

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 11, 2022

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Processional - Martin Shaw

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come into his presence with singing,

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Opening Hymn No. 139** - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle's wings,
e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds,
Hast thou not known his sustaining?*

*Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness
and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.*

*Praise to the Lord,
who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to they need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.*

*Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;*

gladly forever adore him.

Invocation

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-10 (New Testament page 78/73)

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Presentation of Bibles

Erin Skinner

Ryan Skinner

Henry Walker

Congregation Response: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They should be signed in and have name tags. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

Anthem

8:30 - *Order My Steps* - Jack Schrader

Order my steps in Your word, dear Lord, lead me, guide me every day, send Your anointing, Father I pray; order my steps in Your word. Humbly, I ask Thee to teach me Your will, while You are working, help me be still, Satan is busy God is real; order my steps in Your word. I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill. Please order my steps, Lord, and I'll do Your blessed will. The world is ever changing, but You are still the same; if You order my steps, I'll praise Your name. Order my steps, order my tongue, guide my feet, wash my heart, Show me how to walk, show me how to talk, When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let Your praises ring, in Your word.

11:00 - *Idyll of Praise* - Craig Courtney

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears

all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas - His hand the wonders wrought. This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass, I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere. This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world: the battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one. This is my Father's world.

Sermon - *The Lost Shepherd*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn No. 2236** (FWS) - *Gather Us In*

*Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song*

*Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day*

Gather us in and hold us forever

*Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones*

Consecration of Teachers

Discipleship Leaders: We have heard God's call to teach and have responded to that call. We teach, trusting in God's promises to support, sustain, and encourage us through gifts sufficient for the task. We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives. We teach, depending on this congregation to uphold us in this task.

Congregation Response: We pledge ourselves to pray for you and for the discipleship ministry of this congregation. We pledge ourselves to enable, encourage, and love you in this ministry. We pledge ourselves to be learners with you, diligently studying with you the Scriptures and traditions of the faith.

Offertory - *Gather Us In* - Mark Hayes

Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates in the narthex or bring it to the front during the offertory.

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/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. 593** - *Here I Am, Lord*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,*

*if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 668)

Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus. Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties. Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of thee.

Postlude - *Fugue in g minor* - J. S. Bach



The anthem, *Order My Steps*, was donated by Walter and Aimee Davis in honor of their sons, Jacob and Nicolas Davis. *Idyll of Praise* was given by Carol Bailey in loving memory of her sister, Patricia Ann White.

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

Liturgist: 8:30 - Chad Wagner 11:00 – Tim Zuschin

Music: 8:30 - Epworth Choir; 11:00 - Chancel Choir

Music: One License A-731491

****Please rise as you are able.**

Classes Being Offered: Registration is open for the following classes in the fall:

Disciple Like Jesus	Sundays from 9:30 to 10:45 am
Ministry By Strengths	Sundays from 5:45 to 7 pm
Financial Peace	Sundays from 4 to 6 pm

Financial Peace and Ministry by Strengths begin on Sunday, September 11. Disciple Like Jesus begins on Sunday, October 2. Childcare is available upon request at sign up for the evening classes.

Habitat for Humanity: First Church will again participate in building a home with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County. The home will be built in Cuyahoga Falls on Germaine St. We are able to have 7 volunteers on each of our volunteer dates which are: October 8, November 5, and December 17. Habitat requires that all volunteers be 18 to be at a job site. If you are interested in participating in this mission, please contact Kim Kerr at 330-606-7736 or email her at kdk3rr@gmail.com with your name, phone number, email address and t-shirt size.

Women's Bible Study: We're back! All the ladies of the church and the community are invited to join us for a six week Bible Study beginning the first week of October. There are two opportunities for the same study: Tuesdays from 7 - 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - noon. This session will be "The Christ-Centered Woman - Finding Balance in a World of Extremes", which is based on Ephesians 3. The cost of the book is \$18. Please call Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 to register. The deadline is Monday, September 13.

Volunteers Needed: As we plan for Rally Day on September 11, we are compiling our list of helpers and find we still need some in every program. Several of our teachers need helpers; as does our Preschool and Kindergarten group. We are looking for leaders for the Wesley Youth Group, the Wesley outings and a couple of the ROCK activities. If you can give an hour or two once or twice a month, we have a place where you can use your talents to help our children. Contact Donna Curfman at dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com if you are willing to help.

Rally Day Children's Schedule: On Sunday, September 11, we will start the regular activities for the year. The schedule for children that day is:

Worship	8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 to 10:45 a.m. (Children in K-6 will meet in Asbury Hall for a special kick-off. Parents will meet briefly at 10:00.)
Children's Worship	During 11:00 a.m. worship. Grades K-4 will leave following "God's Word for Young Disciples.)
Children's Choirs/Bells	4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Parent meeting at 4:00 in the chapel.)
ROCK	5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Preschool through 3 rd grade
Wesley Youth Group	5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Financial Report:

	July	Year to date
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>
Actual	\$65,760	\$480,614
Budget	\$49,310	\$482,208
Over/(Under)	\$16,450	(\$1,594)

NEXT STEPS

The Lost Shepherd

eremos – empty place, desert, wilderness

vs. 4 – why did the shepherd leave the 99 in the desert?

Was this the first time he'd done this? Or the 101st time?

Whose Sheep Are They, anyway?

vs. 2 – these parables are a response to criticism of Jesus's company

vs. 8 – the woman's frantic search, zeteo, shows God's nature toward us

Mary and Joseph "zeteo" searched when Jesus was lost in Jerusalem

Questions for Reflection: Jesus's parables in Luke 15 were meant to teach and challenge those who couldn't understand why he would spend his time with the unrighteous. Jesus is regularly criticized because of the scandalous company he kept in his ministry. Are there people in the Church whose presence is a challenge to me? What if those persons who I have a hard time accepting as Christians are the lost sheep to Jesus?

Questions for Discussion: It's a natural human tendency to want to associate with people who are similar to us, have similar interests, and think about the world in the same way. However, that's precisely what Jesus did NOT do much of the time. Why do you think it's such a challenge to try to be with and understand people who have different practices and different values?

Memory Verse: Luke 15:10 – "Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Readings for this Week: Luke 2:41-52, Luke 16:1-13, Ezekiel 34:11-15

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 11, 2022**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

HOSPITALIZED:

LARRY BEHRMAN – AKRON GENERAL

FORREST WALLER – WESTERN RESERVE

DEBBIE AMUNDSEN – AKRON CITY

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

SCOTT ADIE BOB AHONEN SHIRLEY ASHER MARY ELLEN ATWOOD JIM BAILEY ALICE BECHER BEHRMAN FAMILY LARRY BRIMLOW	DON CORBETT TOM CULLY JEAN FINNEGAN DAVE GOHR ROSE GREGORY JOHN GULLION JOYCE HABERKOST JIM HENES	MARCIA LIKALA PAT PARK DAVID POTTER KATHI SAWYER MARY & KEN TUNSTALL MARILYN WALLER PEG YEAGER
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Dave and Rosealie Goshen on the death of their son, member Nick Goshen on 9/6.

Patsy Purdon and family on death of her son, member Jim Purdon Jr. on 8/27.

