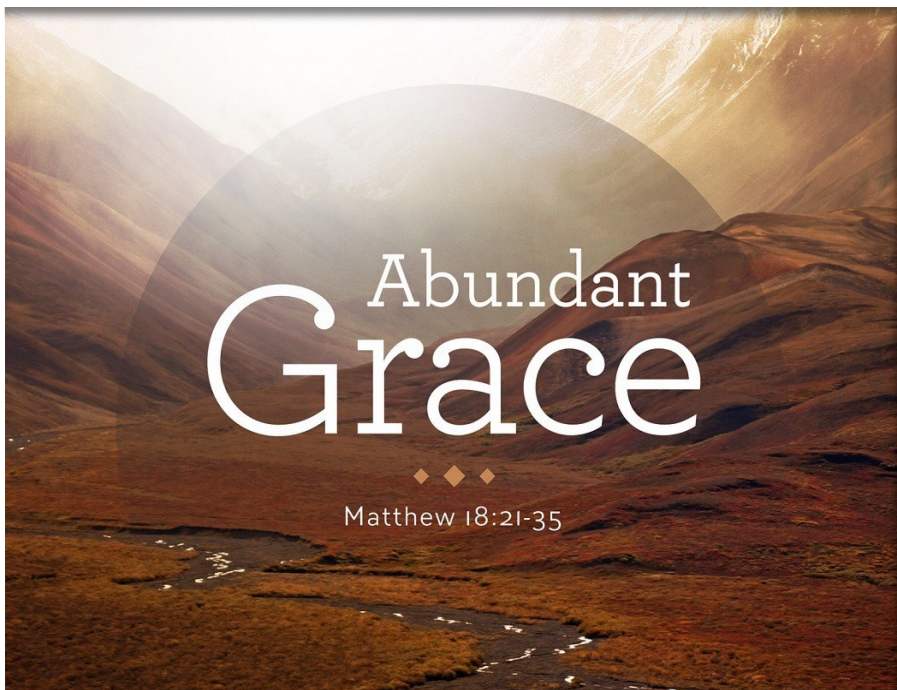


First United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 17, 2023



Strengthening and sharing our Christian
faith through fellowship and service.

September 17 ~ The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Enter to Worship

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

PRELUDE

† OPENING HYMN, NO. 327

Crown Him with Many Crowns

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give praise to God! Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves, who forgives, and who delivers.

All: Give thanks and praise the Lord!

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who would seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold. We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness, for there is none like you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of the Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

PSALTER NO. 135

Canticle of Moses and Miriam

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

† GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

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

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth A. Lutz

ANTHEM

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 885

A Modern Affirmation

† HYMN, NO. 170

O How I Love Jesus

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A time of silence follows each petition.

May we pray for this world God so loves, saying, God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, your unfailing love has been the source of our strength. It has led us through troubled waters and away from enemies. In your infinite love, you have pity on us and heard our cries. Because of your faithful love and mercy, we bring our concerns to you, O God.

For the universal church – that it would be an instrument of your love, forgiveness, and grace. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the global community – that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation, and share collective responsibility. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our local community. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls – wrap your arms around them in love and help us, the church, be what they need. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glory be to the Father, and to Jesus Christ the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **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

O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. **Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN, NO. 402

Lord I Want to Be a Christian

† PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

Renew your church, Lord, your people in this land. Save us from cheap words and self-deception in your service. In the power of your Spirit transform us, and shape us by your cross. Amen.

~ United Methodist Hymnal No. 574

† CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION AND BLESSING

Walk in the strength and confidence that God guides your feet. Therefore live for God – show mercy and love one another.

May the God who protects and defends keep you in safety, mercy, and love. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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.

*In celebration of Jane Waters' 85th birthday, the flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and placed in her honor. We are inspired every day by her love and service to others and are so blessed that she is our mom. Thanks for always being there for each of us. We miss you and love you with all of our hearts.
Your children and grandchildren.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Exodus 16:2-15 / Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30 / Matthew 20:1-16

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Ray Hussein

Ushers: Ladies' Team

TO BE REMEMBERED

Prayers for Healing

Members: A.Y. Cooper, Sibyl French, Joyce Harrell, Phyllis Kirts, Peggy Pierce, Jean Richardson, Agnes Rodgers, Norman Shields, Judy Talbert, Sally Walker, Barbara Yost

Friends: Pastor Lynnwood Wells, Phyllis Earley

Birthdays: 9/19 Bill Daley, 9/20 Jane Waters, 9/23 Agnes Rodgers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES! The UWIF are collecting supplies for needy children attending elementary schools in our community. There is a container for the items in the vestibule. Suggestions are single subject spiral notebooks, notebook paper, pencils, rulers, crayons and blunt scissors. **They are also in need of children's underpants, white with no print, sizes 4t-6.** Let's help them get off to a great start! Thank you.

Tower articles for the October Tower are due no later than Monday, September 18th.

Singers and Bell Ringers Needed! There is no requirement to read music! John Allsbrook, our music director, will teach you! See him for more details!

CRAFT SHOW—Please mark your calendars for October 28, 2023!! Please plan to help with our 49th annual Craft Show and Brunswick Stew Lunch!! The sale begins at 10 am and ends at 3 pm. You will have fun, get to meet lots of nice people, and make lots of money for missions. We will also have a White Elephant Sale on the same day!! Hosted by the United Methodist Men, the sale will be in room 212. You may begin placing gently used items in room 212 for the sale. Please no furniture or clothing. Don't forget to mark your calendars!!

MISSIONS is requesting canned soups, fruits, beets, pudding cups. Thank you for all those who donate and support with monetary gifts. *He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 17

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

No inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who live there will be forgiven their iniquity. Isaiah 33:24

Christ said, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and Hades." Revelation 1:17-18

Most loving God, the certainty of your blessings is eternal, everlasting, and from generation to generation. We are grateful and humbled that it is you in whom we live, move, and have our being today. Amen.

Monday, September 18

Know that all lives are mine. Ezekiel 18:4

Paul wrote: I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone. 1Timothy 2:1

Sustaining God, claiming us all as your own, encourage us to come to you with all our hopes, wants, and fears. Teach us that we are worthy of your loving attention. Amen.

Tuesday, September 19

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

Now during those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12

Eternal Refuge, our trust in you is strengthened when we bring everything in our lives to you in prayers. Please encourage us, welcome us, hear us when we come to you, in whatever state of being we find ourselves. Amen.

Wednesday, September 20

In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence. Proverbs 14:26

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35

Enduring One, we know you, love you, and serve you. When we feel disconnected from you, please guide our hearts back to the truth, that nothing separates us from you. Amen.

Thursday, September 21

You will certainly revere me, you will accept discipline. Zephaniah 3:7, NASB

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer.'" Luke 19:45-46

Sovereign God, your justice is powerful and creative, beginning with each of us allowing your will to work its way in us. We sometimes make the mistake of believing that faithful action takes singular courage. What it takes is union with you and your reconciling purpose in the life of Jesus Christ. On this trust, we base our lives. Amen.

Friday, September 22

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because the Lord of your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Isaiah 55:5

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Ephesians 3:14-15

Today, dear God we take in the great mystery of your gathering all people and nations into your family. We are no longer strangers when we worship you and share your love with each other. Thank you, God. Amen.

Saturday, September 23

Do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace. Isaiah 54:4

Paul wrote: I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. Philippians 3:13

Constant Spirit, our human actions often lead to broken hearts, wounded pride, and petty grievances that can risk us fracturing our souls and our union with you. Please forgive us our mistakes. Please lift us up by your grace, so that we may keep walking with you toward what lies ahead. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sun, September 17

9 am—Sunday School
10 am—Worship
11 am—Choir Rehearsal
11:45 am—Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Tues, September 19

6:30 pm—UWIF General Mtg

Wed, September 20

10 am—Chapel
11 am—Worship Mtg
6 pm—Bible Study

TITHES & OFFERING REPORT UPDATED WEEKLY— September 11, 2023

Date	Budget Need	Offerings	Deficit
September	\$9,792.30	\$12,222.00	+2,429.70
Year To Date	\$181,157.55	\$134,115.06	-\$47,042.49

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

Pastor's phone: Mobile: (757) 335-2649 Home: (757) 595-5630