

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

August 20, 2023

GATHERING

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

Prelude - *For the Beauty of the Earth* -Diane Bish

Call to Worship

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all,

and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Opening Hymn 62 (verses 1,5,7)** - *All Creatures of Our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King,

lift up your voice and with us sing,

O praise ye! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,

O sister moon with silver gleam!

O praise ye! O praise ye!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,

forgiving others, take your part,

O praise ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,

praise God and on him cast your care!

O praise ye! O praise ye!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,

and worship him in humbleness,

O praise ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, Three in One!

O praise ye! O praise ye!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Invocation

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out the transgressions of those who have done us harm. For we acknowledge our transgressions before you while harboring old wounds against us. Forgive us as our sins and help us to forgive those who sin against us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading

Genesis 42:1-8

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, 'Why do you keep looking at one another? I have heard', he said, 'that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.' So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he feared that harm might come to him. Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to buy grain, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan.

Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. 'Where do you come from?' he said. They said, 'From the land of Canaan, to buy food.' Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

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 - *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant us Peace)* -Hal Hopson

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Genesis 44:33-45:5

Now therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord in place of the boy; and let the boy go back with his brothers. For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my father.'

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

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

Sermon - *Forgiveness and Trust and a Tender Heart*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 390 - Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**

'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

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 504 - The Old Rugged Cross**

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

*till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.
(Refrain)*

*In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.
(Refrain)*

*To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.
(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 - *Voluntary in C* - Henry Purcell



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

in memory of her parents, Russell and Dorthea Douthitt by Ann Kaiser

Service Music: Summer Choir

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

A Chance to Reconcile

Gen. 42:7 – Why did Joseph deceive his brothers?

If he'd them forgiven, why not just bring the family down immediately?

Couldn't Joseph have simply given them grain and sent them home?

Forgiveness and Trust

Forgiveness doesn't guarantee a restored relationship

45:1 – Joseph reveals himself after Judah offers to take Benjamin's place

Reconciliation requires both forgiveness and rebuilding trust

Questions for Reflection: When you feel someone has broken your trust, how do you respond? Do you immediately cut off the relationship? Do you forgive and sometimes get hurt again? What kinds of signs do you look for that someone is trustworthy and remorseful?

Question for Discussion: Why do you think Joseph went through the trouble of testing the brothers when he could have simply sold them grain and moved on?

Memory Verse: **Genesis 45:5** – “And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

Readings for this Week: Matthew 16:13-20, Exodus 1:8-2:10, Ezekiel 36:24-27

CHURCH NOTES

Help Wanted for Customer Service Positions: Do you enjoy small talk with friends or strangers? Did God's gifts to you include sharing a smile and kindness to others? Do you have a limited amount of time available? We need greeters for both services beginning in September. You would need to be at church 30 minutes prior to service and stay 10 - 15 minutes after the service. As a Lighthouse Methodist Church, it will take many people to make our guests feel comfortable visiting us. (Many hands make light work.) Please let me know if you prefer helping with the early (8:30) or late service (10:30). If you are willing to help, please contact Kim Kerr at 330 606 7736 or email at kdk3rr@gmail.com by August 30.

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.

Fall Kick-off and Family Meeting: As summer begins to come to a close, we are looking at starting another year of Epworth Youth and Choir! On Sunday, August, we will kick the year off at 3:00 with Road Rally, a photo scavenger hunt where youth go out into the community and take pictures of themselves completing challenges, followed by snack supper at 5:15. At 5:45, the youth will go to choir and Pastor Pippin will hold a meeting for parents and family members where he will talk about the upcoming year, hand out the updated Children, Youth, and Music Calendar, and pass out the permission forms and sign-ups for volunteers and snack supper.

Rally Day Parents' Meetings: Important Parent Meetings will be held for the following groups on Rally Day:

Sunday School and Children's Worship - 9:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall

ROCK - 4:30 p.m. in Asbury Hall

Confirmation Classes will hold their parent meeting on **September 17** at 9:30 a.m.

Please plan to attend.

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.

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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: tea bags, canned corn, baked beans, canned fruit, ramen noodles, jelly, baby wipes and baby diapers (size 4, 5, 6) . If you are able to donate any of these, please put them in the bin outside the church library.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
AUGUST 20, 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.