



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, February 4, 2024**  
**Communion Sunday**

*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 ages 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**     *Light the Fire in My Heart Again*     Bill Maxwell  
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

**Welcome and Announcements**     Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Call to Worship**     Mark Harvey

One: Gather us in, all peoples together.

**All: In this sanctuary, online, in many homes, near and far.**

One: Gather us in, and hold us together.

**All: Not in some heaven, light-years away.**

One: But here in this place, this sanctuary, this home, this city, this world.

**All: The new light is shining! Now is the kingdom, now is the day!**

**\* Hymn**     *Gather Us In*     The Faith We Sing #2236

**Children's Message**

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

**Morning Prayer**

Unison Prayer

**God of comfort and compassion, thank you for hearing both our praise and our lament. What a gift it is that you welcome our true feelings, never withholding your love and affection from us. We grieve the devastation and suffering in our world. We grieve the destruction of addiction. We get angry when children suffer and when groups of people are excluded and treated unjustly. Hear our prayers, O God of grace. Come with your healing. Come with your mercy. Come with your power. Come with your love. Amen.**

Prayers of the Congregation

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 Reading**

Mark Harvey

**Genesis 6:5-22**

One: The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great on the earth and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said,

**All:** "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created – people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

**One:** But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second and third decks. For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten and store it up, and it shall serve as food for you and for them."

**All:** Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

- \* Hymn      *All Who Hunger*      The Faith We Sing #2126
- Sermon      *Spiritual Guides: Noah*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander
- \* Hymn      *Here is Bread, Here is Wine*      The Faith We Sing #2266

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Please put your financial gifts in the offering plates at the front or back of the Sanctuary, or through online giving.*

**Communion Music**    *Miserere Mei*      Antonio Lotti  
   Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director  
*Sung in Latin. English translation: Have mercy on me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies, do away mine offenses.*

- \* Hymn      *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*      UM Hymnal #664

### Benediction

**Postlude**      *Fugue in C Major (Jig Fugue)*      Dietrich Buxtehude  
   Velda Graham Bell, organ

\* 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, 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.

*The annual meeting* to elect leadership, take action on membership, and hear the financial report will take place on **Sunday, February 11** at 11:15am, following worship. All church members and friends are invited to participate. If you cannot attend in person and would like the information emailed or mailed to you, please let the office know.

*Faith Forum* is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **February 11**, Duluth Community Education Director Anne Schilling will talk about community learning and teaching opportunities through Community Ed. The following week, **February 18**, we will discuss the need/call to change our world toward more life-sustaining cultures and economies, and what that means for us personally.

*The kitchen pantry* has been cleaned out and items we no longer need are available for a freewill donation. Please take a look at the items on the tables in Lakeview Social Hall following the service and adopt a few to take home!

*Giving envelopes* are on a table in the Narthex, if you requested them. Your name is on them.

*Ash Wednesday*, the beginning of the season of Lent, is **Wednesday, February 14**. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

- There will be regular children's activities.
- 6:00-6:40pm – Soup Supper (and also macaroni and cheese)
- 7:00pm – Worship Services, with a special activity for children as part of the service. You will receive the sign of the cross with ashes on your forehead or hand.
- The service will be available as a livestream at 7:00pm or afterwards on YouTube.

*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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## *Ways You Can Help Your Church*



*Volunteers are needed* to help staff the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. Talk to Pamela Brown for more information.

*The church is looking for a licensed electrician* to volunteer for wiring to migrate from fluorescent to LED lighting. Please talk with Sandy Smith in the church office.

*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.