



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

April 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter/Communion Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday

WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Nellie Brown

10:45 – Tracy Hawley

GATHERING & WELCOME

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor.

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

MUSIC OF PREPARATION “There's a Happy Land”

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise God in the sanctuary.

L: Praise God in the vault of heaven.

P: Praise God in the earth and skies.

L: Sing praises to the Lord.

P: Shout and sing praises to God.

L: We have witnessed God's mighty acts.

P: We have seen the Lord's greatness.

L: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

P: Let everything that draws breath praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

We hear your calling, Lord; how can we keep from singing? How can we keep our lips from proclaiming the good news, that Jesus Christ is risen, bringing healing and forgiveness to all? From the life in his blood he has freed us, making us a royal priesthood. Whether we have seen or believe without seeing, we have found life in his name. In Christ's name, we give thanks and praise. Amen!

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 315**

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

(Our Children's Collection this morning will be used for “Beverly's Birthdays” Please see the announcement for more details.)

ANTHEM 10:45 – “Awesome and Mighty” - SonShiners

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelations 1:4-8

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Joyful Jig”

***DOXOLOGY No. 2026 (TFWS) “Halle, Halle, Halleluja!”**

Halle, Halle, Halleluja! (3 times)

Halleluja! Halleluja!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

O God of our Salvation, we rejoice in your amazing deeds! By the resurrection of your Son Jesus, you have opened the gate to eternal life. We are grateful for your gifts of forgiveness and a new start. Let the obedience of Christ, the Righteous One, become the chief cornerstone of our lives. Help us to use our spiritual gifts and monetary blessings for your glory. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 420

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

The Altar is open during the hymn.

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

***SERMON SCRIPTURE (NRSV) John 20:19-31**

MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SACRAMENT – All are welcome. Please follow the directions of the ushers

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 307 “Christ Is Risen”**

MUSIC OF PARTING “An Easter Rejoicing”

***Those who are able, please stand**

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship – 32 Sunday 8:15 – 154 10:45 – 181

SERVING YOU SUNDAY, April 3rd

GREETERS: 8:15 – Debbie & Donna Kocovar

10:45 – Lois Kuhn & Lee Stewart

USHERS TEAMS: 8:15 – Men’s Group 10:45 – Joel Frye/Bill Hawley

SOUND TEAM: 8:15 - Fritz Runser 10:45 - Josh Burger, Penny Brant

NURSERY: Our Child Care Center (birth through age 5) will be open today during the service.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers today are presented:

in honor of our 55th anniversary by Bob and Alice Hubert

in memory of Alvin & Frances Cipra and John & Olga Brown from Gloria & Doris Cipra

Altar flowers are needed for April 10, 17 & 24. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays, or any other Sunday, please fill in an "Altar Flower" order form or contact Alice Hubert at 724-863-3901. Each arrangement is \$25.00 and you may take them with you after the 10:45 worship service.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, April 3

Communion

Holy Humor Sunday

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
12:15 Holy Humor Luncheon
No SonShiners practice
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

Monday, April 4

6:30 Dartball Banquet @
First United Church of Christ
(team members only)

Tuesday, April 5

6:15 TOPS
7:00 Nurture
7:00 Outreach
7:30 NA

Wednesday, April 6

7:00 Disciple
7:00 Yoga

Thursday, April 7

6:00 Runser/Shuey Wedding Rehearsal

Friday, April 8 - Gym Closed

9:00 Food Bank Truck – help needed
3:30 Runser/Shuey Wedding

Saturday, April 9

9:00 Food Bank– help needed
6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, April 10

Coffee Hour

8:00 Prayer Time
8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship
No SonShiners
2:00 FISH & CHIPS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION: Our Children's Collection for this week will be sent to *Beverly's Birthdays*. This is a Pittsburgh based nonprofit organization which provides birthday cheer for children experiencing homelessness and families in-need. Below is the story of how *Beverly's Birthdays* began: <http://www.beverlysbirthdays.org/>

In March of 2011, Beverly's Birthdays founder, Megs Yunn, met a young girl, Beverly, who shared with Ms. Megs that she had never had her own birthday party or even her own slice of birthday cake. Inspired by Beverly's story, Megs decided to start an organization that provides birthday celebrations for homeless children in the Pittsburgh Region.

In June of 2011, Megs submitted her idea to the "BE BIG in Your Community Contest," a signature component of the ongoing *Clifford The Big Red Dog® BE BIG!*™ campaign sponsored by *American Family Insurance* and was selected as a first place winner out of over 1,000 entries in the nation. *Beverly's Birthdays* received a starter grant to help make Megs dream a reality. *Beverly's Birthdays* became an official nonprofit in February 2012 and received our 501c3 status in August 2012.

Beverly's Birthdays currently partners with agencies across the Pittsburgh region to ensure that no child is forgotten on his/her special day. Since our inception we have distributed birthday presents to over 1000 children...this is A TON OF BIRTHDAY CHEER!

You can find more information on Beverly's Birthdays at <http://www.beverlysbirthdays.org/>

"Prison Outreach Ministry:" 3/27 - \$261.26

TODAY IS HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY! *This year we will have our traditional worship services with a pot-luck, Holy Humor luncheon after the 10:45 AM service.* Even if you didn't prepare a covered dish item for today, you are

invited to the *Holy Humor Luncheon* after the 10:45 worship service. During the lunch we will have a hat fashion show to show off all the *Holy Humor* hats. Come and extend the joy of the Easter season.

Today's Question:

How many Sacraments do we observe in the United Methodist Church and what are they?
(Please see the answer further on in the bulletin.)

RECEPTION OF MEW MEMBERS: Several people have expressed interest in joining our church. Pastor David will be holding New Member classes for Saturday services on Saturdays, April 16th & 23rd at 5:00 PM with Reception of Members on Saturday, April 23rd. New Member classes for Sunday services will be on Sundays, April 17th, and 24th at 9:30 AM with Reception of Members on Sunday, April 24th. Anyone interested in joining our church is urged to contact Pastor David or the office.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

The 2016 VBS kit has arrived!!!! Our theme this year is *Surf Shack*. VBS will be the week of July 11 - 15 from 6:30 PM - 8:30PM. There will be a short meeting for the Station Leaders today between 12:00 & 12:30. If you are interested in helping with VBS please contact Penny Brant at 412-225-1069.

Watch for updates on VBS in future bulletins and newsletters.

*Believing that God has ordained the Institution of Holy Matrimony,
Fritz and Dianne Runser
invite the congregation to the wedding ceremony uniting
their daughter,
Megan Danielle Runser
to
Paul Charles Shuey, Jr.
son of Paul and Myrna Shuey
on
Friday, April 8, 2016
at 3:30 PM in our church sanctuary.*

Sacraments

The number of sacraments observed in the numerous church denominations varies. Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony are some of the sacraments observed in churches. The United Methodist Church however, only recognizes two. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only sacraments that Christ himself participated in and thus, are the only ones the United Methodist Church recognizes as sacraments.

Baptism

Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we are joined with the Triune God, the whole of Christ's church, and our local congregation. The water and the work of the Holy Spirit in baptism convey God's saving grace, the forgiveness of our sins, and new life in Jesus Christ.

Persons of any age may be baptized—infants, children, youth, and adults. United Methodists baptize in a variety of ways—immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. A person receives the sacrament of baptism only once in his or her life.

For further study:

- *By Water and Spirit*, the church's official statement on baptism.
- *Renewing waters: How United Methodists understand baptism*
- *This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy*, a guide to the baptism ritual
- *A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism*

The Lord's Supper (also called Holy Communion, Eucharist)

The Lord's Supper is another name for the Eucharist, the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving the church offers to God for all God has done, is doing, and will do to save us and renew all things in Christ. Through offering ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, and through receiving the bread and cup—which the Spirit makes for us the body and blood of Christ—celebrating the Lord's Supper together nourishes and sustains us in our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we pray together and receive the body and blood of Christ together, we are united with Christ, with one another, and in ministry to all the world. All who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another are invited to join us in offering our prayer of thanksgiving and receive the body and blood of Christ—regardless of age or church membership.

Congregations serve the elements of the Lord's Supper several ways, but always include both bread and cup. The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated and received regularly—John Wesley said, “as often as [one] can.”

For further study:

- *This Holy Mystery*, the church's official statement on communion.
- *The Meaning of Holy Communion*, a booklet based on the church's official statement.
- An open table: How United Methodists understand communion
- *We Are Nourished by Communion*

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/sacraments>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacraments_of_the_Catholic_Church