

January Fourth Teller

Thank God for 2020



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Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

Christians are very peculiar people. In good times and in bad, in times of plenty and lack, in seasons of joy and hardship, we rejoice, we pray and we abound in giving thanks to God in all circumstances.

We do this in obedience to God's Word for we have a God who is always *with* us, ever *for* us, alive *within* us, and nothing can ever separate us from his love. Our God delights in the prayers of his children and is willing, able and ready to do for us more than we can ever think or imagine (Eph 3:20). Indeed, Christians are very peculiar people.

In a year like no other, where all aspects of normalcy were thrown out the window, God's people have been put to the test. It is easy to name that litany of woe that has befallen us in the nine months since Covid-19 was recognized as a great and real threat. Yet, this is not what I want to address in this column. On the contrary, I want to give thanks for this year's blessings and salute you for the ways that you have responded, sustained yourselves in faith and exercised great commitment, flexibility and creativity. As the people of God, we've been put to the test and by God's grace we have made it to the finish line as this year 2020 comes to a close.

We could not meet on Sundays for most of the year, but we found ways to learn to provide worship online and eventually on Faribault Community Public Television for our congregation and friends around the world. I personally had to learn new technologies and develop new skills to provide worship for you. I couldn't have done it without several people who were of great help to me in this weekly task. There was **Grant and Lauri Lammin, Nick Goebel, Kelli Quigg, Jean Vincent, Doug Madow, Sharon Nelson and Tena Harren**. Despite the inability to meet in person, our congregation was sustained in worship.

When the task of keeping connections strong and care for one another was stressed by the new normal, we needed to develop a ministry of shepherding. Among those who stepped up to provide this ministry were **Carole Evans, Jack and Jackie Luedke, Liz Hartman, Kelli Quigg, Kelly Landverk, Kim Bossmann, Shari VanDerVeen, Irene Eiler, Marcia Grundman, Jan Barbo, Wayne and Audrey Quiggle, Sharon Nelson, and Lois Fowler**. They made regular calls, expressed care, communicated developments in church life, offered prayer and kept me informed of how people were doing. With their dedication, our connections with and care for one another remained strong.

When I was walking through a dark valley in my personal life, you came together to walk with me and lift me on your shoulders. At a critical time, the church's leadership granted me a month leave from ministry to begin the process of recovery. I am grateful for the support and care of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (**Marcia Grundman**, Chair) and the persons that stepped up to care for weekly worship in my absence.





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

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

As the season of Advent and Christmas approached, we found new ways to tell the old, old story and extend the Christmas Spirit into our community. Our church took the lead in organizing a virtual Christmas concert, “Christmas in Faribault” to lift the spirits of our beloved town and raise funds for the Rice County Salvation Army. We re-envisioned the Community Christmas Dinner and gave the congregation the opportunity to bless people with greetings and gifts while lifting the local economy. We will highlight stories from this outreach adventure in our next newsletter. **Kelly Landsverk** took charge, recruited children, youth and families to put on a virtual Christmas pageant with great creativity. What a lift and a delight that one service was for so many! And many musicians and others came forward to record two uplifting Christmas Eve programs for our community and congregation. Indeed, we discovered new ways to celebrate and share our faith.

Our church leadership bodies including the **Trustees (Jim Heyer, Chair)** and the **Task Force on Reopening (Brad Prange, lead)** have given admirable leadership under trying circumstances. I want to especially recognize **Kathy DuChene** who serves in so many ways to uplift and undergird our congregation’s ministry and mission. She serves as our church treasurer, leader in finance, church office volunteer, and collaborator in planning. She has also been a great advocate for my well-being and a great ambassador for Fourth Avenue UMC in the community. I want also to thank **Sue Allen**, our Administrative Assistant, who has served us well in her first year with us when everything was up for grabs.

In the face of crisis and adversity, we have rejoiced, prayed and expressed thanks. Our faith has been put to the test and on display. Our powers of creativity have been stretched and found vibrant. We came together to love one another and learned (and tried) new things and succeeded. We’ve been through the refining fire and we are still standing by God’s grace. Breakthroughs have abounded. The Lord has seen us through a most trying year and we are grateful. **Thank God for 2020.**

And now, here’s to the promise and possibilities in 2021!

Pastor Greg

**Did you know
we're on
Twitter now!**

FOLLOW US @FOURTHAVEUMC

Just one more way to spread the word
of the Lord



Worship, Committees, and Events

January Worship

January 6—Epiphany

January 10—Baptism of the Lord

January Events

January 7—Trustees Meeting

January 8—Girl Scouts

January 10—Task Force on Re-Opening

January 12—Ad Council

January 19—Finance

January 22—Girl Scouts

January 26—SPRC

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Please note the 2021 offering envelopes have been prepared and are ready for pickup. The boxes are located in the coat room off the main hallway near the church office.

OFFICE HOURS

With Covid-19 our church building is closed, per Bishop Ough's guidance. The church office has temporarily adjusted hours of 9 am to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As the building is locked, please feel free to call the church office at 334-4308 or ring the outside bell and Sue or Kathy will let you in.

Dear Beloved Fourth Avenue Family,

We wish we could come home to a Christmas Eve service at Fourth Avenue like we did last year, but of course that is not possible for 2020. We have so many fun memories with you at church, especially the children's program with a special goat greeting baby Jesus. So we are sending you all hugs from Connecticut and we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and new year!

Blessings and love,

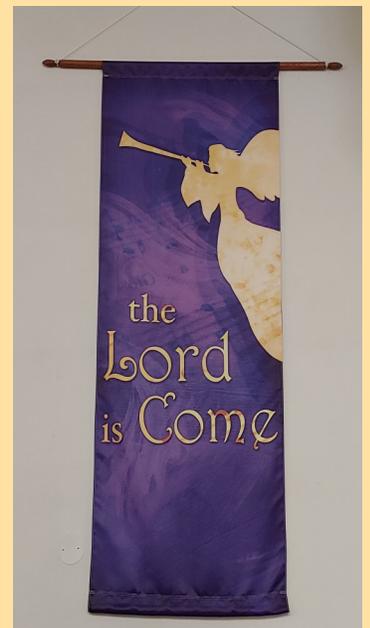
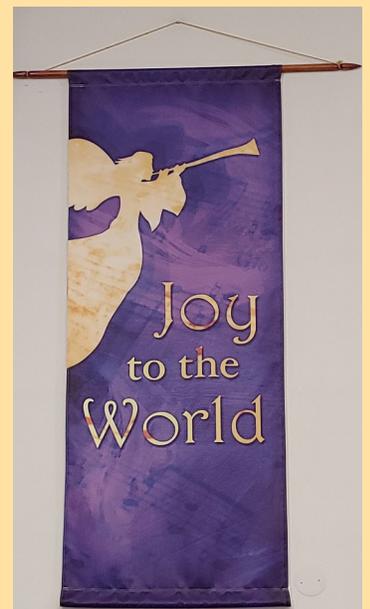
Mike and Brenda, Jamison and Lyla Boone



Word received from Phyllis Wegner

Marlin is doing well and has been transferred to Three Links Care Center, 815 Forest Avenue-Room 211-Northfield, MN 55057.

Let's surprise him and send lots of cards with your love and support from our Fourth Avenue Family.



Worship services online!

- www.fourhaveumc.org
- click on the "VIDEO" menu—
- OR on HOME page
- Scroll down right side - see options for the worship service.

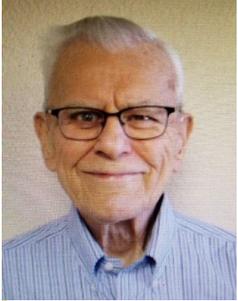
OR go to

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

January Memory Verse—Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
-2 Thessalonians 5:16-18

MEMORIALS



Our sympathy to Donna Schuenke and Ronn Kotsmith and families on the death of her brother-in-law, **Richard A Schuenke**. Our sympathy is also extended to Kathy and David DuChene and families on the death of her uncle. Richard was born June 9, 1933 and passed away on December 2, 2020 in Sun City West, Arizona of heart disease at the age of 87. He worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone for 33 years and then went on to become Vice President of Operations for Honolulu Cellular in Hawaii. He was responsible for installing and maintaining the first cellular phone towers in Honolulu, Hawaii. Since retirement he has been living in Sun City West, Arizona.



Our sympathy to Virginia Day and family on the death of her husband, the **Reverend Donald Everett Day**. Rev. Day was born September 12, 1931 in Appleton, Minnesota and passed away on December 5, 2020 in Park Rapids, Minnesota at the age of 89. In 1961 he was ordained as Elder in the Methodist Annual Conference. He retired in 1998 upon serving 42 years in ministry and chaplaincy. Rev. Day served as pastor to our Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church in Faribault from 1981 to 1989. His involvement with young people was a consistent emphasis of his ministry. He was active in each community he served. Rev. Day deeply believed in justice for all and the commandment of loving the neighbor as oneself. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorials preferred to CHI St. Joseph's Health Hospice Care or Riverside UMC Columbarium. **Cards can be sent to Virginia Day, 21224 County Road 80, Nevis, MN 56467**



Our sympathy to Carolyn Minshall and family on the death of her husband, **Gordon L. Minshall**. Gordon was born October 17, 1936 in Racine, WI and passed away on December 20, 2020 at his home in Faribault at the age of 84. He taught secretarial administrative classes at South Central College in Faribault for 30 years. He will be remembered as a Cub Scout Leader for his boys, umpiring volleyball, baseball and flag football. He enjoyed traveling and playing bridge. He and Carolyn wintered in Arizona for the past twenty years and enjoyed their travels to all 50 states, 48 with their camper. A memorial service will be held in the spring and will be announced.

MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON RE-OPENING

On Sunday, January 10th, 2021 there will be a meeting to review Covid conditions in our area and to make a decision on the possible re-opening of our building. Please watch for an email from Pastor Greg with the time of the meeting and the link for the zoom connection.

Thank you.
Kathy DuChene

January Birthdays

Jeanne Michel	01	Jakelyn Kandakai	17
80th Birthday		Betty Rezac	18
Cheryl Tjosaas	03	Kensington Kleeberger	18
Owen VanDerVeen	04	JoEllen Schulz	20
Angie Steinberg Kuhlman	04	Matthew Boyd	21
Pastor Greg Ciesluk	05	Toby Wikoff	29
Brett Bossmann	06	Karen Shimmin	30
Linda Wilde	07	Brent Kern	31
Mary Ebert	10		
Blake Waterston	13		
** 1st Birthday**			
Myron Kamrath	14		

HAPPY
Birthday



Upper Room
January/
February

THANK YOU FROM KATHY D!

I want to thank **each and everyone of you** for continuing your financial gifts to our church during this difficult time. This has certainly made a difference in getting the bills paid and paid on time. Please continue to use your offering envelopes, mail in your checks or use the outside church's mailbox to drop off your gifts. The mailbox is checked daily. I appreciate **ALL** of you!
Kathy DuChene -Treasurer



The Upper Room devotional booklet includes daily reading of the scriptures & a brief life story. Call the church office and we will mail one out to you.

Donation - \$1.00



A MESSAGE FROM ANNETTE DAY & FAMILY

Reverend Donald Day who served as pastor of Fourth Avenue UMC in Faribault, MN from 1981 to 1989 passed away at age 89 on December 5th. While at Fourth Avenue UMC, Don was instrumental in initiating senior meals, chaired The United Way campaign and actively participated in the Rotary Club. Two of his children were married during his time in Faribault and the family remains thankful for the hospitality shown the family. Rev. Day is survived by his wife Virginia and grown children, Annette Day, Elizabeth Davis and Douglas Day. Don served churches throughout Minnesota for over 42 years and additionally served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for eight years, acting as Registrar for Candidacy for four years, and on the Board of Evangelism and Camping even into retirement. Don and Ginny were married for 62 years and were blessed with five grandchildren and three greats! Reverend Day's last year of life was spent at Crystal Brooks Memory Unit in Park Rapids, MN. In this setting he was kept safe from the pandemic and received gracious care. A celebration of life is planned when all can gather. **Remembrances can be shared with Virginia Day, 21224 Co Rd 80, Nevis, MN 56467.**

Thank you,
Annette Day

CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 20, 2020





VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE AND WORSHIP DECEMBER 24, 2020





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.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. “

- Acts 2:42

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



“RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED”

◆ Sunday Worship on YouTube 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.

January 2021 Fourth Teller

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

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Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@
gmail.com

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Tuesday and Thursday

Staff

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Kelly Landsverk

Accompanist:
Doug Madow

Nursery Attendant:
Kim Luedke

Custodian:
Ken Harren

Administrative Assistant:
Sue Allen



Our building is closed, but we are discovering new ways to celebrate and share our faith! Thanks to everyone involved for being creative, flexible and committed. 2020 has been a challenging year for us, but has left us with a new perspective.

2021— The possibilities are endless, our future is bright. May the new year bring us health, happiness and continued love for each other. The best is yet to come!