



Sunday, January 14, 2024
Human Relations Sunday
“We stand for racial justice and equality”

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 *Go Down, Moses* arr. Calvin Taylor
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Kelby Werner

One: The Kingdom of God is coming! Let your Reign, O God, be acknowledged among all people.

All: **We stand on the threshold of truth. We are perched on the branches of justice. Across the horizon**

we see the outline of peace and harmony.

One: With privilege comes responsibility. With responsibility comes accountability. With accountability comes integrity. With integrity comes justice and equality for all.

All: **God, equip us to love fully and live faithfully in your Kingdom!**

*** Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* UM Hymnal #577

Children’s Message

Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children’s Message

Anthem *Let Me Listen* music by Dan Forrest; lyrics by Charles Anthony Silvestri
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

From the composer: “Written as a statement of support for and allyship with ... all people of color. Too often, in any aspect of life, we explain away other people’s experiences instead of seeking to understand experiences that differ from our own; we’re so busy talking about our own viewpoints that we fail to listen to the voices we most need to hear.”

Morning Prayer
Prayers of Joy and Concern

Unison Prayer from the Upper New York Conference of the UMC

Gracious God, every day we’re confronted with language and images that remind us that racism is real and its impacts are far reaching. Open our eyes to see racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while

providing entitlement to others. Open our ears to recognize both unfairness and indifference, to hear even our own voices when we speak ignorance or ambivalence. Open our mouths to speak up when remaining silent is harmful. Open our arms to embrace one another, to carry each other's burdens, and to build bridges of understanding. Open our hearts so that we may fully receive your grace; point us toward your light so that we may more clearly understand your desires and vision for all humankind. We pray that in this new year we may remove the barriers that block us from seeing you clearly in one another, that divide rather than unite, and that keep us as strangers rather than neighbors. Give us the courage to stand up against those injustices and stand with those who are oppressed. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

Scripture Reading

Kelby Werner

Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So, too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Anthem *Get Together*

Chester Powers

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Sermon *Meeting the Moment*

CHUM Executive Director John Cole

* **Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

UM Hymnal #519

Benediction

*This is a difficult time in the world, but God promises we will overcome.
We will end the service singing that promise:*

* **Hymn** *We Shall Overcome*

UM Hymnal #533

* *Please stand as you are comfortable*





*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, where your help can make a difference! These will 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** in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.*

***Today we welcome John Cole** as our guest preacher. John is the Executive Director of CHUM, which is celebrating 50 years of ministry in our community helping those with the greatest needs. First United Methodist Church is an original founding member church of CHUM.*

***Faith Forum** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **January 21**, Bill Alexander will introduce you to everything about handbells and our church's 50-year journey with this unusual art form, all in 45 minutes! The following week, **January 28**, Tom and Debbi King will lead a session on creativity and the process of writing text and music.*

***The Sustainability Team** will meet after the service today in the library. New people are always welcome!*

***Twin Ports MLK Day Events.** The Duluth NAACP is leading a series of events on January 14 and 15 to honor and carry on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

***Community Worship Service on Sunday, January 14** at 4pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church (2310 E. 4th St., Duluth).*

***Community Breakfast on Monday, January 15** from 7-9:30am at our church. If you can come and be an informal host, that would be wonderful! The broadcast runs from 8-9:30am. A freewill offering will support the United Negro College Fund, which supports Minnesota students of African heritage to attend college. For more information, visit mlkbreakfast.com.*

***MLK Rally on Monday, January 15** from noon to 1:30pm at DECC Symphony Hall (350 Harbor Drive).*

***Nyah Ratcliff** has been one of our nursery attendants since September. Wednesday, January 17 will be her last day with us, due to her school schedule and weekend commitments. Please take the opportunity today or Wednesday to thank her for her ministry with us.*

***Singles' Gathering.** Singles of all ages are invited to gather on **Sunday, January 21** at 4:30 in the Fireside Lounge for a fun time of food, conversation, and a game or two. Bring a dish to share with others; coffee, tea, and water will be provided but if you want something else, please bring that. RSVP with Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com), sign up at church or call the church office.*

***Youth Night (6th-12th grades) at Adventure Zone** is **Friday, January 26**. Meet at church at 6pm for pizza first; we'll return to church at 10pm. Please bring \$15 for dinner and Adventure Zone. Sign up with Pastor Jeanine or in the church office.*

***All women of the church are invited** to the Women's Retreat at beautiful Camp Amnicon on **Saturday, March 9**, from 9am until after dinner. Our focus will be the sacred feminine and feminist theology. This will be a single day – no overnight stay – and you can come for all or part of the day. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served but you can sign up for what you want. The costs will vary depending on the number of meals: each meal is \$12 and then a \$4 camp fee. The total for the day would be \$40, and scholarships are available. Please sign up in the church office by **February 20**. Contact Anne Miller (218-525-1555) with any questions.*

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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