

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

in memory of parents Richard and Mildred Bunner and brothers Ron and Steve Bunner,
by Dottie Schmith

Congratulations to Tessa DiTirro and Matthew Lawrence on the baptism of their son Jackson Lawrence today. Proud grandparents Barb & Tom DiTirro.

Music—One License A-731491

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Marie Willis, Director of Music & Worship

Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Sunday, August 17, 2025

But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Philippians 3:20

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

August 17, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude - *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*—David Paxton

Call to Worship—

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Even the sparrow finds a new home

And the swallow a nest for herself

At the altar of the Lord of hosts.

Opening Hymn 145**—*Morning Has Broken*

Invocation (please be seated)—

O Holy God, open unto me light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair. O loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate. O God of peace, open unto me peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness. O generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Matthew 13:31-35

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

Anthem—*Surely the Presence*—Wolfe, arr. Joel Raney

Summer Choir

God's Word for Young Disciples

Sermon—*"Something God Alone Can See"*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Baptism (*Hymnal p. 34*)—*Jackson Robert Lawrence*

Hymn of Response FWS 2051**—*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*One Thing Have I Desired of the Lord*—George MacFarren

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.

Prayer 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 707**—*Hymn of Promise*

Benediction—*Shalom to You* (*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—*Courante, from English Suite II*—J.S. Bach

**Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #145, Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them,
springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sin lit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born
of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #2051, I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.
3. When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.

4. If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk to rising sun.

5. In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.

6. When the evening gently closes in
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.

7. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold."

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #707, Hymn of Promise

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the
seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hid-
den promise; butterflies will soon be
free! In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be, unre-
vealed until its season, something God
alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seek-
ing word and melody; there's a dawn
in every darkness, bringing hope to
you and me. From the past will come
the future; what it holds a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something
God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning, in our
time, infinity; in our doubt there is be-
lieving; in our life, eternity. In our
death, a resurrection; at the last a vic-
tory, unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION

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.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

In our community:

We lift up students, teachers & staff returning to school.

In our Greater world:

We pray for peace.

Our Deepest Sympathy & Prayers:

To the family of member,
Ann Niemann who passed away on 8/2.

To the family of member,
Pamela Wilson who passed away on 8/5.

From our Congregation:

Scott Adie
Bob Ahonen
Joanne Ames
Debbie
Amundsen
Rick
Amundsen
Mary Ellen
Atwood
Jim Bailey
Dorothy
Bates
Suzanne
Callahan
Melanie
Chaney
Rosalie
Goshen
Mary Griest
Flora Howell
Tom Jackson

Dwight Konic
Vince Meeker
Raquel
Mehalik
Becky Pecko
Robbie
Robinson
Holly Ross
Kathi Sawyer
Todd
Schneider
Jim Yates
Mike Yeager
Peg Yeager
Rose Ann
Youngkin

Small But Mighty

vs. 32 – God’s kingdom often begins small or even hidden from plain sight
Like yeast, though, even the smallest things can change everything

Something God Alone Can See

God can see the future nesting bird in the ungerminated seed

In baptism, all of life’s faithful moments are anticipated

Questions for Reflection:

What small beginnings of faith do you notice in yourself or others right now that you might be tempted to overlook? Where have you seen God begin something small in your life that later grew in surprising ways?

Questions for Discussion:

In what ways can you help the child we baptized today — or any child in our community — grow in faith and feel at home in God’s family?

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 4:18 – “Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”

Readings for this Week:

Psalms 139:13-16, Matthew 13:44-46, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

CHURCH NOTES 8-17-25

Membership Class: On Saturday, August 23, we will offer a day-long *New Persons Class* from 9:00am to 3:00pm (includes lunch). This class is designed especially for those who are unable to attend the traditional Sunday morning membership series. There’s a sign-up in the Welcome Center, or call the office, 330-923-5241, to register. Pastor Pippin would be happy to answer any questions fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com, x217.

Save the Date: Rally Day will be Sunday, September 14. We will return to our regular worship hours (8:30am and 10:45am) and Sunday School for all ages (9:30am). The *Church Square* Picnic will follow the 10:45am worship service. More details to come!

Annual Book Sale: Mark your calendars for the UMW annual Book Sale this Fall - the week of Oct. 23. We are looking for used adult & children’s books, puzzles, games, & DVDs.

Fall Women’s Bible Studies: All women of the church and community are invited to join the Women's Bible Studies when they begin in September. There are two options: Tuesdays from 7 to 9pm - The study will be "One in a Million" by Priscilla Shirer. The study is 7 weeks and begins on Tuesday, September 16. The cost of the book is \$17. Please sign up by Sept. 3. Wednesdays from 10am to noon-This group will study "Ruth" by Kelly Minter. The study is also 7 weeks, beginning on Wednesday, September 24. The book will be provided at no cost for those who sign-up by Wednesday, September 3. See the sign-up at the Welcome center, or call or stop by the church office to register.

Church Square: FUMC is joining the Church Square community at the First Christian Church lawn on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at noon for a picnic! Please bring a side dish to share, and plan to have a great time of food and fellowship. We plan to also have a love offering for the Church Square Christmas lights.