



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

Prelude *Lean On Me* Bill Withers
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Call to Worship Tapestry Members

One: Blessed are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
All: **Blessed are you. Holy are you. Rejoice and be glad.**
One: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
All: **Blessed are you. Holy are you. Rejoice and be glad.**
One: Blessed are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
All: **Blessed are you. Holy are you. Rejoice and be glad.**
One: Blessed are those who seek peace; they are the children of God.
All: **Blessed are you. Holy are you. Rejoice and be glad.**
One: Blessed are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.
All: **Blessed are you. Holy are you. Rejoice and be glad.**

* Hymn *Blest are They* The Faith We Sing #2155

Baptism of Oliver Richard Hammond and Viola Maye Hammond
Congregational Response: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that Oliver and Viola, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Children may leave for Sunday School following the baptisms.

Anthem *Réunir* William Payn
Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

*"Réunir" (to reunite) is based on the concept of all faiths together in music.
In laughter, trials, personal conflict, hard work and dedicated effort, we bring music
to our world, through the grace of God who loves us all.*

Morning Prayer Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
Prayer Song *Sanctuary* The Faith We Sing #2164; sing twice
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Scripture Reading

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Matthew 25:31-40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you who are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."

Anthem	<i>The Gift of Love</i>	Hal Hopson
	Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director	
Offering Our Gifts	<i>Lent/Easter Mission Project</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>How Can We Name a Love</i>	UM Hymnal #111
Sermon	<i>Jesus Taught Us ... Love Wins</i>	Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
* Hymn	<i>Sent Forth By God's Blessing</i>	UM Hymnal #664
Benediction		Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Michael McCabe
	Velda Graham Bell, organ	

* Please stand as you are comfortable.



Announcements

*Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. They are replacing the attendance pads formerly found in the pews. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

***Guests:** Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.*

***Baptized this morning:** Oliver Richard Hammond, born September 23, 2020 (sponsors are Darin Anderson and Jennifer Dagger) and Viola Maye Hammond, born April 9, 2022 (sponsors are Eric Carlson and Kat Pinchen). Oliver and Viola's parents are Miala and Bradley Hammond. Family members are: Mary and Ron Hammond; Carrie and Tim Magner; Jackie and Dick Van Valkenburg; Amanda, Ty, Stella and Claire Holstrom; Laura, "Wally," Jaidyn and Alexis Walburg; Katie, Tom and Marjorie Smieja; Deena, Ryan, Aveyah, Hadley and Bristol Shykes; and Michaela Smieja.*



*An all-church potluck and games day will be held on **after worship today**, from 11:30-2:30. Please feel free to stay and join in the fun, even if you have not brought a dish to share. We'll play pickleball, ping pong, and a variety of other fun games.*

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. Every Communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month) is an opportunity to bring a donation of food or money for the CHUM Food Shelf. In this way, when we come to the communion table to be fed spiritually, we are also feeding others who are physically hungry. The Food Shelf cart will be available for donated items; if you make a financial gift, please write "Food Shelf" on the check memo or envelope and make checks out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.

*Join us for Faith Forum Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45 in the Fireside Lounge. On **March 5**, Catherine Reich will talk about the FUMC Foundation. On **March 12**, FUMC member Jana Picotte will share her faith journey.*

A devotional booklet for each day in Lent (Ash Wednesday – Easter) will be available at church, or you may receive it electronically instead. Email the church office (info@fumcduluth.com) and ask for it.

Lent/Easter Mission Project. This year our Easter financial offering will be split two ways: 50% to the ministry and mission of our congregation, and 50% to the ministry and mission of the Union Gospel Mission. Please mark "Easter Offering" on your check or giving envelope. We will also be collecting items for the Union Gospel Mission to give to people in need: hand and foot warmers; toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, shaving gel and razors; deodorant (both men's and women's); menstrual products (tampons, pads, PH-safe wipes); reusable shopping bags.

*An informational class about the church will be held after worship on **Sunday, March 12** in the Fireside Lounge. If you are interested in joining the church or just learning more about FUMC, this is the class for you! This is the only session needed to join the church.*

*During March, we will be collecting items for breakfast bags that will be given to people when they leave the warming shelter in the morning. We are looking for donations of soft granola or breakfast bars (since many homeless people do not have good teeth to bite into harder things) and individually wrapped cheese sticks. We'll be preparing 100 breakfast bags on **Wednesday, March 1; Wednesday, March 8; and Tuesday, March 21**. Please put the granola bar donations in the box in the Narthex and the cheese sticks in the staff refrigerator in the office.*

Over the last few weeks, the countries of Turkey and Syria have been struck by a series of devastating earthquakes. At last report, the death toll was over 47,000 and climbing. If you would like to help alleviate suffering, UMCOR (the United Methodist relief agency) is on the scene, working through its partner organization, the International Red Crescent. There are two ways to give:

- 1. Write a check to FUMC and put "Earthquake relief" in the memo, or*
- 2. Donate directly to UMCOR online at <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-international-latest-responses/>*

Thank you to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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