

Highland Park United Methodist Church

season of
creation

The Community Gathered for Worship
September 15, 2013

PRESERVICE MUSICOrganist
Close to Thee — Fanny Crosby
The Gift of Love — English Melody
Jesu, Jesu — Ghana Folk Song

A TIME FOR GATHERING AND FELLOWSHIP

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE
(Please register your attendance on the pad located at the end of the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDEOrganist
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee — Ludwig von Beethoven, arr. Fred Bock

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir
Savoir Like A Shepherd, Lead Us — UMH 381

A TIME FOR ADORATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP
As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
so God seeks and saves the lost.
Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.
As a father receives a returning wayward son,
so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.
Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.
Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

*HYMN OF GATHERINGUMH 400
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....UMH 881
The Apostles' Creed

*THE GLORIA PATRI.....UMH 70
Glory Be to the Father

CHILDREN'S SERMON
(Congregation sings *This Little Light of Mine* as children return to their seats)

A TIME FOR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Father of love, Jesus weeping and loving us,
Spirit groaning in us, bearing witness we are yours,
though gone astray: have mercy on us.
We are corrupt. Cleanse us.
We are careless with our planet. Correct us.
We have failed to do good. Strengthen us.
We have devoured others like bread,
and confounded the plans of the poor.
Forgive us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A TIME FOR PRAYER

A PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

A TIME FOR PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

*HYMN OF PREPARATION.....UMH 572
Pass it On

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT I Timothy 1:12-17
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON *A Season of Creation: God: The Ultimate Picker!*

CHORAL ANTHEM *Love Round* (from VBS)

A TIME FOR GIVING OF OURSELVES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY.....Organist
Steal Away to Jesus — Spiritual

*DOXOLOGY.....UMH 95
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
God of endless patience and timeless wisdom, as we give our offering this morning, we remember that you seek after us as we would seek after a rare and valuable coin, or as a shepherd would seek after a lost sheep. May our giving reflect our knowledge of how important we are to you, but also how we value our relationship with you. More than sharing our money, may we give our whole selves to help others know of your grace and never-failing love. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

A TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you wish to become a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Church, please use this opportunity to move to the front of the sanctuary and speak with the minister. Persons are received into membership through a profession of faith and baptism, transfer of membership from another United Methodist church or vows from another denomination.

*HYMN OF DEDICATIONBulletin Insert
Love Lifted Me — Worship and Song page 3101

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN PEACE

A TIME FOR BEING SENT FORTH

*SENDING FORTH

You know what is lost, and who is lost to the forces of uncreation. And you know in your hearts, and in God's heart, the unstoppable urge to go, find, and reclaim. So go . . .

**We go to face down the power of uncreation,
to face our own role in it, and especially, to face the world with the love and mercy of Jesus Christ,
so that we add this week, and every week,
to the joy of earth and heaven. Amen.**

*CHORAL BENEDICTIONUMH 665
Go Now In Peace

We invite you to be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE..... Organist
My Lord What a Morning — Spiritual

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

PERSONS LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER — Rev. Jim Jones
LITURGIST—
CHOIR DIRECTOR — Gayla Foster
ORGANIST—Claudia Mornhinweg
ACOLYTES —
GREETERS — Roxanna and Steve Conner

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 15

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

MONDAY — September 16

7:00 p.m. Mission and Service Team
8:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

TUESDAY — September 17

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Dinner and Court of Honor

WEDNESDAY — September 18

9:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle
1:15 p.m. Circle of Elizabeth
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY — September 19

7:00 a.m. Grape Jelly Gang
12:00 p.m. Stillwater Noon Lions Club
7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee

FRIDAY — September 20

10:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due

SATURDAY — September 21

9:00 a.m. District UMW Meeting at Prague UMC

NEXT SUNDAY — September 22

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

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

- Call to Worship : United Methodist Book of Worship, 454
- Prayer of Dedication: "Copyright General Board of Discipleship www.gbod.org.
- Prayer of Confession and Sending Forth: A Season of Creation, www.gbod.org

Words on Worship

Today is the **Seventeenth 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.

Today our focus is on uncreation and reclamation. Uncreation happens. It is when what was created falls apart or is demolished. Beachfronts or hillsides hosting people and wildlife flood and erode, becoming uninhabitable. Tornadoes rip forests or towns apart. Earthquakes break and reshape the land. Asteroids change the ecosystem of the entire planet.

Uncreation happens. When it does, it causes great doubt, as the Psalmist attests. Even so, the Psalmist believes God is with its victims; and no matter what, God is the refuge of the poor, even the poor whose poverty may have been caused by uncreation.

Uncreation is not the last word. Reclamation is. And we know this in our hearts if we are listening to them at all, Jesus reminds us. When a shepherd loses just one sheep or a woman loses just one coin, they will turn heaven and earth upside down to find them again. And when they do, they will rejoice like there is no tomorrow.

This urge to reclaim is stronger in us than any force of uncreation that happens to us, any uncreation wielded against us, or any uncreation we may cause ourselves by our sin or our carelessness. Today is about acknowledging both realities, uncreation and reclamation, and our part in them. It is not about pointing fingers. It is not about casting blame. It is about taking responsibility and letting the love of God and what is already in our hearts have the final word in the face of such losses.

GLOSSARY OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- **BOY SCOUTS**—HPUMC sponsors Boy Scout Troop 814.
- **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.
- **UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)**—a monthly fellowship of the men 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

Thoughts for the Day

Lord, take me where you want me to go;
Let me meet who you want me to meet;
Tell me what you want me to say,
and keep me out of your way.

Rev. Mychal Judge, FDNY chaplain and the first official casualty on 9/11

Honesty before God requires the most fundamental risk of faith we can take: the risk that God is good, that God does love us unconditionally. It is in taking this risk that we rediscover our dignity. To bring the truth of ourselves, just as we are, to God, just as God is, is the most dignified thing we can do in this life.

Gerald May, *Addiction and Grace*

Grace is the majesty, the freedom, the undeservedness, the unexpectedness, the newness, the arbitrariness, in which a relationship to God and therefore the possibility of knowing him is opened up to man by God himself. ... Grace is God's good pleasure.

Karl Barth

Kate Wilkinson (1859-1928), who ministered to young women in west London, wrote only one hymn. "May the Mind of Christ, My Savior" is a powerful message based on Philippians 2:5. "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (NRSV).

Here are a few verses, which can also serve as prayers:

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his power.

May his beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him.

www.newsletternewsletter.com

Highland Park United Methodist Church

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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:30 - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 3:00 pm