



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 30, 2025
First Sunday in Advent



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-4th grade will be held in the upper-level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in Lakeview Social Hall after worship.

Prelude *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Aaron David Miller
Stacy Carolan, trumpet; Velda Graham Bell, piano

Lighting the First Advent Candle – the Candle of Hope Geoff Bell
Leader: *Joy to the World* is a beloved Christmas classic, blessing generations with a message of HOPE for more than 300 years. Hymn poet Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song" – and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of HOPE. Let us join our voices with heaven and earth, proclaiming along with the Psalmist:
All: **Sing a new song to the Lord. Lift your hearts with gratitude. Sing a new song to the Lord, a song of Hopeful Joy. God's steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our lives.**
Leader: We light this first candle today to remind us that Jesus Christ is our hope and our joy. Because of Jesus, we have HOPEFUL joy!
Let us sing together our Advent song – the first verse of *Joy to the World*.

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UM Hymnal #196

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message.

Morning Prayer Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of hope. God of hope, come to us again this Advent. May your hope live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

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!

Anthem *Come, O Redeemer, Come*

Derek Bromme, baritone

Fernando Ortega

Scripture Readings

Geoff Bell

Isaiah 2:1-5

God will judge between the nations and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the Lord's light.

Psalms 98:1-4

Sing to God a brand-new song. He's made a world of wonders! He rolled up his sleeves; He set things right. God made history with salvation. He showed the world what he could do ... The whole earth comes to attention. Look – God's work of salvation. Shout your praises to God, everybody! Let loose and sing!

Romans 13:11-12

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UM Hymnal #206

Sermon *Joy to the World: Heaven and Nature Sing*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Joy to the World*

UM Hymnal #246

Verse 1: Congregation and Sanctuary Choir

Verse 2: Congregation and Choir

Verse 3: Choir only

Verse 4: Congregation and Choir

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Trumpet Voluntary*

John Stanley

Stacy Carolan, trumpet; 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.

Join us for coffee and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

Faith Forum meets on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 in Fireside Lounge. Next week, **December 7**, Jeanette Pucheu shares her experiences volunteering at a Christian migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, with founder Esther Morales Guzman, and how this experience helped her heal from her recent cancer treatment. That will be the final Faith Forum for the year. We'll meet again beginning January 11.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their Estimate of Giving card for 2026. Extra copies are in envelopes on the Signup Table in the Narthex. Please help us in our planning by returning your card to the church office (open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-noon) or mailing it to church (230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811).

Advent/Christmas Mission Project handouts are available in the Narthex.

Children's Christmas Pageant: The pageant will be presented in church on **Sunday, December 7**. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings during Sunday School AND Wednesday evenings at 5pm for kids in 1st grade and younger, and 5:15pm for kids in 2nd grade and older. The dress rehearsal is **Saturday, December 6 from 10am-noon** in the Sanctuary. Children attending the Saturday rehearsal will get their costumes then. ALL children are welcome to participate in the Pageant, even if they can't attend any rehearsals. There will be a reception following the worship service. Please contact Beth Brophy at musickids@fumcduluth.com or Christine Winkler Johnson at christinewinklerjohnson@gmail.com with any questions.

Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians



Sunday, Dec. 7 (7:00pm) – “Festival of Lights” Twin Ports Wind Orchestra’s Brass Concert

Celebrate the season with the radiant sounds of the TPWO Brass. Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by our own Dr. Mark Whitlock, the concert will feature arrangements of popular and memorable Christmas pieces. Tickets available at the door.

Friday, Dec. 12 (7:00pm) and Saturday, Dec. 13 (3:00pm) – “Hallelujah!: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations”

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert at First Lutheran Church (1100 E. Superior St., Duluth). The Chorale, Orchestra, and Strikepoint will usher in the wonder of Christmas with music spanning centuries, including works by J.S. Bach, G. F. Handel, John Rutter, and others. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our own Velda Graham Bell will be playing the organ. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available at the door or online at arrowheadchorale.com. Tickets are going fast!

Friday, Dec. 19 (7:00pm) - Strikepoint presents “A Bell Noël: Ringing in the holidays!” Our own Strikepoint, along with some distinguished guest artists, will take over our Sanctuary to share holiday favorites. Tickets for this special concert will be available at the door: \$25 for adults; \$10 for kids and students.

Sunday, Dec. 21 – 10:00am worship – “Christmas at the Coppertop: A Festival of Lessons and Carols” You don't want to miss our annual Lessons and Carols Service, held during morning worship. This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by FUMC's Sanctuary Choir and Cast in Bronze handbell ensemble, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

Table of Eight, a group for family, friends, and caregivers of people with dementia, will meet on **Thursday, December 11** at 10am in the Fireside Lounge and online on **Friday, December 12** via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87984010825?pwd=1K4ECb2TqdNVwucMJ3MPrMgcuPLnmz.1>, Meeting ID: 879 8401 0825 Passcode: 026414). New members are always welcome.

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

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.

