

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

April 21, 2024

GATHERING

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

Prelude - This is My Father's World - Diane Bish

Introit - Rejoice! Rejoice! - Ruth Schram

Call to Worship

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people,

and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

Opening Hymn 144 - This Is My Father's World**

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Invocation

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 58:1-8

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. Amen.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - *Standing in the Need of Prayer* - Schulz

Scripture Reading - Matthew 5:13-16 (New Testament 4)

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

Sermon - *Christ Transforming Culture*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 188** - *Christ Is the World's Light*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - Lord of the Dance - Allen Pote
(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 2171(FWS)** - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Benediction and Response - Amen - K Lee Scott

Postlude - O Praise Ye the Lord - Charles Callahan



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

In honor of Fred and Linda Sterling's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Service Music: Epworth and Chancel Choirs

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

Christ AND Culture

vs. 13 – Salt brings out the taste and sweetness of life

If it is not a distinct thing, alongside the food, it's worthless

Christ's new law and society's secular laws coexist in paradox

Christ Transforming Culture

vs 16 – A Christian's faithful life provokes conversion in others

“To reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land.”
- John Wesley

Questions for Reflection: What about your “salty” Christian life reveals the peculiarity and sweetness of God? How do your public spiritual disciplines shine Christ's light and show the goodness of God?

Question for Discussion: John Wesley believed that the Church's mission involved reforming both the Church and the nation in which we live? What positive changes have you seen Christians bring to our country? What changes need to come from the Church to make the nation more holy?

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:14 - *“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

Readings for this Week: Jeremiah 29:4-7,

CHURCH NOTES

We Need You! The International Welcome Center is a local agency that works with the State department to resettle refugees. This year, they'll begin welcoming six to eight families whose refugee status has been granted. We're being asked to provide a team of 4-6 people who are willing to welcome these new persons to the US and journey with them as they make their house a home, find a job, and get their children enrolled in school. Email Pastor Pippin (fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com) right away if you are interested in being part of this team!

New Handbell Choir: Do you love seeing the handbells on Sunday mornings? Here is your chance to play them. Dean Wagner is putting together a new handbell choir for beginning to intermediate players. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. The beginning date yet to be determined. Please contact Dean at Ext. 221 or email him at hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com. <mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com>

Vacation Bible School: Registration is now open for Camp Firelight VBS on June 17-21. Register online at <https://fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or get a flyer from the office or Welcome Center. VBS is from 9 - 12 for children aged 3 (by 9/24/24) - 4th grade. SERVE is at the same time for grades 5-6, and the afternoon Extreme program is from 12-5.

Chess Camp is returning this year! The program for children going into grades K and up will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center, in the church office and on our website.

Calling All Seniors! If you or your child is a senior in high school, please call the church office and let us know so that we don't miss honoring someone on Senior Sunday - May 19.

Work Camp: Each year a group of adults and youth from First Church go to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. There they take on projects for the folks who live there: painting, roofing, repairing. Helping these folks is a wonderfully rewarding experience. This year Work Camp will take place June 2 - 8. If you are interested in going, or just want more information, please contact Jack Steele at 330-697-8344.

Annual Golf Outing: It is time to mark your calendars again for the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on June 22 at 1:30. You may play in the event for \$90. We will be seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels. As always, we thank you for your support in this our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please feel free to share this with the other churches.

Volunteer Groups: In February, Pastor Jon shared that we had begun some discussions with our neighbors on Church Square (St. John's Episcopal and First Christian) about collaborating more closely and potentially redeveloping the block to more faithfully and effectively meet the needs of our community. We are ready to begin some of these conversations in earnest this spring and summer. We will have three teams of members of each congregation; a Prayer Team, an Admin/Legal Team, and a Real Estate Re-Development Team. So that each congregation is

represented equally in the groups, we may not be able to bring everyone on yet who is interested. There will be more places to provide input as the project would proceed this fall. However, if you are interested in participating in the groups forming this spring, please let me know at fallsfirstjon@gmail.com.

Grief Group Forming: Have you recently or not so recently experienced the loss of a loved one and are looking for support? We are forming a grief recovery group this summer. Please express your interest to Pastor Pippin or by calling the church office.

Church Wide Potluck Lunch: Please plan to bring your favorite dishes to share on May 19th for a church potluck. We look forward to this special gathering. Save the date!

Pizza With the Pastors: Are you new to First UMC? Pastor Jon and Pastor Pippin would like to share a slice with you! It's a great chance to meet the clergy, other new people, and know more about the church. Please join us for pizza following the service this Sunday, April 21, in Wesley Hall.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
APRIL 21, 2024**



MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Jeff Iula
Bob Ahonen	Kathy Jackson
Debbie Amundsen	Lew King
Jim Beebe	Delphia Lowe
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Lee Minier
Don Corbett	Kathi Sawyer
Mary Griest	Bonnie Shultz
John Gullion	Karen & Michael Taucher
Jim Henes	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Doug Koch and family on the death of his father, Bob Koch on 4/9.

Paul Waller and family on the death of his father, Dr. Forrest Waller on 3/31.

Jen LaFleur and family on the death of her mother, Diane Weaver on 4/3.