

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 9/17: Church Picnic (5:00)
- ◆ 9/19: Women's Bible Study (1:00)
Church Council (6:00)
- ◆ 9/20: Wednesday Nighter (5:30)

Youth & Children- are you interested in performing in the Christmas play? Practices begin on Sunday, September 17 after worship at 11:30 and will continue about every other Sunday. Lunch is provided!

There will be a mandatory Safe Sanctuary Training on Sunday, October 15 following worship for volunteers with children & youth, including Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, Wednesday Night helpers, van volunteers, security team, and anyone else who might help with the children or youth at any time. Lunch is provided and the training will last approximately 2 hours.

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 pm. All officers and team leaders should plan to attend. Council meetings are open for anyone to attend.

Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of September, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are canned chicken, canned fruit, & laundry detergent. 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: Fran Waterbury

Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams
Family of Dr. Steven Berk
Bob & Carla Brown
Travis Buchanan
Family of David Burleson
Chloe Campbell
Catherine Cartus
Vernon Crawford
Family of Lauren Dake
Jackie Denny
Jenny Durban
Paul Duncan
Phyllis Eckerson
Vivian Eckerson
Marvin Feagins & family
Cecilia Fleckstein
Jim Furches
Betty & Earl Gouge
Pam Hagen
Mendy Hall
Jacob Haun
Nora & Tony Haynes
Sharon Herzer
Cindy Holmes
Scott Huff
Keith & Jean Jones
Joyce Josie
Karl Kapoor
Deni Kiehl
Tammy Kosa
Linda Kostreva
Aubrey Lee
Karen Martin
Bonnie Marrs
Bob & Wanda May
David McElveen
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken
Tom Palmer
Ruby Payne
Bob & Athena Peebles
Carolyn Peebles
Steve Reis
Bobby Seay
Steven Schmidt
Family of Louise Scott
Donna Smith & family
Anna Grace West
Manna House



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude "Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above" Arr. Lloyd Larson

First Things First

Call to worship "Raise a Hallelujah" Screen

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above" #126
Verses 1, 2, & 4

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Holy God, You formed us and have a special place for us in Your divine plan.

People: You reach out to us and call us to follow where You lead.

Leader: We confess that we often hide from You and go our own way.

People: We do not always live as You teach us to live.

Leader: You love and accept us.

People: We judge and condemn each other.

Leader: You rescue us in times of trouble.

People: We find it easy to ignore the needs of those around us.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to be Your faithful disciples.

People: Speak to us once again. Encourage us, strengthen us, and guide us, so that our lives may reflect Your goodness and grace everywhere we go.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: God hears our prayers and lifts us up to new life.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord, so hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

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

Old Testament Reading Jonah 1:1-17

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" #365

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

Old Testament Reading Jonah 2:1-10

Anthem "The Deep Mercy of Jesus"

Sermon "Hiding From God" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

Hymn of Commitment "Reckless Love" Screen

Benediction

Benediction Response

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God
O, it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God

First Church is "hosting" Family Promise the week of September 25. this means we pray for the families, collect the items they need, and support the ongoing work of Family Promise. We are collecting large mesh laundry bags, snacks, and laundry detergent (dye/additive-free, for people with allergies.) Donations can be placed in boxes marked Family Promise in the narthex or connector. Financial donations can be made through FUMC or directly to Family Promise.

Committed to Christ packets are available to be picked up in the Parlor after church today. This information will be used for our fall discipleship program.

Financial Update: Contributions are up from last year, and expenses are also up. Thank you for your ongoing support of First UMC.

	Aug. 31, 2021 YTD	Aug. 31, 2022 YTD	Aug. 31, 2023 YTD
Contributions	304,130	287,004	290,654
Expenses	358,641	377,311	404,889
Income (loss)	(54,511)	(90,307)	(114,235)

Join us at Rotary Park (1001 N. Broadway) in the Harris Pavilion for a church family picnic this afternoon. We will gather at 5:00 and serve dinner at 5:30. Please bring a main dish, side, or dessert to share. Paper products and drinks will be provided. The ETSU Bluegrass Band will perform following dinner.

Clare's Closet is accepting donations of slightly used winter outerwear (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, or hoodies) for the upcoming season of giving. All donations may be taken to the box located in the connector. As always, your generous support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. Distributions will begin in October.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Program: The Book of Jonah
Menu: Firehouse barbecue, beans, slaw, chips, dessert
Dinner begins at 5:30 and the worship service begins at 6:30. Please make reservations by **Monday, 9/18 at noon** by returning the slip found in the pew pads or by contacting the church office.

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