



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 28, 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.

Children will remain in worship today, although a nursery for children age 6 and under is on the lower level. There are activity bags outside the entrances to the Sanctuary. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

Prelude *Angels' Carol*

MaryAnne Korsch, piano

John Rutter

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Call to Worship

Diane Fortney

Leader: Come, out of the rush and clamor of the week, to a peaceful place.

All: Our souls thirst for stillness; our lives need moments of peace.

Leader: Come, for the Lord speaks peace and wholeness to us.

All: We come seeking God's peace, needing to be renewed by God's presence.

Leader: Let us worship the God who calls us to be at peace, who equips us to be peacemakers.

*** Hymn** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

UM Hymnal #220; v. 1, 2, 4

Children's Message

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children will remain in worship today, although a nursery for children age 6 and under is on the lower level.

*** Hymn** *Away in a Manger*

UM Hymnal #217

Scholarships Presentation

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Terry Wallin

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Special Music *Through the Shade*

Leah Hulst, vocalist; MaryAnne Korsch, piano

Blake Richter

Scripture Reading

Diane Fortney

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary, his mother, was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was a

righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son. And they will call him "Emmanuel."* (Emmanuel means "God with us.") When Joseph woke up, he did just as the angel from God commanded, and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

UM Hymnal #218; v. 1, 3, 4

Sermon *Joy to the World: Peaceful Joy*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

UM Hymnal #251

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

traditional spiritual



*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 is taking a break for the holidays. We'll meet again on **January 11**, at 9am in Fireside Lounge.

Thank you to Rev. MaryAnne Korsch for playing the piano this Sunday while Velda Bell takes some time off.

Music schedule: There will be no music rehearsals this week, on December 31. The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, January 7, in order to sing in worship on Sunday, January 11. All other music groups will begin rehearsals again on Wednesday, January 14.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

Saige Mattson (Lennon-Berini Scholarship, Ardath Gibson Scholarship) is in her third year at Concordia College at Moorhead studying social work and communications. She enjoys reading, writing, spending time with friends, and thrift shopping.

Rhonda Montavon (Lennon-Berini Scholarship, Margaret Swanberg Scholarship) is in graduate school, completing courses to be able to work as a pediatric psychotherapist. She also has her Master's in clinical mental health and marriage and family therapy. She enjoys spending time at her cabin, reading, and boating. She is the first recipient of the Margaret Swanberg Scholarship!

Holland Venhuizen (Lennon-Berini Scholarship) is a senior at the University of Wisconsin Superior, majoring in history with a minor in writing and anthropology. She enjoys creative writing, drawing, going for hikes, and cooking for her family.

Brennen Werner is a first-year graduate student at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, working toward his Doctorate of Physical Therapy. He enjoys basketball and playing games with friends.

A CHUM Food Shelf update from Geoff Bell: "Next Sunday, **January 4**, is Communion Sunday, when we encourage the congregation to bring donations of food or money for the CHUM Food Shelf. The weather has been decidedly fickle the past few weeks. However, it IS winter in Duluth, and this month's CHUM Food Shelf needs reflect that. April LeDoux tells me they could really use regular-sized cans of Spaghetti-Os or Ravioli, as well as canned chili. Apparently, these are not readily available from Second Harvest and are wanted by CHUM's clients. Additionally, April tells me that they can also (always) use "standard" toiletries like toothpaste and deodorant, but right now they have plenty of toilet paper. So as we give thanks this season for all we have, including a roof over our heads, heat in our homes, and food in our cupboards, let us remember those among us who have less than we do and give to them (Matthew 25:40)." ~ Geoff

A gift to light the church for the week of December 28 was made by the Trustees in memory of Bob Krumwiede. The gift will also support the Sanctuary Choir.

Coming in January: "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith" sermon series will run from January 18 to February 15. Does your faith make room for questions? Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Is the Bible true? Is Jesus the only way? Why do our prayers go unanswered? Why do the innocent suffer? Questions like these and seasons of doubt are normal. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. Join us for this important series.

Sign up now for the new Yogadevotion class series, beginning Monday, January 5 at 5:30 in Three Brothers Chapel. Led by our own Carla Egge, this Somatic Yoga practice is sure to be the unwind you need to begin your week. Register at www.yogadevotion.com/classes.

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.

