



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 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Amazing Grace" [Hal H. Hopson]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Hymn	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"	Ellen Peterson

Centering

New Testament Reading	Romans 8: 26-39	Camille Morgan
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Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer of Confession	Camille Morgan
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Our Father, during this time of turmoil throughout our land, we lift up in prayer especially the clerks, cashiers, stockers, servers, cooks, cleaners, laborers, truckers, food processors and factory workers, as well as police and firefighters, and nurses and doctors.

Bring us through this pandemic with no more deaths so that no more families will have to grieve for loved ones, and so that those on the front lines no longer have to risk their lives and health for the sake of their livelihoods.

In this time of unrest, help us remake our world so that no one may be left behind, and so that no one has to be homeless, or hungry, or poor, where immigrants may be free from fear, where crime is rare, and jail unheard of.

Help us; especially those of us of white privilege, to dismantle systemic racism, so that prejudice may die, hatred cease, and divisions heal, so that race, color, creed, and class no longer matter.

Above all, Father, heal our broken land. Deliver us from all that may hide your light, so that we may finally build a truly just and free society so that all of us may have a stake in the common good, instead of private gain for a privileged few. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

from Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Rev. Horton

Blessed are those who trust in God.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
and sending out its roots by the stream.
They will not fear when the heat comes
and their leaves will all stay green.
In the year of the longest draught,
they will still bear their fruit there by the stream.

Music Meditation

"By the Stream"

by Christopher Grundy

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Rev. Horton

"Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
May the peace of Christ be with you.

Pastoral Prayer

Proclaiming

Scripture

Genesis 29: 15-28

Rev. Horton

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Sermon

"Family Stories: When Disappointment Comes"

Responding

Hymn

"Softly and Tenderly"

Ellen Peterson & Carolyn Robbins

Invitation to Give and Serve

Rev. Horton

Sending

Benediction

Blessing

Postlude

"Make a Joyful Noise"
[Franklin Ritter]

Robert Wilson

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

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

July 26:

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

In the study guide book: Chapter 7; Daily reading: Genesis 32; Genesis 33; Genesis 34; Genesis 35; 1-15; and Genesis 35:16-36:43

Join the Meeting [HERE](#).

11:00AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

7:00PM Prayer Vigil: A Call to End Racism at Shadyside Presbyterian Church

July 28:

12:00PM 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).

7:00PM Adult Book Study:

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

Join the Meeting at [HERE](#).

August 2:

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

In the study guide book: Chapter 8; Daily reading: Genesis 37; 38; 39; 40; and 41

Join the Meeting [HERE](#).

11:00AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) and Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom

UPCOMING EVENT:

Sunday, August 16 at 4:00PM there will be a "DRIVE THROUGH" BLESSING OF BACKPACKS. This will be held in the parking lot of the Education Building. Mark your calendars now. More details will come later.

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Mike Price, *Lisa Price, Bill Walser, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

*Margot Everhart, Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, 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).*

~JULY CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

27th

Betty Link

28th

Jeff Hutches

30th

Sam West

31st

Margot Everhart

ANNIVERSARIES

12th

Rich & Lena Johnson

30th

Eddie & Belinda
Yates

~AUGUST CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

1st

Patti Everhart

Claire Smith

2nd

Eugenia Holste

Karla Loper

Jerry Lovell