



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, September 17, 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 new upper level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.*

Prelude      Selections from *Water Music*      G.F. Handel  
                 *Arioso*      J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Call to Worship**

One: We come to worship, seeking to build our lives on a firm foundation.  
**All: We come to learn about the path of Christ, who shows us the way.**  
One: We do not need to fear, for God is with us, strengthening, helping, and upholding us.  
**All: We come to worship seeking to build our lives on a firm foundation.**  
One: Our faith guides us, bringing us and others hope and healing.  
**All: How firm a foundation our faith offers us!**

\* Hymn      *How Firm a Foundation*      UM Hymnal #529

Baptism of Ryu Hatfield Lemae and Kai Lani Lemae      Pastor Jeanine Alexander  
**Congregational Response: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that Ryu and Kai, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

Children's Message      Pastor Jeanine Alexander  
*Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message.  
Please pick up your kids in the Children's Lounge following worship.*

Anthem      *Everlasting Arms*      Reba Snyder Miller  
                 Sanctuary Choir

Morning Prayer      Pastor Jeanine Alexander  
Prayers of Joy and Concern

Lord's 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.**

**Scripture Readings**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me, since I remain

childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children, so a servant in my house will be my heir." Then the word of the Lord came to him, "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord, and God credited it to him as righteousness.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge God, who will make your paths straight.

Offering Our Gifts		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>Be Still My Soul</i>	UM Hymnal #534
Sermon	<i>Spiritual Guides: Abraham</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>Leaning on the Everlasting Arms</i>	UM Hymnal #133
Benediction		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Postlude	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> Tapestry	arr. Rachel Kurtz

*\* please stand as you are comfortable*



**Worship Leaders:**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander  
Liturgist: Sara Hill  
Organ: Velda Graham Bell  
Sanctuary Choir: Derek Bromme, director

Tapestry: Riley Hinnenkamp and Andrea Flinner, guest directors  
Cello: Mary Wright

***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.



*Baptized this morning: Ryu Hatfield Lemae, born June 29, 2020, and Kai Lani Lemae, born August 13, 2022. Their parents are Sarah and Wetner Lemae. Grandparents are Leilani and Victor Garcia, and Sherri and Rich Lees.*

*Thank you to our lawn mowers this summer: Dan Morgan, Tim Zager, and Terry Wallin.*

*The next new member class will be held **Sunday, September 24 at 11:00am**. Please let Pastor Jeanine know if you are interested; this is the only session needed to join the church.*

*The sustainability team will hold an informational meeting this morning, fifteen minutes after the service, in the library. This group of people seeks to inform themselves and our church community on how to live responsibly and sustainably. They'll decide meeting dates and discuss priorities for putting their concerns into action. Come with your ideas and see if this is a group for you! New and returning members are welcome.*

*Faith Forum is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge, and new participants are always welcome. On **September 24**, we'll hear from CHUM staff member Diana Brooks-Hass, who will talk about how we might help families who are moving into the Steve O'Neil Apartments. On **October 1**, Marian Flammang will lead an introduction to different forms of spiritual meditations.*

*On Saturday, September 30, our sustainability team, together with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, will sponsor a free presentation in our Sanctuary from 10-11:30am by prominent meteorologist and climate science expert Paul Douglas. Known for his engaging, thoughtful, down-to-earth, and well-informed presentations, he will address the latest in the science of climate change, the ways climate change is affecting the Northland, and the ways our shared faith calls us to take action on climate change.*

*The Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass Ensemble will be presenting their first concert of the season in our Sanctuary on **Sunday, October 1 at 3:00pm**. This concert, titled Classical Brass, will feature the brass section of the ensemble with a wide variety of selections, including "Fanfare to La Peri," "Procession of the Nobles," "Mars" from The Planets, and much more exciting music. 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.*

*Mark your calendars! **Thursday, October 5**, the Roast Beef Dinner returns as an all drive-through event. Meals are \$15 each and will be available from 4:30-6:30pm that day. See below for volunteer signup information and the September First Family for more details.*

*Yogadevotion classes are again being held at our church. This was a very popular class last spring. The fall session runs through October 30. Follow the links below for more details and to register. Additional people are particularly wanted for the Tuesday morning sessions.*

*Mondays, 5:30pm: <https://yogadevotion.com/class/first-united-methodist-duluth-yogadevotion-flow-3/>*

*Tuesdays, 9am: <https://yogadevotion.com/class/first-united-methodist-duluth-yogadevotion-flow-am/>*

## *Ways You Can Help Your Church*

*Sign up to help at the Roast Beef Dinner: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-fall2#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8A82CA4FFC61-fall2#/) or call the church office at 218-727-5021.*

*Volunteers are needed to lift the geraniums to overwinter in order to be used again next year. Meet on **Wednesday, September 20 at 9:00am** on the east side of the church and plan for a couple*

hours. Bring pruning shears, gloves, and digging tools, if possible. No experience required; we will train you. Rain date is **September 21 at 9:00am**.

**Ways to give to support your church:** give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://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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