



*Special Guest*  
AJ Levine  
April 19, 2026  
9:30am



First United  
Methodist Church  

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DOWNTOWN FOR GOOD



***Welcome To First UMC Madison,  
a place where all are truly welcome!***

We are glad you are here today. Please fill out a **connect card** using the QR code or find one in the back of the seat in front of you. You can put them in the offering plate, signifying that your presence in worship is one of your gifts to God. Newcomers receive a gift when they bring their completed cards to the Welcome Center.



*Connect*

**To learn more** about the life of the church, if you have a special need, or wish to have someone be in touch with you, please note it on your connect card or email **info@fumc.org**.

**Music Minute**

Read more about today's music by visiting [fumc.org/minute](http://fumc.org/minute).

Each week, Mark Heiskanen, our Director of Music and the Arts, presents a brief synopsis of the music offered within our worship services.



Special Guest Preacher Today

**Welcome AJ Levine!**

Articulate, insightful, brilliant and wickedly funny—all of those are terms which aptly describe Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a prominent and prolific scholar of Christian-Jewish relations, early Christianity and feminist Biblical interpretation. A member of an Orthodox synagogue, raised in a Catholic neighborhood, her early fascination with Christianity shaped a lifelong vocation. A childhood encounter with antisemitism led her to explore Christian Scriptures deeply, ultimately becoming one of today's foremost Jewish scholars of the New Testament.



Her notable publications include *The Misunderstood Jew*, *Short Stories by Jesus*, and the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*, co-edited with Marc Zvi Brettler.

**Kids are welcome and wanted in worship.** We love their voices, their joy, their wiggles. But, if you need a break, the nursery is available during worship for infants and young children. Kids ages 4 through 5th grade are welcome to be in JOY Kids after Children's Time (please pick up your children from the lower-level JOY Kids space after worship). They are also welcome to stay with you. Activity bags are available by the Sanctuary entrance.

**Stick around after worship for snacks and drinks in Fellowship Hall. It is a great time to get to know people and get connected in the life of First Church.**

Find us online at **fumc.org** for events, announcements, and other information. We're also on **Facebook** at First United Methodist Church - Madison, WI.



Give

**Online Giving** is available through a link on our website at **fumc.org/give**. If you need help, contact the church office: **info@fumc.org**.

The sanctuary is equipped with a **hearing loop**. Switch your hearing aid to T.



**Restrooms** are located down the hall and to your left, across from the nursery. A single stall, non-gendered restroom is available on the lower level. Take the elevator down, go right, and it is the second door on the left.

An **AED device** is located on the wall outside of the Sanctuary next to the Welcome Center.



**Emergency exits** are located on the exterior walls of the Sanctuary.

First United Methodist Church  
203 Wisconsin Avenue | Madison, WI 53703  
608-256-9061 | info@fumc.org | fumc.org

*First United Methodist Church is located on Ho-Chunk land.*

# Order of Worship

**Prelude** *Canzona 27*  
Giovanni Gabrielli, adapt. Alan Lumsden  
Blessed Brass

**Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Ran Yoo

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
UMH #127

**Children's Time** Rev. Ran Yoo

**Prayers & Lord's Prayer** Rev. Ran Yoo

**Holy God/Our Father/Creator/Loving 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 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.**

**Ministry of Music** *Lighting the Way*  
Will Todd  
Chancel Choir

**Scripture** Matthew 13:45-46  
Krista Tweed

**Sermon** "The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value"  
Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

**Hymn** *Deep in the Shadows of the Past*  
TFWS #2246, v. 1, 3, 4

**Offering Invitation**

Finance Committee

**Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision*  
Dan Rager, adapt. Dan Woolpert  
Blessed Brass

**Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Ran Yoo

**Hymn**

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*  
TFWS #2241

**Blessing**

Rev. Ran Yoo

**Postlude**

*Festive Postlude on Old 100th*  
Bruce Stevenson, adapt. Dan Woolpert  
Blessed Brass

*All are invited to Coffee Fellowship in  
the Fellowship Hall following worship.*

## **Sharing Our Journeys, Today, 11am, Chapel & Zoom**

This year's Lyons Lecturer, Dr. AJ Levine will share her personal journey.

This will be followed by a potluck in Fellowship Hall.

At 1 pm, we will continue the discussion in Fellowship Hall with AJ doing an analysis of the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-13).

## **Emergent Theology, Sundays, 11:15am, Zoom**

The group will be attending AJ Levine's presentation after worship and will not meet again until April 26 when they will begin discussing "Poverty In the Promised Land" by Walter Bruggeman. Contact George ([fumc.org/george](http://fumc.org/george))

## **Ph.D. Defense, Mon., Apr. 20, 3pm, Chemistry 9341**

Noah Lancaster will be defending his Ph.D. dissertation. Zoom: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/91030961911>

## **Congregational Assessment Survey**

► [fumc.org/survey](http://fumc.org/survey)

Please take some time to share your experiences (anonymously) with us

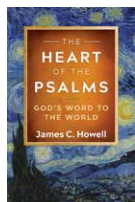


## **Hope's Home Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall**

Hot breakfast every Wednesday morning at 9am

## **The Heart of Psalms, Thursdays, 2pm**

Weekly bible study class beginning Psalms study on April 30. Contact Rev. Scott Walters ([fumc.org/scott-walters/](http://fumc.org/scott-walters/))



## **Thursday Evening Music Rehearsals**

First Church Ringers, 5:30 - 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall  
Chancel Choir, 6:30 - 8pm, Music Room

## **Young Adult Ministry**

Connect with other young adults at our weekly Tuesday gatherings or second Sunday of the month brunches. Contact Rev. Ran ([fumc.org/ran](http://fumc.org/ran))

*Please send your announcements and information to [ben@fumc.org](mailto:ben@fumc.org) by Noon on Wednesdays.*