

Sunday
September 16, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Plain print indicates
worship leader.

**Bold print indicates
congregation.**

**Indicates please stand
as able.*

Gather to Worship

Welcome

Ministry Opportunities

*Call to Worship

We come just as we
are, different people,
different gifts,
different lives, different skills.

**We lay our offerings before God, each representing who we
are, what we have, where we are.**

May our worship this morning be an offering of sincere sacrifice.

Let us come before God.

We could be anywhere this morning,
but You are here.

Our minds might wander to events and tasks awaiting us.

We are here now with God.

To God we give this time,
a worthy sacrifice indeed.

*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Creator God, it seems as though murder and mayhem have
been part of the human story from the start: jealousies,
misunderstandings, violence, family rivalries; and alongside
all of these the attempt to make sense of it and find a better
way to live.

**For all our so-called progress in so many ways, for all the
books that have been written, and plans made and
prayers prayed, we have to confess that we are no further
forward than people were in ancient times.**

Still, we long for acceptance; still, we lash out in anger when we
feel hurt; still, we imagine that other people have it easier than
we do; still, our better self, that knows we are all responsible
for one another, does battle with the fearful, primitive part that
looks out only for ourselves.

**Forgive us, we pray, for our deliberate wrong choices, our
self-absorption and lack of concern for others.**

Forgive us for giving in to our basest impulses: not for being
angry or jealous, but for using those feelings as an excuse for
cruelty and violence, grabbing what we want and getting our
own back.



But a lot of the wrong that we do does not feel like a choice at all.

Old hurts that we can hardly remember or name still pull us in ways that we do not want to go.

Actions taken with good intentions cause hurts that we never intended.

And sometimes our punishment, like Cain's, seems greater than we can bear.

Gentle God, may there be healing for those deep wounds that cause us to go wrong in the same old ways, time and time again.

Help us to face up to the responsibility that is rightly ours for the way in which our behavior affects other people; and may we then be able to let go of all the extra, unnecessary guilt that weighs us down.

Above all, infuse us, we pray, with a new vision of Your grace and goodness; Your infinite compassion for all that You have made.

Take from us all vestiges of the old ways of imagining You, and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus, who knew You as a wise and loving parent, and invited us to approach You with the same confidence and ease.

In His name, amen.

*Hymn: #2222 The Servant Song (verses 1-5)

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 4:1-24

Anthem: Soon and Very Soon

Hymn: #2233 Where Children Belong

Children's Time ~ Hank Stamm

Children 3 yrs. to 3rd grade will go with Jolene Cron to POP!

Sermon: "The Bible's First Hero"

*Hymn: #352 It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

Praying for Others and for Ourselves

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

*Doxology: #95 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we bring our gifts without needing to worry whether we or they are good enough.

We are Yours already: we do not need to earn Your favor or butter You up.

And so we offer whatever it is we have to give: our money; our time; our grateful thanks; our tiredness; our perplexity and anger.

Take our gifts and use them for our healing and to Your glory.

Amen.

*Hymn: #706 Soon and Very Soon

*Blessing

*Depart to Serve

Coming up next Sunday, September 23: "Somewhere Under the Rainbow", Genesis 9:1-29.

For Cheer and Hello

Liz Anderson

David Bretz

Barb Griner

Pat McClelland

Iris McGahan

Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen Parsons

Marv & Kitty Starbuck

Mina Willett

Today's acolytes are
Henry Stamm and Lily Stamm

September 9 Worship attendance: 112

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Bob (Beth and Lynn Griner and Dee Morton's friend) is having heart issues but has been told surgery is not an option.

Family and friends of Chris Button (Jeff and Cathy Johnson's son's friend) are mourning the loss of Chris, who passed away unexpectedly Monday morning.

Beth DeRyke and Tyler are taking a family class together in order to heal.

Evan (Lynne Melvin's coworker) was hospitalized 2 weeks ago and placed on a ventilator with no diagnosis yet.

Barb Griner has bronchitis.

LaVon Rolfe was hospitalized for tests.

Tamra Stafford's mom had surgery on Sunday for her broken back. She is now at Bronson Commons in Mattawan off of Red Arrow Highway, room 304, and would love to have visitors.

Previous Requests

James and Phyllis Barrett

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Jane (Noni Heikes's friend) is from Zimbabwe, working in South Africa to earn enough money to build a house for her family.

Wayne (Lori and Bud Lash's 3-year-old grandson) has kidney problems.

Dick and Maxine Melvin (Lynne Melvin's parents-in-law) need prayer. Dick is on dialysis three times a week, and his health seems to be failing. His wife drives him to and from the treatments and is his caregiver/nurse.

Dottie Moberly (Sue Moberly-Hayes's mom) is recovering from leg surgery and is having aFib heart trouble.

Bonnie Oswalt and all the family are mourning the loss of Gordon.

Dora Phillips (Steve's mom) fell and has a broken pelvis. She needs bed rest and therapy.

Judy Pryor (Tamra Stafford's friend) is hospitalized with broken ribs, pelvis and finger and is mourning the loss of her husband, Todd, as the result of a motorcycle accident they were in.

June Taylor is recovering from brain tumor treatment.

Trisha and Rob VanTichelt and family are mourning the loss of Trisha's mother. Trisha was our former secretary/finance person.

Vera Walker's nephew lost his battle with cancer. Please pray for his wife and all the family.

Prayers for all students, teachers, and staff to begin a great school year.

This Week's Calendar

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, September 17

7:00 p.m. *Finance Committee in the Library*

Tuesday, September 18

2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room

6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth) in Room 107

6:30 p.m. *Scout Den meeting in the FLC*

6:30 p.m. *SPRC in the Library*

Wednesday, September 19

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Winners in the Taylor Room

2:45 p.m. SHED (middle school outreach), Rm 107

5:00 p.m. HELIX (middle school youth), Room 107

NO HANDBELL PRACTICE OR CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursday, September 20

9:30 a.m. *Susanna Wesley Circle, Taylor Room*

10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC

5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th and 6th grade), Rm 107

6:00 p.m. Play Gym in the FLC

Friday, September 21 - Pastor's Day Off

11:00 a.m. *Red Cross Blood Drive till 5:00, FLC*

Saturday, September 22

no activities are scheduled

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

Next Week

Sunday, September 23

7:00 p.m. *Beginnings Bible Study in the Library*

Monday, September 24

9:00 a.m. *Rummage Sale drop off till 6:00*

7:00 p.m. *Church Council in the Taylor Room*

Tuesday, September 25

9:00 a.m. *Rummage Sale drop off till noon*

12:30 p.m. *Staff meeting in the Library*

Wednesday, September 26

9:00 a.m. *Rummage Sale till 6:00*

Thursday, September 27

9:00 a.m. *Rummage Sale till 2:00*

7:00 p.m. *Apprentice class in the Library*



In September, children age 3 to third grade will be learning about many Bible characters that were faithful because they put their trust in the one true God. Children leave the adult worship service right after the kids' message and are returned to service after the offering.

Please be sure your child has a name tag with age or grade.

Susanna Wesley Circle began as a “young mothers” group with morning meetings to accommodate afternoon naps. The membership has grown to include women of all age and interests.

The group meets in the Taylor Room at 9:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except July, August, and December, for coffee and a short program. Childcare is provided.

Among the projects this circle is responsible for is the All Daughter Event. This circle supports the South County Community Services’ Christmas effort to give families a good holiday. Chairperson is Georgia Rolfe (649-9027).

24-Hour Prayer Vigil



For the next several weeks, we would like to have prayer for our church, our church family, and others for 24 hours a day, if possible. If you would like to sign up for an hour (as many as you would like), please write your name in available spaces on the chart near the welcome center.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 tomorrow.
- Minutes and reports for the Church Council are due in the church office by Tuesday, Sept. 18.
- The first 2019 Mission Trip payment is due by Sept. 21 (\$100).
- Newsletter items are due by Monday, Sept. 24.

Thank you

Thank you, church family, for your love and support, and to Beth and Dee for the roses. All your hugs and kind words are lovingly accepted. ~
Bonnie Oswalt

This Week’s Celebrations

Birthdays

9/16 Nanci Linebaugh
 9/17 Chuck Walker
 9/19 Ron Avis
 Bud Lash
 Keith McClish
 9/20 Millie Hackett

9/20 Jody Tuinier
 9/22 Lori Ensing

Anniversaries

9/18 Joe & Susan Hayes
 9/19 Christopher & Stacy Emmert



In Service to Our Country

Matthew Kohler

16 Claymore Dr
 Hampton VA 23669

Ryan Miller is home

Walker Polsinelli

1230 Morehead Pl., Apt 202
 Sumter SC 29150

Tyler Smith

Geoff White

5112 Hickory Ln
 Klamath Falls OR 97601

“Beginnings” Bible Study

David and Laurie Nic will lead a 12-week “Beginnings” Bible study on Sundays from 7:00-8:00 p.m., starting Sept. 23.

Some in the class have much Bible knowledge to start. Some have very little. No worries. ALL are welcome and ALL will be fed (both physically AND spiritually!).

Please contact David Nic, 269-823-5188, with any questions or to sign up and order your book. (He welcomes your text messages, or just call and leave a voice message.)

Red Cross Blood Drive

You can help by giving blood on Friday, Sept. 21, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Register online at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Volunteers to work the Blood Drive are also needed. Set up is from 9 to 10 a.m., and tear down is from 5 to 6 p.m. No heavy lifting is involved. Shift workers are needed to help with signing in donors and assist with nourishment. Please call Jessica Hawkins at 275-3557.

Food donations are also needed: cookies, breads, 100% juice, veggies, fruit, cheese, crackers. Please call June French at 649-3374.

Kzoo Prayer Center is looking for a volunteer

Kzoo Prayer Center is looking for a volunteer who has the gifts of hospitality and administration. Hours are Monday evenings from 5:00 to 8:30. The tasks include managing paperwork and greeting people. Contact Peggy Bird, 649-1005.

Donations + fantastic prices + volunteers =

OUR FALL RUMMAGE SALE!



Drop off dates:

Monday, September 24
9:00 to 6:00
Tuesday, September 25
9:00 to noon

Sale Dates:

Wednesday, **September 26**
9:00 to 6:00
Thursday, **September 27**
9:00 to 2:00 (note new closing time)

Needed: Clean, gently-used clothing, electronics, jewelry, tools, toys, decorations, books, magazines, movies, CD, small appliances, furniture, household items, crafts, etc.! Clean, large paper grocery bags and food for the workers!

We also need YOU! Men and women – YOU choose the days and hours – no previous experience necessary AND you'll have FUN while helping to make a positive difference in the world!

Did you know that monies are distributed to South County Community Services, Generous Hands Backpack program, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, United Methodist Community House, WMU Wesley Foundation, Church Women United, VUMC Youth Mission Trip, Vacation Bible School and UMW educational programs. Want more information about The United Methodist Women? Ask any member, come to a meeting, or give Aileen Greanya a call at 649-9003!



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Stewardship

Have you thought about that lately? Your financial stewardship responsibilities to VUMC? "Rich Church Poor Church" suggests we think about it all the time! Our stewardship campaign is coming!

Think about it!



Over a river and through the woods...

Save the Date!

Progressive Dinner

December 8

Holiday Progressive Dinner is back. Plan now and save the date: December 8.

We only need 1 more house to volunteer to make it a go for our Holiday Progressive Dinner. Call or text Betsy Myers at 269-207-5212 soon so we don't have to cancel!