

# March Fourth Teller

## 2023 The Year of Evangelism

Lent 2023:

*Meet Jesus in The Gospel of John*



*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*  
-John 20:30-31

Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

Welcome to Lent 2023. Lent, the season for reclaiming our covenant with God and renewing our commitment to Christ in preparation for Easter, began on Ash Wednesday, February 22. In this spiritually significant season of 40 days, I want to invite you join on an individual and congregational journey of reading through John and meeting Jesus in the pages of the Gospel of light and life. The New Testament begins with the four Gospels (meaning “good news”) of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The first three have many similarities, but the fourth is very different. John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. He includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: “The Word became flesh...”, “For God so loved the world...”, “You who are without sin cast the first stone...”, “I am the resurrection and the life...”, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” His writing is filled with rich images and profound truths to help us understand who Jesus is, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.”

I am excited about the prospects of this upcoming Lenten season for spiritual growth and renewal. I am praying expectantly that our lives will be deeply enriched by our journey together. Let me encourage you to make a commitment now to join us for the six Sundays in Lent that will prepare us to celebrate the power and promise of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

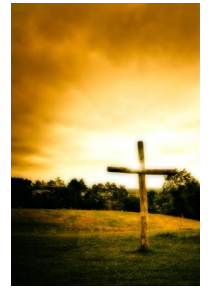
During these worship gatherings, I will address these themes in a series of messages:

- Week of February 26: The Word Made Flesh (John 1)
- Week of March 5: The Miraculous Signs of Jesus (John 2-6)
- Week of March 12: The “I AM” Sayings of Jesus (John 7-11)
- Week of March 19: The Farewell Discourse (John 12-17)
- Week of March 26: The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King (John 18-19)
- Week of April 2: Eternal Life (John 20-21)

In addition to the Sunday messages, I will be inviting you to read the Gospel of John’s in its entirety as a Lenten discipline. See the above schedule for our Lenten reading plan that will divide the Gospel into six manageable parts across the season. As you read, pray this prayer:



*Jesus, Risen Lord, meet me in the Gospel of John.  
 Open my spiritual eyes that like Thomas,  
 that I may truly see you in your resurrected glory and proclaim,  
 "My Lord and my God."  
 and receive afresh the power of Your Holy Spirit  
 to live as a witness to the resurrection.  
 In his name we pray.  
 Amen*



I hope this resource will encourage you to open your Bibles and meet Jesus anew. Together, we will experience afresh the abundance of life he has come to bring us.

For those who use Android and iPhone, I also want to introduce you to an app you can download easily. It is called **Through the Word**. On that app, there are many resources for scripture study. There is an excellent one highlighting the Gospel of John. You can hear a presentation about each chapter of the Gospel as well as listen to the chapter being read. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. As we read prayerfully and soulfully, we can trust that we will meet Jesus and his Spirit will breathe faith into our souls.

During Lent, we will continue our tradition of Noisy Offerings. Since Lent is time for nurturing our concern for the poor as we contemplate Jesus' suffering and death, we are calling on you to bring your spare change (and consider an additional gift) to lift the needy and downtrodden. Our combined noisy offerings received on Sundays will support the Community Action Food Shelf.

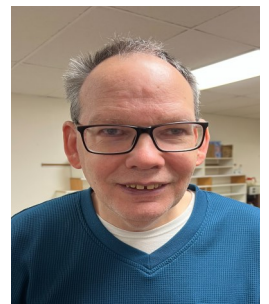
Let's unite with one another to read through the Gospel of John this Lenten season and meet Jesus anew. Together, we will experience "life in his name."

Here's to a spiritually renewing Lent! ~ *Pastor Greg*

### Welcome to the Fourth Ave. UMC Family

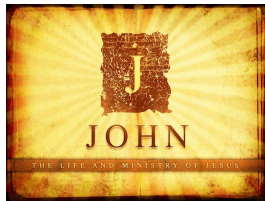
Three family members were welcomed with open arms into the Fourth Ave UMC family! **John Beck & Thomas Brown** joined on Sunday, February 19, 2023. **Nicholas & Mardea Sonpon** welcomed **Alexander Zion Sonpon**, an 8 lb bundle of joy, on Monday, February 20, 2023. When you have a chance please, congratulate all three into our church family!

**Thomas Brown** grew up in Burnsville where his family was active Grace United Methodist Church. Roughly 14 years ago, he was invited to sing in the choir there. When he moved to Northfield a year or so ago, he joined the Northfield UMC and sang in the choir there. When he moved to Unity House in Faribault, he found his way to Fourth Avenue UMC where he found a warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere. He loves to sing and in making a joyful noise in our choir. Tom is also an avid Twins fan.

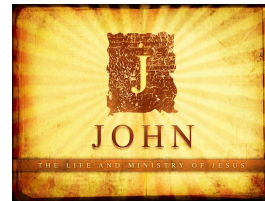


**John Beck** grew up in Austin, Minnesota and served for a period of time in the US Army. He relocated to Faribault twelve years ago from the Twins Cities and bought his first home. He works as a staff member of Unity House supporting developmental delayed adults. He loves to help others. John came to Fourth Avenue UMC to support the men at the group home where he worked. It was quite a surprise to him that he found our church a friendly and spiritual place for himself and decided to join our family. He loves to watch the Twins and soccer. He hopes to gain a better understanding of God, prays for peace and prosperity for our church, and is eager to volunteer with Meals on Wheels and other groups within our church body.





## ANNOUNCING LENT 2023:



### Meet Jesus in the Gospel of John *Congregational Reading of the Gospel of John and Series of Sunday Messages through the Fourth Gospel*

- February 19: Meet Jesus in The Gospel of John, An Introduction
- February 26: The Word Made Flesh (John 1)
- March 5: The Miraculous Signs of Jesus (John 2-5)
- March 12: The "I AM" Sayings of Jesus (John 6-11)
- March 19: The Farewell Discourse (John 12-17)
- March 26: The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King (John 18-19)
- Passion/Palm Sunday, April 2: Meditation on the Passion (various)
- Easter Sunday, April 9: Eternal Life (John 20-21)

### Our Prayer For This Lent

*Jesus, Risen Lord, meet me in the Gospel of John.  
Open my spiritual eyes that like Thomas,  
that I may truly see you in your resurrected glory and proclaim,  
"My Lord and my God."  
and receive afresh the power of Your Holy Spirit  
to live as a witness to the resurrection.  
In his name we pray.  
Amen*

### Lenten Bible Study

Have you wanted to dig deeper into the Gospel of John? Pastor Greg will lead a weekly Bible Study into John each week of Lent! The Bible Study each week will go more in depth than the sermon. Come to the Parlor from 2-3 pm each Wednesday from March 1st through April 5th.

- March 1 ~ John 1
- March 8 ~ John 2-5
- March 15 ~ John 6-11
- March 22 ~ John 12-17
- March 29 ~ John 18-19
- April 5 ~ John 20-21



### Lenten Noisy Offerings

Lent is a season where we intentionally make sacrifices to unite ourselves with Christ and share in his suffering on the cross. To identify with those who suffer, we are reinvigorating our tradition of noisy offerings of spare change for the hungry in our community. Food insecurity is a major issue in our community.

We will be receiving these offerings from March 5 to March 26 that will purchase food for distribution from the Faribault Food Access Initiative (Community Action Center).

You may bring your offering to worship on Sundays.

To know more about this ministry, go to [www.communityactioncenter.org/faribault](http://www.communityactioncenter.org/faribault).



### Memory Verse for Lent:

*Jesus performed many other signs  
in the presence of his disciples,  
which are not recorded in this book.  
But these are written that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,  
and that by believing  
you may have life  
in his name.  
-John 20:30-31*





# March 2023 Fourth Teller Events



- March 1 ~ Lenten Bible Study 2 pm, Freedom Kids 5 pm, Choir 6 pm, & Confirmation 7 pm
- March 2 ~ Veggie Prep 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm, Trustees 6:30 pm, & Operation 23 to 0 7 pm
- March 3 ~ Soup Luncheon 11 am—1 pm
- March 4 ~ Jesus Food at Faribo West Mall 10 am—12 pm
- March 5 ~ Worship Celebration with Communion 9 am**
- March 6 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- March 8 ~ Lenten Bible Study 2 pm, Freedom Kids 5 pm, Choir 6 pm, Confirmation 7 pm
- March 9 ~ Veggie Prep 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
- March 10 ~ Soup Luncheon 11 am—1 pm
- March 12 ~ Worship Celebration 9 am & Coffee with Pastor Greg 10:15 am**
- March 13 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- March 14 ~ Ad Council 6:30 pm
- March 15 ~ Lenten Bible Study 2 pm, Freedom Kids 5 pm, Choir 6 pm, Confirmation 7 pm
- March 16 ~ Veggie Prep 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm, Piecemakers 7 pm
- March 17 ~ Soup Luncheon 11 am—1 pm
- March 19 ~ Worship Celebration with Anointing of the Sick 9 am**
- March 20 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- March 21 ~ Finance 2:45 pm
- March 22 ~ Lenten Bible Study 2 pm, Freedom Kids 5 pm, Choir 6 pm, Confirmation 7 pm
- March 23 ~ Veggie Prep 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
- March 24 ~ Soup Luncheon 11 am—1 pm
- March 26 ~ Worship Celebration 9 am**
- March 27 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- March 28 ~ SPRC 6:30 pm
- March 29 ~ Lenten Bible Study 2 pm, Choir 6 pm
- March 30 ~ Veggie Prep 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
- March 31 ~ Soup Luncheon 11 am—1 pm



## Attendance for January

	<u>In Person Worship</u>	<u>On Line Worship</u>
January 1	64	17
January 8	61	36
January 15	63	31
January 22	54	34
January 29	52	18
<b>Average</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>

## January Total Offering

Unified Budget	\$12,980
Project RESTORE	\$ 1,795

## Attendance for February

	<u>In Person Worship</u>	<u>On Line Worship</u>
February 5	70	26
February 12	61	14
February 19	53	21

## Offering

<b>February 5</b>	
Unified Budget	\$3,674
Project RESTORE	\$1,000
<b>February 12</b>	
Unified Budget	\$3,763
Project RESTORE	\$8,080



## March Birthdays

Harry Truman	01
Ken Harren	05
Kelly Landsverk	12
Lorraine Deming	14
Carole Evans	15
Linda Hellevik-Stoos	17
David Buresh	17
Jesse Osmundson	19
Sara Steele	19
Corrie Wikoff	21
Payton Wikoff	22
Morgan Hale	25
Sara Morris	29
Steve Grundman	30
Heather Loken-Hale	31

## 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).



## March Worship Servers

### Lay Readers

March 5 ~ Ian Pope  
 March 12 ~ Dwayne Weber  
 March 19 ~ Kim Bossman  
 March 26 ~ John Baldwin

### Acolytes

March 5 ~ Hanna Gehrke  
 March 12 ~ Dominic Ericksen  
 March 19 ~ Will Sonpon  
 March 26 ~ Khaler Grant

## March Anniversaries

Nicholas & Mardea Sonpon	10
Joe & Sandra Jandro	25



## United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will **NOT** be meeting in March. We will be focusing on the preparations for the Lenten Soup Luncheons. Please save the date on your calendar for April.



## In Sympathy

Our condolences are extended to our sister, **Lauri (Grant) Lammin**, on the death of her uncle, Calvin Rahmann. You may send cards to the Lammins at 838 Reed Ave., Faribault, MN 55021.



## Jesus Food Packing Event Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, March 4, 2023

**10 am - 12 noon  
 at Faribo West Mall**

Join us **Saturday, February 4, 10 am - 12 noon** at the Faribo West Mall to pack food for vulnerable individuals. Be a part of the fellowship and be inspired about the mission of Jesus Food and the great need we will be alleviating through our act of service. Bring a friend to share in this meaningful experience.

## Upcoming Concerts in March:

### Steven Curtis Chapman

Friday, March 17th at 7 pm  
 Pantages Theatre in Minneapolis



Tickets can be bought  
 from [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)



**MercyMe**  
 Saturday, March 25th at 7 pm  
 Mayo Civic Center in Rochester

## Children's Ministry

Greetings, Church Family! I wanted to provide an update on our children's programs.

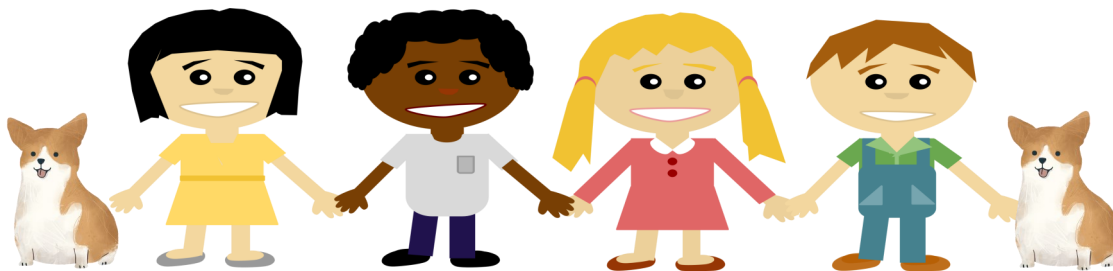
**Freedom Kids** is on our 5<sup>th</sup> week together and we are having an absolute blast learning about God. **Our devoted new kiddo would really LOVE to make some friends and is hoping you will bring/refer any children you know.** If you need help with transportation, please let the church office know and we are happy to assist you! This week we embark on a church-wide scavenger hunt and are so excited to explore our building and learn about church. Freedom Kids meets each Wednesday night from 5pm-6:30 and our volunteers are the best! Come and learn about the freedom you can have in Jesus.

Our **Confirmation class** has just started the We Believe lesson series, exploring our Methodist history and our foundational Christian beliefs. We had an amazing session on baptism last month as we shared memories and passed around keepsakes from our own baptisms. This was a great time of remembrance of the sacrament of baptism and what it truly means for us as Christians. The Confirmation class meets each Wednesday night from 7pm-8:15pm. **The class is serving as ushers during the month of February, so please make sure to thank them on Sundays!**

I want to thank everyone who is helping to serve in our children's ministry! Please remember to pray for our efforts and the children in the programs.

"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me" – Jesus

Rebekah Ciesluk  
Director of Children's Ministry

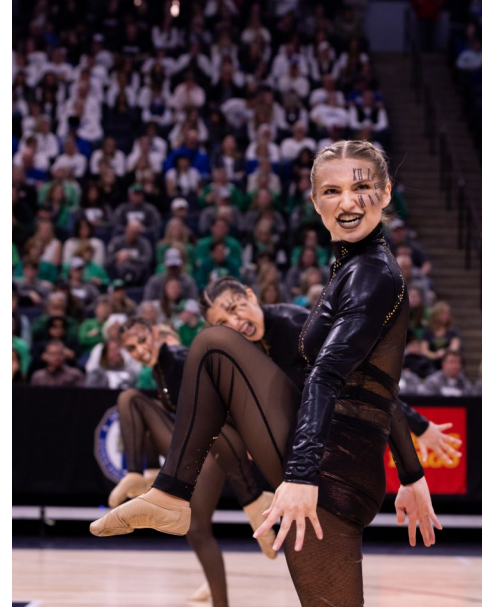


## Summer Camp

It's Time To Register For Camp! Registration has opened for the 2023 camping season! Check out the upcoming camp sessions at the Camp Minnesota website and pick your favorite camp location: Northern Pines, Koronis Ministries or Kowakan Adventures. Camp listings and registration information are on the Camp Minnesota website at [camps@campminnesota.org](mailto:camps@campminnesota.org). Scholarships are available to help with the cost.



**Ella Prange, daughter of Brad & Elizabeth Prange,** and the Faribault Emerald Dance Team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in AA State the weekend of February 17-18, 2023. Their competition dance was titled “Trapped in Time”. Ella has been dancing with the Faribault Emerald Varsity Dance Team since 8<sup>th</sup> grade and this was her 5<sup>th</sup> time going to state with the team. As a senior, this was a great way to end her high school dance career. She has loved her time dancing and has made memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations Ella! We are so proud of you!



### Students in the News

#### FARIBAULT SR HIGH

A Honor Roll

10th Grade

Annabel Schiffer



### Welcome to the Family Little One!



**Alexander Zion Sonpon**

Born on February 20, 2023

Son of:  
Nicholas & Mardea Sonpon



### Thank You!

**A heartfelt thank you to the donor of new toys to the nursery! The children that God is sending to the nursery will enjoy using all of them!**

**Thank you to Kim Luedke for loving on our youngest members of church during the Celebration of Worship services!**

*Just a reminder that our nursery is open & ready to love on our little ones!*

## Trustees, Church Council Announce Project RESTORE

The Church is now accepting gifts for Project RESTORE. The Sanctuary painting project **IS** underway. The ceiling of the Sanctuary including the dome will be painted by Steele Painting over the course of three or so weeks. The total cost will be just over \$66,000. Project RESTORE will be funded by the generosity of members and friends of Fourth Avenue UMC. It is hoped that our congregation will raise a third of the funds (\$22,000) for the current Sanctuary painting effort with other funds from the Building Preservation and Improvement (BPI) fund and the Bequests & Gifts (Endowment) Fund.

We have received \$10,875. You may mark your gifts for Project RESTORE.



### Coffee with Pastor Greg

A Coffee with Pastor Greg will be held in the Berean Room after worship on Sunday, March 12. Those who are new to Fourth Avenue United Methodist are invited to gather with others in the church family to get better acquainted and learn more about the church and Pastor Greg's personal story.



Those who have been worshipping with us at Fourth Avenue UMC and are considering church membership are especially urged to attend.

<b>Jim Heyer, Chair</b>	<b>507-210-4654 (cell)</b>
<b>Marcia Speiker, Secretary</b>	<b>507-412-1975 (cell)</b>
<b>John Baldwin</b>	<b>507-380-3059 (cell)</b>
<b>Tom Bossmann</b>	<b>507-291-1357 (cell)</b>
<b>Mike Grundman</b>	<b>507-491-3208 (cell)</b>
<b>Ken Harren</b>	<b>507-779-0294 (cell)</b>
<b>Dale Hauptli</b>	<b>507-838-5232 (cell)</b>
<b>Jackie Luedke</b>	<b>507-685-2206 (home)</b>
<b>Kathy DuChene, Treasurer</b>	<b>507-323-5662 (cell)</b>

### May We Have Your "Souport"?

I "soupose" it's time to think soup!!! That's right, folks, during the 6 Fridays of Lent (**Feb. 24 - cancelled**, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24 and March 31) we need many "souperstars" to participate in our 2023 Lenten Soup Luncheons. There are several ways you can help – making desserts, prepping vegetables (veggie prep happens on Thursdays at 12:30 and 5:30), serving soup, waiting on tables, washing dishes, etc. – OR – if you are unable to work, making a donation to put toward buying ingredients would be "souperb"!!!!

Please participate in any way you can to make this another memorable, meaningful and joy-filled "soupleme" endeavor. Our community truly enjoys our "souperior" soup!



Thank you!

Kelly Landsverk,

contact person for the Lenten Soup Luncheon committee

507-330-2840





# Welcome to Our 2023 Community Lenten Soup Luncheons

Serving 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

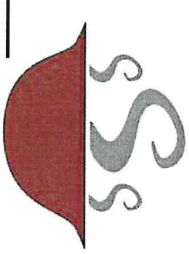
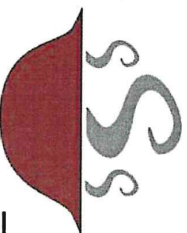
Adults: \$10.00 / Children 12 & Under: \$5.00

Family Plan \$25.00

All you care to eat soup served with bread, crackers, milk, coffee & water and 1 piece of dessert

Take Out: Quart of Soup \$9.00 Pint of Soup \$6.00 Dessert \$2.00

For takeout orders, call 334-4308 Tuesday - Thursday 9 AM - Noon



Friday, February 24	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	•Chicken Wild Rice	*Cream of Potato
Friday, March 3	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	Pasta Fagioli	*Broccoli Cheese
Friday, March 10	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	•Chicken Wild Rice	*Corn Chowder
Friday, March 17	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	•Split Pea & Ham	*Cream of Potato
Friday, March 24	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	Chili	*Clam Chowder
Friday, March 31	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	•Chicken Wild Rice	*Broccoli Cheese

\* Meatless soups • Gluten Friendly



Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church  
219 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Faribault, MN 55021

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 AM

Fellowship: 10:15 AM

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

**Pastor Greg Ciesluk**

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc  
@gmail.com

**Office Email:**

fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

www.fourthaveumc.org

**Phone: 507-334-4308**

**Office Hours: 1:30 pm-4:00 pm  
Tuesday-Thursday**

**Staff**

**Choir Director:** Kelly Landsverk

**Accompanist:** Doug Madow

**Nursery Attendant:** Kim Luedke

**Custodian:** Ken Harren

**Admin Asst:** Kirsten Grunnet

**Office Volunteer:** Kathy DuChene

**Sunday Worship/9:00 AM**

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



***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.