

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

August 6, 2023

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### GATHERING

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

**Prelude** - *Steal Away to Jesus* (Hymn #704) - Raymond Haan

#### **Call to Worship**

The Lord upholds all who are failing,

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

The Lord of hosts is with us,

**My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord forever.**

**Opening Hymn 632\*\*** - *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,*

*For when humbly in Thy name,*

*Two or three are met together*

*Thou are in the midst of them;*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Touch we now Thy garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather*

*In the name of Christ to sup,*

*Then with thanks to God the Father*

*Break the bread and bless the cup,*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*So now bind our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living*

*Make as sacraments of Thee,*

*That by caring, helping, giving*

*We may true disciples be.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*We will serve Thee faithfully.*

#### **Invocation**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

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

#### **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 145:14-21 (Old Testament p.)

The LORD upholds all who are falling,

and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.  
The LORD is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.  
The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

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 - If You Search with All Your Heart*** - Craig Courtney

*When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.  
When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.*

*When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.  
When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.*

*For I know the plans I have for you:  
Plans of welfare, not of evil.  
For I know the plans I have for you:  
Plans of hope and a future.*

*I will bring you out of bondage  
To the land I have prepared.  
I will bring you out of bondage,  
I will bring you home to Me.*

*For I know the plans I have for you:  
Plans of welfare, not of evil.  
For I know the plans I have for you:  
Plans of hope and a future.*

*When you seek me, You shall find me*

*If you search with all your heart.  
When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.*

*When you seek me, You shall find me  
If you search with all your heart.  
I will bring you out of bondage.  
I will bring you home to Me.  
I will bring you home to Me!*

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

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

Genesis 32:22-31 (New Testament pg.)

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

***Sermon - Wrestling with Reconciliation***

Pastor Jon Priebe

#### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

#### ***Apostle's Creed***

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### ***Discipleship Moment***

***Offertory - The Gift of Love*** (Hymn #408) - Emma Lou Diemer  
(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.

***Communion/The Lord's Prayer*** (Hymnal p. 12)

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 386\*\* - Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown***

*Come, O thou Traveler unknown,  
whom still I hold, but cannot see!*

*My company before is gone,  
and I am left alone with thee.*

*With thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day;  
with thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day.*

*I need not tell thee who I am,  
my misery and sin declare;  
thyself hast called me by my name,  
look on thy hands and read it there.  
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?  
Tell me thy name, and tell me now.  
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?  
Tell me thy name, and tell me now.*

*Yield to me now, for I am weak,  
but confident in self despair!  
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak,  
be conquered by my instant prayer.  
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,  
and tell me if thy name is Love.  
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,  
and tell me if thy name is Love.*

*'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me,  
I hear thy whisper in my heart.  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,  
pure, Universal Love thou art.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move;  
thy nature and thy name is Love.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move;*

*thy nature and thy name is Love.*

***Benediction and Choral Response*** - (Hymn 617 vs. 5)

***Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise,  
we'll live and speak his praise.***

***Postlude*** - *Toccata in F Major* - Dietrich Buxtehude



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

in loving memory Becky Asher by Shirley Asher and family;  
In loving memory of Shirley Waltermire by Tom Waltermire.

**Service Music:** Summer Choir

**Music:** One License A-731491

## NEXT STEPS

### *The Supplanter*

vs. 24 – After years of pulling himself up over others, Jacob is alone before God

vs. 25 –Jacob finally met someone whom he could not overpower by deceit

### *Peniel: Face to Face*

vs. 10 – Seeing his brother Esau again, Jacob saw in his brother the face of God

there is power in dropping your defenses and admitting when we've hurt another

Questions for Reflection: In Psalm 139, the psalmist concludes with a daunting prayer, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.” What will God find if I allow my heart to be searched like this?

Question for Discussion: The night at the Jabbok gave Jacob a chance to prepare for what he no doubt expected to be a cold welcome from his brother whom he'd attempted to defraud. All night, Jacob wrestled with an angel before God. What sorts of things have caused you to wrestle before God? Did that experience help or hinder your faith?

Memory Verse: **James 5:16** – “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

Readings for this Week: Matthew 5:21-25, Genesis 37:12-24, Psalm 139:23-24

## 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 kuzasfumccf@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 6, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & Kathy Kuzas

**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.