

# First Family

FEBRUARY 2025

Volume 59, Number 1



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

230 E. SKYLINE PARKWAY

DULUTH, MN 55811

[WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM](http://WWW.FUMCDULUTH.COM)

## **Pastor's Column**

Dear Friends,

You will notice this newsletter is different from those Bill Alexander, and Cindy Alexander before him (and with him) produced. So many of us are filled with grief and shock as we miss the earthly presence of Bill who died on January 13 following a short battle with cancer. Bill was baptized in this congregation, served in this congregation, and had his celebration of life among us. Oh how we love him and miss him. If you want to talk and share as we walk through this time, please seek me out. I know you will be supporting each other.

Thank you to Greg Leiviska, one of our office staff, for working on this newsletter. Thank you to Christine Winkler Johnson for leading, on an interim basis, both the Cast in Bronze adult bell choir and Class Ring youth bell choir. Derek Bromme has already taken direction of Strikepoint. Sandy Smith (our Director of Operations), your SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), and I will be working on a longer term communications plan. Velda Bell (our Director of Music), your SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), and I will be working on a longer term music plan. Aaron Boyson, our SPRC chair will give us all an update at our annual meeting following worship on February 9. Please be patient, helpful and prayerful as we move into our future.

I end with words Rev. MaryAnne shares with us by young adult author Bruce Coville. He says this about sadness and grief:

***Nothing you love is lost.***

***Not really.***

***Things, people... they always go away, sooner or later.***

***You can't hold them, any more than you can hold moonlight.***

***But if they've touched you, if they're inside you, then they're still yours.***

***The only things you ever really have are the ones you hold inside your heart.***

With love and blessings, Pastor Jeanine

## **WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**

**10am in person ... 10 am live stream  
... anytime after on YouTube**

**February 2** : Holy Communion ...  
Sermon: Looking at the Prodigal # 1 –  
Sinners Welcome

**February 9**: All Church  
Meeting/Party ... Sermon: Looking at  
the Prodigal # 2 – Both Sons Lost

**February 16** : Sermon: Looking at  
the Prodigal # 3 – The Elder Brother

**February 23** : Sermon: Looking at the  
Prodigal # 4 – The True Elder Brother



# Children & Youth

## CHILDREN (NURSERY - 5TH GRADE)

### Sunday School @ 10am:

#### Sundays, February 2, 9 & 23

- Children K-5th grade leave for Sunday school after the children's message
- February 2nd is Pajama & Movie Day
- February 16th (President's Weekend) children will stay in worship. There will be a children's message and activity bags will be available for the kids during worship. Nursery care will be provided
- NURSERY CARE for 5 and under 8:30am-end of worship

#### Wednesday, February 5

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery - 2nd grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:40-6:05pm - JAM Music: 3rd-5th graders singing/drumming
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- Dinner at 6:00-6:30pm
- Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

#### Wednesday, February 12

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery - 2nd grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:40-6:05pm - JAM Music: 3rd-5th graders singing/drumming ...
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- Dinner at 6:00-6:30pm
- CRUISE GAME NIGHT for everyone 6:45-7:30pm.
- Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

#### Wednesday, February 19

NO GROUPS/NO MEAL

#### Wednesday, February 26

- 5-5:30pm – Jam Jr. Music: nursery - 2nd grade in the chapel, including Bible learning
- 5:40-6:05pm - JAM Music: 3rd-5th graders singing/drumming ...
- 5:30-6:00pm – Supervised play time for 2nd grade and under
- Dinner at 6:00-6:30pm
- Tweens Group 6:45-7:30 – 3rd-5th grades
- Nursery care available 5:00-8:00pm

## WEDNESDAYS FOR YOUTH (6TH-12TH GRADES)

#### Wednesday, February 5

- 6:30pm CONFIRMATION CLASS
- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- Youth who are not in confirmation may hang out in the youth room
- 7:45-8:45 -- Youth Bells/Class Ring

#### Wednesday, February 12

- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- CRUISE GAME NIGHT for everyone 6:45-7:30pm.
- 7:45-8:45pm -- Youth Bells/Class Ring

#### Wednesday, February 19

NO GROUPS/NO MEAL

#### Wednesday, February 26

- Come anytime 6:00-6:30pm for supper
- 6:30-7:30pm – Youth Group
- 7:45-8:45pm -- Youth Bells/Class Ring

---

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Join us for a special Earth Day celebration with Douglas Wood, Minnesota's renaissance man—author, musician, artist, naturalist, and wilderness guide. Douglas will begin by sharing an early Earth Day message from the pulpit. After the service, he will present a community concert in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, reflect on the Earth's beauty, and enjoy a unique performance by a renowned artist.

---

### *Thank You Larry!*

*Thank you for being here for all of us. Whatever the request or task to be completed - you are there. You are an amazing role model and a positive influence in your work here. Countless members here at FUMC talk of your hard work and helpful attitude. We are blessed you are among us.*

*Anonymously submitted*

---

ANNUAL CHURCH  
CONFERENCE MEETING &  
PARTY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
LENNON-BERINI SCHOLARS  
CLASS OF 2025

These fine students received a check for \$2000 on December 29, 2024.

Ashley Etter, Rhonda Montavon,  
Daniel Niemi, Holland Venhuizen and  
Brennen Werner.

We will be having our annual meeting and social gathering to elect leadership, take action on membership, hear the financial report, and have a time of connection on Sunday, February 9 at 11:15pm following worship. Watch your weekly e-mail for information. All church members and friends are invited to participate.

---

CHUM ART SUPPLY DRIVE

Support creative activities at St. Francis Apartments!

Donations of all kinds and sizes are welcome, as long as they are reasonably sized. Supplies will be used for guided activities led by volunteers, offering our residents a chance to express themselves and engage in meaningful projects.

Drop off supplies at the St. Francis Apartments main office (131 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802) Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

---

COMMUNION SUNDAYS = BRING FOOD FOR THE FOOD SHELF

Every communion Sunday (typically the first Sunday of the month) we are asking you to bring a donation of food (or monetary donation) for the CHUM food shelf. That way when we come to the communion table to be fed spiritually we are also feeding others who are physically hungry. The food shelf cart will be available for donations. If you make a financial donation please note "food shelf: in the check memo or envelope and make checks out to FUMC. Thank you for loving our neighbors in need.

---

"WOMEN ROWING NORTH" BOOK DISCUSSION

Chase away the winter blahs! Anne Miller will facilitate a discussion of Mary Pipher's book "Women Rowing North: Navigating Life Currents and Flourishing as We Age."

There will be six sessions, beginning Tuesday, February 18 at 10am in the church library. We'll explore specific issues women face as we transition from middle age to old age. A similar discussion group held last spring was very popular with the participants! Join us, and enjoy time with other wonderful women. There's a signup sheet in the Narthex; the group will be limited to 10 people in order to enhance and encourage discussion.

---

First United Methodist

The Coppertop Church on the Skyline  
230 E. Skyline Parkway Duluth, MN



# ***Safety Last***

*A Silent Film*

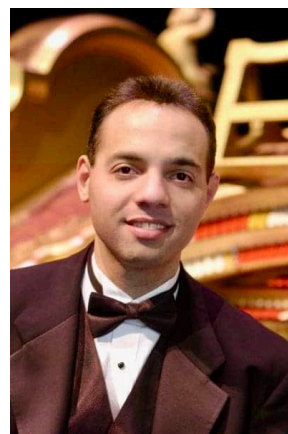
**Friday, March 7 • 7:00 PM**

Featuring renowned theater organist

**Jelani Eddington**

on the newly renovated Austin pipe organ

\$20 suggested donation



**First United Methodist Church  
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth, MN 55811**

Union Gospel Mission is excited to announce a brand-new event designed to unite the community in a shared mission: providing food, shelter, and hope to individuals in need throughout the Northland.

The inaugural Miles for the Mission 5K will take place on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 11:00AM, beginning at Leif Erickson Park and culminating in a celebratory gathering at Bent Paddle Brewing. Participants of all ages and abilities are invited to run or walk individually or as part of a team, raising critical funds that directly support UGM's essential programs.

Set in the heart of Duluth's coldest month, this unique event offers more than just a race. It's an opportunity to walk in solidarity with those experiencing the harsh realities of homelessness during winter while making a meaningful impact in the local community. To register for the Miles for the Mission 5K, visit [duluth-ugm.org](http://duluth-ugm.org).

With appreciation of FUMC's continued kindness and support,  
Katie Hagglund | Executive Director  
(218) 722-1196

---

**Conversation with church friends:** A group is meeting over Zoom every second and fourth Tuesday at 10am to catch up with each other and talk about what comes up that day. If you're interested in joining the group, contact Pamela Brown at [pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us](mailto:pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us)

---

Have you moved? Dropped your landline? Changed your email address? Please be sure to let the church office know your updated contact information

---

#### FAITH FORUM FEBRUARY 2025

**Feb. 2** - Allen Anway discussing the Great Eclipse of April 8, 2024. You do not need sunglasses.

**Feb. 9** - Guest Mark Holman brings his perspectives on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

**Feb. 16** - Emma Pardini returns by popular request to share more information on WLSSD recycling program

**Feb. 23** - Staff member Matthew Sjellin will tell us what's happening at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. The what??? Come find out!

Ways to give to support your church:  
give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com) or use the QR code. or text **COPPERTOP** to **73256** or mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.



#### FIRST FAMILY

First United Methodist Church  
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811  
218-727-5021, [info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:info@fumcduluth.com)  
Pastor: Jeanine Alexander  
Interim Editor: Greg Leiviska  
Next First Family deadline: February 19  
Submit to [welcome@fumcduluth.com](mailto:welcome@fumcduluth.com)  
[www.fumcduluth.com](http://www.fumcduluth.com)

*Thank you for reading!*



# EXPANSION EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, February 27th, at 5:00 PM  
Clyde Iron Works, 2920 W Michigan St, Duluth

A Mid-Winter Night of Fun and Celebration

*Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar, Silent and Live Auctions,  
Festive Photo Booth with Masks, Beads, and More*

Revel in the vibrant energy of Mardi Gras with great music and festive attire

Support a vital cause – Your participation helps raise funds to expand CHUM programs and shelter, providing more space and resources for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Party with a purpose – Enjoy an evening of fun, food, and festivities, all while giving back to your community.

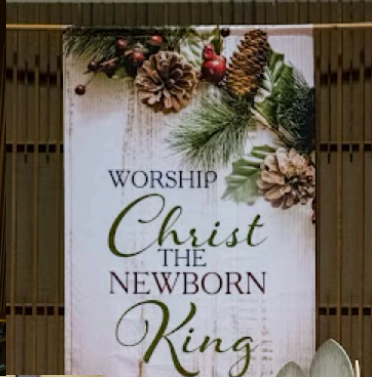
Show your solidarity – By attending, you're standing with us in the fight to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

Meet like-minded community members – Connect with others who share your passion for making a difference.

This is CHUM's big fundraising event of the year for operating budget and shelter expansion.

For reservations or to volunteer contact Pastor Jeanine [pastor@fumcduluth.com](mailto:pastor@fumcduluth.com) or Sarah Maddy [shmaddy@outlook.com](mailto:shmaddy@outlook.com)

More details: <https://www.chumduluth.org/expansionextravaganza>





# First United Methodist Church

First Family (USPS 349-210) Is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799. Periodic postage is paid at Duluth, MN 55806.

Volume 59, number 1

Postmaster: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811-2799

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Pastor** - Jeanine Alexander  
pastor@fumcduluth.com

**Deacon** - Rev. MaryAnne Korsch  
maryanne.korsch@gmail.com

**Director of Operations** - Sandy Smith  
admin@fumcduluth.com

**Faith Community Nurse** - Linda Wiig  
nurse@fumcduluth.com

**Director of Music Ministries/Organist**  
Velda Graham Bell  
music@fumcduluth.com

**Sanctuary Choir Director** - Derek Bromme  
dbromme@css.edu

**Tapestry Directors** - Leah and Corey Hulst  
rockingduluth@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant** - Nancy Eaton  
info@fumcduluth.com

**Director of Children's Music** - Beth Brophy  
musickids@fumcduluth.com

**Director of Welcome/Office Assistant**  
Greg Leiviska  
welcome@fumcduluth.com

**Technical Director** - Alex Flinner  
tech@fumcduluth.com

**Congregational Ministries Coordinator**  
Larry Ehresman  
larry@fumcduluth.com

**Bookkeeper** - Shevan Weerasinghe

**Sound Technician** - Tommy Kishida

**Nursery Coordinator** - Abbi Adamec

**Custodians** - Chris Robinson and Kevin Simich