

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 9/26: Women's Bible Study (1:00), Circle of Hope (6:30)
- ◆ 9/27: Wednesday Nighter (5:30)
- ◆ 10/1: Lemonade on the Lawn
- ◆ 10/14: Men's Breakfast
- ◆ 10/15: Safe Sanctuary Training
- ◆ 10/25: Trunk or Treat
- ◆ 10/29: 5th Sunday Breakfast

The Circle of Hope will meet Tuesday, September 26, at 6:30 pm at the Hunter's Lake Clubhouse.

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.

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: Dianna Boarman

Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams
Family of Dr. Steven Berk
Bob & Carla Brown
Travis Buchanan
Family of David Burleson
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
Family of David McElveen
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken
Tom Palmer
Ruby Payne
Bob & Athena Peebles
Carolyn Peebles
Bobby Seay
Steven Schmidt
Anna Grace West
Manna House



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" Arr. Brian Buda

First Things First

Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits.

Leader: The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

People: Bless the Lord, all God's works, in all places of God's dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #139

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Loving God, we confess that we fail to live in harmony with You and with each other.

People: We believe that our thoughts are right, so we refuse to listen to others and seek peace.

Leader: We turn away from You and from those who are different from us.

People: We conveniently forget that Your love embraces even those we don't like.

Leader: We make judgments and focus on punishing rather than forgiving.

People: We want to stay in our comfort zone without considering Your call to accept and serve all people.

Leader: Forgive us when we fail to demonstrate Your compassion and grace.

People: Forgive us when we withhold Your goodness. Take our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh willing to serve You and all Your children.

(a time for personal reflection)

Leader: Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. My friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

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

Old Testament Reading Jonah 3:1-10

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Your Love, O God" #120

Mission Moment

Doxology #94

Old Testament Reading Jonah 4:1-11

Anthem "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

Sermon "Found by God" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

Hymn of Commitment "Bigger Table" Screen

Benediction

Benediction Response

A house for the hungry, a well for the thirsty
where all saints come together shoulder to shoulder
A welcome for the traveler, new wine for the vineyard
In all things God is able, love has a bigger table
Love has a bigger table, there's a place for you
Love has a bigger table

We extend our sympathy to Cal & Miriam Robinson in the death of Miriam's brother, David McElveen, on September 21.

First Church is "hosting" Family Promise this week. 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.

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: taco salad, dessert

Dinner begins at 5:30 and the worship service begins at 6:30.

Please make reservations by **Monday, 9/25 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.