

Fourth Avenue United  
Methodist Church  
219 Fourth Ave. NW  
Faribault, MN 55021  
507-334-4308

# May Fourth Teller

May 2022

## Heaven's Gates are Opened Wide

*"O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?"  
For sin is the sting that results in death,  
and the law gives sin its power.  
But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
-1 Corinthians 15:55-57*



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC,

On Easter Sunday, we rejoiced in Jesus' triumph over death. The bloodied cross of crucifixion could not defeat him. The borrowed grave could not hold his lifeless body. When the women came to care for the body of their friend on that Sunday morning, the stone covering the tomb was rolled away and the tomb was empty. Angelic messengers proclaimed the unfathomable, "he is not here. He is risen as he said." Jesus was alive and word was spreading on the streets that he was alive and appearing to all sorts of people all over the place. The gospels attest to these appearances until he ascended into heaven to return to his Father.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the source of the great Christian hope. Since Jesus Christ has triumphed over evil and sin, disease and death, we need not be overwhelmed by the threat of death nor riddled with fear over our mortality. We believe those who pit their faith in Christ and die in the Lord's friendship will live forever with Jesus in heaven and all his saints.

As a young child, I remember being deeply afraid of death. I wondered what would happen after I died. When my maternal grandmother died suddenly when I was ten years old, I wondered about her for a long time. Where was she? Was she safe? Would I ever see her again? Would my sadness over her passing ever ease?

As a church kid, I was somewhat familiar with the promise of life after death and the idea of heaven as an eternal gathering place. I can tell you that I wasn't satisfied with heaven as a quaint idea. I wanted to know that heaven was for real. I wanted to make sure I would go there when I died. I was obsessed with the question and knowing for sure. Eventually, through the eyes of faith, I came to believe that heaven was indeed real and I knew by his grace at work in me I had saving faith in Jesus Christ. I came to believe my name was written in the Lamb's book of life. With this deep knowing, my fears and anxieties about death (and most everything else) dissipated greatly. And a confidence began to swell within me.

I can tell you this knowledge has brought great comfort over the years as loved ones died. Shortly after Easter 2015, my own mother was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. It was a bitter pill to swallow as there would be no cure. In fact, my mother died within six weeks of her diagnosis. My mother had been a lifelong Christian, was very invested in her personal faith and served with great commitment in her community and local church. Those six weeks were short, but it was an amazing time that my family will always cherish. Please ask me as I would love to tell you more about

that experience. Two days before my mother died, my father, my siblings and her grandchildren gathered around her bedside to pray with her pastor leading us. In a diminished state, my mother spoke these words, "I have lived a good life." She was at peace trusting in the victory promised by the Savior. My mother's passing brought great sorrow to our hearts, but we were greatly comforted because we knew where she was going and believed we would see her again. What a difference faith in Christ makes in the presence of death.

None of us will get out of here alive. We're all on borrowed time. Our day will come. And that day will come for those we love. And it will sting. But thank God, we are a people of hope. Easter hope. A hope centered on the resurrection of our Lord. A robust hope that death is not the end for those who believe, but the gateway to endless love and light and life with our Risen Lord and the company of the faithful.

So, let us rely on the grace of God and rest on the promises of God and renew our hope that death is not the end, but only the gate to a new and glorious and never-ending life in the presence of our God.

For the great Christian hope of eternal life, I am sincerely yours,

*Pastor Greg*

### Christian Piper Update/Proposal

Several Pipers were wondering about the amount of money in the Piper bank account. It is \$357.00. Since the Pipers have not met or had Christmas Bake Sales (which is where the money came from), perhaps the bank account could be closed with a suggestion for the funds to go to the Ukrainian refugees via UMCOR.

UMCOR is the Methodist organization that applies all donations directly to the cause without taking any administration fees. The funds would be put to good use there. Should Pipers want to have an event in the future, there would be no need for funding.

Pipers, please contact Carole Evans at 507-210-6971 to express your feelings about this matter. After I hear the wishes of the group, a final decision will be made. Thank you.

Carole Evans



United  
Women  
in Faith

**United Women in Faith**

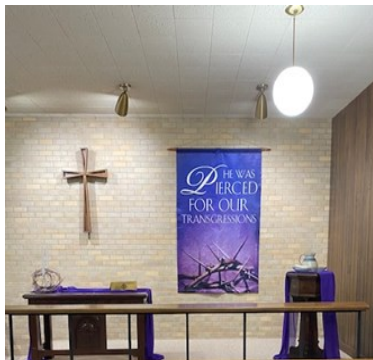
**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

**1:00 pm in Parlor**

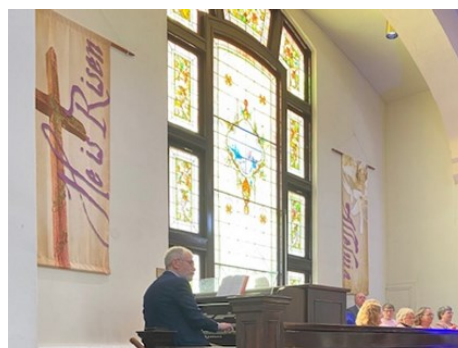
**YOU ARE INVITED !**

Please save the date for our May meeting! More information will be provided as it becomes available.

A SPECIAL thank you to **Ron and Barb Haase** for being with us in April. Ron did an exceptional, emotion filled presentation as "**Levi Bar Judah.**"



**Holy Thursday  
in the Chapel**



**Easter  
Worship**



**Easter Breakfast - April 17, 2022**



## In Sympathy



Bruce David Christie (83) died in his sleep on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 in Fort Collins, Colorado, following a long struggle with Alzheimer's. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Judith, children Wenona and Heather and all of his extended family.

Bruce was born in Faribault, Minnesota on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1939 to Earl and Elsie (Wilkowske) Christie, the youngest of four boys. He attended Garfield Elementary School, and then the Faribault Junior-Senior High School, graduating in 1957. While in Junior-Senior High School, Bruce was active in the marching band, student council, theatre, student newspaper, jazz band and as the only male cheerleader on the cheerleading squad!

Bruce started his 33-year career with the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) in 1969. **He was born and raised in the Fourth Avenue UMC of Faribault.** During his career with the Minnesota Conference of the UMC, in addition to working in the Minneapolis and St. Paul urban parishes, Bruce worked for the Morristown-Blooming Grove parish from 1976-1979, Holy Trinity UMC in Prior Lake from 1981-1985, First UMC of South St Paul from 1985-1992, and retired following his tenure at Sunrise UMC in Moundsview from 1992-2002.

In the mid-2000's, Bruce was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. This illness slowly took him away from those who loved him, first with his personality change, and finally with his physical demise. **Bruce was a person who thoroughly loved life, people, new experiences and all that went with it. This was a part of him which never completely disappeared, even towards the very end.**

A **celebration of the life of Bruce David Christie** was held at the First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins, Colorado on Tuesday, April 19 at 11 am. The link to the livestream of the service is <https://vimeo.com/event/1687830/15800dbfc2>. More information can be found on the website of the Allnutt Funeral Service at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ft-collins-co/bruce-christie-10643989>.

## In Sympathy



Evelyn A. Haase passed away on March 22, 2022 at Faribault Senior Living. Evelyn was born November 9, 1924. She became a member of Fourth Avenue UMC on April 26, 2015 with Pastor Dennis Tamke.

Evelyn was active in the UMC and Mrs. Jaycees. She and Vernon enjoyed many years of golfing together.

Memorial Services were held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault, on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at 2:00 pm with the Reverend Greg Ciesluk officiating.

Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on April 9, 2022.

Evelyn is survived by her children, Ronald (Barbara) Haase of Faribault; Moni (Paul) Shelstad of Northfield and Brad (Kelli) Haase of Albert Lea.

### Lenten Noisy Coin Offering

During the month of March, we collected funds for the Community Action Center (Food Shelf) in Faribault through loose coin, currency and checks. **To date we have received \$675.86.** Thank you to the Bequest and Gift Committee for matching those gifts. A check for **\$1,351.72** will be delivered to the Community Action Center.

### Nursery Is Open

Kim Luedke is available to greet you and care for your children while you attend worship.

### Thanks to the Haase Family

Thank you to the Haase family for sharing the beautiful floral arrangements from Evelyn's funeral. Also for the beautiful glass cross that is currently on the altar table in the Chapel.

### JIGSAW PUZZLES AND BOARD GAMES NEEDED

Rebekah Freed recently met a teacher from the Minnesota Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) while she was dining out with Pastor Greg.

During their conversation, Rebekah was made aware of a need the students have for **new or gently used** jigsaw puzzles and board games.

Please check your closets and shelves at home for puzzles/games you don't plan on using or haven't used for a while.

Donations will be accepted until May 8, 2022. Rebekah asks for the items to be left in the Library and she will coordinate the drop off to MSAD.

Thank you.



### Did you lose an earring?

A small gold "hoop" earring was found this past Sunday. Please contact the church office if this might be yours. Thank you.

### Help For Ukraine

The world-wide United Methodist Church has set up an Advanced Special # 982450 entitled UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. Funds will be used to support humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people, including help for Ukrainians fleeing to other countries.

This is Fourth Avenue's original request for gifts to Ukraine (before the Easter Offering was designated to the Ukraine). The amount of \$850.00 was given. This amount is not matched by the Bequest and Gift Fund. This will be forwarded to the Minnesota Conference designated "982450 Ukraine." Thank you for your gifts.

Kathy DuChene, Church Treasurer

### Bequest and Gift

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

For 2022-2023 school year

Applications due June 15, 2022

### Attendance

	<u>In Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
<u>April 24</u>	53	21

### Offering

<u>April 24</u>	Unified Budget	\$2,224.00
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### Average Worship Attendance

<u>Month</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
January 2022	32	16
February 2022	45	17
March 2022	48	15
April 2022	73	18



Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 12 noon

Meet at the North Steps at the Rice County Courthouse  
to join the Christian community  
in lifting up our nation before Almighty God.

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people.  
Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf,  
and give thanks for them.*

*<sup>2</sup> Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority  
so that we can live peaceful  
and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2



These gifted wall tapestries are currently located in the Parlor. They were given in Loving Memory of Howard and Eva Nelson by Ron and Greg Nelson and family and friends in 1994.

## May Worship Servers

### Ushers

To Be Determined

### Lay Readers

May 01 ~Kelly Landsverk  
May 08 ~Deb Jindra-Pope  
May 15 ~Shari VanDerVeen  
May 22 ~Rod Mahler  
May 29 ~Robert Nelson

### Acolytes

May 01 ~Ella Prange  
May 08 ~Comfort Sonpon  
May 15 ~William Sonpon  
May 22 ~Ella Prange  
May 29 ~Comfort Sonpon

## Easter Offering

The Ad Council designated Fourth Avenue's Easter Offering to the Ukraine. This included all monies given through the "special" Easter offering envelopes.

As of this date, \$2,145.00 has been given. The Bequest and Gift Committee will be matching this amount, making the total \$4,290.00.

**Thank you for your generous gifts!**

## Community Good Friday

The **Community Good Friday** service was held on **Friday, April 15 at 12 noon at Fourth Avenue**. Approximately 90 individuals worshipped in person with 17 watching online. The offering supports **Jesus Food** and its vision to pack and deliver 1,000,000 meals for the Ukrainian people displaced by the current war with Russia.

Checks payable directly to Jesus Food \$530.00

Offering \$785.00

**Total Gift to Jesus Food \$1,315.00**

**Thank you for your generous giving!**

## Bequest and Gift

### SCHOLARSHIPS

For 2022-2023 school year  
Applications due June 15, 2022

## MAY DAY BREAKFAST

French Toast, Eggs, Ham,  
Sausage, Donut Holes,  
Coffee, Juice, Milk

Peace United Methodist  
Church Morristown

May 1st, 2022  
6:00AM to 9:30AM

Free Will Donation



## Thank You

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Fourth Avenue UMC with your presence and your gifts.

Kathy DuChene,  
Church Treasurer

## May Birthdays

Donna Morgan	01
Kirsten Strnad	04
Blayke Vrieze	05
Sarah Ciesluk	06
Nathan Ebert	08
Christian Weber	12
Andy Prange	13
Marjean Michel	13
Annabel Schiffer	14
Khaler Grant	16
Barb Swartwoudt	17
Barb Dubbels	21
Devin Shimmin	22
Christine Suess	31

## Calendar of Events

May 05~Trustees, 6:30 pm in Parlor  
May 05~Operation 23 to Zero, 7:00 pm in the Library  
May 05~National Day of Prayer 12 noon at Court House  
May 07~Jesus Food 10:00 to 12:00 Faribo West Mall  
May 08~Mother's Day - Rebekah Freed preaching  
May 10~Girl Scouts, 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall  
May 10~Administrative Council, 6:30 pm in the Parlor  
May 12~United Women in Faith 1:00 pm in the Parlor  
May 15~Coffee with Pastor 10:15 am in the Berean Room  
May 17~Girl Scout Leaders, in Fellowship Hall  
May 17~Finance Committee, 2:45 pm in the Parlor  
May 19~Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall  
May 19~Nursing Home Worship  
Emeralds 10: 00 am  
Pleasant Manor 10:45 am  
New Perspective 12:30 pm  
May 24~Girl Scouts, 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall  
May 24-25~Pastor Greg-Annual Conference in St. Cloud  
May 4, 11, 18, 25~Choir Practice 6:00 pm  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30~Lakelanders 7:00 pm in Choir Room

## May Anniversaries

Patrick & Sara Morris	22
Myron & Brenda Kamrath	24

## Students in the News

### FARIBAULT SR HIGH

#### A Honor Roll

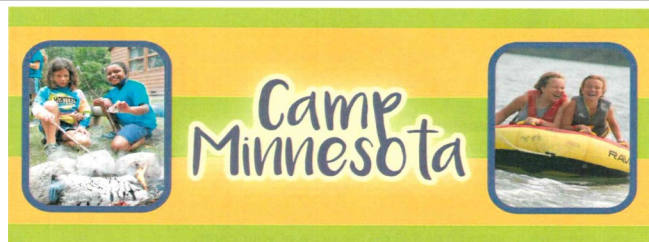
##### 9th Grade

Annabel Schiffer

##### 12th Grade

Miles Schiffer

Aubrey Hatfield



## It's Time To Register For Camp!

Registration has opened for the 2022 camping season! Check out the upcoming camp sessions at Camp Minnesota website and pick your favorite camp location: Northern Pines, Koronis Ministries, or Kowaken Adventures. Camp listings and registration information are on the [Camp Minnesota Website](#) where details will be updated quickly, and changes made in real time. This ensures you will always have the most up-to-date information.

Brochures are available in the communication center and the church office. Web site is [camp@campminnesota.org](mailto:camp@campminnesota.org).

**Scholarships are available for interested individuals.**



## Coffee with Pastor Greg



If you have been worshipping with us at Fourth Avenue UMC and would like to consider joining the church, plan to join Pastor Greg for coffee after worship on **Sunday, May 15 at 10:15 am.** Participation in the coffee does not indicate a decision to join the church, only an interest to know more.

## The Chapel is Open for Prayer



Our Chapel at Fourth Avenue UMC will be open for personal reflection, prayer and devotional time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The building will be unlocked and the Chapel available. Please feel free to come and use this newly carpeted and decorated space.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Host of heaven's promised wedding feast,  
be with you.*

*Having entered into union with Christ in baptism,  
we,  
Rebekah Kay Freed  
and  
Gregory Paul Piesluk  
announce our intention to join as one  
in the covenant of Christian marriage  
through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*We cordially invite you to join with us and our families  
for the celebration of our wedding with prayer and praise  
on Saturday, the eleventh day of June,  
two thousand twenty-two  
at two o'clock in the afternoon  
Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church  
219 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Faribault, Minnesota*

*Reception to follow immediately afterwards  
in the church's Fellowship Hall.*

*If you are unable to be with us in body,  
we sincerely ask you to be with us in prayer.*



**Jesus Food Packing Event**  
**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Saturday, May 7, 10 am - 12 noon**  
**At Faribo West Mall**

Join us **Saturday, May 7, 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.

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



◆ Sunday Worship/9:00 AM

Website:

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

Like us on Facebook

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@  
gmail.com

Office Email:

[fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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

Secretary: Sue Allen

Office Volunteer: Kathy DuChene

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.