

Service of Divine Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Doug Sink

Silent Meditations: *For Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.*

--Ephesians 2:14

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

A Mission Moment

Janette Neal, Evangelism Board Co-Chairperson

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

No. 21

*Responsive Call to Worship {Lyrics from Hymn #231}

Liturgist: When the stranger asks a home, all his toils to end;

People: When the hungry craveth food, and the poor a friend;

Liturgist: When in their pain unto Thee the sick do flee,

People: Lift to Thee their humble plea, Lord hear their cry!

Liturgist: When the child with loving heart, youth or maiden fair,

People: When the aged, trusting still, seek thy face in prayer;

Liturgist: When, worn and sad, faltering steps to Thee do turn,

People: Homesick hearts for Thee do yearn, Lord, hear their cry!

*Gloria Patri

Unison Opening Prayer {Lyrics from Hymn #205}

Liturgist

Gracious God, O Master, let us walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free. Tell us Thy secret, help us to bear, the strain of toil, the fret of care. Teach us Thy patience; still with Thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin (*Ephesians 2:11-22 & UMC Hymn “Go Forth for God”*) Liturgist
Merciful, compassionate God, we confess that while rules, rituals, routines and habits do have their place in our life journeys with you, we also confess our tendency to elevate all such habits of ours over those of others, in all things, indulging in a sense of superiority which creates a dividing wall between ourselves and others. Forgive us, Lord, our impulse to control social situations and opportunities by employing shorthand judgments which reckon people as important and unimportant according to their appearance, station in life, education and way of speaking, and even where they live. Even in the midst of the severe religious differences between the Jews and the Gentiles, our Lord Jesus proclaimed peace both to those who were far off and those who were near, breaking down the hostility, the dividing wall, between us, making us all citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. In Him a new structure arises, not a wall, but a foundation upon which we may all stand together and go forth together: Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak; help the afflicted; richly from above God’s love supplies the grace and power we seek. Go forth for God; go to the world in love. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon --- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer {*we pray debts*}

The Commissioning of **John L. Barber as a Trained Stephen Leader** {*Insert*}

{*We ask all members of the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team who are present to come forward.*}

Anthem

“We Are Your People O Lord”

Liebergen

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading (Liturgist)

Ephesians 2:11-22 (Page #1065 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

THE WALL IS DOWN

Some points to remember: Stephen Ministers:

1. Help people who have felt threatened by harsh, exclusive religions.
2. Aid people who have faced discrimination.
3. Befriend people who feel alienated or lonely. They help their care receivers reconcile with others.
4. Welcome people for Christ, helping them experience that they are no longer out, but in God’s restored human family.
5. Help people make needed life changes. Paul’s message is all about change.
6. Encourage people who have problems of faith to realize their great value to God, the high esteem in which God holds them.

Response through Dedication

Invitation to Give
Giving of Tithes and Offerings
The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Gracious and overwhelmingly generous God, bless both the gifts that are on this Altar and the gifts of your Spirit as you guide our congregation to ever more faithful service, partly through our new Stephen Ministry. Allow our leaders to feel our prayerful and active support even as we ourselves are drawn ever more deeply into the vision that we are experiencing today; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" No. 205

*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**

The Finance Committee of First Reformed UCC is sponsoring a fundraiser on **Saturday, October 16th** that you will not want to miss. The Corner Café Mystery Dinner Theatre is presenting Mother Goose's Grim Tales (Definitely NOT for Little Children). Even if you attended this comic presentation two years ago, you will still be guessing "who done it?" Parts of the play have been rewritten

and characters are portrayed by different actors/actresses. Tickets include a steak dinner and the mystery play and are on sale to church members now (see a Finance Committee member). Beginning in October ticket sales will be open to the general public. There are only 112 seats available. Purchase your ticket now!!

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister (Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Ed
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

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.

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Adam McKerlie and Rebecca McKerlie, by Brian McKerlie and Mike Price.

USHERS: Birke McNeill, Scott Frye, Frank Callicutt, Thomas Johnson

PLATE ATTENDANT: Adena Wall **ACOLYTES:** Mary Lloyd and Annabell Callicutt

GREETERS: Katie, Shane, and Callie Decker **NURSERY {to 6 years-old}:** Nina and Ted Smith

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jacqueline Leonard, Velna Swing, Callie Kepley, Betty Potts, Ronnie Durham, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Elmer Morgan, Willie Ruth Leonard, Arlene Swing, Frances Leonard, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Linda McDonald (Wanda's Family), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), and Terri Evans (Paul Freeman's Cousin). 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

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|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday, September 26 | 9:45 a.m. --- Sunday School Classes for Everyone 11:00 a.m. --- Worship Service with Stephen Ministry Commissioning for John Barber and Children's Church 6-8 p.m. --- Community Youth Group Meeting {FH} |
| Monday, September 27 | 7:00 p.m. --- Stephen Ministry Leadership Team Meeting {Team Room} |
| Tuesday, September 28 | 6:30 p.m. --- Prayer Shawl Ministry Knitting/Crocheting Group {Parlor} |
| Wednesday, September 29 | 9-11 a.m. --- Charity League Puppet Practice {Downstairs} 5:30 p.m. --- Play Practice {Parlor} |
| Thursday, September 30 | 5:30 p.m. --- Yoga Class {Parlor} 7:00 p.m. --- Exit Interview {Parlor} |
| Friday, October 1 | 9-11 a.m. --- Charity League Puppet Practice {Downstairs} |
| Saturday, October 2 | ----- WNCA Annual Meeting {Abermethy Laurels} |
| Sunday, October 3 | 9:45 a.m. --- Joint Sunday School Class {Men's Bible Class} 10:20 a.m. --- SS Social {Hosts: Raeann & Brad Biesecker and Alisa & Keith Johnson} 11:00 a.m. --- Worship Service with HOLY COMMUNION and Neighbors In Need Special Offering 2-4 p.m. --- Community Candlelight Practice {FH} 2-4 p.m. --- Community Youth Candlelight Practice {Chapel} 2-4 p.m. --- Charity League Puppet Practice {Downstairs} |

September 19, 2010 Attendance (Worship 93)
September 20, 2009 Attendance (Worship 120)

Offering Received \$4,853.00
Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,581.00

Stephen Ministry

The day has finally arrived! For weeks now our new Stephen Leader has been preparing. He has attended a week long Stephen Series Leader's Training Course in Pittsburgh and has returned charged up and eager to cast the vision for this lay caring ministry. He brings his gifts for leadership, vision, wisdom, administration, organization, discernment, and teaching to select and equip who will be Stephen Ministers—lay Christian caregivers—in our congregation. Join us in thanking God that our new leader has answered his call for this ministry and in praying for him as he begins this important work of the Lord's.

Recruiting letters will be mailed to every household in the FRUCC membership roll. Only one letter will be sent to each household, but the invitation is for every member who is 21 or older. Anyone interested in becoming a Stephen Minister should contact John Barber at 336-249-4552 or punkbarber@hotmail.com.

Go to our website for the latest Stephen Ministry news!!

Commissioning of John L. Barber as a Trained Stephen Leader

Rev. Patten: **John L. Barber**, you have been trained at a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course and have been asked to serve as a Stephen Leader at First Reformed U.C.C. in Lexington, N.C. You are a gift of God to us, to lead us in this ministry of equipping and caring.

Rev. Patten: (*addressing the congregation*) As Christians who are a part of the priesthood of all believers, all of us are called to offer ourselves to our Lord in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us in Jesus Christ. But it is also our privilege to recognize and support those who are trained for specific ministries in this congregation, especially today as we recognize and affirm Stephen Ministry and the Stephen Leader who will direct this ministry.

Rev. Grubb: John L. Barber, because of your gifts, your calling, and your training, we charge you with these responsibilities:

- To build awareness of our growing Stephen Ministry
- To solicit the commitment of this congregation to Stephen Ministry at every opportunity
- To recruit, select, and train thoroughly as Stephen Ministers those members of this congregation whose gift it is to share one-to-one caring ministry
- To use the resources of our community as appropriate to enrich the training and ongoing supervision of Stephen Ministry in this congregation

- To work temporarily with me, The Rev. June Grubb, and permanently with our new pastor of this congregation to identify members who could benefit from this confidential caring ministry
- To assign the trained caregiver who most appropriately fits a person's need
- To supervise these confidential caring relationships and offer regular opportunities for continuing growth in the skills and practice of caring ministry

Rev. Patten: John L. Barber, will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

John Barber: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Rev. Patten: Will you nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, build up, and heal people in all their needs?

John Barber: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Rev. Patten: Members of First Reformed United Church of Christ, will you open your hearts to the ministry of Stephen Leader John Barber and pray for him as a servant of Christ? If so, answer: "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Rev. Patten: Rev. June Grubb, will you support the ministry of this trained Stephen leader, affirm the training of Stephen Ministers, carefully refer trained caregivers to those in need of supportive ministry, encourage confidentiality, and thereby help to "equip the saints for ministry"? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Rev. Grubb: Yes, with the help of God.

Rev. Patten and Rev. Grubb: Let us all pray together.

Gracious God, you have called John Barber to lead us into new paths of caring ministry. You have gifted and empowered him for this task. Grant him joy in his service and a spirit of bold trust in you, that his ministry may stir us to greater caring and more fruitful service. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of this ministry, so that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your good and gracious will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Patten and Rev. Grubb: May the Lord of the church fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide, bless, and keep you, so that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called, gifted, trained, and sent.

Congregation: Amen.

Rev. Patten and Rev. Grubb: Go in peace.

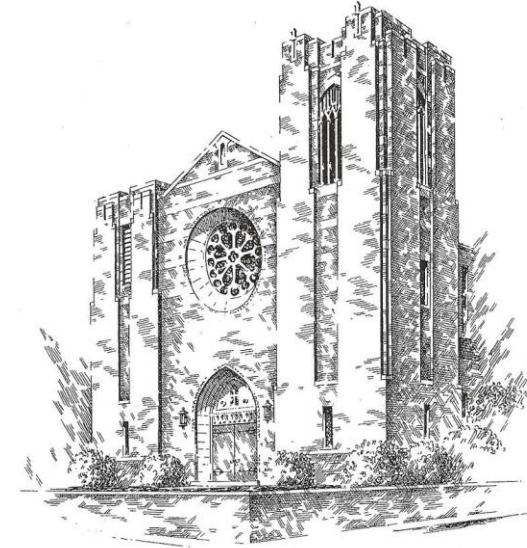
STEPHEN MINISTRIES NEEDS-OF-CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Look over the list of needs for care on this insert. Identify how many people you think have that need. Write that number in the space to the left of the need. If you aren't sure how many people there are with a particular need, make your best guess. Do not mention specific names. Add up the total number of needs-for-care and write that number in the space by "Total Needs for Care in Our Congregation."

Needs-for-Care That Stephen Ministers Can Meet

- _____ Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- _____ People who are hospitalized.
- _____ Individuals who are terminally ill.
- _____ Close family members of those who are terminally ill.
- _____ People who are experiencing divorce (before, during, and after).
- _____ Parents who have children leaving home for the military, college, marriage, or work in another geographical area.
- _____ New member of the congregation and the community who are having trouble adjusting.
- _____ Family members who have someone in a nursing home.
- _____ Inactive church members who are in need of care.
- _____ Parents and families with children who are disabled.
- _____ People convalescing at home or in an institution.
- _____ Those who are homebound or in a nursing home.
- _____ People with long-term disabilities.
- _____ Primary caregivers for those with long-term disabilities.
- _____ People facing birth-related issues such as infertility, adoption, and unwanted pregnancy, or the birth of a child.
- _____ People being treated for cancer.
- _____ People experiencing disappointments or setbacks.
- _____ People who have suffered a significant financial setback.
- _____ People who have lost their jobs.
- _____ Family members of deployed military personnel.
- _____ People in the process of moving out of town.
- _____ People who are preparing to retire, who have recently retired, or who have been forced to retire early.
- _____ People affected by disasters (natural or human-made).
- _____ People experiencing spiritual needs.
- _____ People with other critical needs that you know about.
- _____ **TOTAL NEEDS-FOR-CARE IN OUR CONGREGATION.**

First Reformed United Church of Christ



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

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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September 26, 2010