

## Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

July 30, 2023

---

### GATHERING

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

**Prelude** - *Meditation on Jesus* - H. Dean Wagner

#### **Call to Worship**

Sing God's praise.

**Give thanks to the Lord above.**

Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.

**Proclaim God's wonderful works.**

Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

**Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.**

#### **Opening Hymn 102\*\*** - *Now Thank We All Our God*

*Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.*

#### **Invocation**

**Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. Set our hearts and minds on you, Great Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

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

### **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give praise to the LORD and announce who he is.

Tell the nations what he has done.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him.

Tell about all the wonderful things he has done.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, because his name is holy.

Let the hearts of those who trust in the LORD be glad.

<sup>4</sup> Seek the LORD and the strength he gives.

Always seek him.

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful things he has done.

Remember his miracles and how he judged our enemies.

<sup>6</sup> Remember what he has done, you children of his servant Abraham.

Remember it, you people of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God.

He judges the whole earth.

<sup>8</sup> He will keep his covenant forever.

He will keep his promise for all time to come.

<sup>9</sup> He will keep the covenant he made with Abraham.

He will keep the promise he made to Isaac.

<sup>10</sup> He made it stand as a law for Jacob.

He made it stand as a covenant for Israel that will last forever.

<sup>11</sup> He said, "I will give you the land of Canaan.

It will belong to you."

He did it so they might obey his rules

and follow his laws.

Praise the LORD.

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** - *Meditation on Grace* - Lee Dengler

Wonderful grace of Jesus,

Greater than all my sin;

How shall my tongue describe it,

Where shall its praise begin?

Taking away my burden,

Setting my spirit free;

For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,

Reaching to all the lost,

By it I have been pardoned,

Saved to the uttermost;

Chains have been torn asunder,

Giving me liberty;

For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Reaching the most defiled,  
By its transforming power,  
Making me God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven  
For all eternity—  
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

### ***God's Word for Young Disciples***

#### ***Scripture Reading***

Ephesians 2:11-22

You who are not Jews by birth, here is what I want you to remember. You are called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “circumcised.” But they have only been circumcised in their bodies by human hands. <sup>12</sup> Before you believed in Christ, you were separated from him. You were not considered to be citizens of Israel. You were not included in what the covenants promised. You were without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> At one time you were far away from God. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. He spilled his blood for you. This has brought you near to God.

<sup>14</sup> Christ himself is our peace. He has made Jews and Gentiles into one group of people. He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us. <sup>15</sup> Through his body on the cross, Christ set aside the law with all its commands and rules. He planned to create one new people out of Jews and Gentiles. He wanted to make peace between them. <sup>16</sup> He planned to bring both Jews and Gentiles back to God as one body. He planned to do this through the cross. On that cross, Christ put to death their hatred toward one another. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away. He also preached peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> Through Christ we both come to the Father by the power of one Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> So you are no longer outsiders and strangers. You are citizens together with God's people. You are also members of God's family. <sup>20</sup> You are a building that is built on the apostles and prophets. They are the foundation. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in the building. <sup>21</sup> The whole building is held together by him. It rises to become a holy temple because it belongs to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit.

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

***Sermon - Christ Has Broken Down the Wall***

Pastor Howard Pippin

#### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

***Anthem - Christ Has Broken Down the Wall***

Christ has broken down the wall. Christ has broken down the wall. Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall.

We're accepted as we are. We're accepted as we are. Through God's love all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are.

Cast aside your doubts and fears. Cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love, freely offered here. Cast aside your doubts and fears.

We will tear down the walls! We will tear down every wall. God has called us, one and all. Christ has broken down the wall.

***Discipleship Moment***

***Offertory - Follow Me*** - Stanphill

(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 561\*\* - Jesus, United by Thy Grace***

Jesus, united by your grace,  
and each to each endeared,  
with confidence we seek your face,  
and know our prayer is heard.

Help us to see in each a friend,  
each other's cross to bear,  
let all their friendly aid extend,  
and feel the other's care.

Up into you, our living head,  
let us in all things grow,  
till you have made us free indeed  
and faithful here below.

Drawn by the lodestone of your love,  
let all our hearts unite;  
let us toward each other move,  
and move toward your light.

***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 -Toccatà in d minor (Dorian)*** - J. S. Bach



**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**  
in loving memory of her parents, Paul and Evelyn Shultz, by Bonnie Shultz.

**Service Music:** Summer Choir; Ava Sabatucci, solo; Lori Turner, solo; Phil Lantry, piano  
**Music:** One License A-731491

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **Christ has broken down the walls**

Ephesians 2:14 - On the cross the veil around the High Altar, was torn apart from the top to the bottom.

### **Christ did not come to abolish the law or create uniformity**

Ephesians 2:15 & 22 - We are one in Christ who fulfills the law and the prophets. We have unity in Christ without uniformity because we are all unique.

### **God calls us to break down walls**

Ephesians 2:19 - We in the church are called to knock down walls of hate and hostility and to build bridges of love and reconciliation.

Christ creates in himself a new people – the people of the church. So Christ gives to the church unity – not unity through uniformity by making us all exactly the same, but unity in him!

**Questions for Reflection:** What walls have I built up? How will this passage transform my thoughts about those walls?

**Questions for Discussion:** What are some ways I can celebrate being in God's family? How is God calling me to break down walls?

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**Readings for this week:** Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

## CHURCH NOTES

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Acme Receipts:** It's time to start saving your Acme receipts again for their Community Cash Back program. Buy store brands and save the receipts dated August 1 thru February 15, 2024 will be valid. 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 church office.

**Men's Time Out:** All the men of the church are invited to join together on Saturday, August 5 at 8:30 for a time of fellowship, discussion, and breakfast! They meet on the first Saturday of each month.

**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](mailto:rboltz@kent.edu).

**Good Neighbors:** Good Neighbors is requesting the following items for the upcoming school year: pens (black and red), colored pencils, dry erase markers, regular markers (thick and thin), crayons (24 pack), mechanical pencils, binders (1 inch), composition books, and regular pencils. If you are able to donate any of these, please put them in the bin outside the church library.

**Lighthouse Church:** First Church was recently designated by the Conference as a "Lighthouse Church" because of our commitment to the continuing mission of Jesus through the United Methodist Church. Anyone who is interested in participating in this ministry should attend the training classes:

**July 31: 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.** ""Lighthouse Church- Hospitality"" with Jason Moore covers so much with both in person hospitality and online!

**Sept 12 or 13: 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.** ""Leading Through Change with Grief Therapy Tools"" led by Rev Laura White will help us all lead better by honing our use of grief therapy tools.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, contact Pastor Pippin to get registered.

**Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman:** The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again this fall with this 10 week study of Esther, by Beth Moore. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seem overpowering, this is the study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. You may choose between Tuesday night (7 - 9 p.m.) or Wednesday morning (10 a.m.

- noon.) Please contact Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com) to register. The cost of the workbook is \$15 and is due at the time of registration. The study will begin on October 3/4 and the deadline for registration is Friday, September 15.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
JULY 30, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**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
---	---	--

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Tom (Cathy) Hammonds on the death of his nephew, Jonathon Miller on 7/21.