



Special points of interest:

- Advent/Christmas
- Christmas Program
- Community Dinner
- New Staff Needed

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*Heaven and Nature Sings—300 Years of “Joy to the World”*

# December Fourth Teller

Volume 6, Issue 12

December 2019

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.  
-Psalm 98:4-6*



Dear Faribault: Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

This year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the penning of the lyrics to a treasured song we love to sing at Christmas “Joy to the World.” The beloved Christmas classic was written by the English composer, poet, and pastor Isaac Watts (1674-1748). You’ll find several well-known hymns written by Watts in our church’s hymnal. His works are still being printed in books, downloaded online, projected onto screens, and sung by Christians throughout the world.

The inspiration for Watts’ hymn comes his interpretation of Psalm 98:4-6 and 96:11-12 and Genesis 3:17-18 which point to the second coming of Christ when “the Savior reigns” and “He rules the world with truth and grace” and “God’s blessings flow far as the curse is found.” It gives voice to our longing for that glorious final day when the “nations will prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.”

Some interesting background. Watts was raised in a deeply religious family, the son of a pastor. His parents saw to it that their love for Christ and His word were passed on to their son. Isaac showed promise as a poet at a very young age with a propensity for rhyme, much to his father’s chagrin. As he grew, he became increasingly unhappy with the hymns that he sang in church each week (sound familiar?). When at 18 years of age, he criticized the hymns of the church. His father said, "If you don't like the hymns we sing, then write a better one!" And so, Isaac did just that. He began preparing a new hymn every Sunday for his father’s church, single-handedly revolutionizing the congregational singing habits of the English Churches. Eventually he wrote the Christmas classic that Christians have now been singing all over the world for three centuries.

Our worship themes for the Advent and Christmas seasons will be based on phrases from Watts’ well-known lyrics. You will find the sermon titles and

*(continued on page 2)*



### Prayer Chain

If you need prayer for any reason, there is an active group in our congregation committed to praying for you.

Contact **Carole Evans** at 507-210-6971 or e-mail her at [caroleannjean@gmail.com](mailto:caroleannjean@gmail.com).

You are welcome to join the prayer chain. Just call Carole.

If you notice a need for building maintenance, contact the trustees at: [Trustees.fourthaveumc@gmail.com](mailto:Trustees.fourthaveumc@gmail.com)

Fragrances smell pretty and enhance nature. In church, please keep them to a minimum. We have some members who are very allergic to the smells of flowers and other items.

## Pastor's Page (Continued from page 1)

accompanying scriptures on p. 4 in this Fourth Teller. Let me encourage you to include these weekly scripture readings and the lyrics of Joy to the World in your daily pattern of prayer and meditation upon God's Word.

Watts invites us to sing a new song and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than "joy" being yet another word for happiness, we discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message that we and our world so desperately need.

Though Watts likely never envisioned his song being sung at Christmas, its adoption into the collection of carols is a wonderful tribute to its power in the lives of people. Indeed, the humble coming of Jesus as a baby is a glimpse of his majestic coming again. Christ's birth as well as his promised return are "good news of great joy that will be for all the people." This we proclaim as we sing one of the most exuberant, beloved, and popular songs of the season.

For a season filled with joyful singing in our hearts, in God's Church, and in the world God so loved that he gave his only Son, I am sincerely yours,

*Pastor Greg*

## Testimonies of Witnesses Past

**Matthew Dunfee** has added some books and DVDs to FAUMC's library to check out. They introduce you to the life journey's of men and women of God. People like **Watchman Nee** who lives in China and has created indigenous churches in China. He has spent 1/3rd of his life in prison for his beliefs. **John & Betty Stam** were Missionary Martyrs in the Communist city of Tsingteh. "Like the Lord they served, John and Betty Stam reached more people through their death than in the faithful lives they lived. **Torches of Joy** is the dynamic story of a stone age tribe's encounter with the Gospel of Jesus Christ." These books and others are made available through **Thy Holy Word Ministries in Faribault**. You can learn more on their website: [www.thyholyword.org](http://www.thyholyword.org). There are DVDs that have more testimonies on them. "The Road to Emmaus," "Beyond the Next Mountain," and "Baby's First Bible Stories and DVD" are some of them. Matthew asks that you check out one book at a time. They are for purchase as well.

## Children's Christmas Program—December 22

**Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals** December 1, 8, & 15, after worship, 10:15-10:45 AM for the **December 22nd performance**.

All children are welcome to join in the fun. Siblings, grandkids, friends, neighbors; invite them all to join in the fellowship of preparation for Jesus' birth.

## December Memory Verse—Luke 2:10-11 NRSV

*But the angel said to them,  
 “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you  
 good news of great joy for all the people:  
 to you is born this day in the city of David  
 a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”*  
 Luke 2:10-11

## Christian Pipers & UMW Bake Sale

The Christian Pipers and M & M circle members will hold their annual bake sale, December 8th. Members, please have your items at church by 8:00 AM that morning.



## Ramp It Up Craft Sale a Success

Thank you to all that contributed to and supported the Ramp It Up Craft Sale. A tentative total is \$314. Work will start again in January. All participants have been a blessing to this mission.

## Worship, Committees, and Events

### December Worship

December 1—Advent Begins; Hopeful Joy—Holy Communion  
 December 8—Loving Joy  
 December 15—Unabashed Joy  
 December 22—Children’s Christmas Program  
 December 24—Incarnate Joy  
 December 29—Compassionate Joy

### December Events

December 1—Charge Conference at 10:15 AM  
 December 1, 8, 15—Children Rehearse for Christmas Program; 10:15-10:45 AM  
 December 3—Emmaus Potluck, 6:00 PM  
 December 5—Trustees; 6:30 PM  
 December 5—Operation 23 to Zero; Library; 7:00 PM  
 December 7—Morris Family Dinner  
 December 8— Christian Piper/UMW Bake Sale  
 December 10—Church Council; 6:30 PM  
 December 10—Girl Scout Troop #67310 & Daisy; FH; 6:00-7:00 PM  
 December 12—M & M Circle is going out for lunch!  
 December 15—Community Christmas Dinner; 11:00 AM—1:00 PM  
 December 19—Catherine’s Last Day in the office  
 December 19—Rice Co. Piecemakers; FH;  
 December 22—Children’s Christmas Program during Worship

## Worship Servers

### December Ushers

Tom & Kim Bossmann  
 Jack & Jackie Luedke

### December Lay Readers

December 1 Marcia Grundman  
 December 8 Shari VanDerVeen  
 December 15 Ken Harren  
 December 22 Kirsten Strnad  
 December 24 TBA  
 December 29 TBA

### December Acolytes

December 1 Wyatt Gehrke  
 December 8 Aubrey Hatfield  
 December 15 Miles Schiffer  
 December 22 Ella Prange  
 December 24 TBA  
 December 29 Comfort Sonpon



## Worship services online!

- [www.fourthaveumc.org](http://www.fourthaveumc.org)
- click on the “VIDEO” menu—
- OR on HOME page
- Scroll down right side - see options for the worship service.

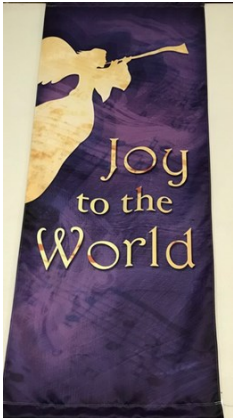
OR go to

**YouTube** and search for 4th Avenue UMC to find several videos—choir, special music, and entire worship services.

**Advent/Christmas 2019**



**300th Anniversary!**



**Advent/ Christmas 2019**

*This year's Advent/Christmas worship themes are based on the classic Christmas Carol, "Joy to the World" in celebration of the hymn's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

**First Sunday in Advent, December 1**

*Prepare Him Room: **Hopeful Joy***

Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14

**Second Sunday in Advent, December 8**

*Repeat the Sounding Joy: **Loving Joy***

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-15

**Third Sunday in Advent, December 15**

*Make the Blessings Known: **Unabashed Joy***

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55

**Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22**

***It's Christmas!***

Children's Christmas Program

Isaiah 7:13-15, Matthew 1:18-25



**Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5 pm**

Prelude of Instrumentals & Solos at 4:30 pm

***The Lord Is Come: Incarnate Joy***

Carols, Communion, & Candlelight

**First Sunday after Christmas (Day 5), December 29**

*Wonders of His Love: **Compassionate Joy***

Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23

**Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2020**

*Make the Nations Prove: **Peaceful Joy***

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

## Highlights from 2019 & Our 2020 Vision

### Our Church's Outreach Efforts

**Operation 23 to Zero** to lift vulnerable veterans

**Believet™** to train and provide service dogs for disabled veterans

Our own **David DuChene**, a Vietnam vet, trained and received a dog from **Believet™**

**Ramp It Up Campaign** home improvements to lift a family in our church.

**STORM Camp** engagement by our Confirmands

Deepening of our faith in Christ through

Confirmation Class

the newly formed discipleship group

the fall sermon series with monthly scripture memory verses.

### Looking Ahead to 2020

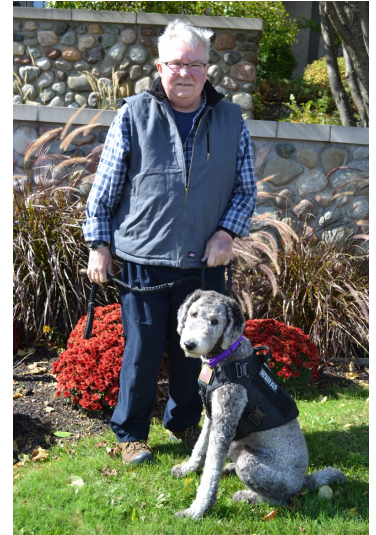
Hire a dynamic person to lead our children's ministry

Continue developing small discipleship groups

Widen our capacity to reach potential new members

Build on our church's signature outreach efforts

We will learn, discuss, and pray about the issues facing the upcoming UMC General Conference and prepare ourselves for our church's future direction.



Dave DuChene & Jack

## Commitment Sunday

On **Sunday, November 24**, we celebrated our annual **Commitment Sunday** with the presentation of commitments cards at the close of the service. This act of devotion and worship demonstrates our gratitude to God and expresses our hope for our church's flourishing and provides helpful information to the Finance Committee to do budget planning for 2020. Thank you to all who have completed their commitment card and have turned it in. If you have not turned in your 2020 Commitment Card, you will receive a new one in the mail soon or you may pick one up on Sundays or at the church office. Please make every effort to complete your card and bring it to worship by **December 15**.

## Year End Giving

Has this been a year with blessings or breakthroughs? Has it been a year with adversity that you have faced with faith and the support of Christian friends? Can you say that being a part of the Fourth Avenue UMC family enriches your life? Do you feel a sense of pride at our church's accomplishments and its outreach into our community and world? Are you looking for ways to honor the birth of Jesus Christ? As Christmas draws near and the year 2019 comes to a close, consider an extra gift to the church. Your gift will strengthen our church's ministry now and put it on solid footing going into 2020.

## Trustees Report

The trustees have been a busy group from putting new carpet in the nursery, paving and striping the parking lot, updating to energy efficient LED lighting, to taking down dead trees, new chairs for the choir room, new fridge to replace the one that went out in the fellowship hall, updating locks, and updating the air conditioning/heating system in the office space. These are all projects that have been “in the works” for a very long time (years in fact). We have a great group of “can do” people working together on the trustees. The trustees have also been working on the choir/youth room which should be done and ready for action by the beginning of the year. As most can remember we had a water damage issue due to frozen pipes in that room. We would like to thank all of those who donated their time to make these projects happen and to BPNI through memorials, church donations, etc. so these projects can be accomplished to update our place of worship!

## Walk to Emmaus Retreat

Are you looking for a way to energize your faith and equip yourself to 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 also expected to be a member of a local church, have a desire to strengthen your spiritual lives; are willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Men’s Walk is Thursday, January 16, 2020 to Sunday, January 19, 2020 Women’s Walk is Thursday, January 23, 2020 to Sunday, January 26, 2020. Both Walks will be at the Good Counsel Retreat Center; in near by Mankato, MN. Interested persons may contact Pastor Greg, 218-310-8813; Sharon Nelson, 507-923-0587; or Carole Evans, 507-210-6971 to know more.

## Our Church is Seeking New Staff

### Director of Faith Formation for Young Children

Seeking a passionate, energetic, self-motivated, trustworthy person to engage young children and their families, and lead dynamic Christian faith experiences for young children. **Part-time: 3 hours on Sundays, plus 3 hours weekly.** For more information, contact Pastor Greg Ciesluk at [pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com).

**Administrative Assistant** Seeking a: positive, personable, flexible, energetic, self-starting, technologically savvy person to provide administrative support to pastor and church ministry. Part Time, 3 Mornings Weekly Please e-mail resume to: [marciagrundman@yahoo.com](mailto:marciagrundman@yahoo.com).

**Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church,  
219 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NW, Faribault, MN.**

## Community Christmas Dinner Menu

**Special Day  
Chicken Breast**

**Homemade Meatballs**

**Mashed Potatoes &  
Gravy**

**King Hawaiian  
Stuffing**

**Lightly Candied  
Carrots**

**Cole Slaw**

**Fresh Dinner Rolls**

**Cupcakes**

## Faribault Food Shelf 200 Western Ave.

**Faribault, MN**

507-3342137

Must live in  
Morristown or  
Faribault  
school districts.

**Sustaining food—  
once a month.**

**Last Wednesday of  
month**

**Hours: 1-5:30 PM**

**Emergency food  
4x a year.**

**Hours:  
Tue, Wed, Thurs  
1-3 PM or  
by appointment**

## Finance—Church Budget

| Checking Account Balance September 30, 2019 |          |   |          | \$19,097.00     |
|---|----------|---|----------|-----------------|
| <b>Receipts for 10/1/19 to 10/31/19</b>     |          | <b>Expenses for 10/1/19 to 10/31/19</b> |          |                 |
| Unified Budget                              | \$8,224  | Program Area                            | \$160    |                 |
| Fund C-Parsonage Interest                   | \$635    | Building and Grounds                    | \$1,042  |                 |
| Loose Plate Offering                        | \$90     | Administration Area                     | \$298    |                 |
| Apportionments 2019                         | \$260    | Pastor's Compensation                   | \$5,080  |                 |
| Study Books                                 | \$11     | Other Staff Compensation                | \$2,767  |                 |
| Ramp It Up                                  | \$2,540  | Apportionments 2019                     | \$5,504  |                 |
| Church Mutual Safety Dividend               | \$836    | Christmas Dinner Expenses               | \$39     |                 |
| Fall Soup Luncheon Change                   | \$700    | Boiler E-Stop Switch                    | \$312    | *** BP&I        |
| Fall Soup Luncheon Income                   | \$5,972  | Altar Decorations                       | \$73     |                 |
| Withholding Tax Overpayment                 | \$47     | Choir Room Chairs                       | \$1,417  | *** BP&I        |
| Christmas Poinsettias                       | \$50     | Grand Piano Humidifier                  | \$125    |                 |
| Ruth's House Gift                           | \$100    | Fall Soup Luncheon Expenses             | \$878    |                 |
| Transfer-In Trustee Funds                   | \$27,474 | Cedar Lake Electric                     | \$3,100  | *** Reineke     |
|   |          | Bible Study Books                       | \$198    |                 |
|   |          | Better Air, Inc.                        | \$20,582 | *** Reineke     |
|   |          |   |          |                 |
| Total Income for October                    | \$46,939 | Total Expenses for October              | \$41,575 |                 |
|   |          |   |          |                 |
| <b>Checking Account Balance 10/31/2019</b>  |          |   |          | <b>\$24,461</b> |
|   |          |   |          |                 |
| Designated Youth Leader/Internship          |          |   |          | (\$2,510)       |
| Designated Emergency Mission Fund           |          |   |          | (\$59)          |
| Designated Wednesday Night Alive            |          |   |          | (\$235)         |
| Designated Church Growth                    |          |   |          | (\$1,000)       |
| Designated Rural Evang. Missions-Liberia    |          |   |          | (\$930)         |
| Designated Easter Offering (for Missions)   |          |   |          | (\$1,000)       |
| Designated Sanctuary & Altar Decorations    |          |   |          | (\$227)         |
| Designated Ramp It Up                       |          |   |          | (\$3,865)       |
|   |          |   |          |                 |
| <b>SPENDABLE FUNDS October 31, 2019</b>     |          |   |          | <b>\$14,635</b> |

Profit From Two October Soup Luncheons = \$5,243.55

This was sent in to MN Annual Conference towards 2019 Apportionments

Total Apportionments paid thru 10/31/2019 = \$10,294.00 of \$23,584.92 (43.6%)

Balance in Ramp It Up Fund as of 10/31/2019 = \$3,865.00

Money Market Account Balance as of 10/31/19:

\$ 8,642.73 Weldon & Gayle Reineke Estate Gift  
 \$35,723.21 Building Preservation and Improvement  
 \$ 8,784.09 Lift Fund  
\$ 162.18 Interest Accrued  
 \$53,312.21

Kathy DuChene, Treasurer

**Students in the News**

**Middle School Honor Roll**

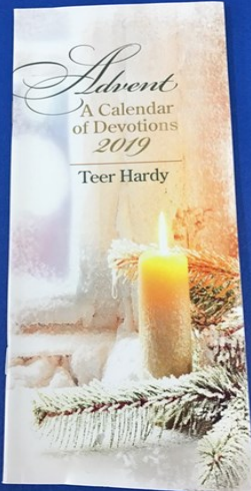
**A Honor Roll**

8th Grade:  
Landon Hatfield

**B Honor Roll**

7th Grade  
Annabelle Schiffer

Advent  
Devotional  
Available



The Upper Room devotional booklet includes daily reading of the scriptures & a brief life story. Stop by the Annex to pick one up.  
Donation - \$1.00.

**Special Notices**

**FAREWELL COFFEE:** On **Sunday, December 8**, we will hold a special coffee hour after worship to honor **Catherine Williams**, our church secretary, to thank her for her four years of service to our congregation, celebrate her retirement, and send her off with our prayers. Catherine has been serving as our secretary since September 2015 and decided that it is the right time to retire. Please join us December 8<sup>th</sup> to honor Catherine.

**Catherine wants to thank everyone at FAUMC** that has been so friendly & helpful during my time here. I have enjoyed using my skills & creativity to assist the pastors communicate & be ready for Sunday Mornings. Creating & composing posters, flyers, and newsletters has been a fun challenge. I am going to miss coming here each day. Most of all, I want to thank you for your prayers. They keep me positive & sustain me when new health challenges appear. Thank you.

**December Birthdays**

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| David Eiler       | 01 |
| David Brown       | 01 |
| Cheryl Tilseth    | 02 |
| Pam Kucera        | 03 |
| Victor Sonpon     | 05 |
| Charles Morgan    | 06 |
| Wyatt Osmundson   | 07 |
| Charlotte Glarner | 08 |
| Marge Morris      | 12 |
| Marcia Speiker    | 12 |
| Kinsley Steinberg | 18 |
| Amanda Spurgeon   | 19 |
| James Heyer       | 22 |
| Grant Lammin      | 24 |
| Sandra Caron      | 29 |
| Dale Doehling     | 30 |
| Randy Michel      | 30 |
| Audrey Quiggle    | 31 |

**December Anniversaries**

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Ian & Debra Jindra-Pope | 21 |
| Brad & Elizabeth Prange | 18 |
| Thomas & Liz Hartman    | 28 |
| Richard & Sandra Caron  | 29 |
| Nathan & Mary Ebert     | 30 |

**Our Sympathies**

Our sympathies go to the family of **Elaine Nagel** whose sister-in-law, Barb Kitzman, passed away October 31, 2019. She lived in Sequim, Washington.



The kitchen has **two new 100 cup coffee pots!** Carolyn Minshall ordered them, Linda Wilde, Liz & Tom Hartman covered expense. Thank you to all that contributed to much needed items for the success of community dinners and luncheons.

**Congratulations to Allen & Sheila Wolkenhauer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.**

They were married November 22, 1969 here at Fourth Avenue UMC.

**THANK YOU! Dale Hauptli** has been a faithful servant in the sound booth for six years running the audio-visual system to support our church's worship life. He has decided to retire from that role. Please take a moment to express your appreciation to Dale for his faithful service.



## United Methodist Women (UMW)

**M&M circle will meet for lunch at the Broaster on Thursday, December 12, at 11:30 am.** We invite any United Methodist women to join us. Please **RSVP to Joyce Buresh or Liz Hartman by Sunday, December 8.**

Carolyn Minshall and Dorothy Orde organized a work day this past August to sew cloth diapers for a UMW mission project. About 10 women spent the day cutting out and sewing diapers from colorful flannel material. Sewers completed 99 diapers that will be sent to the United Methodist Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL. They will be sent on to needy children in other countries.



The spirit of Christ and Christmas was in evidence recently as the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Women, once again, fulfilled a mission that was started over 40 years ago.

Many jolly and efficient Christmas elves made light work of **filling 80 TLC bags**, with health care items, at the November UMW meeting. The bags were then taken across the street to the Rice County Nursing Service and will be distributed to families, in need, in time for Christmas.

**This project would not be possible without the support of The Bequest and Gift committee, members of our congregation, local dentists, and friends and relatives. We are so grateful to you all.**



After the bags were filled, we still had an abundance of extra items. These were packed up and taken to Ruth's House where they will be put to good use.

Thank you to all that took part in the **Mission Calendar giving for Health Finders**. We are able to give them \$430.



## Cookie Exchange at FAUMC

**Fourth Avenue UMC LET'S HAVE A COOKIE EXCHANGE!**

**Saturday, December 14, 2019 10:00 AM in the FAUMC Fellowship Hall**

**Sign-up sheets will be in the annex on Sunday, November 24 and Sunday, December 1.**

**We will need: your name,  
the type of cookie you will be making,  
your contact information.**



1. Each person participating will be contacted the week of December 2nd with how many dozen cookies to bring.
2. We will exchange one dozen cookies per plate or baggie.
3. If you have any questions please contact Jackie Luedke 507-685-2206 or Tena Harren 507-384-2612 .

**Fourth Avenue United  
Methodist Church  
219 4th Ave NW  
Faribault, MN  
55021-5170**

**“RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED”**

- ◆ **Sunday Worship/9:00 AM**
- ◆ **Coffee Fellowship/10:15 AM**

**Website:**

[www.fourthaveumc.org](http://www.fourthaveumc.org)

Like us on Facebook

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

**December 2019 Fourth Teller**

**Pastor Greg Ciesluk**

**Phone: 218-310-8813**

**Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@  
gmail.com**

**Contact for Church Office &  
Fourth Teller Editor:  
Catherine Williams**

**Office Email:  
fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com**

**Phone: 507-334-4308**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Monday-Thursday**

**Staff**

**Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk**

**Accompanist: Doug Madow**

**Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke**

**Custodian: Robert Baden**

**Secretary: Catherine Williams**

**Invite Family Friends Neighbors Co-Workers**

**Menu on page 6**

**Community Christmas Dinner**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

**11 AM—1 PM**

**Christmas Dinner  
is our gift to you.**

**A freewill offering will be  
received for: BELIEVET<sup>TM</sup>**

**Canine**

**Service Partners**

**Fourth Avenue  
United Methodist Church  
219 4th Avenue NW  
Invites you to be our  
Honored Guest at a day of  
Feasting & Fellowship  
With your neighbors.**