

Kids Crafternoon Fun! On Sunday, August 13, right after worship, children and their families are invited to the fellowship hall for games and crafts. Lunch is provided.

SAVE THE DATE FOR AUGUST 6!

Immediately after church we will have Lemonade on the Lawn so we can talk & fellowship for a few minutes with some wonderful refreshments.

Everyone is invited to join us for a 5th Sunday Breakfast on July 30th. Bring a dish to share as we gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of food & fun from 9:15-10:15.

Our small group for new moms, expecting moms, and moms of little ones is meeting again on July 24. This group offers friendship and support for these new mothers while the nursery gives them a moment to catch their breath. They meet in the church parlor at 5:00 pm.

Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of July, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are canned salmon, canned fruit, cereal, and syrup. In addition, the food pantry can always use canned meat. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

Prayer Cover: Karl Kapoor

Prayer List

- Randy & Pat Adams
- Family of Dr. Steven Berk
- Travis Buchanan
- Family of Bruce Carson
- Catherine Cartus
- Family of Rev. Ricky Clowers
- Family of Ryan Cradic
- Vernon Crawford
- Lauren Dake
- Jackie Denny
- Paul Duncan
- Phyllis Eckerson
- Vivian Eckerson
- Cecilia Fleckstein
- Jim Furches
- Betty & Earl Gouge
- Family of Dalton Gough
- Pam Hagen
- Mendy Hall
- Nora & Tony Haynes
- Scott Huff
- Mackenzie Jennings
- Jean Jones
- Joyce Josie
- Deni Kiehl
- Linda Kostreva
- Aubrey Lee
- Karen Martin
- Bob & Wanda May
- David McElveen
- Jim & CarolAnne Milliken
- Tom Palmer
- Ruby Payne
- Bob & Athena Peebles
- Carolyn Peeples
- Family of Dee Dee Reid
- Steven Schmidt
- Louise Scott
- Anna Grace West
- Manna House



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude "To God Be the Glory" William Doane/Arr. Lloyd Larson

First Things First

Call to worship

Leader: This is none other than the house of God,

People: where we come seeking a vision of God's presence when we feel lost and alone.

Leader: This is nothing less than the gate of heaven,

People: where we come seeking God's strength when seeds of temptation spring up all around us.

Leader: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

People: It is here that we raise an altar of praise for God's goodness and love.

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #694

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Patient God, You have created us and called us to reflect Your image at all times.

People: You have searched our hearts and You know us completely.

Leader: You know when we cultivate kindness, compassion, and peace;

People: those times when our lives bear fruit that blesses the world.

Leader: You know also when our words sow seeds of discord and division;

People: those times when our actions choke out acceptance, generosity, and grace.

Leader: When we produce more weed than wheat, forgive us.

People: Reveal to us Your glory and grace. Plant within us gifts of love and mercy, so that we might live as Your children, and bear fruit that expands and enriches Your harvest.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: The boundless love of God is more than we could expect and greater than we could hope for. God is always with us, so hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

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

New Testament Reading Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Forever" Screen

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

New Testament Reading

Anthem "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Sermon Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold

Hymn of Commitment "May the God of Hope Go With Us" Screen

Benediction

Benediction Response

May the God of hope go with us every day
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace
May the God of justice speed us on our way
Bringing light and hope to every land and race
Praying let us work for peace
Singing share our joy with all
working for a world that's new
Faithful when we hear Christ's call

Today, we welcome Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold as our guest preacher. Susan is the Director of Congregational Development for the Holston Conference.

The Circle of Hope will meet Tuesday, July 25, at 6:00 pm at Kathie Tucker's house for a covered dish picnic.

This August, we will begin a worship series called Meeting God. Our worship will focus on the stories of Moses and how he encountered God throughout his life. We hope that in looking closely at these encounters we will also find ways that we can meet God in our lives.

Children & youth will resume their regular scheduled Wednesday groups on August 2nd. Dinner will be at 5:45 and groups will meet from 6:30-7:30.

Attention, men! Please make plans to join Pastor Gary on Saturday, August 12 at 9:00 am for a men's breakfast. Pastor Gary will serve his special Breakfast Tacos, and we will have a chance to talk a little about what men's ministries we would like to see at First Church.

The Women's Bible Study will resume on August 8th and Pastor Jodie will lead the study on Moses, which coincides with our Sunday Morning Worship Series "Meeting God." The women meet in the Open Door classroom every Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

If you are interested in being a part of a Habitat for Humanity team build anytime this fall, please put your name down on the contact list in the Narthex.

Pastor Jodie and Pastor Gary will be unavailable until July 25. If you are in need of a visit, call, or prayer, please contact Gerald Fields at (423) 943-4176. If you have a pastoral emergency and need a clergy person, Rev. Caleb Frazier is on call at (423) 330-8143.

The UMW Circles are hosting a trip to the Black Mountain Home for Children on July 27. The church vans will leave at 8:15 am.

Summer Youth Activities

Kiddie Pool Kickball,
previously scheduled for today,
has been canceled

7/30 6:00-8:00: Back to School Splash at Legion St. Pool
For more information, please contact
Bree Rhea (423) 833-6016
or Antwann Yocum (423) 612-9994

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