



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 11, 2024

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 *Adagio in E Major* Frank Bridge
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Mark Whitlock

One: Creator of all of us, Creator of the spangled heavens, come to us.

All: We your children, in your likeness, delight in sharing inventive powers with you.

One: Where lonely people drift unnoticed, where people are seeking purpose and meaning.

All: Great Creator, still creating, show us what we can do.

One: Where there is hatred, violence, and destruction.

All: Great Creator, still creating, show us what we can do.

One: You created us with creative purpose, to serve others and honor you.

All: Great Creator, still creating, show us what we can do.

*** Hymn** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* UM Hymnal #150

Song *Love* George Bruns and Floyd Huddleston
JAM and the Peanut Butter Band, and JAM Jr.; Beth Brophy, director

Children's Message

Anthem *Grandeur* Karen Thompson
Class Ring; Bill Alexander, director
Children may leave for Sunday School following Class Ring's anthem.

Morning Prayer Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
Prayers of the Congregation

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!

Offering Our Gifts
Doxology: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UM Hymnal #95
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Scripture Readings Mark Whitlock

John 13:33-35

Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one

another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

* Hymn	<i>The Gift of Love</i>	UM Hymnal #408
Anthem	<i>I Believe</i>	Mark Miller
	Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director Alix Craft, soloist	
Sermon	<i>The Difference Love Makes</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	The Faith We Sing #2238
Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Toccata on Aberystwyth</i>	Brenda Portman

* 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.*

***The annual meeting** to elect leadership, take action on membership, and hear the financial report will take place **today**, right after worship, in Lakeview Social Hall. 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 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 following week, **February 25**, Beth Miller will talk about photography as a spiritual practice.*

***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.

Velda Graham Bell will be playing an organ recital at FUMC on **Wednesday, February 21**, from 12:15-12:45pm. This is the first in a series of Lenten noontime recitals sponsored by the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The recital will include music composed by Louis Couperin, J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Frank Bridge, and Brenda Portman. Admission is free but donations will be accepted for the Arrowhead Chapter's Organ Scholarship Fund. Come and hear our Austin pipe organ, now sounding better than ever following the various repairs and improvements over the last few years!

Lenten Book Study: "Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together" by Paul Chilcote. This class will be led by Rev. MaryAnne Korsch, Dr. Maryjane Burdge, and Pastor Jeanine Alexander. There are two options: Thursdays at 10am in person at FUMC or Thursdays at 6:30pm on Zoom. Attend whichever session works best for you each week. The classes will be held February 22 and 29, and March 7 and 21. Our world needs love during these desperate days of radical polarization and division. "Multiplying Love" underscores what matters most and helps us embrace the Wesleyan vision of love of Jesus as central to what we believe and how we live. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by calling the church office (218-727-5021). Books are available to purchase for \$15.

Women's Retreat: 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.

A new Yogadevotion session, led by Carla Egge, will begin on **Monday, March 4**, and run for 8 weeks. Meet in the Chapel at 5:30pm. Sign up at yogadevotion.com/class/first-united-methodist-duluth-yogadevotion-flow-pm-3/

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 bring crockpots of soup for the soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on February 14. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office (218-727-5021). Please have soup here by 6pm; dinner is 6-6:40pm.

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 OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.