

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, July 20, 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 is available for children Kindergarten and under; the nursery is located on the lower level to the left of the bathrooms. Activity bags, found on the Family Resource Table outside the Sanctuary, are available for children to use during worship. Please return the activity bags following the service. Sunday School will resume in the fall.

Prelude *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (All Glory Be to God on High), BWV 715*

J.S. Bach

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

Jeanne Carroll

One: We gather to sing praise to God!

All: **We sing to the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.**

One: We gather to sing praise to God!

All: **We sing to the one who is our peace and joy and blessing.**

One: We gather to sing praise to God!

All: **To God all praise and glory!**

*** Hymn** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

UM Hymnal #126

Children's Message

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Jesus taught us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We confess that in our own self-focus we don't always show love to you and others. Forgive us when we fail to live out love. Give us humble hearts that love in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

While it is true that we miss the mark in having the mind-set of Jesus, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and given new opportunity. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, healed, and freed to be all that God has created you to be.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

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!

* Hymn *Spirit, Open My Heart*

attachment

Hymn leaders will sing the verses; congregation joins on refrain.

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Special Music *Concerto "Le Phenix," movements 1 and 3*

Michel Corrette

Bassoon Quartet: Solveig Hadland, Jacob Ginocchio, Adair Ballavance, Beth Brophy

Scripture Reading

Jeanne Carroll

Matthew 13:24-30

One: Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

All: "And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

One: "He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

All: "But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

* Hymn *Help Us Accept Each Other*

UM Hymnal #560, v. 1-3

Sermon *When it comes to religion, who is right and who is wrong?*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *We'll Understand It Better By and By*

UM Hymnal #525, v. 1, 3, 4

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 533*

J.S. Bach

Velda Graham Bell, organ

* please stand as you are comfortable



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.

Thank you to Andrea Flinner, Alex Flinner, and MaryAnne Korsch for helping lead the hymns today.

The white rose on the altar today is in memory of Carol Healy, who died on Tuesday.

The next Youth Mission and Play day is **Monday, July 21**, 10am-5pm. Teens entering grades 7-12 will be serving a meal at Union Gospel Mission and then having fun water activities. Sign up with Pastor Jeanine or the church office.



Strikepoint Summer Concerts

Thursday, July 24, 7pm – Strikepoint will be performing with the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra as their featured guest artists for the final concert of the LSCO's season. The concert takes place at UMD's Weber Music Hall; tickets are available at the door or online at www.lakesuperiorchamberorchestra.com

Friday, August 1, 7pm – Join Strikepoint at the Cathedral of Christ the King (1111 Belknap St.) in Superior for the opening concert of their 2025 summer tour. Admission is free, but an \$18 donation is suggested; 20% of the donation will be returned to the Cathedral's organ fund.

Sunday, August 10, 7pm – Welcome Strikepoint home from tour at a concert in our own Sanctuary. Admission is free, but an \$18 donation is suggested. This year's tour takes them to Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills.

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

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Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

Fine



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1. God, re - place my stony - y heart with a heart that's
2. Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3. May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

to Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

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WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Irregular