



December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

Join Us on Zoom!



[Click to Join Online](#)

Meeting ID: 839 2872 7469 Password: 890967



1. Call **1-312-626-6799**.
2. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469 #**.
3. When prompted to enter your participant ID, just press **#**.

*Cultivating a community for all to belong,
rooted in Jesus' way of love and justice.*



GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING WORDS

“First Coming” by Madeline L’Engle

***HYMN 144**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148

Matthew 2:13–23

STORY

CAROL SING

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A commonly used form is printed here. You are welcome to use any version meaningful to you.

Our God, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

OFFERING

In addition to financial offerings, we invite you to offer your response to this question on the small piece of paper: Amid the groanings of this time, how do you show up to embody hope?

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. December’s special offering supports the UCC Christmas Fund and San Lucas Mission. See “Get Connected” to learn about giving online or by text.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus” (song sheet)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jesus, may the gifts we bring bear your healing into the world.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN 129**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thanks to those who are taking part in worship today.

Valet.....	Tom Lincoln
Worship Leader	Désirée Gold
Usher	Mary Jean Korsmo
Reader	Xan Laurence
Special Music	Richard Lanford, trumpet
Tech Support	Cynthia Hendricks, Maggie George
Coffee Hour.....	Kris Felbeck

After Worship Today

Democracy in Action Bridge Brigade. Grab your coffee and your protest sign (and a chair if that would be helpful) and join us on the pedestrian bridge over I-35 next to the church to embody hope and resist authoritarianism.

Staff Notes

Jane McBride is on vacation until January 2. If you have an urgent need for pastoral care, please text or call her at 612-598-2432.

The church office will be closed on Friday, January 2, in observance of New Year’s Day.

Coming Up

Night Songs—A Celebration of Choral Music. Get ready for another Night Songs performance with our own choir and other local choirs performing at University Lutheran Church of Hope on Sunday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. These events have been extremely popular, so to ensure there’s a seat for each person who comes, all attendees will be required to reserve tickets online in advance. Watch for a ticketing link coming soon, and get your tickets early!

Save the Date

2nd Hour: ISAAH Caucus Training—January 11 (90 minutes)

Joint Worship with University Baptist Church @ First Church—January 18

2nd Hour: Craig Harris on Palestine—January 25

Play: The Happiest Man on Earth (Six Points Theater)—February 22 (12:00 p.m.)

Neon Stories @ The U—Thursday, February 26 (7:00 p.m.) (Topic pending; likely mental health and/or neurodiversity)

Regular Gatherings

Craft Group—Wednesday, January 7 (11:00 a.m.)

Family Gathering—Sunday, January 11 (11:30 a.m.)

Elder Gathering—Wednesday, January 14 (noon on Zoom)

Knitting Group—Monday, January 19 (7:00 p.m. @ Deb Wensman’s Home)

Spanish Conversation Group—Saturday, January 24 (10:00 a.m. @ TBD)

Week of December 28–January 4

You can find links for Zoom meetings on our website: firstchurchmn.org

SUN (12/28)	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Coffee Hour	Gathering Hall
	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary / Zoom
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Gathering Hall
	11:15 AM	Democracy in Action: Bridge Brigade	I-35W Ped. Bridge
MON (12/29)	9:30 AM	Southeast Play Group	Basement
WED (12/31)	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
THU (01/01)	9:30 AM	Southeast Play Group	Basement
	noon	Indigenous Book Group	Library
FRI (01/02)		Office Closed	
SUN (01/04)	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Coffee Hour	Gathering Hall
	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary / Zoom
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Gathering Hall
	11:15 AM	Democracy Support Group	Library
	11:15 AM	Democracy in Action: Bridge Brigade	I-35W Ped. Bridge
	11:30 AM	Building Users Gathering	Basement

Get Connected

Weekly Email. You can [sign up to receive all the news](#) on Thursday afternoons, as well as other important updates.

Online & Text Giving. [Give Online](#) You can also give by texting 612-255-4109; “\$(amount) Special” for the monthly offering or “\$(amount) General Fund”.

Democracy in Action Signal Group. Join our Democracy In Action group on Signal if you would like to connect with others in the church about opportunities to show up to protest and resist. [Join Signal Group](#)

Worship Volunteers. Can you lend a hand in worship as a reader or usher? Are you a coffee hour virtuoso? [Sign Up to Help in Worship](#)

Helping for the first time? [Joy Gullikson](#) can help you get oriented.

Wherever you are on life’s journey, let us walk with you . . .

Pastor Jane’s typical work week is Sunday through Thursday. Please call or email her to set up appointments as she is in and out of the office. She hopes you will contact her for support and prayer in times of illness, hospitalization, or crisis. If your need is urgent, you may call or text her cell phone at any time of the week.

To aid in worship, assistive listening devices and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.

We welcome you to visit the remembrance area at any time during worship. At the back of the sanctuary there is table with journals that can be utilized to write or draw your remembrances in memory of a loved one. You can also light a candle on the columbarium.

Children are most welcome in worship at First Church. Families are invited to use the kids’ corner in the front of the Sanctuary during worship. We are working to become an inclusive community that welcomes people of all abilities within all church spaces. If you have questions or comments about sharing our worship service with those of differing abilities, please speak to Jane McBride.

Valet parking is available every Sunday for those who find it difficult to navigate the walk from a parking spot to the church. Valets will meet you at the 8th Ave. entrance, assist you in getting inside and park your car for you (and get it for you after the service). If the valet sign is posted and you don’t see a parker, please wait for them to return.

December’s Special Offering supports the UCC’s Christmas Fund and San Lucas Mission. The Christmas Fund supports active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ with emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The San Lucas Mission supports development in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala.

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First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC

500 8th Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 55414

firstchurchmn.org

Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday / Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Ministers..... The People of First Church
Principal Minister..... Rev. Jane McBride
612-598-2432 (cell); jmcbride@firstchurchmn.org
Minister of MusicByron Almén
512-809-9789 (cell)
Communications and Administrative Lead..... Alice Worden
office@firstchurchmn.org
Facilities Manager Brad Schumann
Moderator..... Linda Valerian
612-408-2307 (cell); lindavalerianfcc@gmail.com