

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

July 16, 2023

GATHERING

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

Prelude - *O God Our Help in Ages Past* - Diane Bish

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, who silences the roaring of the seas,
and whose strength established the mountains.
And who visits the earth to water it,
giving life to all that grows, including you and me.

Opening Hymn 152** - *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

*I sing the almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.*

*There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.*

Invocation

**Illuminating God,
Your Word is a lamp unto our feet; guide us.
Our feet go astray, show us the path to return to you.
Our legs grow weary, show us the gentle path to trod.
Our ways are set upon by those who would do us harm, protect our feet.
Your Word is a lamp unto our feet, guide us by this same Word, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:105-108 (Old Testament p.569/537)

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 - Because You Are God's Chosen Ones – Smith

Because you are God's chosen ones, because you are kept in his care; clothe yourselves with mercy and kindness, humility, meekness and prayer. Bear with one another, forgive one another, forgive as the Lord forgives you. Over all these put on garments of love which will make your life over anew. Christ's peace must reign in you; Christ's word ordain in you; Christ's love remain in your hearts. Thanks be to God, and to Him give all praises; pledge all to Him, who to new life upraises. By wisdom made perfect, instruct one another; sing hymns to the Lord from your hearts; in all speech and action give thanks unto God, who to you all his blessings imparts.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (New Testament p.157/147)

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

Sermon – God's Word Never Fails

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 472 - Near to the Heart of God**

*There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.*

Refrain:

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee
near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of comfort sweet,
near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God.
(Refrain)*

*There is place a place of full release,
near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God.
(Refrain)*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *Rock of Ages* - Diane Bish

(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

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 467** - *Trust and Obey*

*When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.*

Refrain:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

*But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

*Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.
(Refrain)*

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 -A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - Diane Bish



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

In honor of our clergy by Wade and Kim Kerr

Service Music: Summer Choir

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

The Sower Sows

Mark 4:13 – Jesus said understanding this parable helps us understand them all

vs. 3 – The Sower wasn't going out to pull weeds or build a scarecrow

Listen!

vs. 3 – This is the only parable in the chapter with an instruction given (twice!)

Our place in the parable is to listen and let the Word work in us!

Questions for Reflection: What are my expectations about the growth of my own faith? Am I more afraid of my death or a loved one's death than I'd care to admit? Do I allow myself to worry and take back things that I'd previously handed over to God? How do I think God, the Sower, looks at my attempts to trust and grow and obey?

Question for Discussion: How have you seen the Word at work in you? Have you ever found that God was at work in you despite your distractions or stubbornness?

Memory Verse: **Matthew 13:9** – “Let anyone with ears listen!”

Readings for this Week: Isaiah 55:10-13, Matthew 13:24-30, Romans 8:12-25

CHURCH NOTES

Church Conference: There is a church conference **TODAY** Sunday, July 16, following the worship service (10:45 a.m.) It will be to approve and designate the Trustees to be able to sell the small parking lot that is close to the library. All are encouraged to attend.

Visitation Team: We are looking for folks who would like to help visit our shut-ins, hospital patients and those in nursing homes, preferably monthly. There is no counseling involved, it is simply to keep them in contact with their church family. If you like to socialize with others, please contact Pastor Pippin to let him know so we can add you to the team.

Paid Position Open: We are looking for a childcare worker for Sunday mornings (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.) this summer and Sunday mornings (9:15 - 11:45 a.m. and evenings (TBD) starting in the fall. You would be caring for infants through age 3. This is a paid position - \$14/hour for the first month and then \$15/hour. If interested, contact Kathy Kuzas for an application.

Christmas In July: Acts of Grace, in conjunction with the Children's ROCK program, are collecting items each month in an effort to pack 100 shoeboxes for Christmas. The items for July are: Pens, pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, and small (3x5") spiral notebooks.

Wesley Camp: All 4th - 6th graders are invited to attend Wesley Camp from August 11-13. It will take place at Peniel Holiness Camp in Conneautville PA. The cost is \$125 per person - bring a friend and you and the friend each get \$25 off of the cost. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. They should be turned in, with payment, by Sunday, July 23.

Volunteers: On occasion, volunteers are needed for small projects around the church, such as trimming shrubs, weeding, painting, etc. If you are interested, please give your email address to Bob Boltz or email him at rboltz@kent.edu.

Items Needed: We are in need of standard-sized boxes for our Operation Christmas Child program. Please leave them at the Welcome Center anytime from now until the end of October.

Nursery Help: As we proceed through the summer, we are in need of people who will volunteer to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings while we continue to look for a paid staff person. (We are now able to stream the church service on a tv in the Nursery.) Please contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you are able to help.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JULY 16, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

Michael Fraley – Akron General

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Behrman family Jim Bailey Bill Blank Mark & Cindy Blaser Larry Brimlow Jeanette Carlson	Don Corbett Steve Donahue family Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes Phil Hennen	Scott Hipkins Lee Minier Jack Nitzsche Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Bonnie Shultz Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Don O'Hara & family on the death of his wife, member Shirley O'Hara on 7/9.
Jim & Sue Yates on the death of their daughter, member Julie Yates Kraft on 6/27.