

WELCOME

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests. We are glad you came. Please sign the register in the pew to let us know you attended. We look forward to having you worship with us again soon.

This Week at Highland Park

TODAY — September 8

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

TUESDAY — September 10

- Newsletter Folding (the group usually arrives between noon and one if you would like to come help out)
- 6:00 p.m. Stillwater Travel Club
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY — September 11

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY — September 12

- 7:00 a.m. Grape Jelly Gang
- 12:00 p.m. Stillwater Noon Lions Club

SATURDAY — September 14

- 9:00 a.m. Stillwater Fellowship Circle
- 10:30 a.m. UMW Executive Team Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY — September 15

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Words on Worship

Today is the **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. The color for this entire season is **green**. The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration during the month of September, begun some two decades ago in Australia, and now spreading throughout Protestant denominations in New Zealand, Canada, England, Europe, and the United States. We will be exploring these themes of creation during the month of September.

Creating is not just what artists, musicians, actors and writers do. Just as we all "live off the land," we also all create. "Creating" often defines our relationship with the earth and our fellow creatures. We start with materials the earth or other creatures and transform them into something useful, desirable, beautiful, or delicious. Today's readings from Jeremiah and the Psalm picture God forming plans like a potter forms clay, "knitting" us together in our mothers' wombs, and weaving our inmost beings in the depths of the earth. Today's readings from Philemon and Luke point to ways we and Christ may create new possibilities for others to experience transformed living. In all cases, creating involves the elements with which we create no longer functioning as they had in the past, but "letting go" and allowing themselves to be formed into new relationships with other elements of the creation, with each other, or with God.

—GLOSSARY OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES—

- **BOY SCOUTS**—HPUMC sponsors Boy Scout Troop 814.
- **FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**—the second Sunday of every month, the entire congregation is invited to a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall at the conclusion of the worship service.
- **GOLDEN OAKS CHAPEL SERVICE**—as scheduled, HPUMC conducts a chapel service at Golden Oaks Village.
- **GRAPE JELLY GANG**—a small fellowship group that meets at Granny's Kitchen in Stillwater on a weekly basis for breakfast, a devotion, and fellowship.
- **LIONS CLUB**—Stillwater Noon Lions Club meets at HPUMC every Thursday at noon for a catered lunch, business meeting, and program.
- **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE**—every other Friday by 10:00am, articles for publication in the newsletter need to be turned into the office.
- **UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)**—a monthly fellowship of the men of the church.
- **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)**—a fellowship of the women of the church.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE USHER STAND
- CHILDREN'S BULLETINS (AGES 3-6 AND 7-12) ARE AVAILABLE
- INDIVIDUAL LISTENING DEVICES FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE

Preparation for worship

Dear Jesus, I have come because you have invited me. Place your easy yoke upon me and grant rest for my soul (Matthew 11:28-30). Amen.

* * *

Open my ears and heart to hear your Word for me today, Lord Jesus.

* * *

We praise you, Mighty God, for your voice in rustling leaves and your handiwork in nature's changing colors!

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The labor to which we're called

In words attributed to Mother Teresa, "Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus." As we have just celebrated Labor Day, what does such a distinction mean?

Vocation comes from Latin for "calling." Christians understand vocation as that for which God created you, involving activities you do well, enjoy and feel good about doing, and that serve others. If you're blessed to earn a paycheck doing something that fits those categories, then your profession or occupation — your work —likely is your vocation.

Other people work a paying job because an opportunity presents itself and the income is needed, even if it isn't their favorite thing to do. Perhaps they live out their truest vocation during non-employment hours: singing with a choir, raising children, building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Christians in any capacity, paid or not, can live out Jesus' calling to love God and neighbor with our whole being (Luke 10:27). When God is "CEO" of our lives, it shows in how we treat our fellow laborers.

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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to noon