



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

September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude	"Komm, süßer Tod, komm selge Ruh" [Johann Sebastian Bach]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Hymn	"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"	Ellen Peterson
Opening Prayer		

Centering

New Testament Reading	Romans 14: 1-12	Lisa Nelson
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Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Prayer of Confession		Rev. Horton
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Let us confess our sins together.

Loving God,

You lived for us -- we have not lived for you.

You have forgiven us - we have not forgiven others.

You have loved us - we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another.

We have been self-righteous, closed minded and judgmental.

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, quarreling and divisiveness.

Help us to forgive and to love, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness		Rev. Horton
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Passing of the Peace of Christ

If we were in the church building for worship, we would extend the peace of Christ to one another. The peace is a tangible reminder that we are in this together, that we are not alone. We need peace now

more than ever. Since we are not together, let us remember the peace of Christ is not bound to a church building, but we may pass in other ways. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Special Music

"Church Is More than Just a Building"
Members of First Reformed UCC Choir

Church is more than just a building, more than wood or metal or brick.
Church is how we love our neighbor. Church is how we tend to the sick,
Feed the hungry and heal the suffering, welcome strangers and give to the poor.
All our service is as worship, all our presence an open door.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for this world God so loves.

Rev. Horton

Young Disciples

Proclaiming

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18: 21-35

Rev. Horton

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Sermon

"Building the Church One Rock at a Time: Upon the Rock of Forgiveness"

Responding

Special Music

"The Lord's Prayer"

Ellen Peterson

Sending

Benediction

Postlude

"Trumpet Tune"
[Jerry McCrory]

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:

Kelly Greathouse, Jasmin Cruz, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, 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:

*M.C. Hinkle (Ben Hale's uncle), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Vernon Powell (Eulene Shepherd's nephew-in-law), Elania & Nora Koontz and Hutson & Grayson East (cousins and friends of Harriette & Clifton Murphy), Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Ben & Anna Lovell and their parents (Jerry and Patti's nephew, his wife), 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).*

~SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS~

BIRTHDAYS

15th ...Andy Sink
16th ...Barbara Sink
...Addie Walser
17th ...Lynn Brown
...Stephen Wall
19th ...James Atkinson

ANNIVERSARIES

18th ...Eddie & Susan Miller
19th ...Johnny & Lynn McCarn
...Tony & Lee Ann Peele

WEEKLY CALENDAR

September 13:

10:45AM 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)
1:00PM Consistory Meeting via Zoom [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 823 2081 0024)

September 14:

6:00PM Crisis Ministry Shelter Meal
7:00PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).

September 15:

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
Continuing discussion on "*White Fragility*". (Information for meeting TBD.)

September 16:

5:30PM High School Youth Meeting via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).

September 20:

9:30AM Adult Bible Study: Exodus via Zoom [HERE](#)
10:45AM 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)