



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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. After worship, please pick up elementary children in Lakeview Social Hall and younger children in the nursery.

Prelude	<i>God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens</i>	Wilbur Held
	<i>I Sing the Almighty Power of God</i>	Wilbur Held
	Kylin Hahn, organ	

Welcome and Announcements	Mark Harvey
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Call to Worship	Geoff Bell
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Leader: We worship the God immortal, invisible, wise!
All: **God's light is so bright, sometimes our eyes can't see, but still we praise.**
Leader: God is unresting, unhasting, silent, and mighty!
All: **God's justice soars with goodness and love.**
Leader: God gives life to all, and lives in all!
All: **When we blossom and flourish, or wither and perish, God is with us.**
Leader: God reigns in glory and dwells in light!
All: **We worship the God immortal, invisible, wise!**

* Hymn	<i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>	UM Hymnal #103
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Morning Prayer	Mark Harvey
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Unison Prayer

Gracious and loving God, thank you for hearing our prayers. We thank you for the gift of your presence with us in our busy and hurried lives. Help us to slow down, share our burdens with you, and live more fully in your presence. Help us share your love, hope, and healing with others.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer – from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts

we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading Geoff Bell

Matthew 3:1-17

Leader: In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea, announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

All: "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Leader: John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The axe is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?" Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said,

All: "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find pleasure in him."

* Hymn *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* UM Hymnal #605

Sermon *A Witness to the Light* **Brandon Veale**

Offering Our Gifts

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Mark Harvey
UM Hymnal #95

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Hymn *Down by the Jordan*

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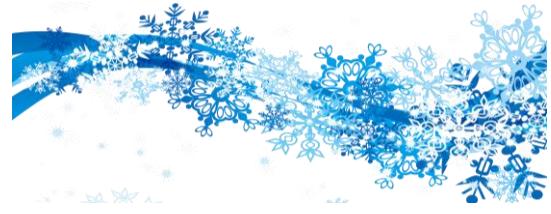
Benediction

Mark Harvey

Postlude *Toccata on Lobe den Herren*

Hans-Friedrich Micheelsen

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.

Thank you to Mark Harvey for leading worship this morning and to Brandon Veale for preaching. Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Larry Ehresman are on vacation through January 13. Please do not contact them during this time; if there is an emergency, contact Faith Community Nurse Linda Wiig or the church office, and they will contact Pastor Jeanine if necessary.

This morning we welcome two young musicians. Kylin Hahn has taken organ lessons from Velda Bell since she was in middle school at Marshall School. She began learning the organ after receiving a scholarship from the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Kylin is currently a senior high school student enrolled at the University of Minnesota Duluth through the PSEO (Post-Secondary Education Opportunity) Program. She also takes piano lessons and dances with the Minnesota Ballet. Yupeng Chen is a recipient of FUMC's Carol Donahue Music Scholarship. He started playing the violin at age 4. Yupeng has played with the Duluth East High School orchestra, UWS Honors Orchestra, MNSOTA Orchestra Festival, and the Duluth Superior Youth Orchestra, now serving as the Associate Concertmaster. He is also a part of the Lake Superior Youth Chorus. He hopes to share the beauty of music throughout his life, no matter what career he pursues, and wants to perform with a professional orchestra, such as the DSSO.

Faith Forum meets on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 in Fireside Lounge. Next week, **January 11**, Ellen Hill will talk about opportunities to advocate for the health of our community. The following week, **January 18**, Carla Egge will describe her yoga journey and how it ties to her faith.

Wednesday night schedule: All regular Wednesday evening activities will resume this week, including dinner from 6-6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner!

A gift to light the church for the week of January 11 was made by the Trustees in memory of Bob Krumwiede, whose birthday was January 11. The gift will also support the Sanctuary Choir.

New sermon series starts next week: "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.

CHUM Quilt Raffle: Next Sunday, January 18, there will be an opportunity to purchase tickets to win a locally-made quilt. All money collected will go to CHUM, who hopes to raise \$10,000 for their work with the homeless. Suggested donation: \$5.00.



Mark your calendars! The second annual All-Church Birthday Party and Potluck will be held Sunday, January 25 after worship, in Lakeview Social Hall. Sign up to decorate a table and bring a cake for your birthday month, or bring a dish to share. Look for details in the January issue of "First Family."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

Community Worship Service: Sunday, January 18, 4:00pm, FUMC Sanctuary

Community Breakfast: Monday, January 19, 7-9:30am, FUMC. There will be a brief local program and a viewing of the program broadcast from Minneapolis. A freewill offering supports the United Negro College Fund.

Gathering and March: Monday, January 19, 10:00-11:45am. Gather at the Family Freedom Center/Washington Center Gymnasium (entrance is between 3rd and 4th Streets on 1st Ave. W.).

MLK Rally: Monday, January 10, 12-1:30pm, DECC Symphony Hall (350 Harbor Dr., Duluth)

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

Sign up to decorate a table and provide a birthday cake for the All-Church Birthday Party and Potluck on Sunday, January 25. See more information above and in the January "First Family."

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.



Down by the Jordan

1. Down by the Jor - dan, a proph - et named John was bap - tiz - ing, preach-ing a
2. Thereby the riv - er, the crowd came with great ex - pec - ta - tion: "Are you God's
3. Je - sus, you went to be ba - tized a - long with the oth - ers, tak - ing your
4. Here in this Church, we are bap - tized and filled with God's Spir - it. Freed and for -

mes - sage the peo - ple found bold and sur - pris - ing. "God will for - give! Show that you'll
Cho - sen One, sent here to res - cue our na - tion?" "No!" John re - plied.
place a - mong sin - ners, God's lost sons and daugh - ters. Then with great love,
- give - en we're wel - comed with joy! Can you hear it? This is God's sign!
"He who is God's Spir - it This is how

change how you live! Sure - ly God's new day is ris - - - ing!"
might - ier than I judg - es and of - fers sal - va - - - tion."
came as a dove! Your work be - gan in those wa - - - ters.
God says, "You're mine!" Let's take the good news and share it!

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