Fourth Teller Newsletter

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

August 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Hello friends,



Shawn Stoll - "We are a community moving forward together in Jesus."

I want to thank everyone who turned out to our July potluck and round table discussion. I especially want to thank Sara Steele for facilitating our time together. As we go forward as a church, it becomes increasingly important that everyone's voice is being heard. Each viewpoint gives perspective, and the Spirit of God is heard most clearly in the chorus of Believers.

Each one of us is unique, and has a unique perspective to share. A special thank you to each of you who have taken the time to personally visit with me in person or over the phone. As we spend time seeking the Lord's direction for our fellowship moving forward, it helps me get to know you better when you make time for these one-on-ones. And it is exciting to me to hear your excitement growing!

I will be returning from a two week vacation on the evening of August 4, just in time to take part in our celebration of the National Night Out, and the soft launch of the Third Space for Youth that are utilizing the upper floor of our admin/education wing. It has been good to meet some of the youth getting involved, as well as Molly and Nicky. And it is great to hear the sounds of youth in our building again!

Please pray with me that we would be able to be great hosts, and that all the students would have good experiences in our building. Many of the Faribault youth today are unchurched, and some have never even entered a Church building. Many have only ever heard stories of churches, and those stories are not always great.

This situation reminds me of the story in John 4 about the interaction of Jesus and a Samaritan woman. I encourage you to read it again for yourself! A little context: the Samaritans were the by-product of...

(*From the Pastor continued on page 2)*

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FROM THE PASTOR *con't*

those of the decimated northern nation of Israel who had intermarried with the Canaanite peoples around them. To those of the southern nation of Judah, the Jews, this was the worst possible people group. Yet, the knowledge of God was not wholly forgotten by the Samaritans. The story in John 4 bears witness to the fact that this Samaritan woman that meets Jesus by Jacob's well is versed in the Scripture.

Notice, Jesus goes to meet her where she is at, and is not offended at her perspective on the text, nor her line of questioning, nor her living situation. He engages her in conversation, and listens to her need. Also, Jesus does not command her to leave her situation, but challenges her to walk the Way of Salvation within her own context.

AND then, when invited, Jesus goes with her into her context, and brings light to all who will listen. There is no "conversion" to becoming a Jew like Him. But the whole community responds, "Now we believe… he is the Savior of the world."

-Shalom, Pastor Shawn

MONTHLY BLESSINGS

Celebrating Life & Love

Wishing a joyful birthday and anniversary to all who celebrate this month! We praise God for the gift of your life and the love in your marriages. May you be wrapped in His love and carried forward by His grace into a truly blessed year. It's a joy to celebrate alongside you!

August Birthdays

2 Courtney Waterston
5 Shari VanDerVeen
7 Ron Landsverk
8 Shawn Steele
10 John Beck
21 Kim Bossmann
21 Phyllis Wegner
27 Elizabeth Prange
28 Leon Dibble
30 Richard Smith

August Anniversaries

9 John & Lori Streiff
10 Chris & Julie Schiffer
14 Shawn & Sara Steele
22 Tom & Kim Bossmann
27 Don & Cheryl Kleeberger



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you..." — Numbers 6:24-25

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

A Heartfelt Thank You: Strenthening Our Community Together

We are so grateful to everyone who stayed after service on that beautiful Sunday to help us brainstorm ways to deepen engagement at Fourth Avenue. Not only did we enjoy a wonderful meal together, but we also had heartfelt conversations about how we can strengthen our focus on **Community Engagement** and **Building Relationships**. Your dedication, thoughtful questions, and creative ideas are truly appreciated and inspire us as we move forward together.

Building a Thriving Future

Our conversation made it clear that there is a deep desire within our church family to grow stronger and become financially healthy. Achieving this vision will be a shared journey - one that calls us to use our gifts to make Fourth Avenue a place where everyone feels God's love, guidance, and a warm sense of belonging. As the Administrative Council continues to lead ongoing discussions and next steps, we invite you to keep supporting our mission with your time, talents, and financial gifts. Together, we can build a thriving church community where everyone feels welcomed, supported, and valued.

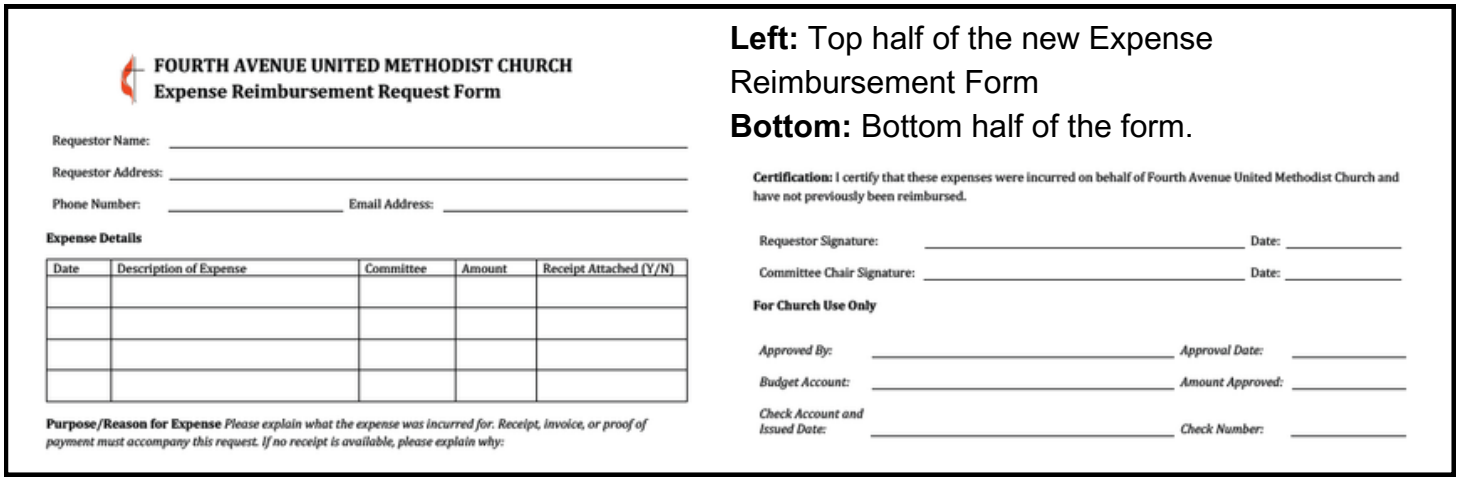
Introducing Our New Expense Reimbursement Form

To help us remain faithful stewards and uphold our church's financial integrity, we're excited to introduce a new expense reimbursement form. Using this form for any personally paid church-related expenses ensures we stay compliant with audit regulations and maintain transparent records.

Guidelines & Important Information

Simply submit your completed form and receipts to the treasurer starting August 1st, and together we'll help keep our finances strong and accountable. Your attention to these guidelines is a vital part of our shared commitment to serving our church family. Please remember: expenses submitted without this form cannot be processed. A copy of the form is attached for your review.

With gratitude and hope, Members of the Finance & Investment Team: Sara Steele (chair), Kathy DuChene (treasurer), Julie Schiffer (financial secretary), Wayne Rossow (financial secretary), Deb Jindra-Pope, Jim Heyer, Jim Miller, David Hanson, and Elizabeth Prange



FOURTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Expense Reimbursement Request Form

Requestor Name: _____

Requestor Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Expense Details

Date	Description of Expense	Committee	Amount	Receipt Attached (Y/N)

Purpose/Reason for Expense *Please explain what the expense was incurred for. Receipt, invoice, or proof of payment must accompany this request. If no receipt is available, please explain why:*

Left: Top half of the new Expense Reimbursement Form

Bottom: Bottom half of the form.

Certification: I certify that these expenses were incurred on behalf of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church and have not previously been reimbursed.

Requestor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Committee Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Church Use Only

Approved By: _____ *Approval Date:* _____

Budget Account: _____ *Amount Approved:* _____

Check Account and Issued Date: _____ *Check Number:* _____

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Greetings from the Mission Team!

Blood Drive Update

The Blood Drive was a huge success! **29 units** were collected which is up from the 19 in April! Thank you to everyone, you're awesome and a blessing to all that know you!

National Night Out

Gearing up for National Night Out on August 4th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. There will be delicious food, beverages, games, fellowship and more. You'll have to come to find out! (More information on page 6.)

3rd Space Begins

We are also very excited to finally, after countless hours of preparation and discussion, announce the starting on the 3rd Space project. We are providing safe space for high school aged youth.

We are also providing two volunteer chaperones to be available if anything should arise. They are providing a meal in the Parlor and the rest will be on the 3rd floor. They will have activities such as games, tutoring, music, arts & crafts, and so on. This is a very exciting opportunity to share our facility and make a community impact. Thank you all for your support.

Falcon's Nest

Also, you know what August means, "Falcons Nest" drive to support youth with school supplies and/or financial donations to support this project. We appreciate your generosity from past years and we are happy to continue our support. Thank you all very much. (More info on page 6)

Final Blood Drive for 2026

Mark your calendars for October 2nd. That will be our final blood drive for 2026. WIth the generous blessings of God, we will break our donation record again. None of this is possible without your support so thank you and may God bless each and every one of you!

Remember, God loves you, and so do I! We'll be talking.

~ John Streiff, Mission Chair

P.S. If anyone has any ideas, needs, comments, or wants to join in on the fun, let us know or come to a mission meeting the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Parlor.

An hour of your time can mean a lifetime to a neighbor in need. Giving blood is one of the most tangible ways we can share God's love and support those around us. Help us make an impact—sign up today and let's fill every slot for our upcoming drive!



Donations accepted at the upcoming October 2nd blood drive:

Blood: The most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.

Power Red: A Power Red donation collects the red cells but returns most of the plasma and platelets to the donor. These donors must meet specific eligibility requirements *and* have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, neighborhoods across Minnesota rolled grills into driveways, set up folding tables in cul-de-sacs, and gathered for one of the state's biggest annual community traditions: **Night to Unite**, Minnesota's version of **National Night Out**.[1]

While every block party looked a little different - from potlucks and bounce houses to ice cream socials and water balloon fights - the mission was the same: *bringing neighbors together while strengthening relationships with local law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and community leaders.* The annual event is held on the first Tuesday in August and is celebrated in communities throughout the state.[1]

Fourth Avenue UMC was thrilled to join in on the community building! The evening was filled with delicious food - hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings, baked beans, popcorn, and cookies (LOTS of cookies!) - along with fun games, sidewalk chalk, and bubbles.

National Night Out wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated support of our **Mission, Memorial & Outreach Group**, who spent hours preparing for the event and recruiting volunteers.

A Special Thank You To:

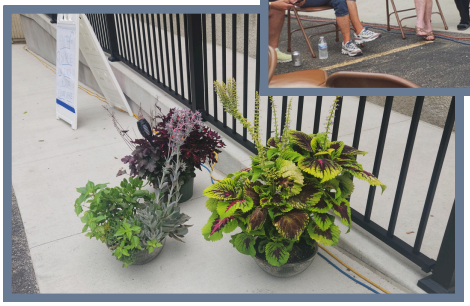
- **Carolyn Hanson, Sharon Nelson, and John & Lori Streiff** for baking the delicious cookies (purchased frozen from the Community Café and freshly baked right here at the church!).
- **Roger Dokken** for arriving early to help set up and making an extra trip back home to bring potted plants to brighten up the 3rd Space Group sign.
- **The 3rd Space Group** for joining us for food, fun, and fellowship.
- **All of our wonderful volunteers** who stepped up to serve food, lend a hand, and do whatever was needed to make the night such a fantastic success!

[1] Credit: Source: Minnesotamonthly.com











FALCONS NEST SUPPORT

Preparing students for a successful school year

As the weather cools off for a bit – it's just a reminder that Fall could be a short way off! Of course – that reminds me that the beginning of school is not far off either.

Our Continued Partnership & Impact

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church has been so faithful in the past years to be a part of the Falcon's Nest Program at the Faribault High School. Last year we supported the program with 72 backpacks and enough school supplies to get the students off to a great start!

Our Goal for This Year

The Falcon's Nest program is always so thankful for our participation – and the Mission Team is on the frontline for Fourth Avenue to again support the students. With the congregation's help, our goal this year is to fill ***75 backpacks.***

Requested Supplies

- 5 File Folders
- 4 One Subject Notebooks
- Pack of Subject Folders
- Black, Blue & Red Pens
- Mechanical Pencils

Collection Dates & Location

Starting August 2nd we will be collecting supplies in the library. Look for the bin.

If you would prefer we could shop for you. Cash or check can be placed in the collection baskets.

- Cash should be placed in an envelope or somehow marked for the intended purpose
- Check should be noted in the memo line "Falcon's Nest"

** Donations will be collected through August 16th. **

RUTH'S HOUSE

Supply Drive

Ruth's House needs YOUR help to stock these necessary supplies for our shelter:

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Floor cleaner
- Vinyl gloves
- Pillows
- Stainless steel appliance cleaner

- Beginning August 5, we will be collecting items during normal business hours at Buckham Memorial Library in Faribault, as well as at our shelter. Items may be dropped 7 days a week from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm at our shelter. For directions to the shelter, please call 507-332-2236.
- If you have questions about donations, please call our donation line at 507-323-8151 or e-mail us at giveruth@gmail.com.
- If you are unable to drop off in the donation windows but would like to donate please e-mail to arrange an alternative time.

(Information received from Ruth's House email)

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINNING SOON

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Calling all singers, shower vocalists, and music lovers! Our church choir is getting ready to lift its voices once again starting this September, and we want YOU to be a part of it!

Whether you're a seasoned singer, know how to read music, or simply love making a joyful noise in fellowship, all are warmly welcomed - no audition required!

Stay tuned for our official September start date and practice day/time announcement. Come bring your spirit, meet wonderful friends, and help us make beautiful music together for our church and to the Lord!

Ephesians 5:19
"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord..."

THE UPPER ROOM

The mission of The Upper Room daily devotional guide is to provide a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day. The July/August issue is still available. Stop by the information center to pick one up, or call the church office and we will mail you one.

If you would like to be on the list to receive a copy before the the first of September, talk to Kathy DuChene or contact the church office.
(Suggested donation $2.00)

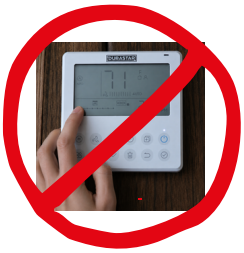


GENTLE REMINDERS

Thermostats

Please do not change the thermostats. Some are run by an app on phones, and some are controlled by the thermostats on the wall. The boilers are off. Please dress accordingly. If you feel the temps need to be changed, please contact a Trustee.

Our current Trustees:
Dale Hauptli, co-chair
Marcia Speiker, co-chair
Robert Nelson
John Streiff
Tom Bossmann



Custodial Attention

To ensure our church building remains a welcoming, clean, and safe environment for worship and fellowship, we kindly ask for your help in caring for our shared space.
If you notice any maintenance issues, spills, or areas requiring custodial attention, please submit a request to Sarah Clark in the church office. Alternatively, you can directly reach out to any of the trustees listed in the column to the left. Thank you for your watchful eyes and partnership in keeping our church beautiful!

WHEN GOD SAYS, "NO"

God Met Me at Starbucks Today

This morning I was headed to a closing that is extra special to me, so naturally, I stopped for coffee. I knew exactly what I wanted - a S'mores Cold Brew. "We're out of cold brew." says the barista.
My immediate reaction was basically, "Well… never mind then," because I knew what I wanted. I knew what I liked. And if they didn't have that, my instinct was just to walk away. But the sweetest young barista looked at me and said, "You know what? I can make you something similar with iced coffee."

Okay. Let's try it. I drove away, took a sip…
And you guys. It was better than the cold brew I originally wanted. And it hit me. Isn't that exactly what God does sometimes? We ask Him for something because it's what we know. It's comfortable. It makes sense to us. We've already decided, "This is what I want. This is what will make me happy. This is how it's supposed to go."

And then God says, "No." He takes it off the menu. And sometimes our first reaction is to walk away disappointed because we were so focused on what we wanted that we never stopped to consider... Maybe He has something better. Something different. Something we wouldn't have chosen ourselves. Something we might never have experienced if He had simply given us exactly what we asked for.

Sometimes the "no" isn't the end of the conversation. Sometimes it's God asking us, "Do you trust Me enough to try what I have for you instead?"

Faith isn't only trusting God when He gives us what we prayed for. It's trusting Him when He doesn't. It's believing that He sees what we can't see. That He knows what's ahead. And that sometimes the thing we thought we wanted so badly had to be taken off the menu to make room for something better.

So apparently God met me at Starbucks today and reminded me: Don't walk away just because He said no to your first choice. Trust Him with what He puts in your cup instead.

~ Mallory Fuchs

Mallory is a Faribault native who spent many years serving as a therapist and law enforcement officer before following God's leading into entrepreneurship. She is now a realtor and owner of a local cleaning company and Christian gift store in the heart of Faribault. She enjoys reading, writing, coffee, Jesus, the outdoors, her animals and spending time with her husband.

Closing Thoughts: Living Out the "No"

When life takes our plan off the menu, it can feel like a setback - until we realize God is simply serving up something far better. Mallory's experience at Starbucks is a gentle reminder for all of us: a closed door or an unexpected detour isn't God walking away; it's an invitation to trust Him more deeply.

As we go about our week - at work, at home, or running errands - let's practice loosening our grip on how we think things should go. When you hit a roadblock or hear a "no," pause and take a breath. Ask yourself: "Am I willing to trust what God is putting in my cup today?" When we stop clinging to our first choices, we open our hearts to the unexpected blessings, joy, and peace God has prepared for us all along.

~ Sarah Clark

AUGUST CALENDAR



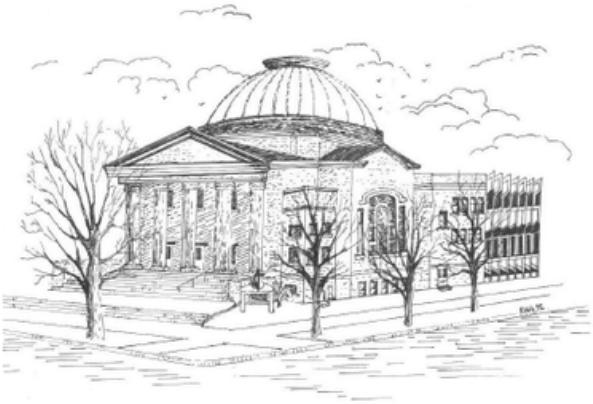
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Jesus Food 10:00 - 12:00pm Faribault Mall
2 Worship w/ Communion 9:00am w/ Rev. Sharon Nelson	3 Lakelanders 7:00pm	4 Mission Sewing 1:00 - 3:00pm National Night Out 5:00 - 8:00pm	5 Trauma Group 1:00 -3:00 pm Ad Council moved to Sept. 14. 7:30pm	6 Trustees 6:30pm Parlor Operation 23-0 7:00pm Library	7	8
9 Worship 9:00am	10 Mission & Outreach 6:00pm Parlor Lakelanders 7:00pm	11	12	UWIF 13 12:00pm Parlor Bring a bag lunch Dessert provided	14	15
16 Worship 9:00am	17 Lakelanders 7:00pm	18 Mission Sewing 1:00 - 3:00pm Ad Council 6:00pm Parlor	19	20 Finance & B&G 5:30pm Parlor Piecemakers 7:00pm	21	22
23 Worship 9:00am	24 Lakelanders 7:00pm FourthTeller Deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30 Service in the Park TBA	31 Lakelanders 7:00pm					

STAY CONNECTED

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

Reach Out	The Details
Visit the Office	219 4th Ave NW, Faribault, MN 55021
Give Us a Ring	507-334-4308
In Your Inbox	fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com
Doors Open	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our Team	
Pastor	Pastor Shawn Stoll
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Clark
Office Volunteer	Kathy DuChene
Choir Director	Kelly Landsverk
Pianist/Organ Accompanist	Doug Madow
Audio/Visual	Jim Heyer & Dale Hauptli
Nursery Attendant	Kim Luedke
Custodian	Sarah Clark



JOIN US!!!

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

We would love to see you this Sunday! Whether you're joining us in person or tuning in online, there is a place for you in our church family.

Worship Service: 9:00 AM

Fellowship & Treats: Immediately following service in the Annex (come grab a cup of coffee and connect!)

Holy Communion: Observed on the first Sunday of every month

Can't Make It in Person?

Catch our service broadcast live every Sunday on YouTube at @FaribaultFourthAveUMC!



"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." --- Matthew 18:20