

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Prelude - Song of Thanksgiving - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His love endures forever.

Opening Hymn No. 384** - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation

perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Invocation

Our heavenly Father, we your humble children invoke your blessing on us. We adore you, whose name is love, whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy, whose Word is truth, whose Spirit is goodness, whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace, whose service is perfect freedom, and in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life. Unto you be all honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalter

Psalm 136

Give thanks to God, for good is He: His love endures forever. To Him all praise and glory be: His love endures forever. His wondrous works with praise record; the only God, the sovereign Lord: His love endures forever. His Love endures forever.

His wisdom made the heavens to be: His love endures forever. He spread the earth up on the sea: His love endures forever. Praise Him whose sun awakes the day, the moon and stars His might display: His love endures forever. His love endures forever.

He struck the hosts of Egypt down: His love endures forever. His people saved, their captors drowned: His love endures forever. The kings of Canaan feared and fell; He gave His own a place to dwell: His love endures forever. His love endures forever.

He helped us in our deepest woes: His love endures forever. He ransomed us from all our foes: His love endures forever. To each their need He will supply; give thanks to God, enthroned on high: His love endures forever. His love endures forever.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem

An American Hymn - Effinger

Sermon

Pastor Mike Ward

Hymn of Response No. 386 - Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown**

Come, O thou Traveler unknown,
whom still I hold, but cannot see!
My company before is gone,
and I am left alone with thee.
With thee all night I mean to stay,
and wrestle till the break of day;
with thee all night I mean to stay,
and wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell thee who I am,
my misery and sin declare;
thyself hast called me by my name,
look on thy hands and read it there.
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?
Tell me thy name, and tell me now.
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?
Tell me thy name, and tell me now.

Yield to me now, for I am weak,
but confident in self despair!
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak,
be conquered by my instant prayer.
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,
and tell me if thy name is Love.
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,
and tell me if thy name is Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me,
I hear thy whisper in my heart.
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
pure, Universal Love thou art.
To me, to all, thy mercies move;
thy nature and thy name is Love.
To me, to all, thy mercies move;
thy nature and thy name is Love.

Discipleship Moment

Deaconess Recognition - Valerie Riedthaler

Deaconesses and home missionaries are lay people in The United Methodist Church who have responded to the call of God to full-time ministries of love, justice, and service. Individuals consecrated and commissioned to the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, administrated by United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), form a covenant community in service as a lay order.

Offertory - *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (Hymn 138) - Raymond Haan

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The 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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn No. 2009 FWS** - O God, Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Benediction and Choral Response** - (Hymn No. 698)

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian,
guide, and stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

Postlude -Toccata - David Hegarty



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given:

in loving memory of James and Dorothy Ward, by Carol Spidle and Jim and Zetta Ward;
In memory of his son, Kurt Hanna by Earle Hanna

Liturgists: Bruce McIntosh

Service Music: Summer Choir

Music: One License A-731491

****Please rise as you are able. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment. Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the narthex. CDs of the service are available by signing up at the Welcome Center.**

CHURCH NOTES

First Fridays: Please mark your calendars for this summer's First Fridays which will take place June 3, July 1, and August 5. We will once again meet at Kelsey Creek Pavilion at Water Works Park for a meal together and a time of fellowship. This year we will also have our Game Night during this event as a way to enjoy God's creation in fellowship and fun with one another. Please keep an eye for more information closer to each date.

Geraniums for Pentecost: Our tradition is to bring a potted red geranium to decorate the altar on the day of Pentecost which is June 5 this year. Red symbolizes fire and the all-consuming power and presence of God. They will then be planted around the church.

Safe Sanctuary ... Everyone who works with children and youth at First Church needs to be certified in Safe Sanctuary and anyone who received that certification prior to 2020 needs to be re-certified. This can be accomplished at 10:30 a.m. **next Sunday, June 5.** Any questions concerning this can be directed to Donna Curfman at dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com or 330-923-5241 Ext. 219.

Memorial Day Parade: We will be setting up a tent at Petty & Co., 961 Portage Trail, tomorrow for the Memorial Day Parade. This is a way for us to meet people in our community. We will have a table with information about First Church and our ministries and programs, along with water. If you are at the parade, stop by and say hi. If you know of someone who might like our church, bring them by so we can meet them and get them some information.

Vacation Bible School: Registration for VBS is still open at <http://firstchurchcf.mycokeburyvbs.com>. A reminder to those who have registered that you need to complete and mail or bring your payment to the church in order to hold your space. Also, those registering for SERVE and Extreme must complete the Medical Form. There is still a need for a few helpers for all VBS, SERVE, and Extreme programs. Please contact Donna Curfman if you are able to help.

Giving Tree: Some new items have been added to the tree, so please check it out. Non-perishable items are needed by Sunday, June 5 and perishable items by June 12.

Golf Outing: The next Walter Bud Mills golf outing will be on Saturday June 25, 2022, at 1:30. Cost is \$75 per golfer, or \$300 per foursome or \$55 for youth golfers. There will be dinner and prizes and a raffle. All proceeds benefit the Epworth Choir. We are looking for raffle items/baskets and hole or cart sponsors for the outing. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

VBS/Teacher's Training: These sessions are mandatory for all who are involved in VBS or the Sunday School program. They will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 12:30 - 2 p.m. or 5:30 - 7 p.m. A light meal will be provided. Safe Sanctuary training will be held for all new helpers or those who need to be re-certified. More information will be sent to all who need this.

College/Technical School Grads: If you or your child has graduated from a college or technical school please call the church office and let us know their name, school and degree. We will publish the information in the July issue of the newsletter.

Blessing Box: Our blessing box continues to bless those who need help with food in our own community. We are running low on most items and could use the following: ramen noodles, canned soup, canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc...) pasta mixes, pasta, pasta sauce, individual serving cereal boxes, cracker packs, powdered drink mixes, personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc...). Items may be placed on the table outside the church library, or directly into the blessing box, letting you directly be the hands of Jesus in our community.

Greeters, Ushers and Welcome Center Training: On Sunday, June 5, we will have a hospitality team training at 10:30 a.m. (right after church.) We will share details of a recent security training session and work on a summer schedule. We also have a few new folks joining the team so there will be some initial training. Please make every effort to attend. Anyone who wants to serve in these areas is welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Karol.

Altar Guild Needs... Our Altar Guild transfers the Sunday altar flowers into containers to be taken by donors each Sunday. Will you donate your used containers? If so they need to be the following sizes: 11.5 oz. coffee containers, 32 oz. plastic

containers (such as large yogurt containers), 28 oz. metal cans (such as large tomato cans). Your donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Center. We are also looking for volunteers to help care for the refilling of candles and transferring flower arrangements into containers after the last service on Sundays, changing altar cloths when needed and arranging holiday flowers. If you are interested in being part of our Altar Guild ministry, please call Carol Lewis at 330-923-0234.

Chess Camp... Registrations are being accepted for Chess Camp July 11 -15, 2022 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Beginners through experienced are eligible to participate in the fun-filled adventure of using your mind. You can learn or improve your chess game and enjoy other activities. Space is limited, so register early. Brochures with application and details are available at the Welcome Center.

Medical Equipment: The church has received donations of medical equipment that are available for borrowing. The equipment varies from time to time depending on what is being used. There are wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, bedside commodes, shower chairs, a cooler that circulates icy, cold water and misc. small equipment like splints. Items have been cleaned and you are expected to clean them before you return them. Contact Mike Ward to find out availability and convenient time for you to pick up items. You may also have items that you would like to donate.

Financial Report:

Church Budget update:

Compared to Budget

	Apr. <u>2022</u>	Year-to-date <u>2022</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Projected Actual</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>4 / 3 0 / 2 2</u>
Income	-\$8,367	-\$212,981	\$780,918	\$759,620		
Operating Expenses	-\$2,916	-\$30	\$835,345	\$835,315		
Total Over/Under	-\$11,283	-\$21,268	-\$54,427	-\$75,695		

Next Step

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.*

Questions for reflection:

What is significant about the way the Psalm begins and ends? What does this tell us about the Psalmist's intention and the content within it?

How is God the ultimate giver? What might that look like?

Are there ways I could be more loving to others?

Questions for discussion:

The Psalmist remembers the Lord in at least three different ways. What are the various aspects of who God is, what God made, and how God saves?

How does everything that the Psalmist recalls point to God's love? What is the nature of God's love? What does it mean to you to know that God's love never gives up or never runs out?

How is the cross the ultimate demonstration that God's love endures forever?

Memory verse:

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*

Readings for next week:

Psalm 19: 1-6 Acts 16: 16-34 Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
May 29, 2022**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Marilyn Waller – Akron General

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Jean Finnegan	Pat Park
Bob Ahonen	Dave Gohr	David Potter
Shirley Asher	Rose Gregory	Robby & Lou Robinson
Glenn Atwood	Joyce Haberkost	Kathi Sawyer
Paul Beal	Jim Henes	Kay Steiner
Alice Becher	Ann Kaiser	Michael Taucher
Behrman family	Lori Kidd	Ken Tunstall
Donna Copeland	George Kirk	Jim Vogel
Don Corbett	Jeanette Murray	Peg Yeager

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Barb Behrman and family on the death of her mother, Edna Instone, on 5/17.