, **Carole Evans** at 507-210-6971 or:

caroleannjean@gmail.com

Help Still Needed!

Looking for someone to take pictures on Sundays during worship and coffee time for an exciting project!

If you can help, please contact Tena Harren at 507-384-2612.

Calendar of Events

December - 01	Trustees, 6:30 pm Parlor
December - 01	Operation 23 to Zero, 7:00 pm Library
December - 03	Jesus Food, 10 am - 12 noon Fbo West Mall
December - 04	I Cantanti Community Concert 4 pm FAUMC
December - 06	Ad Council, 6:30 pm in Parlor
December - 07	Choir, 6:00 pm Choir Room
December - 07	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
December - 08	UWF, The Depot at 1:00 pm
December - 13	Finance 2:45 pm in Parlor
December - 14	Choir, 6:00 pm , Choir Room
December - 14	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
December - 15	Rice County Piecemakers, 7:00 pm FH
December - 18	Congregational Christmas Program
December - 21	Choir, 6:00 pm, Choir Room
December - 21	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
December - 28	Choir, 6:00 pm, Choir Room
December - 31	Open House at Ciesluk's, 1pm to 4pm
December - 5, 12, 19, 26, Lakelanders, 7:00 pm in Choir Room	

December Ushers

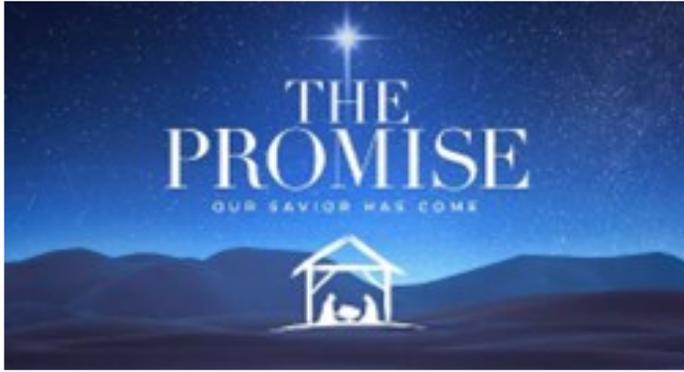
December 04	Ray & JoAnn Schulz
December 11	Dale Hauptli & John Baldwin
December 18	Keith & Linda Stoos
December 24	Jack & Jackie Luedke; and Tom & Kim Bossmann
December 25	Carole Evans & Lorraine Deming



Share Your Christmas Joy

In response to the many individuals asking about sharing baked goods; we would like to share **Christmas Cookies Only** during the month of December for the Sunday morning annex coffee.

If you would like to help provide this special treat during our Advent Season, please contact Tena Harren at 507-384-2612 to discuss dates, etc. Cookies must be dropped off on Thursday during the office hours.



Sermon Series for Advent

The Promise

A promise is an assurance that a certain thing will come to pass. We make promises all the time. Sometimes we see them through. Other times they never become a reality. But God is different. When he makes a promise, we can be confident that He will be faithful to bring it to fruition. The Bible is full of promises from God to His people, and there is one life-changing promise we celebrate every Advent and Christmas: God's promise of a Savior named Jesus. The Promise is a 4-week sermon series that follows the four Sundays of Advent through the eyes of four of the first people to see the promise fulfilled.

December 4

**God Promised to Bring Us PEACE
(The Shepherds)**

December 11

**In God, We Have Reason to REJOICE
(Zechariah)**

December 18

LOVE Comes at a Cost (Mary)

United Women In Faith

The United Women in Faith will hold their Christmas gathering on Thursday, December 8th, 1:00 pm at The Depot Restaurant.

Pastor Greg will lead us in some Christmas singing and prayer.

Hope to see you there.



United
Women
in Faith



Devin Shimmin and Jonah Remker were married Sept. 24th in Red Wing. Parents are Dawn and the late Tom Remker, **Kelly and Karen Shimmin**. The couple now reside in Menomonie, Michigan.

December Birthdays

David Eiler	01
David Brown	01
Pam Kucera	03
Victor Sonpon	05
Wyatt Osmundson	07
Charlotte Glarner	08
Marcia Speiker	12
Kinsley Steinberg	18
James Heyer	22
Ricky Steinberg	22
Grant Lammin	24
Wayne Rossow	27
Cody O'Malley	28
Dale Doehling	30
Randy Michel	30
Griffin Wikoff	30
Audrey Quiggle	31

December Anniversaries

Brad & Elizabeth Prange	18
Ian & Debra Jindra-Pope	22
Nathan & Mary Ebert	30

Average Worship Attendance

<u>Month</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
January 2022	32	16
February 2022	45	17
March 2022	48	15
April 2022	73	18
May 2022	68	10
June 2022	69	12
July 2022	72	24
August 2022	58	13
September 2022	65	20
October 2022	73	16
November 2022	66	16

Nicholas Sonpon Sworn in as US Citizen



On Tuesday, November 29, our brother **Nicholas Sonpon**, a native of Liberia (West Africa), was sworn in as US Citizen at a ceremony at the St. Paul River Center. The ceremony initiated 1000 foreign nationals from 99 countries. Each new citizen recited the pledge of allegiance and took a sober oath to the US Constitution and renounced loyalties to all other nations and leaders.



Attending the ceremony with Nicholas was his wife **Mardea** and **Pastor Greg Ciesluk**.

The Sonpons arrived in the United States seven years ago and this day was the fulfillment of a personal dream for Nicholas and a vision his mother spoke over him as a youth.



Thank You From the Soup Luncheon Committee

This year's fall soup luncheon committee comprised of Tena Harren, Deb Jindra-Pope, Jan Barbo, Kathy DuChene, Marcia Speiker and Kelly Landsverk would like to thank everyone involved in making our fall fundraiser a great success!

Our task was to divide and conquer all that is necessary to run a successful fundraiser for our church budget. We are **very** grateful for those who helped in various ways: making soup, baking, prepping the vegetables, cooking the turkeys, working in the dining room, advertising, serving soup, rolling silverware, scraping/washing/drying dishes, making coffee, doing take out, cleaning the kitchen, filling cracker and bread baskets, serving desserts, greeting guests, collecting money at the door, hostessing, donating money to be put toward the purchase of soup supplies and the list goes on and on. "Seasoned" and "new" workers were side by side representing Fourth Avenue in this huge community endeavor.

All this comradery and hard work netted us \$9,344.07! We served 468 soup lovers and sold 615 quarts of our delicious soup through take-out. These profit dollars are really making a difference in Fourth Avenue's bank account balance.

Thanks again, to **ALL** of you for a "souper" job well done. And remember.... Lent is right around the corner – we will be having 6 more soup luncheons starting Friday, February 24th and all the Fridays in March!

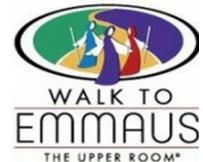
We hope to have all hands on deck to help with the Lenten soup luncheons!

Yours in Christ,

The Soup Luncheon Committee

Walk to Emmaus - February 2023

Are you looking for a way to energize your faith and equip yourself to be a more effective Christian disciple? The Walk to Emmaus provides a life-giving 72 hour retreat experience that many have found to be an experience of a lifetime.



The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful invitation from a sponsor or someone who has walked the journey before you. You are expected to be a member of a local church, have a desire to strengthen your spiritual life; and willing to dedicate your life to God in an ongoing manner.

Men's Walk is February 16-19, 2023.

Women's Walk is February 23-26, 2023.

Interested persons may contact Pastor Greg at 218-310-8813; Sharon Nelson at 507-923-0587; or Carole Evans at 507-210-6971 to find out more information.

Our Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to **Phyllis Ford** and family upon the death of her husband, **Robert F. “Bob” Ford**. Bob passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at his home and surrounded by his family, at the age of 93. He was born August 4, 1929 in Faribault, MN.

Bob attended Bethlehem Academy High School and graduated with the class of 1947. After high school, he served in the US Army during the Korean War. Bob and his family owned and operated Faribo Farm and Home Supply for 50 years. Other businesses he had were the Sunrise Trailer Court, a car wash, and even an auctioneering career. Bob and Phyllis spent more than 20 years wintering in Alamo, TX. He was a gentle, quiet individual, very generous, and never wanting to be recognized for his gifts.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 10:30 am at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville. Interment was held at the Maple Lawn Cemetery in Faribault with military honors provided by the Rice County Central Veteran Association. Visitation was held at the Church of St. Patrick on Wednesday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and on Thursday for one hour prior to the services.

Our Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Harry Truman** upon the death of his son, **Steven Truman**.

As we have prayed fervently for Steve’s healing across the past year, let us now seek God’s comfort in prayer for his grieving family.

Please send cards to Harry Truman at 859 Spring Road, Apt. 101, Faribault, MN 55021.



Falcon’s Nest was started at Faribault High School in 2019 **by students for students** to address real life needs of less fortunate students. Here, Pastor Greg presents our congregation’s contributions to Tara Boyd, the Coordinator of “Falcon’s Nest.”

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

You have already given 60 coats, 40 pairs of mittens/gloves, 75 pairs of socks, 30 hats and 10 blankets.

Fourth Avenue UMC has recently been informed there is now a urgent need for:

female yoga pants (Sizes M to XL) and adult hoodies (Sizes S to XL)
warm full size blankets (this is their main source of warmth during the night)
chapstick, deodorant, body wash, feminine products

Our Church Continues to Grow

On Sunday, November 13, we welcomed new members.

Anna Grunnet is the daughter of Peter and Kirsten Grunnet. She came to FAUMC at the invitation of her parents. She immediately felt at ease and welcomed in our church family. She has discovered a desire to grow in her faith and is looking for opportunities to do so. Anna is employed at New Perspectives where she serves among the elderly and most vulnerable of God's children. She enjoys reading.

Marcia Morris-Beck found herself at her childhood Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa to attend the Celebration for her mother this past spring. Something profound happened within her she did not expect. Sitting in the church where she and her family worshipped when she was growing up, she felt God address her personally. She recalled all of the nourishing experiences she had growing up in church and the many years she had neglected her faith. It was as if the Holy Spirit tapped her on the shoulder and said, "it's time to reconnect with Me."

Soon after that, she walked into Fourth Avenue UMC on Pentecost Sunday and immediately knew she was ready to reconnect with God and a church family. Since then, Marcia has found a home in our church and is enjoying singing in the choir.

Marcia came to Faribault years ago with her now deceased husband Ken with whom she owned and operated the Java Live Coffee House. For many years, Marcia directed theatre productions in area schools. She has been active in South Central College, Downtown Faribault Association, United Way and Paradise Center for the Arts.



Anna Grunnet



Marcia Morris-Beck

Advent/Christmas 2022 Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship at 9 am.

Second Sunday in Advent, December 4(Holy Communion)

God Promised to Bring Us PEACE (Shepherds)

Third Sunday in Advent, December 11

In God, We Have Reason to REJOICE (Zechariah)

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18

*The children, Confirmands, congregation and Freedom Kids animals
will proclaim the story of the Savior's birth.
Special musical selections and congregational singing of Christmas carols.*

Christmas Eve, December 24

Musical Prelude at 4:30 pm

Worship Celebration with Carols, Communion & Candlelight at 5 pm

Christmas Day, December 25

*Our Christmas celebration continues with great music and an inspiring message
about the mystery of the Incarnation.*

Holy Name of Jesus, January 1, 2023 (Holy Communion)

Jesus, the Name that Saves

Epiphany Sunday. January 8, 2023



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Faribault, MN
55021-5170



- ◆ Sunday Worship 9:00 am
- ◆ Coffee Gathering 8:30 am & 10:05 am

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

Pastor Greg Ciesluk
Phone: 218-310-8813
Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com

Rebekah Ciesluk
Director of Children's Ministries
◆ ChildrensMinistry4thAve@outlook.com

Office Email:
fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com
Phone: 507-334-4308
Office Hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday thru Thursday

Staff:
Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk
Organ/Accompanist: Doug Madow
Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke
Custodian: Ken Harren
Office Volunteer: Kathy DuChene
Tech Volunteers: The Lammins



Our Church's Breakthrough Prayer

O God, our God, we praise and magnify Your Name!
Great are You, Lord, and greatly to be praised
With you, all things are possible.
We know that you are *with us* and *for us*
and Your plans are for our good,
for a future and a hope.
Breakthrough into our lives and into our church.
Stir up afresh our faith.
Set our hearts aflame with the fire of your love.
Open our eyes to new, fresh possibilities
and fill us anew with the power of your Spirit.
Usher us into a new season of faithfulness
and fruitfulness for your Kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.