



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Zaq Phillips – Youth Minister

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

May 17, 2015

7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

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.

CONFIRMATION

RECEPTION OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

MOMENTS OF INFORMALITY

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

MUSIC OF PREPARATION "On Eagles' Wings"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Christ is alive. He is risen from the dead.

P: The Holy One calls us to worship and praise.

L: Baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit, ...

P:we live with Christ in our hearts.

L: Clap your hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy.

P: Sing praises to God, who fills the world with forgiveness and grace.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy One, creator of all that is and all that ever will be. You sent your holy child, Jesus, to heal us and bless us, to show us your love. After his suffering and death on the cross, he was still among us, proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins for all who call on his name. Just as you sent the power of the Holy Spirit to those who first believed, fill us now with your power and grace, that we may become the hands and feet, and heart and spirit, of Christ. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 2282 "I'll Fly Away"**

Children come forward during the last verse.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

(Our Children's Collection this morning will be used to assist UMCOR.

Please see the announcement for more details.)

ANTHEM 8:15 – "I Surrender All" – Ladies trio

10:45 – "I Surrender All" – Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING 7:01 P. 1 47

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

***DOXOLOGY No. 94**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

Dear God, thank you for your great generosity toward the whole world. You give us guidance and encouragement through your word. You did not hold back even your Son so that we would have eternal life! You make our joy complete. Let us find joy by giving with joy to the ministries of this church for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN No. 312 “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

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) Luke 24:44-53

SERMON

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 304 “Easter People, Raise Your Voices”**

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “Fanfare and Processional”**

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

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Today, Sunday, May 17

7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday

Confirmation Sunday/Coffee Hour

8:00 Prayer Time

8:15 Worship

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

2:00 FISH & CHIPS

Tuesday, May 19

6:15 TOPS

7:30 NA

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 Yoga

Thursday, May 21

7:00 Disciple

Friday, May 22

Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, May 23

6:00 Alternative Worship

Next Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost

8:00 Prayer Time

8:15 Worship

10:45 Worship

2:00 FISH & CHIPS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS: The Children's Collections this week will be given to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) to assist the Nepal Earthquake victims. UMCOR is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. Its work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more. UMCOR is a ministry of The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries, and our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. We provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend our reach, our most important partners are the people we serve. We are confident that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but long-term education, training, and support.

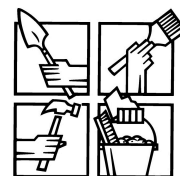
UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects our donors specify. When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ.

Blackburn Center: 5/10 – \$241.50

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: All articles for the June Newsletter are due in the office by Friday, May 22nd. Any article not received by that date will be published in the July/August Newsletter. You may mail your article, email it to fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net, or drop it off in the office.

BIBLE STUDY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS! On Wednesday nights from 7-9pm, starting June 3rd, there will be a Bible study of the book of Romans. Everyone who is a college student/grad or a student/young working adult is invited and would be greatly welcomed. The study is discussion based, and the goal is to create a community of people of this age group with God at the center. It is led by college students, flexible to the wants and needs of individuals, and great for everyone in all stages of the walk with God.

RICHARD SIMMS MEMORIAL WORK TRIP 2015: This year's project will help the Lance family, Kathryn and David and their 14 year old son James. We will be doing a room addition on their existing mobile home for the parents. Additional work will involve replacing a bathroom window, entry door, sealing the roof, and building a small deck off of the room that we will be building. Estimate for the project material is around \$4500.00. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex in which you can designate your donations (lumber, roofing, drywall, windows, doors) to be in memory of, in honor of, or to the glory of God. The designated materials will be marked prior to the building of the project. Work trip envelopes are located in the pews. From the message on last year's t-shirts - *the church is ready to leave the building – again!*



2015 Work Trip T-Shirt

The congregation is welcome to purchase one of the official 2015 Work Trip T-shirts.

The order forms are on the table in the Narthex.

Orders due by Sunday, May 24, 2015, Delivery Date: Sunday, June 7, 2015

Sizes Youth Small to Adult X-Large are \$7 per shirt

Sizes Adult 2XL and 3XL are \$9 per shirt



Today will be the last Sunday School session for this term. We hope you will enjoy your summer and join us in our next term which will begin in September.

Be sure to watch for upcoming announcements about Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS, "Everest – Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power," will be held from July 13-17 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. As always, VBS promises to be a week filled with Bible stories, games, and other fun activities. You won't want to miss it!

CLEARANCE FORMS: Many people who applied for the State Police criminal background check (Act 34) and the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Childline, Act 33) are receiving them in the mail. Please remember that when you receive your clearances *the office staff needs to see the original and make a copy.*

THE UPPER ROOM: The May/June Upper Room devotionals are in the Narthex. This booklet helps us grow in our faith and understanding of God. Pick one up today.

CAMP NEWS ... Thinking about going to Camp Allegheny but have never been there? Today, May 17th there is an Open House from 2-6! Free fun for the entire family! Face painting, picnic lunch, climbing wall, horse drawn wagon rides, hamster ball, archery, horse rides and more will be available! Take a ride to camp: 100 Camp Allegheny Drive, Stoystown, PA 15563!



Ascension Day

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost. Depending upon the phases of the moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches, particularly in the United States, celebrate it on the following Sunday.

The liturgical color in many churches is white on Ascension Day. Symbols include the ascending Christ, birds flying homeward, open gates, a lion conquering a dragon, Elijah's fiery chariot and a broken chain.

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/ascension-day>



Beginning with orientation on Sunday, February 8, 2015 and the first class on February 15th during the Sunday School time, eleven confirmands began their journey meeting with Rev. Lake and Jean Halza to better understand their Christian faith. Part of our journey this year included a trip to visit the Western Pennsylvania Conference Center in Cranberry Township on March 20th. They explored the meaning of being a Christian, and today, May 17th, they affirm the faith that was proclaimed for them by their parents when they were baptized.

Accepting Christ as their personal Lord and Savior was the highlight of this confirmation study. Parents, mentors, church members, and friends helped along the path. Thanks to the many people who have helped make this time meaningful and unforgettable.

May these confirmands continue to grow into the Christians Christ calls each of us to be.