

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Chorale-Prelude on a Theme by Tallis - Harold Darke

Call to Worship

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

Just as he loved us, we love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are his disciples,

if we have love for one another.

Therefore, bear with one another in love,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Opening Hymn No. 75 - All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.*

*For why! the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.*

Invocation

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading - Luke 16:1-13 (New Testament page)

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

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

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem

8:30 - *Weave Me, Lord* - Linda Spencer

Lord, my life is like a weaving, and the weaver, Lord, is You. And You choose the many colors, spinning bright and dark ones too. Carefully You weave the pattern, Lord, that you have planned. And although I cannot see, I rest, Lord, in Your Hand. So weave me, Lord, weave my life closer to You. Weave me, Lord, weave my life closer to You. Soon the work will be completed and I'll see what You have done, how You've woven all the colors in the image of Your Son. And I'll understand the dark threads Lord, that you have spun. But for now I'll trust You to complete what You've begun. Not by chance, my circumstance is in Your hand. You fulfill Your sovereign will, so I'll be still and let you weave me, Lord.

11:00 - Lift High the Cross - Robert Vickery

Sermon - *The Value of Money*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn No. 136 - The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me:
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Offertory - Nimrod – Edward Elgar

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. 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. 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 - *Fantasia in g minor* – Bach



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

in memory of Ruth Dick, by Lori and Dick Reinker

Liturgist: 8:30 - Nehemiah Priebe; 11:00 Barb DiTirro

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

Music: One License A-731491

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

Church Poll: Over the next three weeks, we are asking as many folks as possible to participate in a one question poll about the future of the United Methodist Church and marriage and inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons. As a large congregation, we have many differing perspectives on these matters. The poll is intended to help clarify how each of us handles being a part of a church when we disagree. I think one of the great strengths of our congregation is that we recognize that the mission of Jesus transcends some of our disagreements. However, I might be wrong and want to make sure where you all stand. After worship today and next week (in-person) we will show a brief video explanation of the poll, then conduct the one question poll. It should take you about 15 minutes or less.

Disciple Like Jesus Class: Our next 6 week Disciple Like Jesus class will start on Sunday, October 2 at 9:30 am. Many in our church have already participated in the study and have really enjoyed the practical implications and help for growing as disciples. Please contact the church office or Pastor Karol to sign up, so we can send you the pdf of the book and other materials you will need for the class. You may also sign up at the Welcome Center. The book can be purchased for \$20. Let us know if you want a hard copy of the book by Sunday, September 24. If you have thought or are thinking about joining our church at some time, this is a great place to start as this is one of the two classes on our membership pathway. Questions? Contact Karol at fallsfirstkarol@gmail.com.

Acme Receipts: Remember to save your Acme receipts again for their Community Cash Back program. Buy store brands and save the receipts dated August 4 through December 24. The church receives 5% on qualifying products. The money is used to fund the projects done at Work Camp. Receipts may be turned in to the Spiritual Formation office.

Blessing Box: Our blessing box has been blessing many people as of late, and our inventory of items on hand is dwindling quickly. If you are able, please consider donating the following items: ramen noodles, flavored rice/noodle packets, granola bars, canned soup/vegetables/fruit, spaghetti o's/ravioli, canned tuna/meats, individual oatmeal packets, individual serving cereals, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo. Donations may be left on the table outside the church library, or you may be the hands of Jesus by placing the items directly in the blessing box. Thank you!

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UMW/UWF Book Sale Returns! Mark your calendars for the Fall used Book Sale on November 4 & 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "Fire Sale" will be on November 6. your donations of used books October 31 thru November 3. return to buy some on Friday and Saturday. will appreciate adult and children's books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games. No magazines, text books, or encyclopedias. The sale will take place in Wesley Hall.

Fall Hiking Spree: It is time for some fellowship, fitness, and faith, so be sure to add these dates to your calendars. Pastor Mike will be participating in the Summit County Metroparks Fall Hiking Spree again this year. We will meet at 2:00 pm for a quick devotion. In case of bad weather, hikers can complete that hike on their own. Please visit the Summit County Metroparks website to download this year's form and the list of park addresses. The order of hikes and the dates will be:

DATE	TRAIL	PARK	MILES
9/25	Overlook Trail	Cascade Valley	0.5
10/2	Redwing Trail	Firestone Park	1.1
10/9	Pheasant Run Trail	Silver Creek Park	1.2
10/16	Coyote Run Trail	Liberty Park	1.2
10/23	Rock Creek Trail	Furnace Run Park	1.3
10/30	Prairie Trail	Springfield Bog Park	1.6
11/6	Celebration Trail	Cascade Valley	1.6
11/13	Glens Trail	Gorge Metro Park	1.8

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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

Filthy Mammon

Our economic worldview makes understanding this parable difficult!

vs. 1-2 – the master fires this steward on hearsay accusations

vs. 9 – Why does Jesus call wealth and possessions, “unrighteous money”

A Four Parable Response

this continues Jesus’s response to criticisms of his company from *Luke 15:2*

in all four parables, people are behaving strangely about *mammon*

The True Value of Money

Are all these parables about relationships with the unpopular or unsavory?

Serving God over mammon means loving people is always “the bottom line”

Questions for Reflection: In each of the other parables from Luke 15, someone is behaving strangely about their possessions. A shepherd risks his 99 sheep for one who wandered. A woman turns her house upside down over a single lost coin. A father values his son over the ½ of his wealth that the prodigal had squandered. What if Jesus’s statement in Luke 16:10, “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much,” applies to people just as much as it does to possessions and wealth?

Questions for Discussion: Why do you think Jesus included this parable as part of his response to criticisms of who he included in his ministry? Have you ever chosen a relationship over money and *mammon*? How did you come to that decision?

Memory Verse: **Luke 16:13b** – “You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Readings for this Week: Luke 15:11-32, Luke 16:19-31

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

HOSPITALIZED:

LARRY BEHRMAN – AKRON GENERAL

FORREST WALLER – WESTERN RESERVE

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

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

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.