



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 26, 2023
First Sunday in Advent



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 *Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come)* J.S. Bach
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UM Hymnal #213

Children's Message

Lighting the First Advent Candle – the Candle of Hope

One: We begin the season of Advent. A time of waiting and preparing for the coming Christ. Each Sunday, we light a candle to guide us in our journey. Today we light the candle of HOPE as we sing together:

All: He came down that we may have hope; *(The Faith We Sing #2085)*
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.

Children may leave for Christmas program rehearsal following the lighting of the Advent Candle.

Welcoming Jean Wulfers

Congregational Response: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of our hope. God of hope, come to us again this Advent. May your hope live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer - contemporary paraphrase by Mark Berry

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. May our future actions grow from here! Amen!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built her house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish person who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

* Hymn	<i>My Hope is Built</i>	UM Hymnal #368
Sermon	<i>An Advent Foundation</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Anthem	<i>Built on a Rock</i>	Jay Althouse
	Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director	

Offering Our Gifts

* Hymn	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	UM Hymnal #196
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Benediction

Postlude	<i>Toccata on Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	Paul Manz
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** 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.

*Faith Forum is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **December 3**, Maggy Emery from Protect Minnesota will talk about gun violence prevention in our state. On **December 10**, writer **Lezlie Oachs** will talk about how poet Emily Dickinson dealt with grief, pain and the occasional tiff with God.*

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their estimates of giving for 2024. If you haven't yet, There are extra copies in envelopes by the ushers' table. Please mail them to church (FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811), bring them to the church office, call the church office (218-727-5021) or fill them out online: <https://onrealm.org/FirstUMCMN/-/form/pledge/2024pledgedgiving>. Thank you for returning your forms and helping your church plan financially for 2024.

The Terri Lynn Fundraiser online store will be open in December to buy the gourmet candies and nuts that you love and love to give away. Funds raised will go towards next summer's youth mission trip. Place your order here: coppertopduluth.terrilynn.com/

*Does your child play an instrument? Maybe they have been taking piano lessons and are working on Christmas music during their lessons. Maybe they have learned to play an instrument in school. If so, we invite them to share a Christmas piece with the congregation during the prelude time on **Sunday, December 17**, the day of the Children's Pageant. Please contact Velda Bell (music@fumcduluth.com) or Beth Brophy (musickids@fumcduluth.com) if you are interested or have questions.*

This year's Advent/Christmas mission project will have opportunities for you to help your neighbors with financial gifts, collecting items, and donating your time. Please look for details in the December First Family.

*The Children's Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World" will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 17**. All children preschool age and up are invited to share their beautiful musical talents to tell the Christmas story on a journey to Bethlehem. Rehearsals will be every Sunday morning AND every Wednesday evening at 5pm for kids 2nd grade and younger, and at 5:40pm for grade 3 and older. There will be a final dress rehearsal **Saturday December 16**, from 10:30-12:00. Children may come to any or all rehearsals and still participate. Please contact director Beth Brophy with any questions: musickids@fumcduluth.com*

Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians

Saturday, Dec. 9 (7:00 pm) - Strikepoint and Friends present A Bell Noël: a holiday fundraising concert

Our own Strikepoint, along with some distinguished guest artists, will take over our Sanctuary to share holiday favorites. Tickets for this special concert will be available at the door: \$25 for adults; \$10 for kids and students.

Sunday, Dec. 10 – 10 am worship – Lessons and Carols service

You don't want to miss our annual Lessons and Carols Service held during morning worship. This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by First UMC's Sanctuary Choir and Strikepoint, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

Sunday, Dec. 10 (7:00 pm) - Twin Ports Wind Orchestra's Holiday Concert

Please join the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass for a concert of inspiring seasonal favorites, warmth and good cheer. Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by First UMC's Dr. Mark



Whitlock, the TPWO brass section will perform a variety of your favorite Christmas music. Free-will donations accepted.

Friday, Dec. 15 (7:30 pm) and Saturday, Dec. 16 (3 pm) – Gloria: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert, this year at First Lutheran Church (1100 E. Superior St., Duluth). The Chorale will present new and traditional settings of "Gloria," featuring John Rutter's breathtaking Gloria, and works by Mozart and Wilberg. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our Velda Graham Bell will be playing organ and Derek Bromme trombone. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available at the door or online at arrowheadchorale.com.

Ways You Can Help Your Church



Volunteers are needed to serve a meal at Union Gospel Mission on **Monday, December 11** from 11:30am-1:30pm.

Volunteers are needed to help with Ruby's Pantry, here at FUMC, on **Thursday, December 21** from 4-7pm.

Volunteers are needed to help with making and/or serving coffee following Sunday services. Our goal is to have enough so that people are scheduled no more than once a month.

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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