



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, February 18, 2024**  
*First Sunday of Lent*

*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.*

*Children will remain in worship today. Activity bags are available outside the Sanctuary. A nursery for children ages 5 and under is on the lower level and includes a Bible lesson.*

**Prelude**     *Aria*     Charles Callahan  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

**Welcome and Announcements**     Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* **Hymn**     *Guide My Feet*     The Faith We Sing #2208

**Extinguishing of the First Lenten Candle**     Lee Cutler

One: In the season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, we light a new candle each Sunday. In this season of Lent, as we prepare for Good Friday, we extinguish a candle each Sunday to remind us of the approaching darkness of betrayal and death.

All: **Jesus came into the world to be the light that guides us to God. During this time of Lenten preparation, we think of those who turned away from the light of Jesus. Jesus healed many who were sick in mind, body, or spirit. Only a few returned to give thanks. We realize that we take the gifts of God for granted...that our lives sometimes lack gratitude. Our lack of gratitude shields the light of Christ from us and others. We extinguish the first candle, confessing our own failure to give thanks to God.**

One: Let us sing our Lenten song of prayer as we call upon God's presence.

**Prayer Song**     *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*     The Faith We Sing #2193

All: *Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

**Children's Message**

**Anthem**     *Let It Start With Me*     Laura and Sam Allen  
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

**Scripture Reading**     Lee Cutler

**James 1: 1-18**

One: James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations. Greetings!

All: **Consider it pure joy, my friends, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

One: If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given.

All: **But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That one should not think they will receive anything from the Lord; they are a double-minded person, unstable in all they do.**

One: The person in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in their low position, because they will pass away like a wildflower. For the

sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich person will fade away even while they go about their business.

**All: Blessed is the person who perseveres under trial, because when they have stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love God.**

One: When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does God tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by their own evil desire, they are dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my good friends.

**All: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Lord of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. God chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all that was created.**

### Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

**Unison 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 we don't always show love to you and others and even to ourselves. Forgive us when we fail to live out love. Help people see you through our love. Help us love in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: 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 the Congregation

Jesus' Prayer – from the New Zealand Prayer Book

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

### Offering Our Gifts

**Anthem**      *Spirit, Open My Heart*      Irish melody, arr. Alfred Fedak  
Mary Lee and Derek Bromme, vocal duet

Please join in singing the final refrain:  
*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love, may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.*

**Sermon**      *Putting Feet to Our Faith #2: Developing Perseverance*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* **Hymn**      *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*      UM Hymnal #117

### Benediction

**Postlude**      *Postlude in D*      Healey Willan

\* 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, 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.

***Faith Forum*** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **February 25**, Beth Miller will talk about photography as a spiritual practice. The following week, **March 3**, Nate Stewart from the Human Development Center will talk about the Crisis Response Team's work.

***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.

***The St. Olaf Handbell Choir***, from St. Olaf College in Northfield, will present a concert on **Saturday, March 2** at 7pm in our Sanctuary. Admission is free but a freewill offering will be taken. This concert is part of their winter tour. The program will feature both original compositions and arrangements - everything from tangos to J.S. Bach, plus a little jazz. A highlight will be the premier performance of a work by one of the ringers; another piece combines bells, vocal quartet, French horn, and piano. The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, directed by Jill Mahr, hosted our own Strikepoint on their tour last summer. Please come and support this choir while enjoying an evening of music.

***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 <https://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 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.*