



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

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**November 15, 2015**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Pastor Appreciation Sunday**

**WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Chris Ghrist**  
**GATHERING & WELCOME**

**10:45 – Tracy Hawley**

**\*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**      **“How Great Thou Art”**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**L:** Come, holy people!

**P:** Jesus Christ has made us holy.

**L:** Come, holy people!

**P:** God’s Spirit joins us in this holy time.

**L:** Come, holy people!

**P:** God’s holy house is open to everyone.

**L:** Let us worship together!

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, you have created the world as a holy place. Through the life, death, and resurrection of your own Son, you have transformed each one of us into a beloved and sacred being. Although we often feel unworthy, Jesus’ sacrificial love gives us the confidence to claim our place within your heart. For embracing our brokenness, and for making us whole and holy, we thank you, O God. Amen**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 430**

**“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”**

*Children come forward during the last verse.*

**CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

*(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be used for the “UMCOR.” Please see the announcement for more details.)*

**ANTHEM 10:45**      **“Give Thanks To God” - Chancel Choir**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Hebrews 10:11-25**

**PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY “Bright Wings”**

**\*DOXOLOGY (tune – “Lord of the Dance”)**

“For the gift of creation, for the gift of your love,  
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.” Amen

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

**Gracious God, we praise you, for you answer our prayers. Even before we ask, you are working out your purposes in our life and in the world. Give us patience as we await your response to our petitions. Lead us to look around and recognize the people to whom we could show compassion. Let the money we give today be used to address the concerns of people in need, both locally and in the wider church. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER HYMN No. 408 “The Gift of Love”**

*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**

**\*SCRIPTURE (NRSV) Matthew 22: 34-40**

**MESSAGE**

**STEWARDSHIP “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR”**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING No. 453 “More Love to Thee, O Christ”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING “O God, Thou Art the Father”**

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

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**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**

**Saturday Alternative Worship – 40 Sunday 8:15 – 68 10:45 – 94**

**SERVING YOU SUNDAY, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**USHERS:** 8:15 – Men’s Group 10:45 – Lou Berta

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

**GREETERS:** 8:15 – Neil Kucherer & Rebecca Valeri  
10:45 – Sara Campbell & Ethel Rosenberg

**NURSERY:** Our Child Care Center (birth through age 5) will be open today during the 10:45 service. The Attendants today will be Amy & Emily Bergman.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers are presented by the United Methodist Women on Pastor Appreciation Sunday in honor of Pastor David and his family.

(The flower arrangement is from Norwin Florists. They will be providing our altar flowers beginning January 1, 2016. Please see the December/January Newsletter and upcoming bulletins for details on ordering altar flowers )

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### THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

**Today, November 15**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Pastor Appreciation Sunday & Coffee Hour** 7:00 Disciple

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

**Monday, November 16**

- 8:30 – 3:30 District Meeting
- 7:00 Dartball - H

**Tuesday, November 17**

- 9:00 Men's Work Team
- 5:30 Gym in use
- 6:15 TOPS
- 6:20 SPRC
- 7:00 Church Council
- 7:30 NA

**Wednesday, November 18**

- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:15 C Bells
- 7:00 Yoga
- 7:00 Women's Book Study
- 7:15 Choir

**Thursday, November 19**

**Irwin Light-up Night**

7:00 Disciple

**Saturday, November 21**

6:00 Alternative Worship

**Next Sunday, November 22**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Newsletter Deadline (December/January issue)**

- 8:00 Prayer Time
- 8:15 Worship
- 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 Worship
- 12:30 Hanging of the Greens**
- No SonShiners
- 2:00 FISH & CHIPS

**2015 FUMC CHURCH CONFERENCE**  
**Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 7:00 PM**  
**All church members are encouraged to attend.**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHILDREN'S COLLECTIONS:** Our children's Collection will be sent to UMCOR for ongoing work with the refugees/migrants in Europe and the Middle East.

**Crisis!!!** According to the United Nations, over 4 million refugees have already fled from the fighting in Syria in the last 4 years. More than half of their population has been displaced as well. An additional 2 million have fled from Iraq. Germany has been the most welcoming country in Europe to this influx of souls, however they expect well over 800,000 refugees to arrive this year. Millions are making their way to Western Europe in search of asylum. War, poverty and religious persecution are but some of the reasons for this mass exodus from the Middle East and Northern Africa. It seems overwhelming and we wonder what can be done.

Above all we must pray. Pray for:

- an end to the current wars and religious persecutions.
- resources to care for, and show hospitality to all who are fleeing.
- the safety of each individual from the hand of those that wish to take advantage of their situation.
- the young women and children who could so easily disappear into the world-wide slave trade.
- wisdom and compassion from the leaders of European countries to take in and care for these children of God.

May we see this situation not as a crushing problem, but as a chance for God's love to be made evident here on earth as it is in heaven. Part of faith can also be invested in a solution. While we are not saved by works, our works give evidence of our faith.

The United Methodist Church has appointed the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to serve as our hands and feet during disasters like tornados in the United States, and other disasters such as tsunamis around the world. UMCOR has already allocated \$2 million to provide the basics of life to persons displaced in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey and this is just the beginning.

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The deadline for the December/January issue of the Newsletter is Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please have all of your articles to the office by next Sunday. Any article not received by then will not be published until the February Newsletter. Please submit you articles by email [fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net](mailto:fumc.jeanne.secrep@comcast.net) or drop a written copy off in the office.

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### HANGING OF THE GREENS

**We will be decorating the church for the holiday season on Sunday, November 22, immediately after the 10:45 AM service.** A pizza lunch will be provided. Many hands make light work, so please plan to come and help decorate. We are usually done by 2:00 PM.



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### Thanksgiving Gift Baskets



It is that time of the year again. The holidays are quickly approaching and once again, we are faced with a community in need. Many families struggle to put dinner on the table on a daily basis and holiday meals are even tougher to prepare. The Outreach Committee will be addressing this need in our community by creating Thanksgiving food baskets. A poster is in the Narthex with a list of everything needed. All donations are due back to the church by Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Phillips or Bernie Johnston.

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**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR...** "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22:39) This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandment! Neighbors are not just those people living beside you. They are those in your midst every day! They live far and near from you!



In what ways are you serving and loving your neighbors? What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for others? God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through!

John Wesley was an incredible servant of God. His motto was "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all ways you can, in all places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." Wow! Start by doing the small things that no one else wants to do. A Christian office worker had this sign hanging on his wall... "Jesus is coming. Get to work!" Faithful servants never retire! You can retire from your career, but you will never retire from serving God. Loving your neighbor is serving God! Thank God for His Holy Spirit who continually challenges us to keep stepping out in faith to do good to those around us! Pray that God will equip you so you can love your neighbor and meet his/her needs.

**Coming Soon...**Next Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a "Pumpkin Patch" set up in the parlor! Make sure you stop by following both services! If you took some "seed money" from the chancel rail last Sunday and you're wondering what to do with it, you can participate in this sale! We're selling anything pumpkin related! It can be a baked item, a snack or a craft. Since Thanksgiving is that week, you can probably use some of these items.

Also, that Sunday, following the 10:45 service, is Hanging of the Greens! Plan on shopping at the patch, then decorating our sanctuary for the Advent Season! A pizza lunch will be provided. Questions...call Laurie Saporito at 724-864-5649

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### HELP NEEDED FOR A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It has been many years since we have a church directory. The last directory had many families whose pictures were not shown. We suspect that one reason might be that people did not want to be pressured into buying portrait packages. SO... we would like to try something different.

Each Sunday in Advent (beginning November 29), we would like to take family pictures in the sanctuary after both services. It will be fast (hopefully "one and done"). When you get your family home for the holidays, and everyone is dressed up for church, take advantage of the time to get a family picture. These pictures will be used

to print a directory in-house. It might not be as fancy as the photo directories we have had in the past, but we will be able to put names to faces as we greet each other at church activities.

Help will be needed to make this work.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, we need photographers.

SECOND, we need people on Sundays to help collect family information on each Sunday.

THIRD, we need YOU, members of our church family to smile and say "CHEESE!"

If you can volunteer as photographer or information collector, please contact Dianne Runser. If we get sufficient volunteers, you will not need to be present every Sunday.

A sign-up list for photo times will be made available in the narthex.

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**FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER:** Otterbein UMC of Greensburg will be having their Annual "Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner" at noon on Thanksgiving Day. Anyone looking for somewhere to either have dinner or to volunteer can contact them at 724-834-4060. They are also accepting monetary donations and food donations to help support this very large event.

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### ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS



There is a sign-up list in the sanctuary for those friends and family who wish to light the candles of the advent wreath. If you would like to participate, please sign the sheet with the date and time you will be available to help.

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### **COLD & FLU SEASON IS UPON US! In an effort to stop the spread of germs, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the following guidelines:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday\\_preventive.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday_preventive.pdf)

1. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
2. If you get sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.
3. While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
4. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. *(Please place used tissues in one of the trash containers available throughout our church. Please do not put used tissues in the pew hymnal racks, under the pew cushions, or in the sofa and chair cushions.)*
5. Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. *(Hand sanitizers are located on each floor of our church.)*
6. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
7. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
8. If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures



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The remaining baskets from the Craft Show are for sale on the tables outside of the Pastor's office. Proceeds from the baskets are divided between the R. Simms Mission Trip, Outreach, and the "Multiplying Your Talents" sale. Thank you!