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# July Fourth Teller

## Christian Teamwork

*<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same Spirit distributes them.  
<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.  
<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working,  
but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

***Everyone wants to play a significant role on a winning team.*** I seemed to know this instinctively as I joined Mr. Deshaies' baseball team at the ripe age of 10. In those days, my fielding was a bit suspect and my fear of being hit by a pitched ball was a barrier to overcome. And placed in right field, I was tucked away where the ball didn't often find less skilled players and the liability of my daydreaming minimized. Yet, over the years, with my coach's direction and encouragement, I overcame my fears, developed a head for the game, and practiced my way into performing at an increasingly higher level. With an enthusiasm and love for the game, lots of practice, and growing baseball instincts, I became a pretty good ballplayer. Eventually five seasons later, I did play a vital role on a championship team.

***Everyone wants to play a significant role on a winning team.*** And by the grace of God, we can all do just that. As members of the Body of Christ, we are on team Jesus. No matter how talented and ordinary we are, we have a vital role to play. Our mission is to re-present in our time and place the earthly ministry of Jesus once demonstrated powerfully in his brief life. We proclaim the good news, teach God's way, heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, set free the oppressed, respond to human need, and witness to God in Jesus' name. This big, bold mission calls us all to utilize our God-given gifts (called spiritual gifts).

What is a spiritual gift?

***A spiritual gift is a special, unique ability given by God the Holy Spirit to a Christian believer***

***for the purpose of replicating the life and ministry of Jesus in and through the Church for the sake of the world and pointing people to the greatness of God.***



The scriptures identify in several places (**1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 12:28–30, Romans 12:6–8, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:11**) the spiritual gifts God has placed in the Body. I don't think this is an exhaustive list, but it is a good start for our prayerful consideration. As you look at the gifts, one way to organize them into at least four broad categories.

Serving Gifts  
Support Gifts  
Speaking Gifts  
Supernatural Gifts

I hope these categories will help you to prayerfully ask,  
***Lord, what is the gift that you've planted in me?  
What can I do to serve you and build up the Church?  
In this season of my life, what significant role do you want me to play  
on Team Jesus?***

I believe if you will pray that prayer each day with a readiness for God to answer, God will honor that prayer and answer it.

In addition, God calls forth his people to offer their gifts in an environment of encouragement. Let me call you to simply pay attention, to open your eyes to see what God is doing through his people. When you see someone serving, thank them. When you see someone exercising a gift that elevates the church, say something. When a person takes a risk to serve in a new way, express your delight and joy! And to keep the culture of encouragement nourished, be careful not to let a spirit of envy, criticism, or grief quench the Holy Spirit.

As we come out of the pandemic with atrophied muscles, I am praying that we will begin to seek fresh ways to be in ministry again and address human need. Toward that end, I am envisioning some ***Breakthrough Brainstorming Sessions*** where groups of five persons can gather to pray, brainstorm, and implement some action that will elevate our church's life and touch people. When you are invited to one of these sessions or hear about one, resolve now to say YES!

I know that you love Jesus. I know that you love the Church. I know it's your heart's desire to serve significantly and make a difference. I know you want to be faithful to the call of God. And you know that you have a gift to stir up and share. I believe that God is not finished using you. And I believe that God is not finished with this church. ***I know that you want to play a vital role on Team Jesus.*** And by the grace of God, we can all do just that.

For Christian teamwork, a culture of encouragement calling forth gifts, people who say "YES!" and victory in Jesus, I am sincerely yours,

***Pastor Greg***



## What's Happening in the UMC?

Changes are around the corner for the United Methodist Church. The UMC is expected to split into two principal denominations following its General Conference scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022.

### When can we expect these changes?

Eventually, the Minnesota Annual Conference will need to decide with which denomination to align as will Fourth Avenue UMC. When that decision will need to be made is not clear at this time. The Church's Council and Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) have been studying the issues prayerfully and are committed to leading the congregation in this process. We are discussing and discerning the best way to keep the congregation informed and listen to the feelings of the church members. This article is the first of several articles that will be shared in the *Fourth Teller* that we hope will keep you informed about the unfolding process.

### Why is a change necessary.

In the last 50 years, the church's historic teaching on human sexuality has been called into question. The new alternative sexual ethic is being expanded to include the practice of homosexuality. The core issues at the heart of the conflict have been the authority and interpretation of scripture and a challenge to the church's historic doctrine. The lack of agreement on these core issues has resulted in sharp disagreements around the church's teaching about human sexuality and marriage, the ordination and appointment of practicing homosexuals as ministers, and whether ministers can perform same sex weddings.

### How will this happen.

Currently, two principal denominations will emerge from the split. One will be the post-separation United Methodist Church which will change the historic definition of marriage to allow for same sex couples, remove traditional barriers to the ordination and appointment of ministers in same sex relationships, and will celebrate same sex marriages. Churches that choose to remain in the UMC will need to be prepared to welcome homosexual and/or transgendered clergy. While it will inherit long-established structures, it will also assume the significant costs and concerns of maintaining the church's boards, agencies, colleges and universities. One place you can learn more about the restructured denomination is at [www.umcnext.com](http://www.umcnext.com).

The other denomination will be the *Global Methodist Church*. It will seek to restore Methodism to its traditional biblical teachings, historic sexual ethics, and envisions a renewed Christian faith and mission. It will assume many risks in launching a new denomination, but it expects to do so as a lean institution with wide global participation. You can learn more about this proposed denomination at [www.globalmethodist.org](http://www.globalmethodist.org).

### Has this happened in other churches?

Other church bodies in the United States have gone through similar processes in the past two decades. Those processes by and large have been messy, contentious, and costly. The United Methodist Church, however, is resolved to go through this process in a grace-filled and amicable way.

In contrast, the UMC proposed plan allows annual conferences, congregations, and pastors to choose with which branch of Methodism to align. Congregations leaving the UMC for the Global Methodist Church will retain their properties and assets and clergy pensions will be secure. Pastors and congregations will be able to minister according to their convictions.

Leaders of good will on both sides of the conflict are committed to blessing one another in the separation and collaborating where values align. They hope that the way that we conduct ourselves in our disagreements will be a witness to the world how Christians can disagree in a spirit of love. Please pray for our Church Council, SPRC, congregation, and the United Methodist Church as we approach the momentous General Conference.

## 2021 Scholarship Recipients

For 2021 the Bequest and Gift team on behalf of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church approved 10 scholarships to students pursuing their higher degrees.: We are very proud to know these young people. Bequest and Gift team would like to announce the 10 recipients.

- **Faith Jameson**, the daughter of Paula Jameson, will be attending South Central College in Faribault.
- **Brandon Kern**, the son of Brent and Tammy Kern, will return to Minnesota State University, Mankato for his 4<sup>th</sup> year.
- **Kaylee Kern**, the daughter of Brent and Tammy Kern, will be in her 4<sup>th</sup> year at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- **Kelsey Kern**, the daughter of Brent and Tammy Kern, will be attending Hamline University for the 4<sup>th</sup> year.
- **Emily Kiker**, the daughter of Kim Luedke, is attending South Central College.
- **Brody Kucera**, the son of Dan and Pam Kucera, is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student at Hamline University.
- **Chloe Kucera**, the daughter of Dan and Pam Kucera, is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Hamline University.
- **Andrew “Andy” Prange**, the son on Brad and Elizabeth Prange, will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- **Margaret “Maggi” Quigg**, the daughter of Rob and Kelli Quigg, is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Loyola Marymount University.
- **Suzanne “Suzi” Quigg**, the daughter of Rob and Kelli Quigg, is a senior at Boston College.

The essays these young people wrote were to relate how the scholarship would help them reach their educational goals and how it would enable the students to grow in their Christian faith and in service to God. Some of the responses were: “When things get hard and it felt like everything was changing for the worst, I remember where I came from and what made me the person I am today. Through growing up in my Christian faith I’ve learned to give back; therefore, I made it a goal of mine to do so by giving students the opportunity to apply what they have been taught in the classroom to help their community. I am pursuing a degree where I will be able to help God’s people have a voice and to be heard. I can’t think of a better way of serving God’s people than volunteering. I would like to start a nonprofit in Minneapolis/St. Paul and expand it to other cities around the U.S. Inherently traced throughout each story I have written thus far is a reminder of the power of faith and trusting in God, even when it feels scary and incredibly difficult. I am excited to strengthen salient skills while also expanding upon these certainties in order that I might be present to all of God’s quiet nudging and beautiful truths.”

Kirsten Strnad for  
The Bequest and Gift team



## Scripture Memory Verse for July

*For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

**-Galatians 5:1**

Trustees Update: The trustees have been busy the last few months. Using funds from BPI ( Building, Preservation and Improvements), memorials, bequests and gift and lift fund we have been able to accomplish some tasks:

1. The sound/video system purchased and installed. Training completed and looking for volunteers to train as substitutes for Lammin.
2. Enlarged the sound booth with lift accessibility.
3. Approved the purchase of a few tall tables and chairs for pre-church fellowship in the annex.
4. Weather stripping repair large window and doors.
5. Hired Filan lawn service for weed control.
6. Smart TV placed and installed in the nursery.
7. Checking on boiler repair vs replacing boilers
8. New hand rail being installed on outside ramp.
9. Moved glass display cabinet made by Steve Barbo and donated by Jan Barbo into the Parlor.
10. Updated the emergency phone numbers at the phones.
11. Shampoo carpet at the entrances.
12. Cleaning out and donating unwanted items stored in the 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school rooms to Midwest Missionary Distribution Center.
13. Miscellaneous repairs through the church.



**We are asking for volunteers interested in being trained as a backup for Grant and Lauri Lammin when they would not be available for a special service or a funeral.**

## Given from 2021 Easter Offering

*Thank you so very much for your generous donation. We are currently feeding over 300 meals each Tuesday. Your donation will go a long way to help us provide that right number of meals each week.*



Thank you for your donation of \$ 2030.00

Your generosity enables our program to continue to serve fellowship meals in our community.

With Grateful Thanks,  
The Community Café  
*Kara Churchill*



Attention Fourth Ave UMC walkers! We may be in the middle of summer but before long fall will be here and with that comes the annual Crop Walk. The Crop Walk gives each of us the opportunity to participate and/or support efforts to stamp out hunger. Funds raised benefits our local food shelf as well as the global fight against hunger. Typically it is held the first Saturday in October. More details to follow in the August issue of the Fourth Teller. Anyone who would like to get involved please contact Deb Jindra-Pope.

### Worship Servers

#### July Ushers

Jean Vincent and  
Dale Hauptki

#### July Lay Readers

4—Kim Bossmann  
11—Ronn Kotsmith  
18—Kelly Landsverk  
25—Robert Nelson

To visit our website go to  
[http://  
www.fourthaveumc.org](http://www.fourthaveumc.org)

Or follow us on Twitter at  
[https://twitter.com/  
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And of course, don't forget to  
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Christ at

[https://www.youtube.com/  
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Or you can come and  
worship with us in person,  
our service  
times are Sunday Worship at  
9 a.m.

## Calendar of Events

- July 1—Operation 23 to Zero 7:00 PM in Library
- July 5,12,19 & 26th—Lakelanders Practice 7:00 PM in FH
- July 8 - UMW 1:00 PM in Parlor
- July 8—Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM in Parlor
- July 9—Red Cross Bloodmobile 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in FH
- July 15—Rice County Piecemakers
- July 20—Finance 6:30 PM in Parlor
- July 27—SPRC 6:30 PM in Parlor



Rod Mahler has attended approximately 2,900 Faribault Rotary Club meetings since he joined 63 years ago, making him the club's longest serving member.

"Sixty-three years of service in a club celebrating 101 years — that is what awesome is," Rotary District Governor Ed Marek told the

Faribault Rotary Club during its meeting Wednesday Lifetime Achievement Award winner Rod Mahler poses for a photo with Rotary District Governor Ed Marek after Mahler received a Paul Harris Fellow Award. (Misty Schwab/southernminn.com)

Rotary Club members gathered at The Inn at Shattuck-St. Mary's at noon Wednesday to not only recognize 100 years of Faribault Rotary but also recognize Mahler as a Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

"This is really memorable to me, and I'll never forget it," Mahler said after accepting his award from Club Historian Murray Hanson. "Rotarians, keep working hard. It's a fantastic experience I've had in my life."

Rod Mahler joined Faribault Rotary 63 years ago and received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the club's 100th anniversary celebration Wednesday. (Misty Schwab/southernminn.com)

Mahler said he joined Rotary when he was 25, making him, to his knowledge, the youngest member to join the Faribault club. Now, he said, he's one of its oldest members.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Lois Christen and Melva Ochs served. David DuChene and his service dog, Jack, presented the program with approximately 15 individuals present.

An Offering was taken for Prayer and Self-Denial. A decision was made to pay speakers \$50.00 for their program. The check will be made payable to the organization they are representing.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Carolyn Hanson is a current board member of the Community Café and will be sharing information with us on that organization. Additional discussion will take place for future programming ideas. Carole Evans is scheduled to serve treats.



## God Answers Prayer and Reveals Love Though It

*On Saturday, June 26, Tena Harren reached out to Pastor Greg with a text, seeking urgent prayer for her granddaughter Kinsley. Kinsley was in the ER at the Owatonna Hospital in distress. The church's prayer chain was activated and the entire church was called to pray through email. Within an hour and a half, the crisis has dissipated and little Kinsley was on her way home with a diagnosis and a treatment plan her family could administer. She is expected to recover within 4-6 days. The next day, the people of God gathered to worship and remember Kinsley in prayer again. Here's the text Tena Harren sent to Pastor Greg that evening:*

I just had time to watch today's church service. Thank you for the prayers for Kinsley. I believe with my heart and my soul that yesterday God heard the Big Bold Prayers of our church family and placed his healing hands on Kinsley for the doctors feared so much worse for her.

I cared for her for most of the day today as Mom and Dad cared for her during the night and as I held her while she took a nap. I thanked God for not only his healing hands but for the church family we have. I was overwhelmed with feelings of thankfulness and gratefulness and humbled by the love shown by our church family once again.

Again- thank you for all of your prayers and support.

Your sister in Christ,

Tena

Never forget: God hears BIG, BOLD prayers from the faithful. Never underestimate the power of prayer and the love that is felt through the church's ministry of intercession.



## Bloodmobile Coming to Fourth Avenue

The Faribault Rotary Club is sponsoring a summer Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, July, 9 2021 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church. Please use the lower level ramp door for entrance to the building. Masks are required.

To register, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

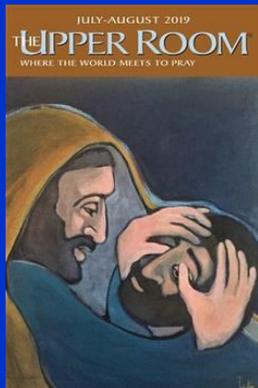


## Special Notices

**WELCOMING** changes are happening all around us at Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church. We pray the Holy Spirit moves among us to open our hearts and minds to the welcoming love of Jesus.

Did you notice the “WELCOME “ theme surrounding you ... drawing you in to Gods house?

**Enjoy our new coffee counter as you enter.**



### 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.

### July Birthdays

Lauri Lammin	01
Ian Pope	01
Marlin Wegner	01
Tena Harren	01
JoAnn Schulz	02
Daniel VanDerVeen	02
Ella Prange	03
Pat Pecore	04
Betty Homeier	07
Daniel Tersteeg	09
Molly Boyd	14
Verus Kandakai	15
Rodney Mahler	15
Karen Doehling	18
Sharon Nelson	20
Audrey Eiler	21
Russell Schulz	22
Jack Luedke	25
Ashley Osmundson	27
Patrick Morris	28
Britlynn Kleeberger	30
Robert Nelson	31
Jace Vrieze	31



### July Anniversaries

Marlin & Phyllis Wegner	06
Dwayne & Wanda Weber	13
Ron & Barb Swartwoudt	14
Grant & Lauri Lammin	18
Daniel & Shari VanDerVeen	20

### KIDS EAT FREE



**All Kids ages 3-18 can come to have a nutritious meal at no cost**

**Summer Meal Information (June 14-Aug. 19)**  
STEAM programming at Jefferson Elementary and FMS will have breakfast and lunch available. Meals will be handed out at Jefferson Elementary, Monday through Thursday from 11:30-12:30 p.m. Each meal handed out will include a breakfast and a lunch. Meals handed out on Thursdays will include two breakfasts and lunches, meant to be eaten on Fridays. These meals are free for anyone 18 and under.

Fourth Avenue UMC  
219 4th Ave NW  
Faribault, MN 55021



◆ Sunday Worship/9:00 AM



## July 2021 Fourth Teller

**Pastor Greg Ciesluk**

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@  
gmail.com

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Fourth Teller Editor:**  
Sue Allen

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fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 507-334-4308

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

### Staff

**Choir Director:** Kelly Landsverk  
**Accompanist:** Doug Madow  
**Nursery Attendant:** Kim Luedke  
**Custodian :** Ken Harren  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
Sue Allen

