



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Human Relations Sunday
"We stand for racial justice and equality"

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 includes 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 *Trust in God* Lake, Brown, Wong, and Furtick
 Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Call to Worship Jana Picotte
Leader: The Kingdom of God is coming! Let your Reign, O God, be acknowledged among all people.
All: **We stand on the threshold of truth. We are perched on the branches of justice.**
Across the horizon, we see the outline of peace and harmony.
Leader: With privilege comes responsibility. With responsibility comes accountability. With accountability comes integrity. With integrity comes justice and equality for all.
All: **God, equip us to love fully and live faithfully in your Kingdom.**

*** Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* UM Hymnal #519

Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children in 6th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message.

Anthem *Every Praise* J. David Bratton
 Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Morning Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Prayers of Joy and Concern

Unison Prayer – from the Upper New York Conference of the UMC
Gracious God, every day we're confronted with language and images that remind us that racism is real, and its impacts are far reaching. Open our eyes to see racial stereotypes that

oppress some of us while providing entitlement to others. Open our ears to recognize both unfairness and indifference; to hear even our own voices when we speak ignorance or ambivalence. Open our mouths to speak up when remaining silent is harmful. Open our arms to embrace one another, to carry each other's burdens, and to build bridges of understanding. Open our hearts so that we may fully receive your grace; point us toward your light so that we may more clearly understand your desires and vision for all humankind. We pray that in this new year we may remove the barriers that block us from seeing you clearly in one another, that divide rather than unite, and that keep us strangers rather than neighbors. Give us the courage to stand up against those injustices and stand with those who are oppressed. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn *We've Come This Far by Faith* projection

Soloist sings verses; congregation sings chorus:

*We've come this far by faith; leaning on the Lord, trusting in His holy Word.
He's never failed us yet. Oh, we can't turn back. We've come this far by faith.*

Scripture Reading Jana Picotte

Romans 1:19-20

Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities – God's eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

Mark 9:24

"I believe, help my unbelief."

Sermon *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith #1: Is There a God?* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Offering Our Gifts Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Anthem *let me listen* text by Charles Anthony Silvestri; music by Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

* Hymn *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UM Hymnal #133

Benediction Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Soon I Will Be Done* American spiritual; arr. Calvin Taylor
Velda Graham Bell, organ



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! 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.

There was a bank error last Monday which caused anyone with automatic giving on the 10th to be charged twice. Director of Operations Sandy Smith did a reversal, but has heard from some people that their giving is still incorrect. Please check with your bank if you normally have an automatic transaction on the 10th of the month. If it has not been reversed, please call the office so we can make a correction. Thank you!

This morning Tapestry welcomes local musician and worship band leader Clinton Struthers, as well two other local musicians, Dicky Brooks and George Ellsworth. They will also be performing music at the Martin Luther King, Jr. community worship service, which will be held in our Sanctuary this afternoon at 4:00pm.

Faith Forum meets on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 in Fireside Lounge. Next week, **January 25**, guest speaker Sabah Alwan will talk about Islam and Duluth's Muslim community.

The church's annual meeting to elect leadership, take action on membership, hear the annual financial report, learn about our Foundation, and have a time of connection will be held on **Sunday, February 15**, at 11:15am, following worship. All church members and friends are invited to participate.

CHUM Quilt Raffle: There is an opportunity **today** 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.

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)

From Geoff Bell: "I am FUMC's unofficial representative to the Twin Ports Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice. At one of our meetings, the announcement was made that Isaiah MN (a statewide multiracial group of faith communities) is calling for a day of prayer and fasting on **Friday, January 23**, asking God for a resolution to the crisis with ICE here in Minnesota. Although they are asking people not to shop or report for work, if you cannot do that, maybe you could fast for one or two meals and ask God to intervene here. See www.isaiahmn.org for more information."

Are you in your 40s or 50s? (or feel like you are?) Gather for an evening of good food and time together on Saturday, January 24 at 6:00pm at Margarita's Bar and Grill (4602 Grand Ave., Duluth). Your entrée will be paid for by a special gift; you only need to pay for drinks and appetizers. Hosted by Jenna and Steve Mattson, Jennifer and Aaron Boyson, Karen and Jeremy Jeannette, Pastor Jeanine, and Larry Ehresman. There's a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Join us for an evening of fun!



The second annual All-Church Birthday Party and Potluck will be held **Sunday, January 25** after worship, in Lakeview Social Hall. Sign up in the Narthex 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."

How to Train Your Dragon: The Friends of the Felgemaker will host "A Morning with the Felgemaker" on **Saturday, February 7** from 10:00-11:30am at Sacred Heart Music Center (201 W. Fourth St., Duluth). This FREE, interactive program for children will feature music from the movie "How to Train Your Dragon," played on the historic Felgemaker pipe organ. We'll also see live bearded dragons (courtesy of the Lake Superior Zoo), see up close how a pipe organ works, and have a snack of animal crackers and juice. The event is geared toward children in K-5th grade. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No tickets are required.

Today's music has been chosen especially to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and speaks to peace, equality and shared purpose.

Tapestry's prelude, "Trust in God" is a contemporary song written in a gospel style with the verses interpolating the lyrics of the hymn "Blessed Assurance."

Our opening hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," is a powerful song written in 1900 as a poem by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. It was later adopted by the NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, celebrating faith, hope and freedom. It is often referred to as the Black National Anthem.

"Every Praise" is a globally-recognized gospel song written by J. David Bratton around 2008, popularized by Hezekiah Walker, and famously featured in a 2014 incident where a kidnapped boy's continuous singing of the song helped lead to his rescue. The song became a Billboard #1 Gospel Song of the Decade and a global anthem of hope and faith.

"We've Come This Far by Faith" is a beloved African American gospel hymn written by Albert A. Goodson in 1956, celebrating faith's power through struggle. It became an anthem for perseverance in the Civil Rights era and beyond, reflecting the journey of the Black church and community from hardship to progress.

Today's choir anthem, "let me listen," was composed by Dan Forrest and set to a poem written by Charles Anthony Silvestri. Dan Forrest writes that he composed it as "a statement of support for, and allyship with, our Black brothers and sisters (as well as all people of color). Too often, in any aspect of life, we explain away other people's experiences instead of seeking to understand experiences that differ from our own.... we fail to listen."

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.

