

Fourth Avenue  
United Methodist  
Church  
219 Fourth Ave. NW

# May Fourth Teller

May 2023

## Take a Dip in the Pool of Siloam

*Jesus told the man born blind, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam." -John 9:7*

Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

Rebekah and I had a spiritually invigorating and enlightening experience in the Holy Land. Like we have heard from so many pilgrims to Israel across the years, we will never read the Bible the same way again. There are simply insights one gains into the meaning of the biblical text by being aware of the land, its contours, the people and its culture. One of the things we were awakened to the power of archeology, the study of all that is beneath the surface of the land. For underneath the surface, literally, are many clues to what once was. Trust me, I'll be doing my best to unearth these things in my sermons going forward to give a glimpse of what I learned and experienced roughly two weeks ago.

Something we experienced impacts directly our reading of the Gospel of John. For years, many biblical scholars have doubted the historical accuracy of the fourth Gospel, preferring to think of its stories and details as mere myths, creations of an earthly Christian community. But a dip in the pool of Siloam has cured that!

The Gospel of John, Chapter 9 tells the story of Jesus' healing of a man born blind. After telling his disciples that the man's blindness had nothing to do with either the man's sins or those of his parents, Jesus applied mud to the man's eyes and told him to wash it off at the Pool of Siloam.

Nearly from the beginning, the first readers of John's Gospel did not know where the Pool of Siloam was. After the Romans conquered Jerusalem and left it in ruins in 70 AD, the city was hardly recognizable so many scholars began to doubt the veracity of the biblical story.

Since at least the fifth century, Christians had identified a spot in Jerusalem as the Pool of Siloam and the site of the miracle. But it was not until 2004 that archaeologists found what they are certain is the ancient pool of Siloam.



Like so many such finds, it was almost by accident. During construction work to repair a water pipe near the Temple Mount, two Israeli archaeologists found “two ancient stone steps.” “Further excavation revealed that they were part of a monumental pool from the Second Temple period, the period in which Jesus lived.” The pool was trapezoidal in shape and 225 feet long.

Archeology is working wonders to reveal veracity to the biblical narrative. It's become increasingly clear that the default scholarly position of disbelieving the Bible because it is the Bible is untenable. The discovery of the Pool of Siloam and many other archeological discoveries are showing the truthfulness of the Bible. Our Holy Land pilgrimage impressed upon us that the Bible we have in our hands is reliable record of the mighty acts of God.

And so, we can read the Bible and be assured that it is the Word of the Living God.

May we all grow in our pilgrimage here on earth trusting in the truth of God's Word.

*Pastor Greg*



### In Sympathy

Our condolences are extended to our sister, **Julie O'Rara**, on the death of her brother, Dana Grant. Dane was born on July 29, 1961 and entered Heaven on April 26, 2023. Dana & Julie both grew up here at Fourth Avenue Methodist Church. Their parents were **Charles (Chuck) & Kay Grant**. Check Minnesota Valley Funeral Home in New Ulm for more details.

You may send cards to Julie O'Rara at: 1102 Kingswood Crescent, Faribault, MN 55021.



### National Day of Prayer 2023

Thursday, May 4th  
Noon  
Rice County Courthouse



## May 2023 Calendar of Events

- May 1 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- May 3 ~ Bible Study 2 pm, Freedom Kids 5 pm, **NO** Choir Practice, & Confirmation 7 pm
- May 4 ~ Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm & Operation 23 to 0 7 pm
- May 6 ~ Jesus Food at Faribo West Mall 10 am
- May 7 ~ Worship Service with Communion 9 am**
- May 8 ~ Mission/Memorial Meeting 6 pm & Lakelanders 7 pm
- May 9 ~ Rotary Blood Drive 11:30 am to 5:30 pm & Ad Council 6:30 pm
- May 10 ~ Bible Study 2 pm, Last Freedom Kids 5 pm, Last Choir Practice 6 pm, & Confirmation 7 pm
- May 11 ~ Pastor Greg Preaching at Emeralds 10 am & New Perspectives 10:45 am  
United Women in Faith 1 pm
- May 14 ~ Worship Service with Rebekah Ciesluk Preaching, Invite a Friend Sunday, Mother's Day & Sacrament of Baptism 9 am**
- May 15 ~ Scholarship applications due & Lakelanders 7pm
- May 16 ~ Pastor Greg at Faribault Ministerial Association 11:30 am & Finance Meeting 2:45 pm
- May 17 ~ Bible Study 2 pm & Last Confirmation 7 pm
- May 18 ~ Rice County Piecemakers 7 pm
- May 21 ~ Worship Service with Anointing of the Sick 9 am**
- May 22 ~ Lakelanders 7 pm
- May 23 ~ SPRC 6:30 pm
- May 24 ~ Bible Study 2 pm
- May 28 ~ Worship Service Pentecost (Wear Red) 9 am**
- May 29 ~ Memorial Day Flag Raising at the Courthouse 9 am, Parade 10 am, Ceremony & Freewill Donation lunch at the American Legion at Noon



### Poppy Sales



The American Legion Auxiliary, **Irene Eiler**, will be collecting Poppy donations which supports so many veterans & families in the community starting May 17th.

Thank you for your support of our veterans!

### Faribault Christian Women's Connection

You are invited to the Faribault Christian Women's Connection Luncheon at the River Community Church on Tuesday, May 9th at 11:45 am. Special features include the Junk Monkey, Mikaila Pitt, & "The Challenge of New Beginnings".

The cost for the luncheon is \$13.



## May Worship Servers

### Acolytes

May 7 - Khaler Grant  
May 14 - Ella Prange  
May 21 - Comfort Sonpon  
May 28 - Hanna Gehrke



### Lay Readers

May 7 - Nicholas Sonpon  
May 14 - Dwayne Weber  
May 21 - Gary Braun  
May 28 - John Baldwin



## April Weekly Offering 2023

### April 2 (Palm Sunday)

Unified Budget \$2,620

### April 7 (Community Good Friday)

Rice County Habitat for Humanity \$539

### April 9 (Easter Sunday)

Unified Budget \$4,968

Easter Offering \$ 635

### April 16

Unified Budget \$873

Easter Offering \$ 60

### April 23

Unified Budget \$1,508

Easter Offering \$ 45

### April 30

Unified Budget \$2,945



***\*\*Please continue to send in your Easter offering if you have not.  
Thank you for all your support to our church!***

## 2023 Offering by Month

### January Total Offering

*Unified Budget \$12,980*

*Project RESTORE \$ 1,795*

### February Total Offering

*Unified Budget \$14,379*

*Project RESTORE \$10, 980*

### March Total Offering

*Unified Budget \$11,550*

*Project RESTORE \$ 3,700*

### April Total Offering

*Unified Budget \$12,914*

*Easter Offering \$ 770*



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

**Rotary Club's Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, May 9th**

**11:30 am to 5:30 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall**

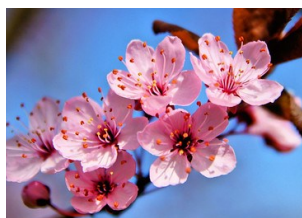


## AAUW 2023 Book Sale

The AAUW Book Sale will take place at the  
Faribo West Mall May 18-23.

## Worship Attendance for April 2023

	<u>In Person Worship</u>	<u>On Line Worship</u>
April 2	93	32
April 6	30	5
April 7	102	14
April 9	124	19
April 16	50	18
April 23	64	23
April 30	65	21



## Average Worship Attendance 2023

<u>Month</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
January 2023	58	27
February 2023	59	17
March 2023	64	18
April 2023	75	19

## May Birthdays

Donna Morgan	01
Kirsten Strnad	04
Blayne Vrieze	05
Sarah Ciesluk	06
Nathan Ebert	08
Christian Weber	12
Andy Prange	13
Marjean Michel	13
Annabel Schiffer	14
Khaler Grant	16
Devin Shimmin	22
Christine Sues	31



## Scholarship

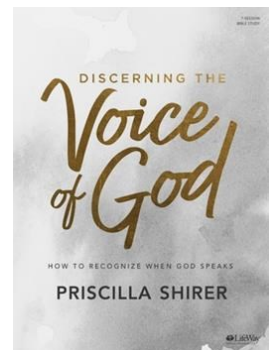
The Bequest & Gift Trust Fund of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church has funds available to support "scholarship or gift to members of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing or medical school, or such other training that enables members of the church to grow in Christian faith and service to God."

The application can be found on the church's website or in the church office. **The deadline is May 15th.**



## New Bible Study

Are you hungry for another Bible Study? A new Bible Study will be starting on **Wednesday, May 3rd from 2-3 pm in the Parlor**. We will spend 7 weeks growing closer to God by using the Bible to learn about God's language, character & tone of voice. This Bible study will help you to discern God's voice from others. Come join us to grow in your personal journey with God!



## May Anniversaries

Patrick & Sara Morris	22
Myron & Brenda Kamrath	24



## Prayer Chain

If you need prayer for any reason, there is an active group in our con-

gregation committed to praying for you. Contact **Carole Evans** at 507-210-6971 or e-mail her at [caroleannjean@gmail.com](mailto:caroleannjean@gmail.com).



## Jesus Food Packing Event Mark Your Calendar!

**Saturday, May 6, 10 am – 12 noon  
at Faribo West Mall**



Join us **Saturday, May 6, 10 am - 12 noon** at the Faribo West Mall to pack food. At this time, the meals will be going to the Ukraine. 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.



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will be meeting on **Thursday, May 13 at 1:00 pm** in the Parlor.

## Exciting News from the Mission Committee!

The Mission Committee is excited to announce two new projects - Baby Blessings coming in June & Fourth Ave. Summer carnival in August!

**Baby Blessings** is a program that will allow Fourth Avenue UMC to purchase 20,000 diapers per year at an extremely reduced cost. Families will be able to come to the church twice a month to receive 75 diapers per child for free. The church will be open twice a month for a couple of hours each time to disperse the diapers. We will advertise through Rice County Social Services, Facebook, etc. The Mission committee is also looking for donations of other baby supplies and feminine products to also give to those in need.

Thank you Mission's committee for an outstanding blessing for our community!



**Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church**  
proudly presents:

# FREE CARNIVAL

**August 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-4pm**

Food and drinks will be provided as well as an assortment of games and displays:

- \* Ring Toss
- \* Duck Pond
- \* Dunk Tank
- \* Cotton Candy
- \* Storybook Readings
- \* ...and MORE!

**Everyone is welcome! Come to the church parking lot!**  
**219 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Faribault, MN**

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**Fourth Ave. UMC Summer Carnival NEEDS YOU** to help be a success! The first annual carnival will be held on Saturday, August 5th during the day. Would you consider sponsoring a game? Helping with a food table? Make popcorn? Donating new prizes for the games? Carnival meetings will start taking place after the church services in MidMay.



*Thank you for being the hands & feet of  
God in our community!*







# Freedom Kids Art Gallery

Visit in person on the 2nd Floor!



If the Son sets you free, you are truly free.  
John 8:36





## Minnesota Annual Conference

The 2023 MN Annual Conference will take place on May 31-June 1st in St. Cloud. **Phyllis Wegner & Shari VanDerDeen** will be Fourth Avenue Church's delegates. This year's theme is out of Luke 24:13-35 "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience." The guest speaker is Rev. Michael Beck. To watch the conference online go to: [facebook.com/MinnesotaUMC/](https://facebook.com/MinnesotaUMC/).



Minnesota Annual  
Conference 2023  
May 31-June 1



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a **Love Offering** for missions. Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota. Learn more: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering>

**\*To donate to the Love Offering please mark in your check's memo "Love Offering"!\***

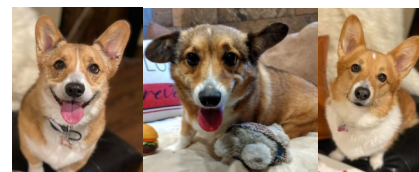
## New Office Staff

Three Pembroke Welsh corgis can be found in the church during the office hours. Basil (4.5 yo) wears a green harness, has a big smile & loud greetings. Watson (4.5 yo) wears a red harness, is a shy guy, and loves being at church. Gigi Joy has a purple harness and will be 3 this month. She loves everyone! All three love this church and are proud to be new staff!

Basil  
Tues.

Watson  
Thurs.

Gigi  
Wed.



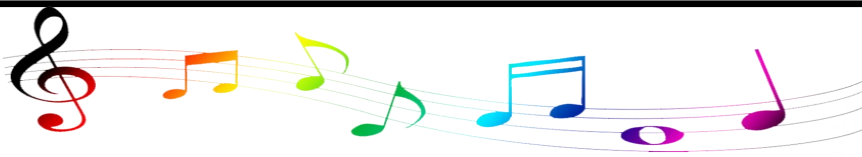
## Save the date!!!

Please put **Sunday, June 25th** on your calendar for the **13th Annual Fit for Britt Walk at Shager Park at 1 PM**. Watch for more details in the June Fourth Teller.

If you would like to order a T-shirt, the deadline is **June 1st**. Hope to see you there to remember Brittney, promote healthy lifestyles, and to be reminded it is **not ok** to drink and drive.





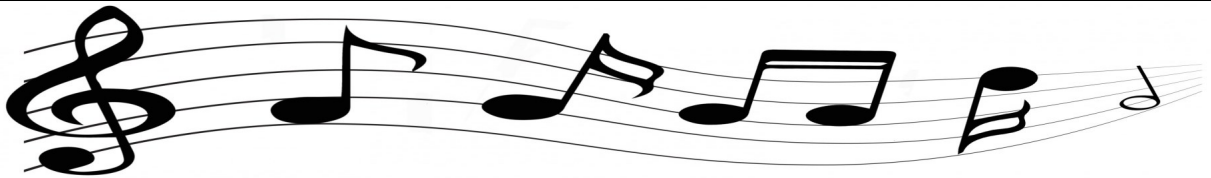


## Seeking Special Summer Music!!

The 4th Avenue choir hopes you have enjoyed our music this season as much as we have enjoyed singing God's praises for our church services. Our last Sunday to sing will be May 21st.

As summer approaches, let's continue to enhance our Sunday services with special music! Please let me know what Sunday you would like to share your musical talent with our congregation between **May 28th and September 17th**. Let's fill our summer services with a joyful noise! Thank you!!

Kelly Landsverk  
Choir Director



## Thank You Choir!

Thank you to the Fourth Avenue Choir for sharing your voices throughout the school year! Each one of the choir members adds so much to the worship service through the gift of music. Thank you also to Doug Madow on piano & Kelly Landsverk directing. We are looking forward to a strong finish of the choir on May 21st and coming back in September!



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



**Pastor Greg Ciesluk**

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc  
@gmail.com

**Office Email:**

fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

[www.fourthaveumc.org](http://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

**Director of Children's Ministry:**

Rebekah Ciesluk

**Nursery Attendant:** Kim Luedke

**Custodian:** Ken Harren

**Admin Asst:** Kirsten Grunnet

**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