



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 2, 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 *Come to the Table*

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

Mark Whitlock

One: For everyone born, a place at the table!

All: **ALL are welcome in God's family of faith.**

One: For everyone born, a place at the table!

All: **Here we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace!**

One: For everyone born, a place at the table!

All: **And God delights! Yes, God delights!**

*** Hymn** *A Place at the Table*

insert; v. 1, 4, 5, 6

Anthem *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

African American spiritual; arr. Sue Thomas

JAM and JAM Jr.; Beth Brophy, director

Children 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the anthem.

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me*

UM Hymnal #191, v. 1-2

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer and Affirmation of Faith:

All: You are God. You bring forth life from death, joy from sorrow, blessing out of disaster. You never forget our name, You feel our pain, You renew our lives from the inside out. Thank you for making yourself known to us in the simple act of breaking bread and gathering around a table.

You are the Risen Christ. You bear wounds so that we might not hide from our own. You are present to us in our loneliness, our fear, and our doubt. You help us embrace the hard questions, and face death's door. You walk ahead of us into every experience so we can know we have a Companion on the journey.

You are the Holy Spirit, as close to us as the air we breathe. You inspire your church to be a beacon of light, an oasis of peace, and a fountain of joy. You touch our souls, chase away the blues, and set loose an alleluia. We are your people – the people of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

One: God who seeks us.

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark Whitlock

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.

Higher Voices: "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.

Lower Voices: "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; and no one gave him anything.

One: "But 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.

Lower Voices: "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.'

Higher Voices: "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, and 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.'"

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Together We Serve*

The Faith We Sing #2175

Anthem *Coming Home* Joseph Martin
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Sermon *Looking at the Prodigal #5: Invited to the Banquet* Pastor Jeanine Alexander



The Sacrament of Holy Communion Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

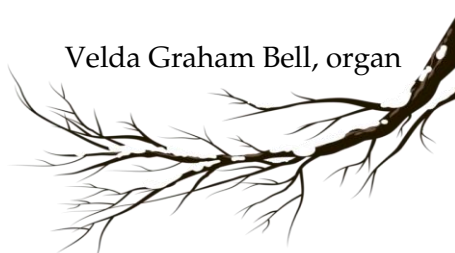
Communion Music *Exuberant Joy* Arnold Sherman
Cast in Bronze; Christine Winkler Johnson, director

Post Communion Prayer *In This Banquet, Lord* sung to the tune of *Desmond (Kum Ba Yah)*
(Sing twice) *In this banquet, Lord, we find home; In this banquet, Lord, we find home;*
In this banquet, Lord, we find home; O Lord, we find home.

Benediction Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Praeludium in G* J.S. Bach

Velda Graham Bell, organ



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.

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, **March 9**, Pat Miller will be talking about "Ancestral Gifts," the traits we absorb from our parents and how they impact the lives we live today.*

*The next "Explore FUMC" class will be held after worship **Sunday, March 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.*

Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent, is this week: March 5. There will be a service in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm where you will receive the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand with ashes. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The Ash Wednesday schedule is:

There will be regular children's activities, music rehearsals, and worship

6:00-6:40 – Soup (and mac and cheese) supper for everyone

No Cast in Bronze or Tapestry rehearsals

7:00pm – Worship service, with a special activity for children as part of the service

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube and available anytime after (a link will be provided).

A Lenten devotional booklet for each day, Ash Wednesday – Easter, will be available or you may ask to receive it electronically (email the church at info@fumcduluth.com).

Ringtones, the handbell choir for upper elementary-aged children, has started rehearsals again under interim handbell director Christine Winkler Johnson's direction. If your child would like to learn how to play bells as well as learn music fundamentals, this would be a great musical activity, plus, it's a lot of fun! Ringtones rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:40 in the Bell Room. For more information, please contact Christine Winkler Johnson at christinewinklerjohnson@gmail.com

Sound Technician Position Available. Our current sound technician, Tommy Kishida, will be leaving his position this month, so the church will be hiring a new sound technician. Duties include setting up sound equipment and operating the sound board for Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday evening worship band rehearsals. Candidates with prior sound mixing experience are preferred, but we are willing to train promising candidates with no formal experience mixing sound. Days off can be arranged as needed. If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please contact Technical Coordinator Alex Flinner at tech@fumcduluth.com.

Lenten Book Study: All are welcome at this year's Lenten book study on six consecutive Monday evenings from 6-7pm, beginning March 10 and concluding April 14, on Zoom. We will join United Methodists across the Minnesota and Dakotas Conferences as we take a deep dive into "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" by Bishop Tom Berlin. Class will be facilitated by Dr. Maryjane Burdge and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch. Pastor Jeanine will join if her schedule allows. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office (218-727-5021) to register. Books are available for purchase for \$13 in the church office. The book describes how the resurrection of Jesus Christ profoundly changed the lives of those who followed him and how it can transform ours as well.

Mark your calendars for Silent Movie Night with live organ accompaniment. Don't miss the opportunity to relive cinematic history and enjoy the rare experience of a silent film accompanied by a majestic, live organ improvisation. On **Friday, March 7 at 7:00pm**, renowned theater organist **Jelani Eddington** will perform in our Sanctuary during the showing of the 1923 Harold Lloyd romantic comedy, "Safety Last!" This event continues to celebrate the recent renovation of our Austin pipe organ. The film runs about an hour and 15 minutes and is family-friendly. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$20. A reception will follow the movie.

Women's Retreat at Camp Amnicon will be **Saturday, March 29, 9am-6pm**. Join us for a day of renewal, relaxation, and inspiration at Camp Amnicon! This retreat is a chance to step away from the busyness of life and connect with other women from FUMC in a peaceful, scenic setting. Enjoy a day filled with meaningful activities, uplifting conversations, and time for reflection. Whether you're looking to recharge your spirit or make lasting connections, this retreat is the perfect opportunity to nurture your mind, body, and soul. Look for a signup sheet at church. Cost is \$15 to attend. Please email jana.picotte@gmail.com with any questions. Jana will be selling homemade crafts and baked goods to raise money towards costs associated with the Women's Retreat starting March 9 after church on Sundays. Keep an eye out for "Treats for the Women's Retreat!" Cash and Venmo payments will be accepted.

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

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Ways You Can Help Your Church and Community

Sign up to bring soup in a crockpot for Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

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.



A Place at the Table



1. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, for ev - ery-one
2. For all who share life, a place at the ta - ble, re - vis - ing the
3. For those we ne - glect, a place at the ta - ble, a voice to be
4. For all who have breath, a place at the ta - ble, a cov - en - ant
5. For you and for me, a place at the ta - ble, though wound - ed and
6. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, to live with-out



born, clean wa - ter and bread, a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing, for
 roles, de - cid - ing the share, with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for
 heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled, for
 shared, a wel - com - ing space, a rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - or, for
 sore, with need to for - give, in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for
 fear, and sim - ply to be, to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for



ev - ery-one born, a star o - ver - head,
 all who share life, a sys - tem that's fair,
 those we ne - glect, the right to be - long, And God will de - light
 all who have breath, the cha - lice of grace,
 you and for me, a new way to live,
 ev - ery-one born, the right to be free,



when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, yes, God will de -



light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and



joy!

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