



First United Methodist Church

*Welcome! We're glad that you are here.
To all who need comfort; all who need friendship;
all who are lonely and need companionship;
all who want sheltering love, all who sin
and need a Savior; and whosoever will
—we open wide our doors and say,
“Come; let us worship together.”*

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

April 23, 2017

**Prelude
Words of Welcome and Announcements
Special Music**

**Brennon Cavanagh
Accompanist: Donetta Brunner**

*** Unison Prayer**

Lord, bless the land you've given us and may we always know as we tend each crop and creature you're the one who helps them grow. Grant us the strength and wisdom and protect us from all harm, and thank you for your gracious gift the blessing of a farm. We pray in the name of the Lord of the harvest, Jesus Christ. Amen

*** Hymn #314 “In the Garden”**

*** Call to Worship**

L: O Lord, you have given us the gift of land.
P: May we ever protect and preserve it.
L: O Lord, you have given us the gift of water.
P: May we keep it pure and safe.
L: O Lord, you have given us the gift of air.
P: May we keep it pure and fresh.
L: O Lord, you have given us the gift of plants and trees.
P: May we ever use and protect them justly.
L: O Lord, you have given us the gift of birds and animals.
P: May we preserve and enjoy them.
L: O Lord, you have given us care of the earth.
P: O Lord, we accept the care of these gifts as our sacred stewardship. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

“Peace be with you. And also with you!”
(Take this time to greet one another in Christ's love.)

Children's Moment

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer**

**Silent Prayer
Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Lesson 2 Corinthians 9:6-11/ Hosea 10:12-13

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

*** Hymn #383 “This is a Day of New Beginnings” (vs 1-4)**

**“So, God Made a Farmer”
“So God Made a Farm Wife”**

**Peg Dauphin
Burt Dauphin**

*** Gospel Lesson- Matthew 13:1-9**

**Message The Farmer, The Sower
Rev. Joey Garcea**

Offertory Sentence

Please use this time to register your attendance in the red booklets found at the end of each pew and pass it along your row.

Offertory

*** Doxology # 95**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

God of miracles, in the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, you overturned natural laws. Thank you for the patience Jesus showed to Thomas who was afraid that it was too good to be true. You still do wonders, transforming people's lives by your Spirit working through disciples like us. Direct our offerings to strengthen the ministries of this church, especially among people who struggle with doubt or feel distant from you. We pray through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen. (John 20:19-31)

<Prayer for Farming>

O God, Source and Giver of all things, who manifests Your infinite majesty, power and goodness in the earth, we give You honor and glory. For the sun and rain, for the manifold fruits of our fields, for the increase of our herds and flocks we thank You. For the enrichment of our souls with divine grace, we are grateful. And we thank you for the farmers who lovingly and dutifully cultivate your creation to provide food for our town. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

< Blessing for Farmers >

L: Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving!
P: Praise the Lord, sun and moon and all shining stars.
L: He covers the heavens with clouds.
P: He supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.
L: He provides food for the cattle and for young ravens when they call.
P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
L: May God continue to bless us. Let all the ends of the earth reveal

Him.

P: Praise the Lord.

L: As our farmers prepare the fields in anticipation of the new growing season, the aromas fill the air, a sign of God's readiness to provide. Make us good stewards of your creation as we fertilize and work the ground. Bless the soil and those who plow.

P: The earth will yield its harvest; God, our God, will bless us.

L: We marvel at the life-giving power of creation as a seed pops out of the ground and it transforms the landscapes with beautiful colors before our very eyes. Fill our planters with this new life, that we might harvest in abundance. Bless our seeds and those who planted.

P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

L: As our farmers keep the constant eye on the weather, give us seasonable and peaceful rains from the fountain of goodness. May the corn grow tall, and the beans become bush and green. Bless the source of living water.

P: The earth will yield its harvest. God, our God, will bless us.

L: What a gift it is to hear the tractors running down the highway. What a gift it is to be stuck behind them as they walk down the road. May our farmers be diligent and careful in the maintenance of these gifts of technology. Bless this equipment and those who operate it.

P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

L: God, we haven't forgotten about our farmers, those who till the soils, plant the seeds, wait for the rains, and operate their equipment. Keep them safe in this planting season and throughout the year. Bless our farmers and those who love them.

P: The earth will yield its harvest. God, our God, will bless us.

L: And all God's people said,

P: Amen.

*** Hymn #593 “Here I am Lord”**

*** Benediction**

*** Blessing of the Tractors**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers

John Hamm, Glen Brunner, John Powell, Rex Felten, Eli, Bill Remrey, Jerod Wood, Savannah Jones, Wilma Brunner, Ed Arb, Susan Mangler, Judy Orn, Joan Miller, Bob Law, Joan Casselius, Elizabeth Rath, Shawn Roling, Tom Eckhardt, George Hastings, Jeremy Leitzen, Jessica Boyer, Robin Cook, Jim Stanelle, Family of Cody Donahue, Military Personnel and their families

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Apr 25 Justin Haynes, Lauren Belander
28 Ginny Anderson
30 Chris Nortunen
May 2 Matthew Shaw
3 Burt Dauphin, Ben Fosdick

Calendar

Sunday, April 23 Blessing of the Tractors

8 am Trustee Meeting
9 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship
11:30 am Ad Council Meeting

Monday, April 24

9 am Body & Soul Yoga

Tuesday, April 25

4 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, April 27

8 am Breakfast (Café Crumbles)/ Bible Study
9 am Body & Soul Yoga

Saturday, April 29

8:30 am Weight Watchers
5 pm Worship

Sunday, April 30 UMW Sunday

9 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship

Monday, May 1

9 am Body & Soul Yoga

Tuesday, May 2

4 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 3

7 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 4

8 am Breakfast (Café Crumbles)/ Bible Study
9 am Body & Soul Yoga

Saturday, May 6

8:30 am Weight Watchers
5 pm Worship

1. **We welcome all visitors** to our Worship time today. We are glad you're here. Our slogan is Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors. We are the people of the United Methodist Church.
2. **Friendly reminder** to Pam Darrow! You are the verifier for next Sunday!
3. If you need to get ahold of **Pastor Joey** and he is not in the office, please call him on his cell! 815-656-0362!
4. Please **pick up your Telstar** after the service. They are located in the Narthex!
5. Please join us on **April 30th for our Annual UMW Sunday!!**
6. Is your child bored in church? We have **restocked the activity bags** in the back of the Sanctuary and they are welcome to use them!
7. We will be **honoring graduates in May**, please let the office know if you or your child will be graduating any level this year- elementary, high school, college.
8. **First Sunday will be May 7th** from 4-6pm. We will be at **Old Mill Park** playing kickball etc. A light picnic dinner will be served! Hope to see you all there!
9. Are you **interested in becoming an audio tech** for Sunday morning? If you are interested or would like information, please talk to Kris Yingling or Kay Cavanagh.



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, 10:15am

*“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

--Jesus Christ

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