

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 5/23: Women's Bible Study (1:00) *final class*, Outreach meeting (6:00), Circle of Hope (6:30)
- ◆ 5/24: Wednesday Night Cookout (5:45), choir practice (7:30)
- ◆ 5/25: SPRC meeting (5:45)
- ◆ 5/28: Pentecost Sunday (10:30)
- ◆ 6/4-6/7: Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska

Everyone is invited to join us for a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following worship today to celebrate our graduates!

Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of May, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, & toothpaste. In addition, the food pantry can always use canned meat & canned fruit. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

Prayer Cover: Nancy Campbell

Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams
Family of Bruce Carson
Catherine Cartus
Ryan Cradic
Vernon Crawford
Jackie Denny
Paul Duncan
Phyllis Eckerson
Vivian Eckerson
Cecilia Fleckstein
Margaret Frazier
Jim Furches
Bob Gore
Betty & Earl Gouge
Dalton Gough
Pam Hagen
Nora & Tony Haynes
Family of Linda Hodge
Scott Huff
Joyce Josie
Family of Mike Kellum
Deni Kiehl
Linda Kostreva
Family of Bradley Kuykendall
Stacy Larsen
Aubrey Lee
Bob & Wanda May
David McElveen
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken
Tom Palmer
Ruby Payne
Bob & Athena Peebles
Carolyn Peebles
Family of Dee Dee Reid
Steven Schmidt
Louise Scott
Family of Ed Searcey
Anna Grace West
Manna House



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Prelude "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" Arr. Don Hustad

First Things First

Call to worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God's love and compassion will last forever.

Leader: When we struggle and lose our way,

People: God will speak to us and restore our souls.

Leader: In times of distress and uncertainty,

People: God will comfort us and give us hope.

Leader: Come and place your trust in the living God.

**People: We will offer our hearts in praise and our lives
in love and service.**

Invocation

Hymn of Praise

"How Firm a Foundation"

#529

Verses 1, 2, 4, & 5

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Faithful God, You diligently seek us until You find us.

People: Forgive us when we forget to seek You, and find ourselves lost in our own desires.

Leader: Compassionate God, You knock at the doors of our hearts with gifts of joy, truth, and life.

People: Forgive us when we open doors of fear, pride, and division.

Leader: Loving God, You ask us to accept Your ways of kindness, grace, and peace.

People: Forgive us when we hold grudges, lack tolerance, and cast judgment.

Leader: Forgive us when we choose our will over Your will.

People: Inspire us to freely share Your fruits of goodness and mercy to all we meet, as we travel the path to Your kingdom.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: God hears our prayers for mercy and surrounds us with love. Trusting in God's promises, stand firm on the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and freed to try again. Thanks be to God! AMEN

Old Testament Reading Psalm 119:131-144

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "God of Justice" On Screen

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

New Testament Reading Matthew 7:6-29

Anthem "Come Follow Me"

Sermon "Living Into the Kingdom" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

Graduate Recognition

Hymn of Commitment "Cornerstone" On Screen

Blessing of the Backpacks

Benediction

Benediction Response

Christ alone cornerstone
weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Pentecost is next Sunday, May 28. Wear red or other fire-themed colors as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit during worship at 10:30. We will also recognize our young people who are being promoted to the next age group.

This week is our last Wednesday Night of the season. We will have a cookout with hamburgers and hot dogs at 5:45, then move to Powell Square Park for dessert and games. Everyone is welcome!

Offering boxes are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.