

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

August 13, 2023

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### GATHERING

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

**Prelude** - *What God Ordains is Always Good* - Paul Manz

#### **Call to Worship**

When famine struck the land, God had a plan,

**Sending Joseph, who had been sold as a slave, ahead to Egypt.**

Surely, the salvation of the Lord is at hand,

**Let us hear what the Lord will speak.**

#### **Opening Hymn 110\*\*** - *A Mighty Fortress*

*A mighty fortress is our God,*

*a bulwark never failing;*

*our helper he amid the flood*

*of mortal ills prevailing.*

*For still our ancient foe*

*doth seek to work us woe;*

*his craft and power are great,*

*and armed with cruel hate,*

*on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,*

*our striving would be losing,*

*were not the right man on our side,*

*the man of God's own choosing.*

*Dost ask who that may be?*

*Christ Jesus, it is he;*

*Lord Sabaoth, his name,*

*from age to age the same,*

*and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,*

*should threaten to undo us,*

*we will not fear, for God hath willed*

*his truth to triumph through us.*

*The Prince of Darkness grim,*

*we tremble not for him;*

*his rage we can endure,*

*for lo, his doom is sure;*

*one little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers,*

*no thanks to them, abideth;*

*the Spirit and the gifts are ours,*

*thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever.*

**Invocation**

**With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things, the merciful Father, Source of all goodness. With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ, the Redeemer from sin, who restores our true nature, the perfect and mysterious Word. With all our heart, we take refuge in the One who embraces the universe, who at all times and in all places responds to our needs, the pure and tranquil Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION**

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

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 105: 1-6

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.  
Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.  
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** - *What God Ordains is Always Good* - Dan Forrest

*What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy. As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly. My God indeed in ev'ry need knows well how He will shield me, To Him, then, I will yield me. What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father; He suffers naught to do me harm though many storms may gather. Now I may know both joy and woe; Some day I shall see clearly That he has loved me dearly. What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken. Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken. I fear no harm, for with his arm He shall embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.*

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

### **Scripture Reading**

Genesis 37:13-28; 36

And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

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

**Sermon** - *But God Had Another Plan*

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

### **Hymn of Response 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.*

### **Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - *What God Ordains is Always Good* - Paul Manz  
(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 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 will be*

*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*

*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*

*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*

*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*

***Benediction and Choral Response*** - (Hymn 140)

*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*

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



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

**The rose on the altar** is in honor of the birth Sonora Xuan, parents are Ian and Serena Dai-Stroud. Grandparents, Carolyn and David Stroud, and Aunt Elizabeth.

**Service Music:** Summer Choir

**Music:** One License A-731491

## NEXT STEPS

### *The Dreamer*

*Gen. 37:3-4* – Jacob’s favoritism for Joseph was resented by his brothers  
*vs. 19* – they thought they could solve their resentment through violence

### *But God...*

*vs. 36* – by providence, Joseph was sold to a member of Pharaoh’s court

*Gen. 50:20* – the brothers’ plan to harm Joseph couldn’t stop God’s plans

### *You can’t out forgive God!*

Questions for Reflection: Joseph spent at least fourteen years away from his brothers and their father, some of that as a slave in Pharaoh’s court, because of his brother’s hatred toward him. They’d plotted to kill him then sold him into slavery to likely never see him again. Are there persons in your life who you have been harmed by, but whom you have not forgiven? Ask God for the strength to forgive them and see what burdens are lifted from your soul.

Question for Discussion: What are the negative effects on our emotional and physical health from carrying a grudge? How could you forgive someone who doesn’t believe they did anything wrong?

Memory Verse: **Philippians 1:6** – “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

Readings for this Week: Genesis 42:1-8, 45:1-3; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

## CHURCH NOTES

**Change in Operation Christmas Child:** Acts of Grace Circle has decided that they are changing their collection program of Christmas gift items for children from Operation Shoebox to local programs for a variety of reasons. Postcards with the items being requested for each month are still at the Welcome Center and suggestions of local programs where these items can be sent are still being accepted. We appreciate your support in providing a better Christmas for so many children and hope that you will help us do this for our local neighbors.

**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:** Our search continues for a childcare worker for 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:** Please consider volunteering to assist in the nursery on Sunday mornings and/or evenings in the Fall. (We are now able to stream the church service on a TV in the Nursery.) If you can commit to even one Sunday a month, during Sunday School and/or church, it would be very helpful. Talk with Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you have questions about what is needed or wish to help.

**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.

**Acme Receipts:** Acme kicked off their 2023-2024 Cashback Program on August 1, 2023, and runs thru February 15, 2024. Since it started early this year, you may already have Acme receipts that have Cashback amounts listed at the bottom. As you know, the proceeds from this fundraiser help to fund the project materials we will buy when heading back to Henderson Settlement the week of June 9, 2024. Cashback receipts can be mailed to the church office, dropped in the collection plate on Sunday, or dropped off at the church office during the week. As always, we sincerely appreciate your help in raising project funds for this mission trip.

**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.

**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:

**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 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  
AUGUST 13, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller, Kathy Kuzas and Donna Curfman

**HOSPITALIZED:**

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Behrman family Jim Bailey Bill & Janet Blank Mark & Cindy Blaser Larry Brimlow Jeanette Carlson	Steve Donahue family Scott Hipkins Lee Minier Jack Nitzsche Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Christina Shaw Ken Tunstall	
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Christine Fouser & family on the death of her brother, Richard John Mains on 8/3.