

Service of Divine Worship

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 1, 2010

Liturgist: David Fulton

Silent Meditations: *We often confuse humility with timidity. Humility is not clothing ourselves in an attitude of self-abasement or self-denigration. Humility is all about maintaining our pride about who we are, about our achievements, about our worth—but without arrogance. It is the antithesis of hubris, that excessive, arrogant pride that often leads to the derailment of some corporate heroes, as it does with the downfall of the tragic hero in Greek drama. It's about a quiet confidence without the need for a meretricious selling of our wares. It's about being content to let others discover the layers of our talents without having to boast about them. It's a lack of arrogance, not a lack of aggressiveness in the pursuit of achievement.* –Bruna Martinuzzi

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud. Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper, and happy are those who trust in the Lord. –Proverbs 16: 18-20

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

No. 7

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Our God, our help in ages past,

People: Our hope for years to come,

Liturgist: Our shelter from the stormy blast,

People: And our eternal home.

*Gloria Patri

Unison Opening Prayer (*Derived from Psalm 49:1-7*)

Liturgist

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be

understanding. I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp. Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches? Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God. Amen

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin (*Derived from Colossians 3:1-11*)

Liturgist

Gracious God, we do believe that we have been raised with Christ in newness of life and that He teaches us to seek things that are above. We do believe that we have died and that our life is hidden with Christ in You. We do believe that our life will be revealed when Christ is revealed, in glory. And yet, yet, O Lord, forgive us for still living as if nothing whatever has changed. Forgive us when we settle for the smooth plateau of high abundance instead of accepting your transformational invitation to live with You. Forgive us when, even in our satisfied fullness, we lie and express anger, wrath, malice, slander, harsh judgment and abusive language, as if we are totally ignorant of the new self which Christ has granted to us. Help us to feel clothed with His new self, being renewed in knowledge according to the image of our Creator, where all worldly achievements and distinctions shall be as rubbish to us, but where Christ, at last, is all and in all; in His precious Name we do pray. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon -- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (*we pray debts*)

Children's Moment

Anthem

“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Bock

Proclamation of the Word

The Hebrew Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-25 (Page #603 of Pew Bible)

The New Testament Reading

Luke 12:13-21 (Page #949 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

ME, MYSELF AND I: IS OUR MATERIAL WEALTH SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE WEIGHT OF MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE, AND JOY THAT WE SEEK? (TIP: NO!)

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Liturgist

Gracious Lord, what you offer us in Jesus Christ is literally priceless, *the* gift not in any way to be earned, but to be received in the Spirit of humility in which it is offered. Grant that our gifts today may be motivated by that same Spirit, so their multiplying blessings may reach even to the ends of the earth; in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

No. 63

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

*Postlude

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND**

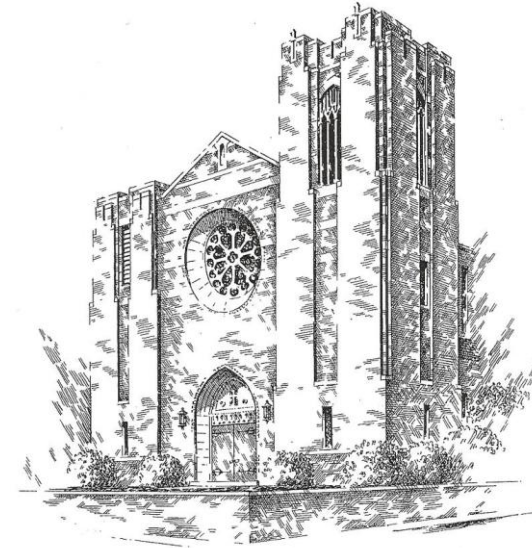
WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

First Reformed United Church of Christ



*Where People Discover - - -
The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves*

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August 1, 2010

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Guy and Virginia Gann by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gann.

USHERS: John Potts, Ron Hutcheson, Myra Thompson, Janette Neal and Cheryl Walser

PLATE ATTENDANT: John Walser

GREETERS: Pattie Everhart and Marzell Crotts

NURSERY {Birth through 6 years-old}: Lynn Klopp

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jacqueline Leonard, Mary Rhodes, Catherine Leonard, Ronnie Durham, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Velna Swing, Elmer Morgan, Willie Ruth Leonard, Arlene Swing, Frances Leonard, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family). Please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a name for prayer, contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 1	9:45 a.m. ---- Joint Sunday School Class {Lesson: The Seekers Class}
	10:20 a.m. ---- Sunday School Social {Hosts: Mary Jo Jessup and Beth Callicutt}
	11:00 a.m. ---- WORSHIP SERVICE (REVEREND PATTEN PREACHING)
Monday, August 2	6:30 p.m. ---- Board of Christian Education Meeting {Parlor}
Tuesday, August 3	2:00 p.m. ---- Meals on Wheels Board Meeting {Parlor}
	7:00 p.m. ---- Finance Committee Meeting {Parlor}
Wednesday, August 4	11:00 a.m. ---- Morning Glory Circle {Parlor}
Thursday, August 5	5:30 p.m. ---- Yoga Class {Parlor}
Sunday, August 8	9:45 a.m. ---- Sunday School Classes for Everyone
	11:00 a.m. ---- WORSHIP SERVICE
	6:00 p.m. ---- CONSISTORY MEETING {Willing Workers Classroom}
Monday, August 9	6:30 p.m. ---- Search Committee Meeting {Parlor}

July 25, 2010	Attendance (Worship 109)	Offering Received \$5,494.20
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July 26, 2009	Attendance (Worship 117)	Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,581.00
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Stephen Ministry

The first step of Stephen Series begins for First Reformed UCC today

Today John Barber will begin the process of bringing the lay caring ministry of the Stephen Series to First Reformed United Church of Christ. He is traveling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to begin seven days of intensive training in the techniques of teaching others to do caring ministry. Please keep him in your prayers so that he has safe travel to and from the conference and a spirit-filled learning experience while he is there. We eagerly look forward to the blessings the Stephen Series will bring our church.

What Is the Stephen Series?

First Reformed UCC recently decided to enroll in the Stephen Series. The Stephen Series is a system for training laypeople to do caring ministry. Those training for Stephen Ministry will learn skills and develop their talents for bringing Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, depressed, or experiencing other stresses in life.

Why Lay Ministry?

The Stephen Series is designed to train laypeople for caring ministry. Loving others in Jesus' name is a challenge and an opportunity for all who are God's children. Likewise, the joy of helping others is the privilege of all Christians, for the Holy Spirit has given gifts to each Christian to use in service to others and to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Stephen Ministry will rely on the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to our lay members so that, as more people are equipped to care, Christ's love for us will be able to go out from us in a greater and more effective way than it does now.

Why the Stephen Series?

The Stephen Series trains people in the basic skills necessary for helping others. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, people learn everything from how to be an effective listener to specific techniques for ministering to grieving people. Our congregation will reap many, many blessings through our involvement in this ministry of care.

Who Will Benefit from the Stephen Series?

The Stephen Series benefits many others besides those who receive the care of their Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers grow greatly as they learn about helping others. They learn about themselves. As the hurting members of our congregation grow stronger through this caring ministry, the whole church is built up and made stronger. And, of course, we all can have the confident knowledge that when the pains of life come our way, someone will always be there, ready to care for us, to bring God's love to us in a special, personal way.