

Highland Park United Methodist Church

season of
creation

The Community Gathered for Worship **September 22, 2013**

PRESERVICE MUSIC..... Organist

Lord, Be Glorified
Jesus, Name Above All Names
More Precious Than Silver

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

PRELUDE Organist

Heavenly Sunlight — George Harrison Clark

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir

What Does The Lord Require of You

A TIME FOR ADORATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in a God who is a creator.

And we know that we have been created in God's image.

We live in the midst of God's creation.

Yet we find ourselves surrounded by un-creation.

In the midst of life that God has given, we find death.

Although death is not our enemy, we cherish all life that God has made.

*HYMN OF GATHERING UMH 206

I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....UMH 886

The World Methodist Social Affirmation

*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

O God, we know that most of the destruction that takes place in our world comes at our own hands. Humans cause as much death and destruction as nature itself. So we ask your forgiveness for our part in hurting others. Forgive us for our actions and our inaction when we idly stand by as others are being hurt. Fill us with your courage so that we may fight injustice and evil wherever they present themselves. 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

*HYMN OF PREPARATION.....UMH 375

There Is A Balm In Gilead

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 16:1-13

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Jim Jones

A Season of Creation: More Than A Commandment!

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

Praise Ye The Lord — J. Jefferson Cleveland

A TIME FOR GIVING OF OURSELVES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY.....Organist

Seek Ye First — Karen Lafferty

*DOXOLOGY.....UMH 94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We are reminded that in the midst of life, we are in death. And in the midst of death, we find life. That life comes through you and so we give you thanks. Accept these gifts as we dedicate them to the work of Christ and use us as instruments of your peace as we strive to transform your world. 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 DEDICATION..... UMH 428

For The Healing of the Nations

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN PEACE

A TIME FOR BEING SENT FORTH

*SENDING FORTH

Go forth, you clever people, and be a persistent and joyful reminder to a stuck world of killers and takers, of victims and the oppressed, of life, and freedom, and joy as you show grace and mercy to neighbors and all creation: in the love of the Father (God), in the name of Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**God is out to save us all,
and to bring us to knowledge of truth. So we go forth
into the world to share the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION UMH 665

Go Now In Peace (as a Round)

We invite you to be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE..... Organist

The Unclouded Day — Rev. J. K. Alwood

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*indicates congregation standing

PERSONS LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER — Rev. Jim Jones

LITURGIST— Anna Horn

CHOIR DIRECTOR — Gayla Foster

ORGANIST—Claudia Mornhinweg

ACOLYTES — Angel Bonar Misty McGuire

GREETERS — Avonelle White and Wilma Spangler

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

- Sending Forth: adapted from A Season of Creation, www.gbod.org

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping 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 22

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting

TUESDAY — September 24

- Newsletter Folding
- 5:00 p.m. Payne County Rural Water Corporation #3
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY — September 25

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY — September 26

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

FRIDAY — September 27

- 2:00 p.m. Church Women United (CWU) Dedication Day Program

NEXT SUNDAY — September 29

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

Words on Worship

Today is the **Eighteenth 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 killing and destroying. Killing is essential for the feeding, health, and survival of many of the earth's creatures, including humans. Human bodies and the bodies of other creatures, including plants, are full of cells constantly killing other cells and organisms that may endanger them. That such killing happens so pervasively is not a sign of uncreation. It is simply the way living creatures on earth are sustained and the balances of ecosystems are maintained.

God has placed a clear limitation on killing, however. We are not to kill other humans. The word in the commandment points to murder, the intentional ending of another human life, typically with malice. Millions of people of all faiths, including Christians, live with the consequences of the intentional killing of others and the destruction of human and natural habitats daily. Today is a day to remember them in our prayers and to pray in solidarity with them.

Liturgist

A liturgist is one who assists in worship by leading the congregation in the readings and prayers. They also assist the pastor in administering the sacraments, both Baptism and Holy Communion. If you are interested in serving as a liturgist, please let us know of your desire to serve.

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

Redemption

We are all better than the worst things we do, and no one is beyond redemption.

—Shane Claiborne

En theos

Enthusiastic people stand out in a crowd because "they radiate their own private ray of sunshine." So say Doug Fields and Joshua Griffin in *Live Large. Be Different. Shine Bright*. (Simply Youth Ministry).

The word *enthusiasm* comes from the Greek phrase *en theos*, which means "in God." The authors write that "God is the source of energy, vitality and power for those who have come into a relationship with him through his Son Jesus Christ." They offer these suggestions for becoming more enthusiastic:

- Stay connected to God, plugging your life into the Creator of life. Remember to "take delight in the LORD" (Psalm 37:4, NIV).
- If your life is overloaded, prioritize your activities. It's tough to be enthusiastic when you're tired.
- Start and end each day with enthusiasm. Bookend your days by reciting Psalm 118:24 (NRSV) — This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

www.newsletternewsletter.com

Fertile friendship

I am convinced ... that friendships provide the most fertile soil for evangelism. When the reality of Christ is introduced into a relationship of love and trust that has already been established, the effect is powerful. And it seems that invariably, when someone becomes a true follower of Christ, that person's first impulse is to want to find a friend and introduce that friend to Christ.

—John MacArthur

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