



*First United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, January 8, 2023*

*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 *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (How Lovely Shines the Morning Star)* D. Buxtehude  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Call to Worship**

One: We gather to praise God!

All: **God, our Morning Star, fair and bright, bringing forth truth and light.**

One: We praise the God who enfolds and upholds us.

All: **Heavenly Brightness! Light Divine! Deep within our hearts, please shine.**

One: We praise the God who nourishes our life and restores us.

All: **All praise to the Lord – the first and last, our end and our beginning!**

\* Hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* UM Hymnal #247

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message*

Morning Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Unison Prayer:** Gracious and loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers. We thank you for drawing us closer to you and for your desire to make us whole. Free us for full living, walking each and every day following your ways. Help us be open and authentic on this journey of seeking wholeness and abundant life that can be found only in you. Amen.

**Prayers of Joy and Concern**

**Jesus' Prayer** - contemporary paraphrase from *Human Rites* by Ward and Wild  
Beloved, our Father and Mother, in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name, followed be your royal way, done be your will and rule, throughout the whole creation. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem *Aufschwung* Robert Schumann  
Ben Hintzman, piano

## Offering Our Gifts

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

UM Hymnal #95

## Scripture Readings

### Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, friends, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### Matthew 7:1-5

Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make, you will be judged and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

\* Hymn *Take My Life, and Let It Be*

UM Hymnal #399

Sermon *Being Created Anew #1: Deep Authenticity*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Hymn *Together We Serve*

The Faith We Sing #2175

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

Jan Bender

Velda Graham Bell, organ

*\* please stand as you are comfortable*



## Announcements



*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.*

*Please join us for coffee and doughnuts in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.*

*Sermon Series, January 8 – February 5: **Being Created Anew.** God calls us to fully be ourselves and to know that we are fully and completely accepted and loved by God. Our calling is to fully and completely accept and love ourselves and others. Church needs to be a place where we can be open, honest and real, and invite others to do the same. We will take steps in that direction in this sermon series.*

*January 15 – Filling the Void Inside*

*January 22 – Dealing with Failure*

*January 29 – Dealing with Insecurities*

*February 5 – Dealing with Criticism*

*Giving envelopes for 2023 are on a table in the Narthex. Look for your name on the sticky note; if you do not find them, contact the church office. There are several extra pads of envelopes.*

*Greet 2023 with composting! Kitchen compost bags will be on sale today before and after the service.*

*The Sustainability Team will start the new year with a brainstorming meeting in the Library at 11:15. Pick up your coffee and doughnuts and join the group. All are welcome!*

*Join us for Faith Forum Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45 in the Fireside Lounge. Did you know that you can go inside the church organ? On **January 15**, Velda Bell will lead a walking tour of the organ. Meet in the Fireside Lounge at 9:00.*

