



First Reformed United Church of Christ

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

The Worship of God
July 12, 2020
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

“BOLD” indicates congregational response

Please comment on our Facebook page if you joined our worship service on YouTube or Facebook

Prelude	"Variations on Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah" [Hal Hopson]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Invocation		Rev. Susan Morris
Hymn	"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"	Ellen Peterson

Centering

Scripture Reading	Romans 8: 5-11	Brian McKerlie
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Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's.

Prayer for the People	Written and Shared by Brian McKerlie
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Gracious God, our world has changed so much in the past few weeks and months. We are anxious at all the unknowns. We feel isolated and alone even as we know that isolation is the only way we can fight this pandemic. We feel that we are not well informed and that we can't seem to get consistent answers on where this is all headed. This pandemic is unlike all others in that every single person on this planet is affected. No one can seem to escape from its reach. Our instinct is to go into ourselves and sometimes, just hope that it will all go away.

But it won't. Now is not the time to focus on 'me' but rather we need to focus on 'we'. The scripture implores us to focus on God and God's actions. It tells us that even as the sinners that we are, that God loves us and He will lead the way. Jesus tells us over and over to love your neighbors as ourselves. There is no better time to live this credo. Every one of us needs some sort of help right now in some shape or form. We cannot hope to make progress in this fight that we are all fighting unless we focus on the 'we' and not the 'me'. So, take heart and know that when you invite God into your life, when His spirit lives and breathes within us all, that He will surely show

us the way. The 'we' in us will overcome the 'me' and that collectively we will all move forward. Together. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Passing the Peace

Rev. Horton

"Since we have been justified by faith,
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"
Let us pass this peace to all we meet,
"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Horton

Prayer Response

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Ellen Peterson

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Genesis 25:19-34

Rev. Horton

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Sermon

"Create and Connect: A House Divided"

Responding

Hymn

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

Walter Hoffman & John Maze

Invitation to Give

Rev. Horton

Sending

Benediction

Postlude

"Festive Piece"
[Dennis Elliott]

Robert Wilson

Join our **"Fellowship & Prayer Concerns" Zoom Chat**
after worship from 12-12:30pm and catch up with your church friends!

Follow this Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQT09>

Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8

WEEKLY CALENDAR

July 12: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING COLLECTED THIS WEEK

9:45AM Adult Bible Study on Genesis led by Rev. Susan Morris via Zoom

This week's focus: Study Guide Chapter 5; Daily reading: Genesis 22; 23; 24; 25; and 26. Join the Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87135993948?pwd=TWo2UXVwclhyZXJncWFvNEh6djkvZD09>

Meeting ID: 871 3599 3948 Password: 418121

11:00AM Worship online via YouTube and Facebook

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

1:00PM Consistory Meeting via Zoom

July 14:

12:00PM 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341918684?pwd=N1pCSno2Tlp4bDdOREtoVGIsLzdGUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Password: 222495

7:00PM YOUTH Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom

7:00PM Adult Book Study:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

Join the Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85927010393?pwd=YWVXLzRkSzYzY2FSV1pMbJFTdzJ6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2701 0393 Password: 7x6nQw

July 15:

6:00PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom

July 16:

6:00PM Kids' Adventure Team Meeting via Zoom

July 19:

9:45AM Adult Bible Study on Genesis led by Rev. Susan Morris via Zoom

This week's focus: Study Guide Chapter 6; Daily reading: Genesis 27: 1-40; Genesis 27: 41-28:22; Genesis 29:1-30; Genesis 29:31-30:43; and Genesis 31. Join the Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87135993948?pwd=TWo2UXVwclhyZXJncWFvNEh6djkvZD09>

Meeting ID: 871 3599 3948 Password: 418121

11:00AM Worship online via YouTube and Facebook

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

~JULY CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

12th

Elizabeth Sink

13th

Lynn McCarn

Calvin Odom

Tracy Potts

Lindsay Sink

14th

Travis White

15th

Bill Walser

16th

Craig Coe

Johnny McCarn

18th

Cathy Browder

ANNIVERSARIES

12th

Rich & Lena Johnson

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael, Aurelia Smith, Kelly Greathouse, Susan Miller, Bill Walser

AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Piedmont Crossing:

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

OUR FRIENDS: Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Heidi and Ron Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located on the backs of the pews or call the church office (336-248-2617).*