

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

# January Fourth Teller

## The Name Above All Other Names: Jesus, the God Who Saves



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

January 2023

Jesus. There's just something about that name. A name that comes with ease to the lips of one of his disciples in devotion and prayer and in conversation with other believers. The name, as Charles Wesley writes in his famous hymn, "charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace." The only name, the evangelist Luke says in Acts 4:12, under heaven given among [humanity] by which we must be saved." "The name," the Apostle Paul, writes in his letter to the Philippians 2, "above all other names." There's just something about the name of Jesus.

In the nativity narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke were first introduced to the name of Jesus. In the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel speaks to the Virgin Mary of her conception by the Holy Spirit and carrying in pregnancy to the birth of the Messiah. *You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus.* (Luke 1:31) Joseph, the betrothed of Mary, encounters an angel in a dream directing him to go ahead with his marriage to Mary and assuring him that the Child is not from infidelity but of the Holy Spirit and says, *"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,<sup>[b]</sup> for he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21) On the night of his birth, angels proclaimed to lowly shepherds the purpose of the Child, *"I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!"* (Luke 2:10-11)

And in obedience to the word of the Lord to both Mary and Joseph independently, the newborn baby in Bethlehem's manger is brought to the Temple to be circumcised and is given the name Jesus, translated from the Latin, "Yeshua" or Joshua in Hebrew. The name Jesus in that era was a very common name for Jewish boys and in true biblical fashion the name of Jesus holds great meaning for the life purpose and character of the person who bears the name. Like the man raised up to succeed Moses and lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land, Jesus is the new "Joshua" who comes to lead his people into the fullness of the Promised Land of heaven, eternal life, and human flourishing. Yeshua means "God saves." In the very conception, birth and naming of Jesus, the Son of God, he is proclaimed as Savior.

As we begin a new year, calling upon the name of Jesus, we can know God's very present saving help in all of life's circumstances. In Jesus Christ, we have One who has come to lead us from where we are in as pilgrims in this world, sojourners in the wilderness to the land of Promise, to life in the kingdom of God, eternal life, and human flourishing in the here and now. On this path, even death is not ultimately a foe to fight against, but a friend to embrace when our time comes. We can know we are never alone. We are God's beloved child and we are surrounded by brothers and sisters as companions on the journey. By his sacrificial death on the cross, we are freed from any condemnation we may feel, any guilt that gnaws away at our spirits. We know our sins are forgiven. With his grace, we can amend our life and make amends to those we have wronged. We are set free to love a new life.

And we can take a risk and dare to try something new and learn something new without being held captive by the fear of failure. We just may not succeed, but our lives won't be diminished. We can embrace life knowing God is with us and for us and his plans are for our good, for a future and hope, and invite God to lead us into the new year on an adventure. As we enter 2023, claiming Jesus as Savior is a game changer.

Christian author and pastor Max Lucado penned these words years ago and they bear our meditation:

*If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.*

*If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.*

*If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.*

*If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.*

*But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a **Savior**.*

Rejoicing with you in God's provision of a great Savior, I am sincerely yours,

*Pastor Greg*

### January Memory Verse

*"There is salvation in no one else (Jesus)!  
God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."  
Acts 4:12*

### Christmas Open House

Greg and Rebekah Ciesluk  
invite you to their 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

## Calendar of Events

December - 31	Open House at Ciesluk's, 1pm to 4 pm
January - 04	Freedom Kids, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
January - 04	Choir, 6:00 pm
January - 04	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
January - 05	Trustees, 6:30 pm Parlor
January - 05	Operation 23 to Zero, 7:00 pm Library
January - 07	Jesus Food, 10 am to noon, Faribo West Mall
January - 08	Walk to Emmaus Info Mtg, 10:15 am Parlor
January - 10	Ad Council, 6:30 pm Parlor
January - 11	Freedom Kids, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
January - 11	Choir 6:00 pm
January - 11	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
January - 12	UWF, 1:00 pm Parlor
January - 15	Recommitment Sunday for Church Leaders
January - 17	Finance, 2:45 pm Parlor
January - 18	Freedom Kids, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
January - 18	Choir, 6:00 pm
January - 18	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
January - 19	Nursing Home Worship 10:00 am Emeralds 10:45 am New Perspective
January - 19	Piecemakers, 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
January - 22	Confirmation Meeting Parents & Students, 4:00 pm Parlor
January - 23	SPRC, 6:30 pm Library
January - 23	Mission/Memorial Committee Mtg., 7 pm Parlor
January - 25	Freedom Kids, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
January - 25	Choir, 6:00 pm
January - 25	Confirmation, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
January - 9, 16, 23, 30	Lakelanders, 7:00 pm

## Jesus Food Packing Event

**Saturday, January 7th**

**10 am - 12 noon**

**Faribo West Mall**



Join us **Saturday, January 7th**  
**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.



The Jan./Feb. 2023 issue of the Upper Room devotional booklet is now available. Please call the church office and we will make sure you receive one. Thank you.

Donation - \$1.00

## 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
December 2022	69	25

## United Women In Faith

The United Women in Faith will hold their monthly gathering on Thursday, January 12th, at 1:00 pm in the Parlor.

Hope to see you there.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Thank You From Sue Allen

Dear FAUMC Congregation,

I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your church secretary for the last 35 months. It was a pleasure to meet all that came into the office. There wasn't a lot of people that I met due to COVID, but all that I had the pleasure to meet were amazing, and all of the friends I met heartwarming.

May you all have a Christmas and New Year filled with joy and Love.

Sue Allen

## Congratulations, Andy Prange



The church family rejoices with Andrew Prange on his recent graduation from college.

The son of our own Brad and Elizabeth Prange, Andy graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering.

Andy is now in Faribault and will be employed at Daikin.

Congratulations, Andy!



## January Birthdays

Jeanne Michel	01
Cheryl Tjosas	03
Pastor Greg	05
Pat King	05
Brett Bossmann	06
Linda Wilde	07
Mary Ebert	10
Blake Waterston	13
Myron Kamrath	14
Jakelyn Kandakai	17
Kensington Kleeberger	18
JoEllen Schulz	20
Matthew Boyd	21
Rebekah Ciesluk	25
Toby Wikoff	29
Karen Shimmin	30
Brent Kern	31

## January Anniversaries

Pat King & Rick Rabeneck 03

### Sunday Morning Coffee

As one of FAUMC's main priorities-church growth, Sunday morning coffee continues to be a well received part of our overall plan. This ministry is provided exclusively by a Sunday morning coffee committee. To continue to provide this ministry, we need to add individuals to the committee. If you are interested in participating, training will be provided. Contact the church office (507-334-4308) or Tena Harren (507-384-2612).

### 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.

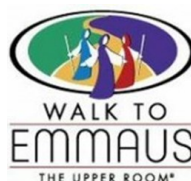
The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful invitation from a sponsor or someone who has walked the journey before you. You are expected to be a member of a local church, have a desire to strengthen your spiritual life; and willing to dedicate your life to God in an ongoing manner.

**Pastor Greg will be holding an informational session on Sunday, January 8, 2023 after worship in the Parlor.**

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 to find out more information.**



## Annual Christmas Program Thrills Congregation

For years, our church has held an annual Christmas program engaging children and youth and adults in the retelling of the story of Christ's birth in word and song. On Sunday, December 18, we enjoyed this year's creative production of *The Nativity As Told by the Animals Who Witnessed It*. This year's program was written and directed by **Rebekah Ciesluk**, our newly named Director of Children's Ministry. Sharing with her in the narration of this original drama from a unique angle, the vantage point of the safari animals for the soon to launch Freedom Kids program, was **Kelly Landsverk**. The core of our cast were this year's Confirmation students, **Will Sonpon, Khaler Grant, Dominic Ericksen, and Hanna Gehrke**. Other animal voices came from **Blayke Vrieze** and **Mayzie Stenbakken**. There were also delightful angels and shepherds played by **Shaye Vrieze, Jackson Juaire, Liam and Whitney Hagberg, Munchie, Forever, and Lala Mitchell**, and a few friends.

In the end, each safari character brought some valuable insight to the identity and mission of the Christ Child.

In addition to the drama, we enjoyed special music from the Choir and Praise Band. **Mayzie Stenbakken** closed the service by playing some Christmas music on the piano.



## Our Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to **Linda Hellevik Stoos** and family upon the death of her brother-in-law, **Donald (Pat) Hellevik**. Don passed way on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Beehive Assisted Living in Lakeville, at the age of 80.

Don was previously employed with Northwest Airlines and the Faribault Regional Center. He retired to take care of his wife, Anna, until her passing. They enjoyed retirement in Minnesota and Arizona.

Private family services were held with interment at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault.

Cards may be sent to Linda at 930 Rice Street, Faribault, MN 55021.

## Confirmation News

Pastor Greg will be meeting with the confirmation students and their parents on Sunday, January 22nd at 4:00 pm in the Parlor.



## Our Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to **Kelli Quigg** and family upon the death of her father, **Kenneth E. Anderson**. Ken was born on December 8, 1940 in East Chicago, IN and passed away on December 2, 2022, at the age of 81.

He received his Masters of Science Degree in Speech Language Pathology with an endorsement in Audiology in 1968 from Indiana State University. He worked as a special needs teacher and speech pathologist in school systems for eight years and then formed his own business (North Central Speech Pathology Services, Inc.) in 1973.

He was active in his church, community, and as a member of the Lions Club (local and state levels) since 1969, earning the Melvin Jones Award for dedicated humanitarian services.

His funeral and graveside service was held on Saturday, December 17th. Please send cards to Kelli Quigg and family at 1746 East Shore Drive, Culver, IN 46511.

## Falcon's Nest Update

**EVERY SINGLE ITEM** on the Falcon's Nest "needs list" was delivered by **all** of you at Fourth Avenue.

Inspired by our church's leadership in responding to the needs of Faribault High School students, the Rotary Club of Faribault gave matching funds to double our efforts.

**YOU** made a difference in so many young peoples' lives in our community. Thank you all for your generosity!

4th Avenue United Methodist Church  
Thank you for your support of  
the nests at Faribault Public  
Schools through our winter  
Clothing drive. Your generosity  
and support is greatly  
appreciated.

Sincerely,  
The nest committee

*Scipie*  
*[Signature]*  
*mevaresel*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*Amy Bouma* *[Signature]*

## Yeti Mugs

Fourth Avenue's Mission Committee was given an opportunity to participate in providing a gift for every employee of the Faribault School District. This opportunity came to us directly as a result of participating in the Scary Harry's Halloween Event.

We partnered with Harry Brown's (who provided the Yeti Mugs) to gift over 600 packets of coffee, hot chocolate and Hershey kisses. These packages included a tag ("Sending Prayers and Joy") from FAUMC. The 621 packets were prepared by church volunteers on Thursday, December 15th and delivered to Faribault School District employees on Monday, December 19th.

Thank you to the Bequest and Gift/Mission Committees for funding this project.



## Rice County's Emergency Foster Care Program

As a Christmas project this year, the Bequest and Gift Committee purchased forty (40) \$50.00 gift cards for Rice County's Emergency Foster Care Program. This program has no county or state funding available.

FAUMC is again making a difference in the lives of the residents in our community!





## FAUMC Provides “Christmas Eve” Worship at FSL

On Friday, December 23, our church offered a full “Christmas Eve” worship celebration at Faribault Senior Living in their community room. The service included the singing of carols, reading of the story of Christ’s birth from Luke, a message by Pastor Greg, the celebration of Holy Communion, the lighting of candles, and the closing of Silent Night. Providing this service from Fourth Avenue UMC were Pastor Greg and Rebekah Ciesluk, Jan Barbo, Doug Madow, Cindy and Scott Yerington.



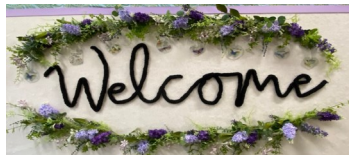
### **THANK YOU FROM KATHY DI!**

I want to thank **each and everyone of you** for continuing with your financial gifts to support the ministries of our church. 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, use our online Vanco program 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



Fourth Avenue United  
Methodist Church  
219 4th Ave NW  
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.