

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 15, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Pastoral on "The Faithful Shepherd" - G. F. Handel

Call to Worship

The Lord has put a new song in our mouths,

a song of praise to our faithful God.

Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust,

God's steadfast love and faithfulness will keep us safe for ever.

Opening Hymn No. 140** - Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

Invocation

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, is the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth, now and forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Psalm 40:1-11

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.

Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.
Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'

I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.
I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe for ever.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

God's Word for Young Disciples

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

Anthem

8:30 - *Jesu, Joy if Man's Desiring* - Cardell/Nelson

11:00 - *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord* - Craig Courtney

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn No. 170** - *O How I Love Jesus*

*There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.*

Refrain:

*O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!*

*It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea.
(Refrain)*

*It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below.
(Refrain)*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide You* - Don Hustad

(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. 142** - *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*

*If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
and hope in God through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that naught can move.*

*Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Maker's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent;
we know our inmost wants are known,
for we are called to be God's own.*

*Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do thine own part faithfully,
and trust God's word; though undeserving,
thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul that trusted God indeed.*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 438)

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.

Postlude - *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* - J. S. Bach



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in honor of Doris Kuzas' 94th birthday, by her family.

11:00 - Greg Fiocca, cello

Music: One License A-731491

CHURCH NOTES

Women's Bible Study: Join us for a new study *Chasing Vines* by Beth Moore. In this study, Beth shows us from Scripture how all of life's concerns-the delights and the trials-matter to God. He uses all of it to help us flourish and be fruitful. There are two opportunities to participate: Tuesdays from 7-9 pm and Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. The study will last 12 weeks, beginning January 24 & 25. The study uses both the book *Chasing Vines*, and a study guide. The cost for the books is \$18.00. Please register with Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com by January 16.

Alpha Study: Alpha is for beginning Christians, those who are not of the faith but curious, or even those further along in their faith who want a refresher course on the big picture of the Christian faith. It will start Tuesday, February 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and will be led by Jerry Killian. Please contact church office, 330-923-5241, by January 31 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

Heart4theCity: This mission church of the East Ohio Conference provides a weekly food pantry, a store where they offer items at a very reduced price, and other programs for those in need. They are currently in need of blankets, bedding, towels, small electric kitchen appliances, and heavier work style insulated gloves. Donations may be left in the bin outside the church library. We are in need of a lay person to act as liaison between Heart4theCity and First Church. This would entail finding out what Heart is in need of, starting a collection at church, and delivering it to Heart as needed. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Pastor Mike at Ext. 217 for more information.

Ramsey+ and Financial Peace University: Do you want to create a life without financial stress? Learn how to steward your money well? We've invested in a Ramsey+ site license so every family in our church has access to a one-year membership full of tools and resources to help you honor God with your money. It includes access to Financial Peace University and other money courses, the premium version of the EveryDollar budgeting app, unlimited live coaching session, free federal tax filing and more. If you're ready for this go to <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc> and sign up. A Financial Peace class will begin in February. More information to come.

Hat & Mitten Mission - We are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage & 3rd.

Blessings Box - Our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library.

First Church Feeds Needs: At our monthly distribution, we are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis, so we are requesting donations. Please drop off items in the bin marked First Church Feeds behind the Welcome Center. And as always, monetary donations are appreciated as well. THANK YOU!

Heart4theCity: Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, and gloves (work style NOT cotton as they have enough of these currently) to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library.

2023 Altar Flowers: We are taking orders for altar flowers in 2023. The cost is \$38 and the church takes care of the ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at Ext. 210 or cmeyersfallsumc@gmail.com.

Acme Receipts: Receipts dated through December 24 may still be turned in at the Welcome Center. All receipts will be due by the end of January.

Next Steps

Saved by Faith, Not Our Own

When our love failed, your love remained steadfast

1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful”

Nothing You Have To Do...

Psalms 40:8 – “I delight to do your will, O God, your law is within my heart”

Ours is to receive and respond to God’s love, grace, and faithfulness

Questions for Reflection: In some Christian circles, we are taught that our receipt of God’s grace is dependent on our faithfulness. That we are disqualified from participation in God’s salvation story if we are weak or tempted or, God forbid, have any uncertainties or doubt about our beliefs. As if God’s love and grace were somehow insecure themselves. This seems the opposite of our faithful God whose love never fails and who is active to save us before we even know our need for grace! How have you seen God’s power and trustworthiness displayed when you were weak or tempted or unsure?

Question for Discussion: What do you think Paul meant when we wrote Ephesians 2:8? “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” What does it mean to you to understand your own faith as the gift of God?

Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 1:9a** – “*God is faithful*”

Readings for this Week: Psalm 27:1-9, Ephesians 2:4-9, Matthew 4:12-23

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 15, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & John Fox

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert & Patsy Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Gerald Lewis Gus Mercurio Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Barb Cully and family on the death of her husband, member Tom Cully on 1/6.

Sharon Minier and family on the death of her brother, Skip Higley on 12/23.

Candance Culbertson and family on the death of her mother, Helen Louise Culbertson on 12/27.