



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 19, 2025

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 will include 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* African American spiritual, arr. Calvin Taylor
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Mark Whitlock

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** *For the Healing of the Nations* UM Hymnal #428

Children’s Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children’s Message.

Anthem *Lift Every Voice and Sing* arr. Lloyd Larson
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Morning Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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 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

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Scripture Readings

Mark Whitlock

Micah 6:6-8

One: With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

All: **God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

Luke 12:6-7

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

I John 4:7-12

One: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

All: **Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

One: This is how God showed love among us: God sent Jesus into the world that we might live through him.

All: **This is love: not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

One: No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and love is made complete in us.

* Hymn *Stay With Us*

The Faith We Sing #2199

Sermon *"A Person's a Person No Matter..."*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Soon and Very Soon*

UM Hymnal #706

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *The Climb*

Miley Cyrus

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors





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.

Join us for coffee and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

Explore FUMC, the only session needed to join the church, will be held after worship **today**. If you are interested but unable to attend this one, another session will be held **Sunday, February 23**. There are signup sheets in the Narthex if you're interested in joining the church or just finding out more about FUMC.

Did you know the church has a gift/donation policy? Before bringing donations of furniture, dishes or glassware, art, etc. to the church, please check with Director of Operations Sandy Smith in the church office. While we appreciate the kind intentions, often the church does not need or cannot store these items.

Twin Ports Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

Community Worship Service: Sunday, January 19, 4:00pm, Peace United Church of Christ (1111 N. 11th Ave. E., Duluth)

Community Breakfast: Monday, January 20, 7-9:30am, FUMC. There will be a brief local program and a viewing of the program broadcast from Minneapolis. Keynote speaker will be author and journalist Michele Norris.

Gathering and March: Monday, January 20, 10:30-11:45am. Gather at the Family Freedom Center/Washington Center Gymnasium.

MLK Rally: Monday, January 20, 12-1:30pm, DECC Symphony Hall (350 Harbor Dr., Duluth)

"Coming Together for the Common Good" is a gathering hosted by Loaves and Fishes on **Monday, January 20** from 6-8pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1710 E. Superior St., Duluth). People are invited to share reflections, poems, and songs to recognize and celebrate how we are helping to create a more resilient, humane, and equitable world. The event celebrates the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and prepares for the presidential inauguration.

A service celebrating the life and legacy of Bill Alexander will be held **Friday, January 24** in our Sanctuary. Visitation begins at 4pm, followed by the service at 5. A reception in Lakeview Social Hall will follow.

Faith Forum is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **January 26**, local professor and former City Council member Joel Sipress will talk about "The Dilemma of an American Jew."

Happy Birthday to all of us! We'll be celebrating everyone's birthday after worship on **Sunday, January 26**. Sign up in the Narthex to attend a potluck birthday party; everyone will sit at the table labeled with

their birthday month. You may also choose to host a birthday-month table. Look for details in the December/January First Family.

*The Church's Annual Meeting to elect leadership, take action on membership, hear the financial report, and have a time of connection will be held **Sunday, February 9** at 11:15am, following worship. All church members and friends are invited to participate.*

***Women Rowing North:** Chase the winter blahs away! 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! Please sign up in the Narthex; the group will be limited to 10 people in order to enhance and encourage discussion.*

***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*

***Guest WIFI Network:** FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.*

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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Ways You Can Help Your Church

Damiano Center is still looking for donations of hats, gloves and mittens, any size.

Ways to give to support your church: give online at fumcduluth.com or use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.

