

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 6, 2024



*"Let the
little children
come to me"*

Strengthening and sharing our Christian
faith through fellowship and service

October 6, 2024 ~ The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

Enter to Worship

This is a Time of Silence as We Prepare for Worship.

Prelude

Welcome

† Opening Hymn, No. 529

How Firm a Foundation

† Call to Worship

One: Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets,

All: *but in the last days he has spoken to us through his Son Jesus Christ.*

One: Jesus is the reflection of God's glory, and he sustains all things in the world by his powerful Word. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, should give his only son to suffering for our salvation.

All: *Therefore we will proclaim God's name. In the midst of the congregation, we will praise God.*

Prayer of the Day

Sometimes we do not understand why bad things happen to good people. Sometimes all we can do is lift up our eyes and hearts to heaven, and scream out loud, Why? Sometimes we do not want to persist in our integrity; we allow our suffering to lead us into despair. Yet wisdom comes from listening to your Word. Enable us to see the life you have given us through the laughter, joy, trial, and tribulation of your son Jesus Christ, who lived, suffered, died, and was raised for us. In his name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

In God, we find light for our darkness, and through that light we discover the things that separate us from God. And so we ask God to prove us and try us, and to test our hearts and minds, that we may receive forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other and from you.

Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Confession May be Made in Silence.

Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Seeing our repentant hearts, Jesus will embrace us in grace and comfort us with mercy. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. We are children of God! Live in peace! **Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors, but in these last days God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ. Open our hearts and minds to your Word, that we may see your light. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm 26

- ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- ² ***Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.***
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.^[a]
- ⁴ ***I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;***
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ ***I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,***
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ ***O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.***
- ⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
- ¹⁰ ***those in whose hands are evil devices
and whose right hands are full of bribes.***
- ¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me and be gracious to me.
- ¹² ***My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.***

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

† Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:2-16

The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

Anthem

† Affirmation No. 880

The Nicene Creed

† Hymn, No. 368

My Hope Is Built

Prayers of Intercession

A time of silence follows each petition.

We pray for those who are suffering, through sickness, through loss, without support, in loneliness. ***Vindicate them, O Lord.***

We pray for those who seek justice, who frown upon evil but are still shunned and persecuted. ***Vindicate them, O Lord.***

We pray for those who feel like the smallest of small, the weakest of weak, those who feel ignored and unloved. ***Vindicate them, O Lord.***

We pray for those who have been abandoned or abused, who have been neglected and left powerless, who have been limited or rejected. ***Vindicate them, O Lord.***

Take them into your arms as Jesus did with the children, and bless them every day so that they are supported, liberated, loved, and accepted. In the name of the one who welcomed the children. ***Amen.***

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, our Comfort. You have given Jesus, your only son, who was made lower than the angels, for our sake. With thanksgiving, we give of what you have provided, that your will may be done in this world. Give us the wisdom and courage to do so.

In the name of Jesus we pray. ***Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Almighty and eternal Father, we indeed offer you praise and thanks for your presence in the world that you love. In every age you call your people to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, their God.

When conflict and strife arise, you turn our minds to consider the ways of peace. Your Spirit converts our hearts, calming troubled consciences, reconciling the alienated, enabling conversation among adversaries, and turning the swords of the nations into plowshares. Your Spirit is at work when understanding overcomes discord, when compassion extinguishes the flames of hatred, and when forgiveness silences cries for vengeance.

And so we thank you and praise you with the faithful people of every time and place, joining with the choirs of heaven and with the whole creation in singing to your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way that leads to peace. He is the true Word that brings salvation and the source of eternal life. He is the hand stretched out to sinners, the one who became a servant that we might learn to seek after heavenly things and so find our way to one another. Therefore we celebrate the reconciliation that Christ has gained for us.

When he was at supper on the night before he died for us, he took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

At the end of the meal he took the cup. Again he offered you praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new and everlasting covenant which is shed for you and for all people. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord our God, your Son has entrusted this pledge of love to us, and so we celebrate the memory of his death and resurrection. Accept us together with your Son. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and fill us with that same Spirit as we share this meal, so that all which divides us may be healed. Inspire us to be your people of reconciliation. Make your church throughout the world to be a sign of unity and an instrument of peace.

Bring quickly that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed. Keep us watchful for that day when people of every race, language and way of life will gather to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
~ Karen Westerfield Tucker

The Breaking and the Sharing

† Closing Hymn, No. 189

Fairest Lord Jesus

† Prayer for the Renewal of Christ's Church

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God: Grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.
~ St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

† Charge to the Congregation and Blessing

Go out into the world and live as children, dependent on God and on each other, obedient to the will of God, holding tight to God's hand, citizens of the kingdom.

May God be with us through good and bad, giving us wisdom to recognize each lesson and each blessing. May Jesus Christ embrace us each day in his loving arms that make us feel as if we belong, as if we are loved, as if we have a home. May the Holy Spirit continually show us God's actions in our lives as we are reconciled to one another, brothers and sisters, one family, in God. **Amen.**

Please remain in silence until the Postlude has concluded and all have been dismissed.

† Please stand as you are able.

Words in ***bold & italic*** are to be spoken by the congregation.

*Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
In honor of Cathy Price Birthday, given by John Price.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm 26

James 5:13-20

Gospel Reading

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Chuck Bump

Ushers: Men Team

TO BE REMEMBERED

Prayers for Healing

Members: A.Y. Cooper, Yvonne Edwards, Sibyl French, Phyllis Kirts, Cindy Loving, Rita Potter, Jane Preston, Cathy Price, Lynda Rainey, Norman Shields, Nancy Vincent, Sally Walker, Barbara Yost

Friends: Phyllis Earley

Birthdays: 10/08 Cathy Price, 10/09 Teresa Michener, 10/12 Belinda Young, 10/13 Barbara Poplin, 10/21 Ricky Clifton, 10/27 Kelly Webster, 10/30 Virginia Gall, 10/31 Lyn Smith

Anniversaries: 10/06 Beverly & Phil Rehrig, 10/08 Lindsey & Rob Cook
10/11 Jane & William Waters, 10/19 Deedra & Rahman Hussein

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOOD CLOSET NEEDS! As the shelves continue to be sparse at the foodbank, help our closet by bringing these items: **canned fruit, instant potatoes pouches, and canned meat.** Thanks for your support.

Thanks to the “**Good News Riders**” of the **Christian Motorcycle Association** for their two recent food pantry donations.

THRIVE SHOE DRIVE—Help us fill our Red Container in the Narthex with shoes! The UWIF is supporting the “Thrive Shoe Mission”. We are collecting shoes of all types and conditions. This outreach keeps shoes out of landfills, supports the development of micro-center enterprises such as Haiti, and earns funds to support local families in distress. So, clean out your closets and bring your worn out shoes to church!

THE 50TH ANNUAL BRUNSWICK STEW AND BAKE SALE is on October 26th from 11am–2pm. Cindy Bush is in charge of the Brunswick Stew. Jeanette Leslie is in charge of the ham biscuits. Betty Miller is in charge of the Bake Sale. It will be a yummy affair!!! Please plan to participate in this community event. All members of the church are invited to bake items for the bake sale. Please bring baked goods to the church Friday morning October 25th by noon or Saturday morning Oct. 26th by 10am. We will have up to 5 crafters participating. If you have questions or suggestions, or to volunteer please contact Susanne Daley at 757-232-6682.

CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION— According to Science Guy, Bill Nye, “The best way to save the planet isn’t necessarily recycling ~it’s stepping into a voting booth.” Recycling is important to do, but greater impact comes from changing laws and policies. Vote for the planet. Vote for people who care about God’s Creations.

THIS WEEK

Sun, October 6

9 am — Sunday School
10 am — Worship
11 am — Choir Practice
11:45 am — Hand bell Choir

Mon, October 7

10:45 am — Bible Study

Wed, October 9

10 am — Chapel
6 pm — Bible Study

Find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchNewportNews

First United Methodist Preschool:

www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool

Instagram: www.instagram.com/firstumcpreschool

TITHES & OFFERING REPORT— September 30, 2024

Date	Budget Need	Offerings	Deficit
September	\$25,100.00	\$19,489.00	-\$61,568.75
Year To Date	\$195,780.00	\$134,211.25	\$61,568.75

First United Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 9 am Sunday School; 10 am Worship Service

10246 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, Virginia 23601 • Church Office: (757) 595-0383;

Church Office Email: administrativeasst@firstumcnewportnews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm • Website: www.firstumcnewportnews.com

Pastor Elizabeth: pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com • Phone: Mobile: (757) 335-2649