



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

August 16, 2020
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" [Lani Smith]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Hymn	"Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)"	Ellen Peterson

Centering

Gospel Reading	Matthew 15:10-20	Rev. Horton
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Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart comes evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Prayer of Confession

God we come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have too often turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries. Forgive us. We know that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We make no excuses, for none would suffice. We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turn us again around and place us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Passing of the Peace of Christ *"May the peace of Christ be with you."*

Pastoral Prayer

Celebrating the Summer

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading	Genesis 45: 1-15	Rev. Horton
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Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves,

because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Sermon

"Family Stories: Come Closer"

Responding

Hymn

"Bind Us Together, Lord"

Kelly Greathouse, Walter Hoffman, Clifton Murphy, Mike Price, Carolyn Robbins

Invitation to Give and Serve

Rev. Horton

Sending

Benediction

Blessing

Postlude

"Nun Danket Alle Gott"
[J.S. Bach]

Robert Wilson

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

(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8)

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OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Bill Walser, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

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:

Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Wayne Beck (Grayson Beck's grandfather), Ben & Anna Lovell and their parents (Jerry and Patti's nephew, his wife), Jonelle Parker (friend of Frank Leonard), 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).**

~AUGUST CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

16th...Doris Sink
18th...Amanda Fulton
19th...J.W. Bates
20th...Myra Thompson
21st...Ramona Yarbrough
22nd...Edgar Miller

ANNIVERSARIES

16th...Clifton & Harriette Murphy
22nd...Calvin & Susan Odom

WEEKLY CALENDAR

August 16:

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

In the study guide book: Chapter 10; Daily reading: Genesis 48; Genesis 49: 1-28; Genesis 49:29- 50:26; Exodus 1:1-2:10, 10:21-29, & 14:21-22; John 1:1-5, Romans 5: 12-21, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2. 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
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)**

4:00PM DRIVE THROUGH BACKPACK BLESSING FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

Grab your backpack, jump in the car with Mom and/or Dad or drive yourself to the parking lot of the Educational Building for our annual "BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS! Everyone should enter from the Center Street driveway (between the church and Dominoes Pizza) and exit at the North Salisbury Street driveway.

August 17:

7:00PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting

Committee members may join the meeting [HERE](#).

August 18:

**12:00PM 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).
(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)**

**7:00PM Adult Book Study: "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism"
Join the Meeting at [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 859 2701 0393 & Password: 7x6nQw)**

August 23:

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

12:00PM Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

7:00PM Prayer Vigil: A Call to End Racism. More details will be provided later.