

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 24, 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 *Lonely the Boat*
 Earth and All Stars

Korean folk tune, arr. Michael Burkhardt
arr. Michael Burkhardt

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

Barb Hakala

One: We gather, grateful to be together.

All: Past, present, and future, we find strength in each other.

One: We share stories that offer hope and consolation.

All: We read sacred Scripture that guides our way.

One: We gather, grateful to be together.

All: Past, present, and future, we find strength in each other.

*** Hymn** *In Unity We Lift Our Song*

The Faith We Sing #2221

Children's Message

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

Anthem *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

arr. Jack Schrader

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Prayer of Confession: Gracious God, Jesus taught us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We confess that in our own self-focus, we don't always show love to you and others. Forgive us when we fail to live out love. Help us to always draw the circle wide, including all people. Give us open hearts that love in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Through God's love, we are forgiven and given new opportunity. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, healed, and freed to be all that God has created you to be.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer

Loving God, Sacred One, Blessed be your name. May your kingdom come, your dream arrive, your purpose prevail, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive those who have wronged us. Help us steer clear of temptation and protect us from evil. We trust you in this, for the kingdom, its power and its beauty, are yours forever. Amen.

Nehemiah 6:1-9, 15-16

- One: When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it – though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates – Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message:
- All: **“Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.”** But they were scheming to harm me, so I sent messengers to them with this reply: **“I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?”**
- One: Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter in which was written:
- All: **“It is reported among the nations – and Geshem says it is true – that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports, you are about to become their king and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king, so come, let us meet together.”**
- One: I sent him this reply: **“Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.”** They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, **“Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.”** But I prayed, **“Now strengthen my hands.”**
- All: **... So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.**

Anthem *Towers* Cathy Moglebust
 Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

Offering Our Gifts *Climate Event* Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Charlie Orsak

* Hymn *Together We Serve* The Faith We Sing #2175

Sermon *Spiritual Guides: Nehemiah* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Shalom to You* UM Hymnal #666; sing twice

Benediction

Postlude *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* arr. David Schack

** 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.

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

*A new member information class will be held **today at 11:00am** in the upper level Fireside Lounge, for those wishing to learn more about our church. This is the only session needed to join the church.*

*Faith Forum is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge, and new participants are always welcome. On **October 1**, Marian Flammang will lead an introduction to different forms of spiritual meditations. 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 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. 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.*

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.

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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