



First United Methodist Church *Sunday, August 24, 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	<i>Song Without Words (Op. 19, No. 1)</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
	Velda Graham Bell, piano	
	<i>If With All Your Hearts</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
	Ellen Hill, French horn	

Welcome and Announcements	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
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* Call to Worship	Kelsey Hanson
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One: God of love and God of power, you have called us together.

All: Sometimes we are held in bondage by our fears. May your love and power give us courage and freedom.

One: Your love and power bring people together, filled with boldness, grace, and care.

All: Give us courage and free our spirits, that we might live in your loving power.

* Hymn	<i>God of Love and God of Power</i>	UM Hymnal #578
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Children's Message	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
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Scripture Reading	<u>Esther 4:5-16</u>	Kelsey Hanson
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One: Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned, the king has but one law: that they be put to death, unless the king extends the golden scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

All: When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

One: Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Special Music *"Romanze" from Concerto No. 3 in E Flat Major*
Ellen Hill, French horn

W.A. Mozart

Morning Prayer

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Prayer Song: *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

The Faith We Sing #2128

1. *Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.*

2. *Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.*

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer - by Parker Palmer, adapted

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, heavenly One, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done; let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need; give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days — come swiftly, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen!

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Perhaps You Have Been Chosen*

attachment

Sermon *Voices of Wisdom: Esther (Don't Miss Your Moment)*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *We Are Called*

The Faith We Sing #2172

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Rigaudon*

Andre Campra

Velda Graham Bell, organ

* please stand as you are comfortable



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.

The church office will be closed from 9-noon on **Monday, August 25**. The office will be open from noon-3pm.

Teachers may choose school supplies beginning today. Thank you to everyone who has been so generous in bringing in new school supplies! This may be the most we have ever collected!

Friends of the Felgemaker will present their first concert of the 2025-26 season at Sacred Heart Music Center (201 W. 4th St., Duluth) on **Sunday, September 7** at 3pm. The main work is Dan Forrest's award-winning choral composition, "Requiem for the Living," for choir, organ and chamber orchestra, conducted by Dr. Charles Sundquist. Instrumentalists include our own Velda Graham Bell. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Our 4th annual Seniors' Lunch and Fellowship will take place on **Tuesday, September 16 at 11am**. This free event is for all seniors 65 and over, or anyone who considers themselves a senior. We'll eat a light meal together, enjoy entertainment from Derek Bromme, Alex Flinner, Larry Ehresman, and Pastor Jeanine, and just relish being together. **Please sign up by Tuesday, September 9**, so we have enough food. Sign up in the church office, call the office at 218-727-5021, or email Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com). Let us know if you need a ride.

Pride Weekend is August 30-31. Events include a booth representing local congregations at Bayfront Park on Saturday, an Interfaith Pride service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth church (835 W. College St., Duluth) Sunday at 9:30am, and a parade along Tower Avenue in Superior beginning at noon on Sunday. You are invited to join the Interfaith Pride Choir for the church service. See <https://www.duluthsuperiorpride.com/> for complete information on these events and more.

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

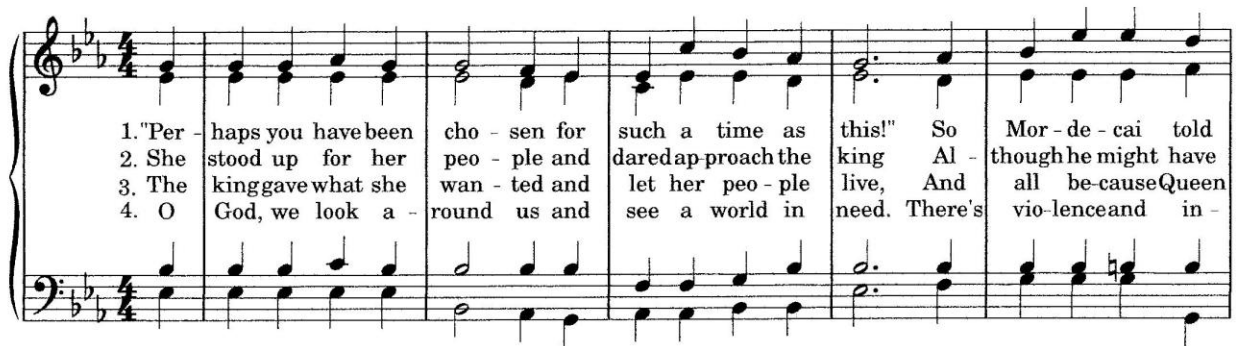
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Ways You Can Help Your Church

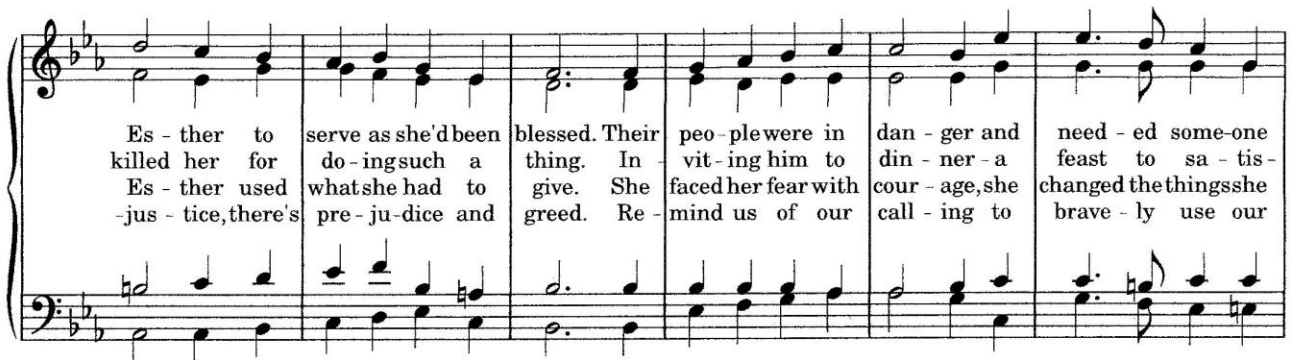
Ways to give to support your church: give online at fumcduluth.com OR use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.



Perhaps You Have Been Chosen



1. "Per - haps you have been cho - sen for such a time as this!" So Mor - de - cai told
 2. She stood up for her peo - ple and dared ap - proach the king Al - though he might have
 3. The king gave what she wan - ted and let her peo - ple live, And all be - cause Queen
 4. O God, we look a - round us and see a world in need. There's vio - lence and in -



Es - ther to serve as she'd been blessed. Their peo - ple were in dan - ger and need - ed some - one
 killed her for do - ingsuch a thing. In - vit - ing him to din - ner - a feast to sa - tis -
 Es - ther used what she had to give. She faced her fear with cour - age, she changed the things she
 - jus - tice, there's pre - ju - dice and greed. Re - mind us of our call - ing to brave - ly use our



brave - A queen who knew her call - ing to risk and act and save.
 - fy - She asked of him a fa - vor: "Don't let my peo - ple die!"
 could, She chose to make a dif - ference - to use her life for good.
 gifts. Per - haps we have been cho - sen for such a time as this.

Biblical Reference: Esther

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation")

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com