

## Focus on Growing Grass

*“Shall we pull the weeds?” they asked.  
He replied, “No, you’ll hurt the wheat if you do.  
Let both grow together until the harvest.”*  
- Matthew 13:28b-29a



Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

A man was disgusted with his lawn and wondered if he should dig it up and start all over. His lawn was the worst in the entire neighborhood. It was loaded with dandelions, crab grass, and bare, browned spots. He called a professional lawn service to come to the rescue, but the pros declined to take his lawn on! Before he threw up his hands and started over, he sought advice from a farmer. The farmer surveyed the lawn and delivered a pearl of wisdom, “Don’t focus on the lawn’s imperfections. Focus on growing grass.” Over the next three years, the man put this wisdom into practice, planting grass seed, nourishing the soil with special nutrients, keeping it watered, and his lawn was transformed from the neighborhood’s worst into one of its best.

This is Jesus’ message to us in the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43). In this world, good and evil grows side by side. This will bother us more than God. We will be tempted to take decisive action and pull the weeds of imperfection, but there’s a great risk. We will likely do great harm in our attempt to remove what is bad. Jesus teaches us to celebrate and nourish what is good, to watch it grow, expand, and flourish. We can trust God to unmask and root out evil on God’s timetable. We are to “focus on growing grass.”

We long for a peaceful world... a prosperous country... a pure church... and productive lives. We see imperfection in every direction. The vision we cherish and long for collides with reality. We struggle to accept this dissonance and our natural reaction is to take quick, decisive action to remove what offends us. Jesus warns us that our judgment in these situations will be amiss and our “solutions” will result in unforeseen, unfortunate damage.

Several years back, our nation acted to remove foreign dictators and fight terrorists. A noble aim. Yet, the cost in blood and treasure was great and that part of the world is still chaotic and the threat is still strong. Recent events in Afghanistan have horrified us. Our nation has many domestic problems and our leaders are deeply divided and distrustful of one another and distracted by politics. Life in the USA feels very unstable.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, September 9th at 1:00 PM in the Parlor. Sandy Varley from Ruth's House will be presenting the program. Jean Vincent and Linda Hellevik will serve treats. Please come to enjoy this fellowship.



Our concern also extends to our churches where problems are aplenty, resources are scarce, power is lacking, and willing people are few. We even turn on ourselves, kicking ourselves for our weaknesses, trying to remove our shortcomings and coming up short. A Cherokee Indian once spoke to his grandson about the two wolves that lived within him. One was good marked by joy, peace, love, and a spirit of service. The other one was evil marked by anger, resentment, greed, and selfishness. "Which one wins?" the grandson asked. The wise grandfather replied, "The one that I feed." What grows in our lives, our churches, our country, and the world is what we feed.

What do we see when we look at our congregation? From one angle, we may see an aging family, weary leadership, and our small crop of children and youth growing up quickly and fading from the scene. We see our denomination embroiled in conflict and headed for division and that painful conflict will be faced by us locally. But look what else is happening. New babies are born. We have a part in a growing mission in Liberia. A faithful group is gathering each week to plan One Grand Night for children and envision future efforts in Christian education. The Annex/ Berean Room updates are creating new spaces for fellowship. We've made advancements in technology and communication efforts. Little pockets of spiritual energy are bubbling up. Each of these developments is positive, noteworthy, and occasions us to focus on growing grass.

So, celebrate what is good and nourish it. Accept life's imperfections and do not let them dominate your mind. Invite God to work and trust him to bring evil to its knees. Focus on growing grass and see what God does.

For the task of growing grass, I am sincerely yours,

*Pastor Greg*



This year's **Walk Like MADD** event is coming up on **Saturday, Sept. 18th!** In honor of Brittney, if you would be interested in donating or joining my team by walking, please let me know and I will get you all the details. God bless you all for your continued support.

Even the smallest of donations can help MADD raise awareness, provide education, and save lives from a 100% preventable tragedy! We miss Brittney terribly every day and don't want any other family to have to endure a heartbreaking loss like this.

Thank you so much!

Kelly Landsverk



## September Birthdays

Stephanie Hagberg	02
Kim Luedke	04
Father Henry Doyle	07
Zach Waterston	12
Madeline (Maddy) Schiffer	14
Kari VanDerVeen	16
Irene Eiler	18
Henry Morgan	18
Keith Stoops	18
Melva Ochs	20
George Smith	25
John Evans	26
Kelly Shimmin	26
Jesse Moen	27
Cheryl Kleeberger	29
Hunter Hale	29
Michael Grundman	30
Joe Jandro	30

## September Anniversaries

Toby & Corrie Wikoff	05
David & Joyce Buresh	06
Kenn & Barbara Dubbels	10
Brent & Tamara Kern	14
Jack & Jackie Luedke	16
Jesse & Ashley Osmundson	27



## Worship Servers For September

### Ushers

Jack and Jackie Luedke

### Lay Readers

Sept 5—Sharon Nelson  
 Sept 12—Nicholas Sonpon  
 Sept 19—Phyllis Wegner  
 Sept 26—To be announced

### Acolytes

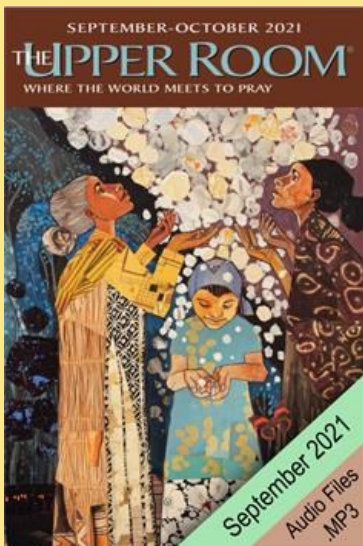
Sept 5—Ella Prange  
 Sept 12—Comfort Sonpon  
 Sept 19—Khaler Grant  
 Sept 26—To Be Announced

## Calendar of Events

September 2	Trustees 6:30 PM in Parlor
September 5	Pastor Gordon Orde Preaching
September 6, 13, 20 & 27	Lakelanders Practice 7:00 PM in FH
September 7	Reopening Task Force 4:00 PM via zoom
September 9	United Methodist Women 1:00 PM in Parlor
September 14	Ad Council at 6:00 PM in Parlor
September 14	Ad Council with SPRC 6:30 PM in Parlor
September 16	Rice County Piecemakers
September 21	Finance 2:45 PM in Parlor
September 24 & 25	Faribault Prays 3:00 PM to 3:00 PM
September 25	Closing Praise and Worship Gathering 3:00 PM at Central Park
September 28	SPRC meeting 6:30 PM in Parlor
September 29	Vacation Bible School 4:30 to 7:30 PM







## MISSING UPPER ROOMS

Fourth Avenue has STILL NOT received our shipment of Upper Rooms for September/October. I have asked them to re-ship immediately!

I am sorry for this inconvenience! Once we receive the shipment, we will distribute them as soon as possible.

Kathy DuChene



Chuck Morgan passed away on Sunday, August 15. He is survived by his wife Donna and family. The Morgans', have been connected with Fourth Avenue UMC for many years.

His funeral was held at Boldt Funeral Home on Saturday, August 21 at 10:30 am.

Please send cards of condolence to Donna Morgan, 107 NW 21st Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021. Let's keep the Morgan family in our prayers.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

*On The Weekend Of His Birth, 90 Years Ago*



*Rev. Donald E. Day*

September 12, 1931 - December 5, 2020

### VISITATION

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

### SERVICE

2:00 p.m.

*Luncheon Following*

### RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1005 North Park Street • Park Rapids, MN 56470

*- Off Highway 71 North -*

### RSVP

Virginia Day

21224 County Road 80 • Nevis, MN 56467

218-732-7015

Email: [gindonday@arvig.net](mailto:gindonday@arvig.net)

August 15, 2021

*Church COVID restrictions will be followed*

## WALKERS NEEDED

October will be here before we know it. Please note on your calendar the annual Crop Walk is scheduled for October 2nd. Can't join the walk? No worries, **donations are a great way to participate.** Please contact **Deb Jindra-Pope** to sign up or to donate by calling **952-237-9693.**



**CROP WALK**

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

## Excerpts from thank you's received by our graduate and the scholarship recipients

Thank you so very much for the scholarship! I am looking forward to keeping in touch with my religious roots as I embark upon my collegiate career.

I want to thank you for the generous gift of a scholarship that supports me through school. I am very grateful to have received this scholarship the last four years.

Thank you so very much for the wonderful graduation present! Whenever I see the bright colors of my blanket, wherever I am in the world, I will be reminded of God and our loving congregation.

Thank you 4th Ave. United Methodist church for taking the time to read my essay. I greatly appreciate the \$1,000 for my schooling.

I wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your kind consideration of my scholarship application and for the incredibly generous award.

Thank you for the scholarship, I really appreciate it and it will help out in so many ways.

I want to thank you for your support the last four years. I appreciate all of your inspiration and dedication to all of our educational aspirations.

Thank you for the opportunity to accept a scholarship for a third year. I am honored to represent this church and put this scholarship to good use.

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I'm very excited to continue my studies. Your support means a lot to me!

## One Grand Night

Join "Sparky the Dragon" and the "Knights of The North Castle" as we learn how to  
**"ARMOR UP WITH TRUTH"**  
(For ages 4 thru 6th Grade)



- *Supper*
- *Bible Stories*
- *Experiments*
- *Singing*
- *Crafts*
- *Learning about ways we can help people in Liberia*

**Mark your calendar:**

**Wednesday, September 29, 5:00-7:30 pm**

*to be held at*

**Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church**

***Fun and Games will start at 4:30 pm  
if you want to come early!***

***Hot Diggity Dogs will be served  
for a Howl'in Good Supper!***

***Registration forms are available online,  
in the church office and Annex.***

***Please register your children NOW to help us  
with our planning.***

***"Come and Join the Spirit's Movement"***

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



**Sunday Worship-9:00 am**

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

Like us on Facebook

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**Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@  
gmail.com**

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Tuesday-Thursday**

**Staff**

**Choir Director:** Kelly Landsverk

**Accompanist:** Doug Madow

**Nursery Attendant:** Kim Luedke

**Custodian:** Ken Harren

**Administrative Assistant:**

Sue Allen

## September 2021 Fourth Teller

### **Faribault Prays 24 Hour Prayer Walk Sept 24, 3 PM - Sept 25, 3 PM Closing Praise & Worship Gathering at 3:00 PM at Central Park**

Fourth Avenue UMC joins several church congregations in prayer over a 24 hour period for this annual event. Sign up sheets will be available soon to reserve your time slot.

