



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 16, 2025

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. Older children will remain in worship today. Activity bags are available outside the Sanctuary.

Prelude *Variations on "Amazing Grace"* Denis Bédard
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Linda Wiig

One: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
All: so God seeks and saves the lost.
One: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
All: so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.
One: As a parent receives a returning wayward child,
All: so God welcomes us and lets the past be the past.
One: Let us praise the God who seeks, receives, and welcomes us.
All: Here in this place, we will welcome ALL people with joy!

*** Hymn** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* UM Hymnal #66

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children age 5 and under may leave for the nursery following the Children's Message. Older children will remain in worship today. Activity bags are available outside the Sanctuary.

Anthem *Glorious Celebration* Cynthia Dobrinski
Class Ring; Christine Winkler Johnson, director

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

*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.*

Prayers of Joy and Concern
One: God who seeks us.
All: Hear our prayer.

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!

Prayer Song *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

The Faith We Sing #2193

*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.*

Scripture Reading

Linda Wiig

Luke 15:25-32

- One: Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.
- All: **He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'**
- One: Then the older brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"
- All: **Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."**

Anthem *By Your Love*

Jeanne Cotter

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director
Soloists: Henry Mattson, Alix Craft, Emily Wetzel

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

UM Hymnal #390

Sermon *Looking at the Prodigal #3: Lost in Self-Righteousness*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Amazing Grace*

UM Hymnal #378

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Pastor: In a world of death and alienation, we have been remade into a community of reconciliation.

All: **We will proclaim the Good News as Christ's ambassadors of hope.**

Pastor: Rejoice! Throw a party! Welcome the lonely, the lost!

All: **We will sing and dance, laugh and celebrate. We will invite everyone.**

One: New life is a gift from God, a gift through Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *Toccata on "Amazing Grace"*

Denis Bédard

Velda Graham Bell, organ



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.

*Faith Forum is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **February 23**, Matthew Sjellin will talk about what's happening at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum.*

*The next "Explore FUMC" class will be held after worship on **Sunday, February 23**. This is the only session needed to join the church. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex if you're interested in joining the church or just finding out more about FUMC.*

*Mark your calendars for **Silent Movie Night** with live organ accompaniment. See and hear what it was like to experience a silent movie back in the 1920s! Renowned theater organist Jelani Eddington will accompany the classic silent movie "Safety Last!" in our Sanctuary on **Friday, March 7** at 7:00pm. "Safety Last!" is a romantic comedy starring Harold Lloyd and includes one of the most famous images from the silent film era: Lloyd clutching the hands of a large clock as he dangles outside a skyscraper above moving traffic. This is an event for the entire family. Admission to the concert is free, with a suggested donation of \$20. A reception will follow the movie.*

WLSSD has asked that we no longer compost paper towels in the restrooms, due to possible needle contamination. Paper towels may still be composted in the kitchen.

***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*

Fundraisers

*The inaugural **Miles for the Mission 5K** will take place on **Saturday, February 22** at 11am, beginning at Leif Erickson Park and ending with 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 Union Gospel Mission's essential programs. To register, visit duluth-ugm.org.*

***NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner** will be held **Saturday, February 22** at the DECC Harborside Ballroom. Local legend Carl Crawford will emcee and the keynote speaker will be Taifa Butler of Demos. This event will bring the community together to celebrate each other and to recognize social justice advocates. Funds raised will support the Economic Empowerment Center and Duluth NAACP operating expenses.*

CHUM's Expansion Extravaganza will be held Thursday, February 27, at 5pm at Clyde Iron Works (2920 W. Michigan St., Duluth). This mid-winter night of fun and celebration will feature hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and silent and live auctions to raise funds for CHUM's operating budget and shelter expansion. For reservations or to volunteer, contact Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com) or Sarah Maddy (shmaddy@outlook.com).

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

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

Music reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense #A-704169, CCLI License #388862 and CCS WORSHIPcast License #12033. All rights reserved.

[Ways You Can Help Your Church and Community](#)

Meals on Wheels is in dire need of volunteers to deliver meals to elderly, homebound members of the community. Routes take between one and two hours, start to finish. Volunteer one or more days a week, as often as you like. Contact Sarah Kumfer with AEOA's Senior Nutrition program at 218-727-4321.

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.

