



Special points of interest:

- Epiphany
- December Pictures
- Welcome Sue Allen
- Happy New Year

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“Jesus has come to meet us where we are with his love.”

January Fourth Teller

Volume 7, Issue 1 January 2020

**May God’s blessing of joy
satisfy your heart...
May His blessing of peace
quiet your soul...
May His blessing of love
refresh you spirit.**



Dear Faribault: Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,
As I write this first column of the new year, I am enjoying
...a mini retreat in my childhood home in Chelmsford, MA.
...The family Christmas celebrations are winding down and
...the days that follow will be filled with reflection and
preparation for the road ahead. Whenever we detach from the day to day
demands of our lives and enter into a season of reflection, we likely are
confronted feelings of insignificance in the grand scheme of things. One
can feel pretty small and vulnerable in such a setting.

The shepherds in the Christmas story (Luke 2:8-20) were professionals
however. They had seen it all and were comfortable with the noises of the
night. They were prepared for any threat to their flocks. They were on
high alert. Suddenly, their evening was transformed. An angel of the
Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory
surrounded them. Luke declares, “They were terrified.” God now had
their undivided attention. The world which they had sought to order and
control was suddenly threatened and they were beyond their experience.

The angel had a singular mission – to announce the arrival of the Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord. The angel had no other purpose. And what an
announcement! “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all
people. The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in
Bethlehem, the city of David.”

The significance of this announcement was underscored as the angel was
suddenly joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising
God, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with
whom God is pleased.”

You know the rest of the story. The shepherds, abandoning their
assignments, rush to Bethlehem to seek this Savior and find Jesus.

(continued on page 2)

This column relies heavily on the writing of Keith Boyette.



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.

If you notice a need for building maintenance, contact the trustees at: 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)

They cannot keep the good news to themselves. The Bible does not tell us what became of the shepherds after that marvelous night. However, I, like so many before me, can witness to the reality that the events of that first Christmas dramatically impacted my life. My life has been transformed by the good news shared with those shepherds and so has yours.

Each Christ-follower and each church has a singular message just like the angel on that first Christmas. And what a message! The impossible has happened. God has broken into our world – Emmanuel – God with us. Jesus has come fulfilling God's promise as the One who would save us from our sins and alienation from God. He has come to be our righteousness. His presence among us is astonishing. Wherever that message is shared authentically, joy and peace become our reality.

The good news entrusted to the shepherds is the great news that is entrusted to us. There is much that grabs our attention in a world that bombards us with information, but there is only one consequential message – the message that Jesus has come to meet us where we are, to save us from our sins, and to transform us with His love. All the other things that the church does only have significance when flowing from the mission of sharing this great news with hurting and alienated people. Everything else only finds meaning in the fulfillment of that singular mission.

O that the Holy Spirit would guard our hearts and minds to keep us from being distracted from this mission. O that everything we do might be evaluated in light of how it serves this one mission. As the people of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, we need to commit ourselves to ensuring that sharing God's great news remains paramount in all that we do. A lot will happen as we move into and through 2020. Much will seek to distract us from the primacy of the mission entrusted to us to share God's great news. Individually and corporately, we must not let this happen.

The world in which we live needs to hear this great news of Jesus' arrival, the successful completion of His mission, and its implications for each of us as much as the shepherds and their neighbors on that first Christmas. We are entrusted with great news that must be shouted from the mountaintops and spoken into the hearts of all people.

As this Christmas season comes to a close, take a few prayerful moments to give thanks for the most wondrous gift of all – Jesus, our Savior and Messiah – and rededicate your life to sharing God's great news with every person God places in your path, regardless of who they are, where they have been, or what they have done.

For the mission of Christmas throughout the year, I am sincerely yours.

Pastor Greg

January Memory Verse—Deuteronomy 31:6

*So be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid and do not panic before them.
For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you.
He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”
-Deuteronomy 31:6*

Christian Pipers & UMW Bake Sale

We would like to thank everyone who bought goodies at our annual bake sale. We especially appreciated all who supported us and brought our goodies. It was a big success. Christian Pipers & M & M Circle

Worship, Committees, and Events

January Worship

January 5—Epiphany —Holy Communion,
Rev. Dr. Joy J. Moore Preaching , *“Disturbing Kings”*
January 12—Baptism of our Lord;
Pastor Greg Ciesluk *“Baptism in Three Movements”*

December Events

January 2— Operation 23-Zero, Library 7:00 PM
January 2—Trustees, 6:30 PM– Parlor
January 5—Girl Scouts 6:00-7:00 PM
January 5—Emmaus Pot Luck, 6:00 PM
January 13—Ruth’s House Gala 4:30-6:30 PM, Parlor
January 14— Church Administrative Council 6:30 PM
January 16—Rice County Piecemakers 6:30-9:30 PM Fellowship Hall
January 21—Girl Scout Troop #67310 & Daisy; FH; 6:00-7:00 PM
January 21—Finance 6:30 PM
January 25—Rice County Piecemakers 8:00 AM—4:30 PM Fellowship Hall
January 27—Ruth’s House Gala 4:30-6:30 PM Parlor
January 29—Nursing Home Services St. Lucas, 10:00 AM,
Pleasant Manor 10:45 AM
January 30—Nursing Home Services, New Perspective, 10:45 AM



Worship Servers

January Ushers

Donna Schuenke
Ronn Kotsmith
Elaine Nagel

January Lay Readers

January 5—Sharon Nelson
January 12—Rod Mahler
January 19- - Ian Pope
January 26 -TBD

January Acolytes

January 5– Wyatt Gehrke
January 12– Aubrey Hatfield
January 19– Miles Schiffer
January 26– Ella Prange

January Communion

January 5—Ronn Kotsmith,
Jeanne Vincent,
Brad/Elizabeth Prange



Worship services online!

- 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.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled
 when the star in the sky is gone
 when the kings and princes are home,
 when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
 the work of Christmas begins:
 to the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among the people,
 to make music in the heart.
 (composed by Howard Thurman, an African –American theologian)



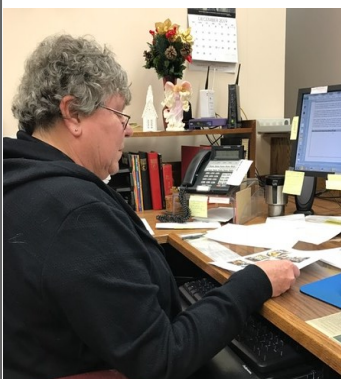
Walk to Emmaus Retreat

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.

Welcome Sue Allen—Administrative Assistant



We welcome to our church staff, **Sue Allen**, as our new Administrative Assistant. A lifelong Faribault resident and a 1972 graduate of Faribault Senior High School,. Sue has been married to Chuck for 45 years. They have one daughter Katie who lives in Minneapolis and a son Thomas (deceased). Sue has enjoyed long career as a secretary, bookkeeper, surveyor for her family's business Thomas Taylor Company. Sue enjoys knitting, reading mysteries, cooking, and is a Minnesota sports enthusiast. Sue enjoys people and is very excited about meeting the

people of Fourth Avenue UMC. She will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 am – 1 pm (note new hours.) Drop by the church office, introduce yourself, and welcome Sue to our church family.

Students in the News

A Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Ella Prange

10th Grade

Aubrey Hatfield

12th Grade

Faith Jameson

Chloe Kucera

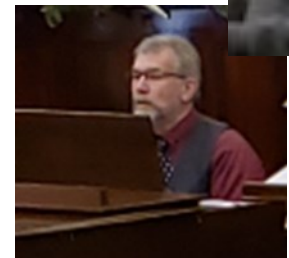
Children's Christmas Program December 22, 2019



Thank you to all of the children and the supporting musicians who presented the wonderful "Its Christmas!" Program. Photo's by Grant and Lauri Lammin.

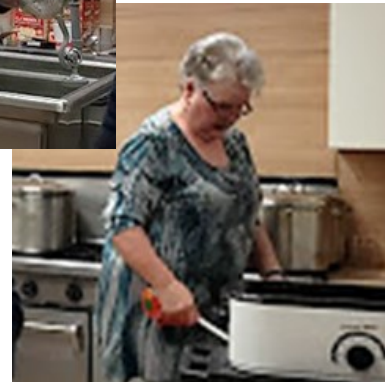


Thank you to the musicians, Kelly Landsverk, Doug Madow and Kelly Shimmin, for supporting the joy of music at Fourth Avenue UMC. Kudos to the choir for their enthusiastic contributions.



Community Christmas Dinner 2019

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Community Christmas Dinner. Each and everyone of you play an intricate part of making this event successful. Whether you are serving or greeting, cooking or cleaning, inviting or praying it takes all of us. This year we touched the lives through food and sharing Jesus love of approximately 345 people. Again Thank you all. Tena Harren



Thank you Jean Vincent for decorating the fellowship Hall. It was very festive.

Finance—Church Budget

Checking Account Balance October 31, 2019				\$24,461.00
Receipts for 11/1/19 to 11/30/19		Expenses for 11/1/19 to 11/30/19		
Unified Budget	\$11,249	Program Area	\$977	
Fund C-Parsonage Interest	\$746	Building and Grounds	\$1,253	
Loose Plate Offering	\$54	Administration Area	\$939	
Apportionments 2019	\$760	Pastor's Compensation	\$7,973	
Ruth's House Gift	\$100	Other Staff Compensation	\$2,236	
Ramp It Up	\$160	MN Secr. of State-Rural Evang Liberia	\$70	
UMCOR-Nomads	\$20	Lenten Soup Luncheon Exp. (turkey)	\$36	
Upper Rooms	\$11			
Fall Soup Luncheon Income	\$100			
Total Income for November	\$13,200	Total Expenses for November	\$13,484	
Checking Account Balance 11/30/2019				\$24,177
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				(\$4,025)
Designated UMCOR Nomads				(\$20)
Designated Apportionments-Nov. 2019				(\$760)
Designated Poinsettias				(\$50)
SPENDABLE FUNDS November 30, 2019				\$13,361

:***Apportionments sent in for 2019 \$10,294.00 of \$23,548.92 *** (43.6%)

***Money Market Account Balance as of 11/30/2019

\$ 8,642.73 Weldon & Gayle Reineke Estate Gift
 \$35,953.21 Building Preservation and Improvement
 \$ 8,784.09 Lift Fund
 \$ 166.58 Interest Accrued
 \$53,546.61

Total Gift to Believet™ from Christmas Dinner: \$1,962.02

Kathy DuChene, Treasurer

Special Notices Volunteer at District 1 Hospital in Faribault

Volunteering at District One Hospital opens a whole new world of community involvement and opportunity.

- .Virginia Piper Cancer Institute: Serve as a goodwill ambassador in the cancer center.
- Information Desk:- Provide patients and visitors with a greeting and assistance in finding their destination.
- Angel's Attic gift shop: Greet and assist customers in making purchases.
- Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute: Providing a clean, sanitary and well-stocked environment.
- Diagnostic Imaging Reception Desk: Greet and assist patients.

Allina Health Faribault Clinic, Information Desk: Provide patients and visitors with a greeting and assistance in finding their destination in a warm, friendly and welcoming manner. For more information call: 507-497-3527.

Application is online at Allina Health District 1 Hospital volunteer.

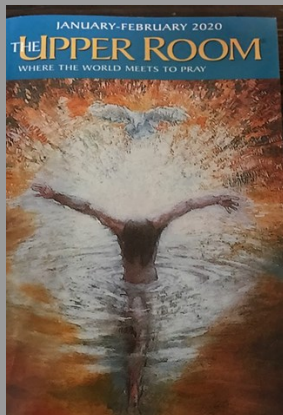
January Birthdays

Jeanne Michel	01
Owen VanDerVeen	04
Angie Kuhlman	04
Pastor Greg Ciesluk	05
Brett Bossmann	06
Linda Wilde	07
Mary Ebert	10
Myron Kamrath	14
Jakelyn Kandakai	17
Betty Rezac	18
Kensington Kleeberger	18
JoEllen Schulz	20
Matthew Boyd	21
Karen Shimmin	30
Brent Kern	31

January Anniversaries

We have no recorded anniversaries If you have a January anniversary, please let the office know. 334-4308

**Upper Room
January
February**



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.



Our Sympathies

Our sympathies go **Betty Rezac** and her family on the death of her husband, **Leonard Rezac** on December 17, 2019.



Thank you so much for your generous donation to Ruth's House! We appreciate your support. The quilts always look so beautiful laid out on the beds. Such a home feeling for the ladies.

Love, Ruth's House

Volunteers Needed

every 4th Tuesday for Team #4

Community Café'

515 2nd Avenue, NW
Faribault, MN 55021

Interested?

Contact: Lesley Dudley at 5077-491-1458
or Becky Glende at 507-334-3068

United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW Executive Board Meeting will be Monday January 6 at 1:00 PM.

M&M circle will meet January 9 at 1:00 PM in the Library. The program will be Senior Exercises & Artifacts of the Church led by Irene Eiler.

We had a lot of fun at our luncheon at the Broaster. The ladies shared special memories of their Christmas's of years passed. Catherine was honored for her work with FAUMC.. Jean Vincent and Catherine were given holiday amaryllis bulbs to grow.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fourth Avenue Methodist Women
Wish you a healthy and prosperous 2020!

Equipping Women & Girls to Be Leaders

United Methodist Women equips women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, governments, and churches.

United Methodist Women provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society. We offer leadership development, training, and resources for:

- Teen women and college/university women
- Conference and district leadership of United Methodist Women
- Hispanic, Korean and women of other language groups

(Source; www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)



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

Like us on Facebook

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

January 2020 Fourth Teller

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com

Contact for Church Office &
Fourth Teller Editor:
Sue Allen

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

Administrative Assistant—
Sue Allen

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.