

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Worship — *Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* — November 15, 2020

---

PRELUDE.....*Elegy*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
George Thalben-Ball

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. David Hobson

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Now Thank We All Our God”.....No. 102

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Debby Williams

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Steal Away to Heaven*.....Janet Coughlin, alto  
Mark Hayes

† SCRIPTURE READING.....I Thessalonians 5:14-22.....Debby Williams  
See scripture reading on Text Page

‡

† GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

‡

JOYS & CONCERNS.....Dr. Pat Day

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ✠ Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ✠ Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. ✠ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ✠ For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

PRAYER RESPONSE.....*Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*.....Wesleyans  
George Whelpton

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Ubi Caritas*.....Wesleyans  
Maurice Duruffé

[Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.]

† Doxology .....No. 94  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,  
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....II Corinthians 9:14-15.....Dr. Pat Day  
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**THE POWER OF GRATITUDE**.....Dr. Pat Day

I. First, practicing the art of gratitude is not only a choice that you make but a lifestyle you develop.

II. Second, practicing the art of gratitude has many hidden benefits.

III. Third, practicing the art of gratitude spills over to acts of generosity.

IV. Fourth, practicing the art of gratitude involves thanking God in all circumstances - even for the fleas in your life.

V. Finally, practicing the art of gratitude is centered in thanking God for His indescribable gift - Jesus Christ.

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“For the Fruits of This Creation”.....No. 97

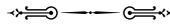
[Alternate Tune: AR HYD Y NOS]

*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

BENEDICTION .....Dr. Pat Day

SENDING FORTH.....*God Be with You ‘Till We Meet Again*.....Wesleyans  
arr. Dale Wood

POSTLUDE.....*Now Thank We All Our God*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
arr. Virgil Fox



*Crucifer* – Jillian Rodgers; *Acolytes*: Lucy Rodgers, Caroline Smith

*\*The next Church Council meeting will be held today, Sunday, November 15th at 12 noon in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the budget for 2021.\**

*† Those who are able may stand. ‡ Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

**Hymn of Praise No. 102**  
**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;  
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**Hymn of Invitation No. 97**  
**“For the Fruits of This Creation”**  
**[Alternate Tune: AR HYD Y NOS]**

For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;  
For good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
    For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
    Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to  
    God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;  
    In our worldwide task of caring  
    For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
    For the wonders that astound us,  
    For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**Affirmation of Faith**  
**No. 881**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **I Thessalonians 5:14-22**

And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

## **II Corinthians 9:14-15**

And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!