



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 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.

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 upper level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.

Prelude *Days of Elijah* Robin Mark
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

One: Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker!
All: **We come knowing we, and all people, are created in the image of God.**
One: Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker!
All: **We come seeking to be formed in the image of the one who created us all.**
One: Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker!
All: **We come and worship the Lord!**

*** Hymn** *Come, All You People* The Faith We Sing #2274

Baptism of Mica James Montz

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

Baptismal Song *Water, River, Spirit, Grace* The Faith We Sing #2253; sing twice

Children's Message

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

Anthem *Hymn of Joyful Praise* Joel Raney
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director; Shelley Gruskin, flute

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer of Confession: God, you asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard and we were easily distracted. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice. We gave you a whisper that we might not be judged. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty and exclusion. We closed them, for we did not want to see. Lord, forgive our efforts to serve you only when it is convenient, safe, popular, and easy. Renew us; send us out to share your love in all we do.

Assurance of Pardon: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven, freed from guilt, and empowered to live in God's love. We are God's beloved. May we live as such, sharing life-giving love with others. Amen!

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer – from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. 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, 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.

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 19:9-18

At that place, Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also, you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Offering Our Gifts

* Hymn *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

The Faith We Sing #2128

Sermon *"How Does God Speak?"*

Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall

* Hymn *Lord, Speak to Me*

UM Hymnal #463

Benediction

Postlude *Toccatina on "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*
Velda Graham Bell, organ

arr. Alfred Fedak

** please stand as you are comfortable*



Announcements



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.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall for being our guest preacher today. Dr. Marshall is the president of United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities.



Baptized today is Mica James Montz, born March 19, 2023. Mica's parents are William (Will) and Kaitlin (Kate) Montz, and his sponsor is his uncle Nick Montz.

Faith Forum is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. On **October 15**, guest speaker Jackie Falk will take us through the history and current status of the Equal Rights Amendment in Minnesota. The following week, on **October 22**, Pam Nelson will share her thoughts on a sabbatical year from teaching 8th grade math, how she ended up spending two weeks in Kenya, and what she learned along the way. Her photos of the trip will be on display this fall in the Fireside Lounge.

The Sustainability Team will have kitchen compost bags for sale in the Atrium before and after the service today.

Next Sunday, Bibles will be presented to 3-year-olds (and older children who haven't received a 3-year-old Bible), to 3rd graders (and older children who haven't received a 3rd grade Bible), and to confirmation students 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 **next 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 with Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, October 14 from noon-2pm. Contact Bill Alexander at bill@strikepoint.com for details.

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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