



At First United Methodist Church we are each alive in Christ, united in nurturing fellowship, reaching out to share God’s boundless love.

September 21, 2025 11:00 a.m.  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Jill Alventosa-Brown

Opening Voluntary - “Adagio” by Tommaso Albinoni  
Phyllis Jones, organ

Call to Worship  
When we are surrounded on every side,  
wondering which way is up and which way is down...  
Help us, God, for the glory of your name.  
When we question which way to go  
and how to follow God’s path for us...  
Help us, God, for the glory of your name.  
When we find our rest in God  
and long for others to know the sweet peace of God’s embrace...  
Help us, God, for the glory of your name.  
Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen  
and discern God’s help that meets us right where we are.  
Help us, God, to receive your help  
and to extend your help to our neighbors,  
all for the glory of your name. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2025.  
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/i-will-call-upon-the-lord/fifteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes> & liturgical-resources

Opening Prayer  
Eternal and Gracious God,  
you hear the cries of your people for justice and mercy;  
you answer our prayers with the gift of your Son,  
who bears our burdens and sets us free.  
Speak your truth to us;  
purge and refine us;  
that we may love and serve you alone. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 139 by Joachim Neader  
“Praise To the Lord, the Almighty”

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Anthem - “Sing, Praise & Rejoice” by Margaret Vance  
First UMC Chancel Choir

Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord for his strength and goodness.  
Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord and rejoice!  
Praise the Lord with the lyre, with trumpets and the sound of the horn.  
Clap your hands, all ye people. Sing praise! Sing praise to the Lord!  
Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord for his strength and goodness.  
Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord and rejoice!  
Therefore we will not fear though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.  
Even though the earth changes we will not fear for the Lord is our strength.  
Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord and rejoice!  
Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing to the Lord and rejoice!

Worshipping God with Our Gifts, Tithes & Offerings  
Worship Experience Enhancements - John McWhorter

Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Gracious God,  
source of our daily bread and Sabbath trust,  
you feed us with your love  
and equip us to share in your purpose.  
Receive the offerings of our wounded spirits,  
our guarded purses,  
our meager strength,  
and continue to expand our hearts,  
until we live with the boldness and joy of Easter morning;  
for we pray in the name of your son, Jesus,

Godly Play wonder...  
A Time for the Child in All of Us  
All kids are invited to join us down front for a time just for them! Afterwards, kids in kindergarten thru 2nd grade are invited to follow the leader to the Godly Play Room for Children’s Church.

Hymn of Preparation No. 474 by Thomas A. Dorsey  
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Scripture Reading - Luke 16:1-13 NT Page 79

Sermon Rev. Dr. Lauren Anderson

Hymn of Response TFWS No. 2197 by Jan Struther  
“Lord of All Hopefulness”

Benediction

Choral Benediction - “Amen” by Allen Pote  
First UMC Chancel Choir

Chimes of the Trinity

Music Appreciation Focus  
What if we took the time to sit back down after the Chimes of the Trinity  
and let the music of the postlude filter into our souls to inspire us to follow  
God throughout the week?

After the Chimes of the Trinity at the end of the service, you may choose to  
be seated and join together in thoughtful meditation while listening to the  
beautiful music of the postlude as a way to get your week of Christian  
discipleship off to a great start.

Postlude - “Joyful, Joyful” arr. by Douglas Wagner  
Phyllis Jones, organ

Revs. Skinner and Tutterow extend a gracious welcome to Rev. Jill Alventosa- Brown and Rev. Dr. Lauren Anderson for leading worship at First UMC today. Jill and Lauren and their families are close personal friends of Cheryl and Kirk, and have also faithfully served at First UMC. We welcome them with joy and gratitude on this day!

Flowers  
The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Stoner upon the occasion of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 22<sup>nd</sup> by Julie & Glenn Griggs, Wayne Gwaltney, Tim Gwaltney & their families.

A Note of Sympathy  
Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Jimmie Jean Hunt and family upon the occasion of the death of her husband, George Hunt, on September 15, 2025.

Prayer Requests  
All are encouraged to review the list and contact the church office to add or remove a name from the prayer list. (\*denotes FUMC members)

<b>First UMC member:</b> *Judy Hench (CS 9-11-25) *Peggy Everhart (CS 9-11-25) *Bob Pearson (CS 9-11-25) *Cindy/Tom Smith (AC 5-15-25)  <b>Friends &amp; Family:</b> Myrna & Spencer Davis (CM 9-16-25) Beth Graves (MG 9-16-25) Jamie Everhart (MG 9-15-25) Phil (Sharon) Kinzer (CM 9-15-25) Donese (Peter) Carpenter (PE 9-9-25) Melba (Charles) Purvis (PE 9-9-25) Steve Erickson (VO 9-7-25) Torrey Jackson (LM 9-3-25) Sharon/Edsel Beck (JD9-3-25) Edith Clement (JD 9-3-25) Dana (Rodney) Colquitt (JD 9-3-25) Brentley & Conley Castor (JD 9-3-25) Dale, Mandy, & Riley Castor (JD 9-3-25) Curt (Lisa) Miller (JD 9-3-25) Deanna Smith (JD 9-3-25) Beverly Leonard (CM 9-2-25) Kimberly Wood (CM 8-25-25) Lee Ann Bethel (CM 8-25-25) Tami Robinson (CM 8-25-25) Arlette Walser (BF 7-29-25) Midway Methodist (7-29-25) Irene Foster (BF 7-29-25) Arnold Miller (KW 7-23-25) Geri & Chuck Bowyer (CM 7-21-25) Dorey Thomas (JL 7-21-25) Elizabeth Morales (JL 7-18-25) Jon & Emerson Bethel (CM 7-16-25) Michael Wood (CM 7-16-25) Anna Cruz (CM 7-16-25) Christine (CM 7-14-25) Judy Jordan (CM 7-11-25) Kay Gilmer (CM 7-10-25) Cheryl Crago (EC 7-8-25) Deborah Bisbee (JB 7-4-25) Woody Bowman (TF 6-10-25)	Becky Griffith (CM 5-20-25) Rick LeBaube (CB 5-13-25) Special Friends (CM 5-13-25) Laura Turlington (HC 4-29-25) Major (DB 4-28-25) Kay Crouse (TB 4-28-25) Ron & Kristie Wooten (OE 4-28-25) Lenny Wegwart (CM 4-13-25) Greg Leonard (LL 4-2-25) Gary (Pat) Leonard (LL 4-2-25) Tommy Hendrix (LL 4-2-25) Special Friend (DB 4-1-25) Mark Frye (CM 4-1-25) Faye & Family (LH 3-27-25) Amanda Hall (LH 3-23-25) Tricia Royster (TB 2-19-25) Martha S.Winters (LH 2-19-25) John McCutcheon (LH 2-19-25) Sarah Rakestraw (EC 2-11-25) Gloria Bulluck (GF 12-7-24) Brandon/Jan Kraft (CM 11-12-24) Trevor Vermette (GS 11-8-24) Betty Dix (LH 6-11-24) Jackie Truell Butler (CM 6-4-24) Joan Briggs (CM 3-25-24) John McNeil (AC 3-1-24) Anonymous (JA 1-31-24) Amy McIntosh (JO 1-31-24) Stan Larson (1-31-24) Betty Jean Whitaker (1-31-24) Kendall Conner (1-31-24)	<b>Member Care</b> *Eddie (Jemmietta) Allred *Dot Cook *Ginnie Easter *Hilda Flynt *Larlie Mae Knight *Edna Morris *John (Rebecca) Scarff *Carolyn Smith *Patricia Smith *Dr. Hunter Strader *Ruby (Buddy) Taylor *Fionnie Thomason Peggy & Wayne Wegwart *Dare Wilson  <u>Brilliance Edgewater (Florida)</u> *Mary Norman  <u>Brookdale (Falling Creek)</u> *Mary Hooks  <u>Brookdale (Lexington)</u> *Libby & Max Lanning *Ramona Phelps  <u>The Pines (Davidson)</u> *Carolyn Briggs  <u>Piedmont Crossing (Thomasville)</u> <u>Assisted Living</u> *Rachel Hendrix *Joyce Inabinett *Bob Pearson <u>Residents</u> *Joan & Dick Bisbee *Betsy Buchanan *Herman Crabtree *Jim Dillon *Becki & Tom Foust  <u>Westminster Canterbury (Virginia)</u> *Bettye Gray
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