



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Kickoff Sunday



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 *Revival* Mac Powell, Mark Lee, and David Carr
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** Kelsey Hanson

One: Life-giving God, you refresh us from the inside out with your water of life and spirit.

All: Open us to your presence within us and help us see how you are re-shaping our spirits each day.

One: Life-giving God, you refresh us from the inside out with your water of life and spirit.

All: Calm our fears and animate our spirits for this time of discovery.

One: Life-giving God, you refresh us from the inside out with your water of life and spirit.

All: Welcome all of us in this time of worship, as we welcome one another.

*** Hymn** *Welcome* attachment

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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.

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

Anthem *Sing Out Your Joy* Victor Johnson
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Morning Prayer Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer: Life-giving God, you refresh us from the inside out with your water of life and spirit. Open us to your presence within us and help us see how you are re-shaping our spirits each day. Calm our fears and animate our spirits for this time of change and growth.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer – Contemporary Version by Parker Palmer
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, Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-15

Kelsey Hanson

The good news of Jesus Christ – the Message! – begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you; he'll make the road smooth for you. Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached, he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism – a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit – will change you from the inside out." At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights, he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him. After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

* Hymn	<i>Take My Life, and Let It Be</i>	UM Hymnal #399
Sermon	<i>Re-shaped by God #2: Inside Out</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Anthem	<i>Hail, Holy Queen</i>	traditional; arr. Yasuhiro Otsuka Strikepoint; Derek Bromme, director
Offering Our Gifts		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>We'll Understand It Better By and By</i>	UM Hymnal #525; v. 1, 3, 4
Benediction		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Postlude	<i>Toccata for a Joyful Day</i>	Emma Lou Diemer 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.

Kickoff Wednesday is **September 17**, when all our children's activities begin. There will be a free smashburger dinner for everyone, not just families with children, (donations welcome) from 6-7pm, dine in only. Wednesday night schedule is: Childcare 5-8pm; 5-5:30 JAM Jr. music for nursery-1st grade in the Chapel; 5:15-6:15 Joyful Noise bells, drums and singing for grades 2-6 in the Tweens Room; 5:30-6:30 supervised playtime for 1st grade and younger (**Parents:** please come with your children to this orientation); 6:45-7:30 youth hang out in the Youth Room with Jason Abbott; 6:45 Confirmation Orientation in the Tween Room; 7:30-8:30 Class Ring in the Bell Room.

Faith Forum meets on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 in Fireside Lounge. Next week, **September 21**, Laurie Ash will talk about "Why Should Christians Care: a breastfeeding mother is taken by ICE." The following week, **September 28**, Tim Zager talks about "Leaving a Legacy and Testimonial for Future Generations."

The next "Explore FUMC" class will be next Sunday, **September 21**, following worship, in Fireside Lounge. This is the only session needed to join the church. Come if you're interested in joining or would just like more information about the church.

Sunday, September 28 is Bible Sunday, when Bibles will be presented to 3-year-olds (and 4- and 5-year-olds who haven't received a 3-year-old Bible), to 3rd graders (and 4th and 5th graders who haven't received a 3rd grade Bible), and to Confirmation students during our 10am worship service. Please let Pastor Jeanine (pastor@fumcduluth.com) know if you have a child that age.

Mark your calendars! Our annual Roast Beef Dinner will be Thursday, October 2. This will again be a drive-through event, from 4:30-6:30 in our east parking lot, and dinners will be \$15 each. Lots of help is needed! Signup sheets are available on the tables in the Narthex.

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

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Ways You Can Help Your Church

Signup to help with the Roast Beef Dinner. Signup sheets are 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.



Welcome

Let's Walk Together

1. Let's walk to - geth - er for a while and
 2. Let's talk to - geth - er of a time when
 3. Let's dream to - geth - er of the day when

ask where we be - gin to build a world where
 we will share a feast, where pride and pow - er
 earth and heaven are one, a ci - ty built of

love can grow and hope can en - ter in, to
 kneel to serve the lone - ly and the least, and
 love and light, the new Je - ru - sa - lem, where our

be the hands of heal - ing and to plant the seeds of peace,
 joy will set the ta - ble as we join our hands to pray,
 mourn - ing turns to danc - ing, ev' - ry crea - ture lifts its voice!

Refrain

— Sing-ing wel - come,
 — Sing-ing wel - come, wel-come to this place. You're in - vit - ed to
 — Cry-ing wel - come!

come and know God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share

'cause all of us are wel-come here; all are wel - come in this place.