



June Fourth Teller

Special points of interest:

- Pentecost—
- Graduates
- Vacation Bible School

Volume 6, Issue 6

June 2020



The Power of Pentecost

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Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

The resurrection of Jesus brings us to the explosive power of Pentecost. Let's set the scene. In Acts 1, we see the early followers of Jesus numbering 120. Having witnessed Jesus' ascension, they are gathered together in a season of prayer anticipating the fresh new thing that Jesus has promised in his parting words to them. The Holy Spirit will soon come upon them and give them power to witness to the Risen Christ and bring God's message of salvation everywhere. But for now, they are in prayer waiting for the promise and power from God.

And then the explosive power of Pentecost comes. According to Acts 2, the believers are together and suddenly, signs and wonders unfold! First, the sound of a mighty wind fills the gathering. Then, tongues of fire appear, divide, and descend upon each person's head. And then, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and each one begins to proclaim the gospel in a language not his own! Jews gathered from around the world are drawn like a magnet to see what's happening. They hear the good news in their own native languages from uneducated Galileans. God is certainly on the move. These signs and wonders point to it for sure. The Spirit has been poured out and the Church is transformed in its wake.

Signs and wonders. The sound of a mighty wind, tongues of fire, and unusual communication. It's hard to make heads or tails of these things. And here is a question that's always helpful to ask when you encounter such strange occurrences in the Bible:

"Where in the Bible have I heard something like this before?"

Answering this question gives us important clues to uncovering the full meaning of God's Word.

A mighty wind reminds us of the breath of life that God breathed into Adam's skeletal frame (Gen 2) and Jesus' breathing the Holy Spirit upon the



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

College Scholarships Awarded by Bequest & Gifts

We are still taking applications, but that will be ending soon. Things are still up in the air. Watch our Web Site for further information.

Pastor's Page (Continued from page 1)

disciples (John 20). Now, in Acts 2 they hear a mighty wind. Put these stories side by side and the connections come into focus. In Genesis 2, there was a lifeless body (Adam) and God breathed life into him. In Acts 2, there is another body (the Church) that needs the breath of the Spirit to bring it to life. With the breath of the Spirit, this band of believers becomes a community inhabiting the very presence of the living God. Once fearful, they become bold in their witness and empowered to impact their surrounding community. They are now filled with the very life of God, breathing deeply of the Spirit, and suddenly capable of doing extraordinary things. The Acts 1 Church comes to life and the Acts 2 Church is born!

Tongues of fire reminds us of Moses and the burning bush (Ex 3). Moses is a man of privilege in a semi-retirement state when God came looking for him. In response to the cries of the oppressed, God anoints this leader to deliver his people from bondage. A bush on fire yet not consumed is God's way of getting Moses' attention and calling him to a holy purpose. Any fire you and I have ever seen requires fuel to keep burning, but this fire has its own source of never-ending fuel because it comes from God the all-sufficient and self-sustaining One.

We might expect as God did in the Old Testament that his anointing would rest on a few strong, talented people to carry out God's gospel work. Yet, in Acts 2, this holy fire from the eternal heart of God descends upon every one of those disciples! All 120 of them! You see, God's answer to the need of the world is not to raise up some new superhero like Moses, but to anoint every one of his people and then to send them out in a ministry of deliverance, each one participating in the life of the Spirit of God coming upon us from above. There is not a single believer for whom God does not have a calling to carry out an indispensable purpose in the work of his kingdom.

And now, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the good news in languages unknown to the speaker understood by the listeners. Strange indeed. Recall the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. Humanity wanted to obtain greatness, pursue progress, and gain its independence from God by building a great city as a testament to its own importance. God responded to their pride to break their momentum by confusing their languages, dividing them from one another, and dispersing them throughout the world. In Acts 2, everything is reversed. The apostles spontaneously begin to speak the good news in languages not their own that the world can understand. Now the world's people are being brought together by the proclamation of this good news of salvation through Christ. Barriers of race, class, language, religious background, and sex are being broken

down to form one family in Christ. God's kingdom is now spreading and one day a great multitude that cannot be numbered, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, will stand before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes of victory, with palm branches in their hands, praising God in the kingdom of heaven.

What does all this mean for us in the 21st century? It has everything to do with us because God does not change. God wants to breathe new life into his people so that we pulsate with the very life of God. And God wants to anoint every person to serve and fulfill their purpose in the Body of Christ so that we can see lives changed and disciples made. And God wants to equip every one of us to proclaim the gospel in a language that others can understand and break down barriers so that people may come to Christ and find life in his name. This is the power of Pentecost!

For the power of Pentecost and for our church to become an Acts 2 church, I am sincerely yours, *Pastor Greg*

Our Scripture Memory Verse for June

God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.

Psalm 46:1 NLT



Worship Servers

June Ushers

To Be Announced

June Lay Readers

June 7—Dwayne Weber

June 14—Liz Hartman

June 21—Sharon Nelson

June 28—Joyce Buresh

June Acolytes

June 7—Ella Prange

June 14—Comfort Sonpon

June 21—Wyatt Gehrke

June 28—Aubrey Hatfield



Love One Another Fund

Jesus commanded his followers to “Love one another.” (John 13:34) This is a mark of the true Christian community. The onset of the pandemic and its threats to health and the economy has inspired the Church Council to start the Love One Another Fund. This fund helps our church family provide financial gifts from time to time to other members of our church family who are facing a crisis. These gifts are intended to provide relief from a difficult situation and communicate our love for our brothers and sisters. This fund is administered by Pastor Greg, Sharon Nelson, and Tena Harren. Gifts and recipients are kept confidential. In this difficult season where many people are facing personal and family challenges, consider an extra gift (perhaps a portion of your stimulus check) to the church and earmark it for “Love One Another.”

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.

Congratulations to our 2020 High School and College Graduates



Chloe Kucera

Chloe will be attending Hamline University studying Creative Writing. She will also be involved in the Hamline choir. During her years at Faribault High School, choir and theater played a huge part of her life. In addition to concert choir, she was a member of the women's choir and carolers, and performed on the stage with the theater troupe every year of her high school career. Chloe was involved with Honor Society and the Rotary STRIVE program, and has enjoyed working as a barista. She is very excited to begin this new chapter of her life. Chloe is the daughter of Dan and Pam Kucera.



Madeline Schiffer

Madeline is a graduating senior at Perpich Center for Arts Education, to which she transferred from Faribault High to study Literary Arts. Her plans after high school are to attend St. Catherine University to study theology, creative writing, and ASL.

Madeline is the daughter of Chris and Julie Schiffer.

Faith Jameson

Graduating in 2020 from Faribault Senior High School. Faith is the daughter of Paula Goebel.



Ben Speiker

Ben graduated from Bethel University on May 24 with a MA counseling degree. He did his internship at Union Gospel Mission in the cities working with the homeless. He will be an existential mental health therapist once he passes his licensing exam. He plans to work with children doing play therapy and young adults. He and his wife Ali just bought their first home in Fridley.

Ben is the son Marcia (and Jack) Speiker..



Our Sympathies To



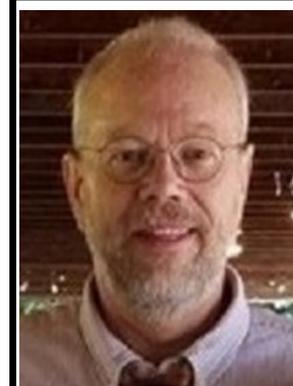
Jean Vincent and family upon the passing of her mother in law, **Goldie (Vincent) Sorbel**. Goldiemae was born September 27, 1930 in Richfield, MN. and passed away on April 28, 2020 at the Emeralds of Faribault at the age of 89.

Goldie worked at Shady Acres (Winjum's) cleaning cabins and Jennie-O Turkey Store. She taught Sunday School at First English Lutheran Church for 20 years. Goldie will be remembered for her garden, visiting with people and being on the road driving. She loved cats and spending time with her family.



Karen (Dale) Hauptli and family upon the passing of her father, **John P. Lang**. John was born September 24, 1928 in St. Paul, MN. and passed away on May 3, 2020 at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault at the age of 91.

John was an Armour Meat salesman throughout his employment career. He will be remembered as an avid bowler and one of the first to bowl a 700 series. John, along with his wife Kathleen, followed all of the activities of their seven children. He was never afraid of voicing his strong and sometimes controversial opinions.



Pastor Greg Ciesluk and family upon the passing of his uncle, **Richard A. Blodgett**. Richard was born October 27, 1953 in Holyoke, MA. and passed away on May 7, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center at the age of 66.

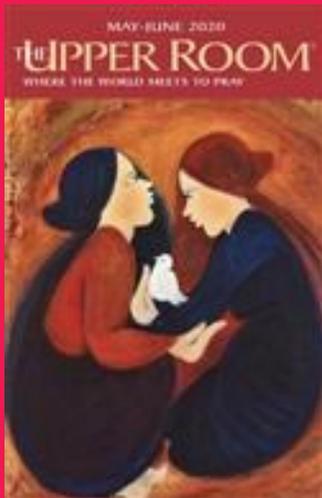
Richard developed a distinguished career in financial services and was a Senior Associate for First Investors, Inc. in Hartford, CT for 34 years. He was gifted in building rapport and trust and providing excellent customer service for his clients. He will be remembered as a mentor, coach and referee for youth sports, a sportswriter for the Jewish Weekly News and being active in national and local politics. Richard was a faithful friend and neighbor and loved his family.

Leave a Legacy Have you remembered the church in your will?

Special Notices/Thank You

A special thanks goes out to Linda Wilde for all of her time and efforts to decorate our church with the hearts of hope. She made numerous hearts and decorated all the doors in the front and sides.

Thank you to **ALL** those involved in continuing to keep the alter beautifully decorated, even though we have been unable to meet together in the Sanctuary.



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

June Birthdays

- Jean Bauernfeind 06
- Christopher Schiffer 07
- Lloyd Holling 08
- Katie Hatfield 09
- Cody VanDerVeen 10
- Nicholas Speiker 12
- Amanda Weber 12
- Catherine Williams 12
- Comfort Sonpon 13
- Sara DuChene-Boyd 15
- Miles Schiffer 15
- Dale Hauptli 17
- Nicholas Sonpon 18
- Nathan Rosett 21
- Darlene Nichols 23
- Kathie Vrieze 23
- Dan Kucera 24
- Jonathon Hatfield 25
- Joe Purfeerst 27



June Anniversaries

- Dale & Karen Doehling 01
- Cody & Kari VanDerVeen 07
- Leon & Elaine Dibble 10
- Dustin & Heather Hale 10
- James & LuAnn Heyer 14
- Robert & Pastor Sharon Nelson 14
- Lloyd & Alta Holling 25
- Cody & Julie O'Malley 27

Tentative Upcoming Events & Committee Meetings

Worship

June 7—Possible drive-in service

Tentative Events

June 2— Emmaus Potluck, Parlor; 6:00 PM

June 4— Trustees, 6:30 PM

June 4— Operation 23 to Zero—Library; 7:00 PM

June 9— Church Council; 6:30 PM

June 16—Finance; 6:30 PM

June 23—SPRC, 6:30 PM

Task Force on Reopening

A task force has been formed at Fourth Avenue UMC to reopen the church following this unprecedented season where we have been unable to gather for worship, fellowship, and study in person. The task force is committed to three objectives:

- 1) providing a safe place and protecting the congregation and its guests
- 2) provide for worship and other important ministries
- 3) inspire confidence in participation

The Task Force will soon make decisions about when to reopen and how to do this to meet our objectives. Procedures and protocols for cleaning the building, designing entrance and exit paths, making adjustments to seating so that social distancing is maintained, and adjustments to the way worship is conducted are being reviewed. Other ideas about a drive-in worship service in our parking lot, offering two services a week, and maintaining online worship have been discussed and plans will soon be announced. Members of the Task Force on Reopening are **Brad Prange, Jim Heyer, Dana Tilseth, Jack Luedke, Shari VanDerVeen, Chris Schiffer, and Pastor Greg Ciesluk.**

The task force also met Thursday May 28th, and there are tentative plans for a drive-in service in our parking lot June 7th. Stay tuned for more details.

Students in the News

3rd Quarter Honor Roll

Middle School: A Honor Roll	Senior High A Honor Roll
<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Annabel Schiffer Jaxon Hilley	Chloe Kucera
Grade 8	B Honor Roll
<u>Grade 8</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>
Landon Hatfield	Ella Prange
B Honor Roll	<u>Grade 10</u>
<u>Grade 7</u>	Miles Schiffer Aubrey Hatfield
Brody Hatfield	<u>Grade 12</u>
	Faith Jameson



Vacation Bible School 2020

Will not be held this year

Summer Camps for 2020

Will not be held this year.

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



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

Website:

www.fourthaveumc.org

Like us on Facebook

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

June 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
Tuesday-Thursday**

Staff

Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk

Accompanist: Doug Madow

Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke

Custodian: Robert Baden

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Allen



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.