



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 9, 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. 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 *Drop Kick Me, Jesus* Paul Craft
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Sara Hill

One: Gather us in, all peoples together.

All: **In this Sanctuary, online, in many homes, near and far.**

One: Gather us in, and hold us together.

All: **Not in some heaven, light-years away,**

One: But here in this place, this Sanctuary, this home, this city, this world.

All: **The new light is shining! Now is the kingdom, now is the day!**

*** Hymn** *Gather Us In* The Faith We Sing #2236; v. 1, 2, 4

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me* UM Hymnal #191; v. 1-2

Morning Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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!

Offering Our Gifts Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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.*

UM Hymnal #95

Luke 15:11-32

One: Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.'

All: **"So he divided his property between them.**

Left Side: *"A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.*

Right Side: *"When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

One: "When he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'

All: **"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.**

Left Side: *"Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

Right Side: *"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.*

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.

All: **"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!'**

One: "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.'"

* Hymn *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* UM Hymnal #348, v. 1, 2, 4

Sermon *Looking at the Prodigal #2: Both Sons Lost* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Anthem *All My Hope* David Crowder and Ed Cash, arr. Daniel Semsen
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

* Hymn *In the Midst of New Dimensions* The Faith We Sing #2238; v. 1, 3, 5

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!**

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.

*Today! **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 at 11:15am, following worship. All church members and friends are invited to participate. If you cannot attend and would like the information emailed or mailed to you, please let the church office know.*

***Faith Forum** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **February 16**, Emma Pardini returns by popular request to share more information on the WLSSD recycling program.*

*Please **double-check** that the coat you are leaving with is actually your coat. At least three people have had coats taken over the last year. Please double-check your closets to be sure you haven't picked up someone else's coat by mistake.*

*Our own **Derek Bromme** is performing a Valentine's musical theater cabaret on **Tuesday, February 11** at 7pm in Mitchell Auditorium at the College of St. Scholastica. Derek will be joined by Tasha Kapp (known to FUMC members as part of Strikepoint), Alyson Enderle, Jace LeGarde, Jen Lien and Jessica Schroeder to perform some of the greatest duets Broadway has to offer. General admission tickets are \$10.*

*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.*

*Author and activist Diana Oestreich will speak about her book "Waging Peace: One Soldier's Story of Putting Love First" on **Thursday, February 13** at 7:30pm in Mitchell Auditorium at the College of St. Scholastica. This is part of the Alworth Peace and Justice series of lectures. Oestreich will talk about how we can show up right where we live to wage peace across the lines that divide us and unmake violence. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and autographing.*

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.

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Ways You Can Help Your Church and Community

Habitat for Humanity is in need of 4-6 chairs for a conference table. Please contact Jean Walsh (218-310-4397 or jmbwalsh@gmail.com) if you can help.

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.*

