

Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

June 11, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - Savior, Like Shepherd, Lead Us - Charles Callahan

Call to Worship

Come! Now is the time to worship!

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We gather today as people God calls to go and share the good news.

We gather as God's sent- out people.

We gather to listen and share God's work in our lives, our families, and our neighborhoods.

We proclaim the goodness of God's love together.

We gather to respond to God's grace as we continue on the path of discipleship.

We hear God's call and learn to say "yes" to God together.

We gather to again hear God's call to "Go!" as God commissions us to love God and neighbor in everything that we do.

We go knowing that as God's called, gathered, and sent- out people, we are not alone as we carry the weight of God's call into the world together. Amen.

Opening Hymn 131** - We Gather Together

We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens
his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name,
he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us,
our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining
his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning
the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side,
all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee,
thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still
our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation
escape tribulation;

thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free!

Invocation

God of calling, you called Abraham and Matthew and gave them the strength they needed to follow you. You also called a people and cared for and nurtured that people so that they could live life in your abundance. You also call us, but sometimes we prefer to close our eyes and cover our ears, turning our backs to your will. Forgive us, O God, and grant us the confidence and the hope that we need to follow when you call. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12: 1-9

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."^[a]

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring^[a] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

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

Gloria Patri (sung)**

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.

Anthem - Gentle Voice - Lee Dengler

Far above the noise of life, There's a voice that is gently calling. "Leave behind your cares and strife. Come to me, I will give you rest. Bring your fear, and bring your pain. Bring your anger, and bring your worry." Do you hear the voice of Jesus gently calling, "Come unto me." Gentle voice, so meek and mild, Gentle words of understanding. "You are my beloved child. Come to me, I will give you rest. Bring your grief, and bring your cares. Bring you heartaches, and bring your sorrow." Do you hear the voice of Jesus Gently calling, "Come unto me"? Gentle voice so full of love, Gentle words so rich in mercy. "You are my beloved child. Come to me. I will give you rest."

God's Word for Young Disciples

Sermon - Our Abram Call

Pastor Mike Ward

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response No. 2130 (FWS) – The Summons

*Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?*

*Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found*

*To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Jesus Calls Us (Hymn 398) - 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/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 381** - Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, thou dost befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

We will early turn to thee.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

We will early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor,

early let us do thy will;

blessed Lord and only Savior,

with thy love our bosoms fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude - *Trumpet Tune in A Major* - David N. Johnson



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

Service Music: Summer Choir

Music: One License A-731491

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NEXT STEPS

12 GOD told Abram: “Leave your country, your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.

²⁻³ I’ll make you a great nation
and bless you.
I’ll make you famous;
you’ll be a blessing.
I’ll bless those who bless you;
those who curse you I’ll curse.
All the families of the Earth
will be blessed through you.”

Questions for Reflection:

Can you imagine if God asked you to leave behind everything that was familiar to you to go to a foreign land where you didn’t know anyone? How do you think you would respond to God? Abram faced a lot of difficult things by obeying God, but ultimately he was blessed beyond measure! We can trust that when God calls us to do something, He will be glorified and we will be blessed for our obedience. What are some challenges you have faced in obeying God? Why do we as Christians (followers of Christ) try to ignore a calling that He places in our hearts?

Questions for Discussion:

How are we called to be a blessing to this world? Can we be a curse to this world? How can you be a healing presence in your home, in your community, and in your church? How can we live and work to share the message of faith with those who live without it? God promised Abram 3 things (He would be a great nation, the world would be blessed through his family, & God would give the land of Canaan to them). What has God promised you?

Memory Verse:

vs 12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Readings for Next Week:

Genesis 18: 1-15 Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35- 10:8

CHURCH NOTES

Love Offering: Both Pastor Mike and Pastor Karol's last day at First Church will be Sunday, June 25. A Love Offering is being taken for both between now and June 18, and will be given to them on the 25th. You may place your Love Offering (made out to First Church, but marked Pastor Mike or Pastor Karol, in separate envelopes if possible) in the offering plate, or you may mail it to the church office to the attention of Nancy Yeager. We will celebrate their service, express our gratitude, and say goodbye to both Pastors Mike and Karol with cookies and lemonade on the lawn after the service on June 25.

Golf Outing: The 17th Walter "Bud" Mills Golf outing, the major fundraising event for the Epworth Choir Tour, will be held at Brookledge Golf Club on June 24th, at 1:30. There will be prizes, raffle baskets, and dinner. You may also attend just the dinner (contact Dean.) Putt-Putt will be available at Downview from 4:30-6 for a reduced price of \$4 (mention the golf outing.) We are also seeking sponsors for holes, carts, gifts, and baskets. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center with more information or you may contact Dean Wagner or Jim Boss.

Those Registered for VBS: Thanks to all of you have registered your children for VBS. We now need to focus on getting everyone paid for and having their paperwork submitted. Please take care of these items this week. Call if you have questions about this, contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379.

VBS Volunteers: All teachers and volunteers who have not attended a training session need to contact Donna Curfman ASAP to take care of your preparation. Those who have attended need to turn in the paperwork.

Paid Position Open: We are looking for a childcare worker for Sunday mornings this summer and Sunday mornings and evenings starting in the fall. This is a paid position. If you are interested, contact Kathy Kuzas for an application.

Family Promise: For the month of June, we are going to collect the following for the families of Family Promise: Toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap and laundry detergent. Please put your donations in the Family Promise bin by the library.

Good Neighbors is requesting the following: shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, deodorant, paper towels, bathroom tissue, laundry and dish soaps, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles, tomato sauce, and salad dressing.

Christmas Shoeboxes: Acts of Grace, in conjunction with the Epworth Youth Group, are collecting items each month in an effort to pack 100 shoeboxes. The items for June are: girls' hairbrushes, children's sunglasses, and small bouncy balls.

Blessing Box: We currently have a large supply of canned good, but are in need of the following: ramen noodles, individual oatmeal packets, flavored rice/ noodle packets, canned tuna/ canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, individual fruit cups, travel sized toothpaste, toothbrushes, travel sized body wash, travel sized shampoo.

Church Square Community Garden: Planting has taken place, but there is still lots to do! We can use many helping hands with planting the garden, weeding and watering it throughout the growing season. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Millie Keyser at 330-945-4858 or millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net. Each year, the produce from the garden has gone to Good Neighbors and other community organizations.

1st Church Feeds: At our monthly distribution we give out more than food. Some items that have been asked for are personal hygiene items such as bladder control products for men and women. These items may be dropped off in the bin located behind the welcome center.

Heart4theCity: They have a store where they sell items at very reduced prices. They are currently asking for small kitchen appliances, and bedding. These items may be dropped off in the bin located outside the church library.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JUNE 11, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & Mike Ward

HOSPITALIZED:

Jeanette Carlson

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Behrman family Bill Blank Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Phil Hennen Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Todd Schneider Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Michael Taucher Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Family of member Dorothy Jeanne Wilson on her death on 5/28.

Kyrstyn Kuzas & family on the death of her mother, Debbie Clem on 5/27.

Family of member Louise (Lucy) Johnson on her death 5/28.

Chuck Suter & family on the death of his wife, member Sonia Suter on 5/24.

Family of member Diane Headrick on her death on 5/27.