



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 31, 2025
Labor Day Weekend and Pride Weekend



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 *Elegy*

James Biery

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Played in memory of those who have died in senseless acts of violence

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship**

Mark Whitlock

One: When life falls apart and our carefully constructed worlds crumble,
All: **We gather to remember that we are not alone.**
One: When we face trouble we did not choose and burdens we cannot bear,
All: **We come seeking the God who transforms suffering into strength.**
One: When we wonder "Whose fault is this?" and "Where is God?"
All: **We trust in the One who turns even evil intentions toward good.**
One: When fear tells us to protect what we might lose,
All: **Faith calls us to share what we know we have.**
One: For God's promise echoes through every valley and every triumph:
All: **"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

*** Hymn** *All Are Welcome*

attachment; v. 1, 2, 4, 5

Children's Message

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Response: Lord, in your love, **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!

Special Music *Come to Me*

Dan Forrest

Riley Hinnenkamp, baritone; Rebecca Peterson, cello

Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Mark Whitlock

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

* Hymn *Be Still, My Soul*

UM Hymnal #534

Sermon *Voices of Wisdom: Joseph (When Life Falls Apart)*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: God of abundance, you have taught us through Joseph's story that there is enough – enough grain for the famine, enough love for the family, enough grace for forgiveness. Free us from the fear that makes us hoard what we have, and fill us with the confidence that comes from your eternal presence. As we offer these gifts, we choose to share rather than protect, to give rather than grasp, trusting that your love is inexhaustible and your future is certain. May these offerings become instruments of your redemption in a world that knows too much fear and too little faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

UM Hymnal #140

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Fantasia in C Major*

J.S. Bach

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.

This is Pride Weekend. There will be a parade along Tower Avenue in Superior beginning at noon on Sunday. See <https://www.duluthsuperiorpride.com/> for complete information on Pride events and more.

Music groups resume rehearsals in September. New members are welcome; talk to Velda Bell or the group's director.

Wed., Sept. 3: The Sanctuary Choir meets at 5:10 in the East Lounge. Cast in Bronze (adult bell choir) meets at 6:30 in the Bell Room. Tapestry (worship band) meets at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

Wed., Sept. 10: Class Ring (bells for 7th-12th grades) meets at 7:30 (time change from last year) in the Bell Room.

Wed., Sept. 17: JAM Jr. (music group for 1st grade and younger meets at 5:00 in the Chapel. Joyful Noise (new music group for 2nd-6th grades) meets at 5:15 in the Tweens Room (Room 112).

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday, when we are encouraged to bring a donation of food or money for the CHUM Food Shelf. We have not yet heard what is particularly needed this month, so anything you bring will be welcome. The next time you're shopping, please keep the Food Shelf in mind and pick up something to bring to church next week, **September 7**, when we celebrate communion.

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 Velda Graham Bell, and Derek Bromme and Riley Hinnenkamp are singing in the choir. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Join Yogadevotion this fall for a Somatic Yoga session on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm, beginning **September 8** and running through October 27. The cost is \$88; register at bit.ly/FUMC-Fall

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.

Faith Forum will again meet on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 in Fireside Lounge, beginning on **September 14**. At our first meeting this fall, Lauren Carolan will share her experiences and work with people with Parkinson's Disease. All are welcome at Faith Forum! Please join us as we share stories, become more informed about our community, and challenge each other to grow in faith and understanding.

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.

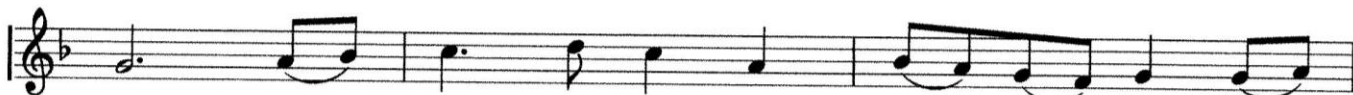


All Are Welcome

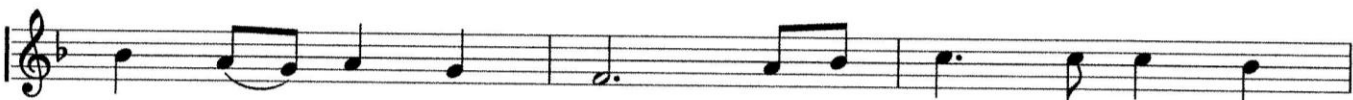
Let us build a house where love can dwell



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are strong and
 3. Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5. Let us build a house where all are named their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's child - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro - claim from



end di - vi - sions:
 faith of Jes - sus:
 feast that frees us: All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.
 fear and dan - ger:
 floor to raf - ter: