



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday

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.

*A nursery for children age 5 and under is on the lower level, and includes a Bible lesson.
Sunday School for children K-5th grade will be held in the new upper level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.*

Prelude *What a Wonderful World* Bob Thiele and George Weiss
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Delaney Nielsen
One: Throughout the world today, Christian churches are celebrating Holy Communion. We come to the table as part of a worldwide family of faith.
All: **Our sisters and brothers in Africa, Europe, Central America, Asia and in all lands and countries join us in lifting the bread of life and the cup of salvation.**
One: In Christ's love there is no East, no West, no North, no South, but only one Spirit of hope, love and peace for all.
All: **May Christ bless the worldwide communion of the church this day!**

*** Opening Hymn and Procession of the Flags** *One Bread, One Body* UM Hymnal #620

Children's Message

Offering *Roast Beef Dinner*

Worldwide Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Prayers of Joy and Concern

Unison Prayer: God of all nations, we give you thanks that we are all made in your image, with such rich diversity. On this day, we are in solidarity with the faithful around the world. As we break bread together, we remember that we are still one body in you, even though we have different languages, cultures and traditions, different ways of praying and praising. In solidarity we drink the cup together of hope, of new life, knowing that your will is for your people to be one body. We are one body, but we are not the same – it is through the gift of diversity that we are able to be your body. We thank you and praise you for making us all who we are, individually and collectively. We each celebrate our own ancestry, culture and ethnicity, and we pray to you now as you taught us:

Lord's Prayer (pray the Lord's Prayer in the language or version you first learned – using debts and debtors, trespasses, sins, etc. – so there is a diversity of words and language, but the same spirit of prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the story of the Bread and the Cup
Distribution of Elements

Communion Music *Many and Great* Native American melody, arr. Robert Buckley Farlee
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Children may leave for Sunday School following Communion.

Scripture Reading

Delaney Nielsen

Esther 4:5-16

One: Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned, the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

All: **When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"**

One: Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Anthem *We Are Called* David Haas, arr. Graeme Shields
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Sermon *Spiritual Guides: Esther* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* UM Hymnal #546

Benediction

Postlude *How Great Thou Art* Swedish melody, arr. Emma Lou Diemer

** please stand as you are comfortable*



Announcements

*Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. 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, places where your help can make a difference! These 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 downstairs in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

***Faith Forum** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. On **October 8**, Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, current president of United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities, will talk about the changing role of seminaries in the 21st century. On **October 15**, guest speaker Jackie Falk will take us through the history and current status of the Equal Rights Amendment in Minnesota.*

*The Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass Ensemble will be presenting their first concert of the season in our Sanctuary **this afternoon at 3:00pm**. This concert, titled Classical Brass, will feature the brass section of the ensemble, with selections including "Fanfare to La Peri," "Procession of the Nobles," "Mars" from The Planets, and much more. The concert will be led by our own Dr. Mark Whitlock, who is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra. This concert is free and open to the public. There will be a freewill offering during the performance.*

*It's this week! Join us on **Thursday, October 5**, the drive-through Roast Beef Dinner. Meals are \$15 each and will be available from 4:30-6:30pm. See below for volunteer signup information and the October First Family for more details. While tickets are not needed, if you would like to purchase tickets as gifts for others, they will be available after the service or in the church office.*



***Next Wednesday, October 4**, due to preparations for the Roast Beef Dinner, we will not have a Wednesday Night Dinner or children's playtime. All music groups – children, youth, and adults – will take place at their usual times. The nursery will be available from 5-8pm.*

***You are invited!** How can you deepen your faith and also connect your faith more fully in your relationships with others? On **Saturday, October 7**, we have a unique and very special opportunity to meet Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, President of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and hear her thoughts on "Formative Practices for Nurturing Spirituality." Dr. Marshall has an engaging manner and a way of presenting thought-provoking material in a very accessible way - this will not be a stuffy seminary lecture! This session will take place from **4:00-5:30pm** in the Fireside Lounge. Please RSVP to MaryAnne Korsch (218.343.8813) if you'd like to attend or need more information.*

*The **Sustainability Team** will meet in the Library 15 minutes after the service on **Sunday, October 8**. Kitchen compost bags will be for sale in the Atrium before and after the service.*

***Bibles will be presented** to 3-year-olds (and 4- and 5-year-olds who haven't received a 3-year-old Bible) and to 3rd graders (and 4th and 5th graders who haven't received a 3rd grade Bible) on **Sunday, October 15** during our 10am worship service. Please let Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com) know if you would like to have your child receive a Bible. If you cannot be in worship on October 15, we will find another way to present the Bible to your child.*



Mark your calendars! Fall Roadside Cleanup will take place on **Saturday, October 14** from noon-2pm on "our" stretch of Maple Grove Road. See Bill Alexander (bill@strikepoint.com) to sign up or for more information. Let's help keep our community beautiful!

A Book Sale will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 9am-3pm. Donations may be dropped off in the East Lounge beginning November 12. Please do not bring damaged books, VHS or cassette tapes, encyclopedias or textbooks. See below for volunteer needs.

Ways You Can Help Your Church



Sign up to help at the Roast Beef Dinner:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-fall2#/ or call the church office at 218-727-5021.

Volunteers are needed for the FUMC Book Sale. Help is needed for setup on Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17, and on the day of the sale, November 18. To volunteer, contact Jean Walsh, jmbwalsh@gmail.com.

Ways to give to support your church: give online at fumcduluth.com OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

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

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