



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

November 8, 2015

24th Sunday after Pentecost/Baptism Sunday/Veteran's Sunday

WORSHIP HOST: 8:15 – Chris Ghrist

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 “Alone with the Music”

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Come to God's house with your songs and prayers.

P: **We lift our voices to God.**

L: Come to God's house with your hopes and joys.

P: **We bring our thanks and praise.**

L: Come to God's house with your needs and fears.

P: **We lay down our burdens before Christ.**

L: Come to God's house with your gifts and treasures.

P: **We offer our lives to Christ.**

L: Come to God's house with all that you have and with all that you are.

P: **Let us worship together this day.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of abundant love, pour your Spirit upon us, that we may recognize our abundance and give our love and our lives completely and freely to you. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Beau Kenneth Torrence, son of Jason & Kristin Torrance

BAPTISMAL COVENANT II (page 39)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 90**

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

*(Our Children’s Collection this morning will be used for the “Veteran Association of Pittsburgh” programming.
Please see the announcement for more details.)*

**ANTHEM 8:15 “Lord, Help Me Be Your Servant”
Connie Bickerstaff, Dianne Runser
10:45 “Lord, Help Me Be Your Servant”– Chancel Choir**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 127

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

OFFERTORY “Spirit of Faith, Come Down”

***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**

Living God, you miraculously provide for our needs, beyond what we could imagine. Thank you for showing us people of faith who live according to your Word. Guide us by your Spirit to be like the poor widows of ancient days—people who trust in you wholeheartedly. Free us from fear, so that we will open our hands and faithfully share our tithes and offerings. In Jesus’ name, we pray. 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) Mark 12:38-44**

MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP “Love Your Church”

***HYMN OF PARTING No. 87 “What Gift Can We Bring”**

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSIC OF PARTING “O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”**

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Alternative Worship – 16 Sunday 8:15 – 77 10:45 – 79

church by Sunday November 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Phillips or Bernie Johnston.

LOVE YOUR CHURCH ... “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42) One of my favorite hymns that we sing is about our church! The words... “I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together” stays on my mind after singing it! We are blessed with a wonderful church family here, not spectators, but committed, involved participants in a community of followers of Jesus Christ. What then is lacking in our church? Pray for the following characteristics to help our church be more effective and to be what Jesus intended it to be.



- Is our church anchored in the Scriptures? Our Sunday readings should motivate you to live and proclaim the transforming grace of God in every area of your life throughout the week! You are the only Bible that some people read!
- Does our church have a sense of community? The connectedness and relationships between people when the service is over on Sunday morning is what every person needs throughout the week. Go, and be a blessing to others!
- Is our church characterized by worship? With our culture being so self-centered, we need to realize that life is not about me; it’s about who God is and what He’s doing! There’s something much, much bigger than me going on here!
- Is there opportunity for involvement in our church? We’re encouraged to minister to others, whenever we can, for whoever we can, for as long as we can! One of the greatest joys of life is to be used by the Lord in someone else’s life!
- Does our church build men? Men, women and children can be involved in ministry, however, a lot of struggles in our families and culture could become points of victory if men were equipped with a vision for manhood and were living it out! There are so many responsibilities, yet so many rewards!

Today there will be “seed money” available on the chancel rail for any of you to take and think of a way that you can use your gifts and talents to multiply this money. Sunday, December 6th will be the day that you can display any of these homemade items or ideas to be sold in the narthex after both services. The Finance Committee will be available to help with this sale. All monies generated will go to the Church General Fund. Pray that God will make your church experience one filled with blessing, opportunity and community!

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.

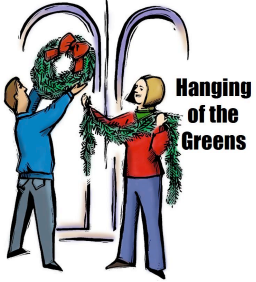
FIRST AND FOREMOST, we need photographers.

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.

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.



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.



STARS FOR OUR TROOPS began as the "Star Project" in 2009 by a group of women in Hernando County, Florida. The women used the stars as part of their efforts to provide goods from home and moral support to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and to thank troops and veterans for their service.

Stars that once fluttered from flagpoles flying the nation's red, white and blue were now going into the pockets of military men and women. From U.S. flags that had worn out their colors and fabric, the women and their friends cut from them the fields of blue, then cut off the embroidered stars. (In order to make sure they weren't defacing the flag, and that it was being treated with respect at all times, researched was done on how to properly dispose of U.S. flags. They learned that the blue fields and stars may be cut away and the stripes returned to VFWs or Boy Scouts for ceremonial burning.) The stars were put into a plastic bag with a wallet-sized card explaining:

"I am part of our American flag that has flown over a home in Florida. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten."

Upon returning home from battle, one soldier shared this message with the ladies: he said "I carried (the star) all the time. Every time I opened my wallet I knew that people back home were thinking about me, that they were all there for me."

The program has evolved into "Stars for Our Troops." Organizations from all over the United States have joined in the effort to show our veterans that we appreciate their service to our country. Today the card enclosed in the star bags reads:

"I am part of our American flag that has flown over a home in USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten."

To learn more, and find out how you can help, visit www.starsforourtroops.org. The website will give you a list of organizations in our area who participate in the "Stars for Our Troops" program.

<http://www.starsforourtroops.org/History-of-Stars-Project.html>



Wednesday, November 11th

is Veteran's Day.

Please take the time to thank a veteran for their service.