

Search us, O God, and reveal anything in our lives that stands between us and your love.

Search us, O God, show us our sins so that we might confess them.

Search us, O God, show us places where we have neglected Christian responsibility and then teach us how to live on this earth with each other.

Search us, O God, show us the faces of those we have wronged so that we might seek their forgiveness.

Assurance of Forgiveness

We have not been called to this hour of worship to wallow in sin and self-pity. God has promised to forgive our sins when we confess them and to cleanse us from all manner of unrighteousness. Rise from your knees as children of God, forgiven from sin and empowered to lead holy lives..

AMEN, thanks be to God!

Call to Communion “I Come with Joy” #617 v. 2

The Great Thanksgiving #15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

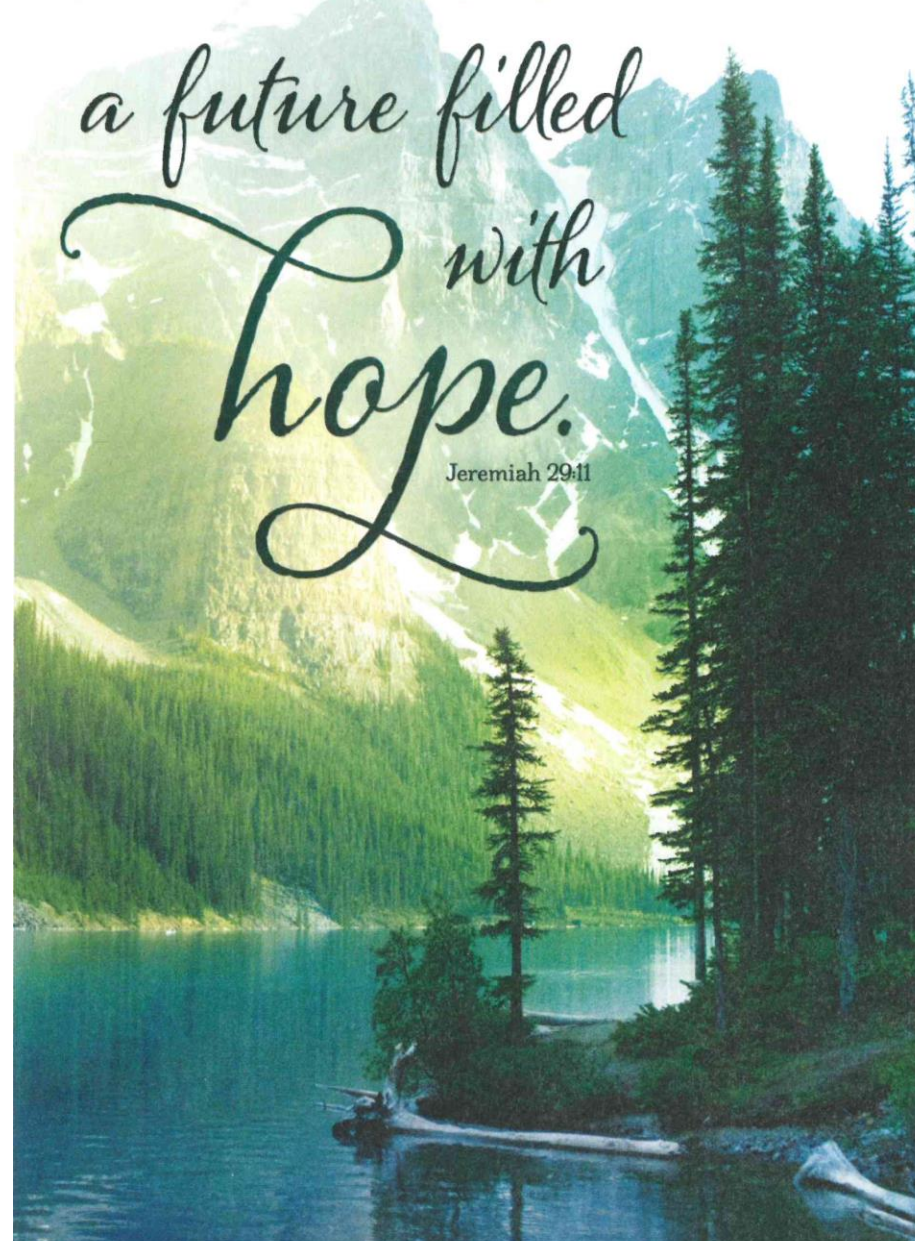
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so, in remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

I know the plans I have in mind for you,
declares the LORD; they are plans for
peace, not disaster, to give you

*a future filled
with
hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11



First United Methodist Church

"Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ's Name"

Rev. Sara J. Wrona, Pastor
Jo Ellen Stewart, Co-Lay Leader
Lori A. Klingensmith, Choir Director
LFUMC.org
pastorsarajw@gmail.com

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Gloria Womer, Co-Lay Leader
Gail Varine, Organist
LFUMC251@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell: (724) 882-9627

14th Sunday After Pentecost

- ❖ We know that everyone is differently abled so please stand or sit as best suits your comfort level.

Greetings & Announcements

Prelude

As the music begins, be silent, be thoughtful, and be reverent, for this is the House of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord. During the service, let the Lord speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.

- ❖ Centering Chorus "Lift High the Cross" #159 (Refrain only)

❖ Call to Worship

Followers of Christ, God calls us just as we are to live as truth-tellers and gospel-bringers in the world..

God, we know you call us, and still, we ask, "Who am I that you would call me?"

Like Moses standing before the burning bush convinced of his unworthiness to lead your people out of bondage, we ask,

"Who am I that you would call me?"

Like Peter who thought he got it right only to realize that who Jesus is doesn't meet his expectations of who a Savior should be, we ask,

"Who am I that you would call me?"

As we raise this question to God today, we open our hearts to receive God's answer:

You are my beloved children. You are my disciples.

You are my people called to share the love of God for the transformation of the world. Amen.

- ❖ Opening Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #474

- ❖ Opening Prayer (in unison)

O God, you have bound us together in this life. Give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of all who labor. May we be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

- ❖ Gloria Patri #70

Children's Moment Pastor Sara

Sung Prayer of Illumination "Thy Word Is A Lamp" (Ref.x2) #601

New Testament Lesson Romans 12:9 - 21 #987

- ❖ Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:21 - 28 #851

Message Unsettling Our Minds Rev. Sara J. Wrona

Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #297

Offertory Reflection

- ❖ Doxology #95

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation of Confession

Silent Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Though we live in a culture that is reluctant to admit guilt, assume responsibility, or ask for forgiveness, we are so bold as to pray the words of the psalmist who said:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Receiving the Bread & Cup

Sending Forth

❖ Hymn "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" #382

The chancel rail is open for prayer as you feel led by the Spirit.

❖ Benediction

❖ Community Blessing "Go Now in Peace" #665

Postlude

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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**TODAY, September 3rd 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

10:00 AM -Worship Service

**GREETERS:** *Sandy Ashbaugh & Cathy Kepple*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *Marilyn Oldfield*

**TUESDAY, September 5**

7:00 PM -Trustees Meeting

7:00 PM -Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)

**WEDNESDAY, September 6**

2:30 -4:30 PM -Crockpot Ministry

**SATURDAY, September 9**

Rise Against Hunger – Kittanning FUMC

**SUNDAY, September 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost/Grandparent's Day**

10:00 AM - Worship Service

**GREETERS:** *Cindy Hughes & Becky Blankenship*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *M.J. Cline*

**First United Methodist Church, Leechburg**

**Prayer List**

"...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place."

2 Chronicles 7:14 - 15

**Please be in prayer for Family and Friends:**

Bryce, Margie Anto, Lana Daugherty, Sue Harwick, Debbie Hill, Phyllis Lamison, Dianne LeSueur, Lindsey, Deb Loftus, Scott Miller(Tracy Albert's friend), Judy Nolf, Peggie Trapolsi (Pr. Sara's mom), John Womer, Sharon Wright, and Amber

**Our Homebound Members:**

Anne Cherry, Dolores Hepburn, Betty Kolenik, Polly Lambing, Lois Learn, Carol Parsons, Myrtle Prunty, Phyllis Schaeffer, and Helen Weaver.

**Any changes please let Pam know in the office.**

**Our Church Leadership**

Greensburg District Superintendent Rev. Paul Ritchey

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
& the WPAUMC Appointive Cabinet

WPAUMC Conference Staff

UMC Council of Bishops

The Church Universal

The People of the Ukraine

Church Missionaries & Agencies throughout the World

Those Who Are Marginalized throughout the World

## FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

We will be making sandwiches for the Leechburg School & the high rises on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We will be packing the lunch bags on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. with a meeting following at 10:00 a.m.

## CROCKPOT MINISTRY

Caring Crockpot Ministry classes begin on September 6, 13, & 20 from 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

If you are interested in helping please contact Lori.

Thank you for your continued support in all of our outreach projects!

**CHOIR PRACTICE** will resume on Monday evenings at 6:45 PM beginning August 28th. If you have one hour a week and enjoy singing, please consider sharing your God given talent. We'd love for you to join us! Have a blessed and joyful summer!



## SPECIAL OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month (through December) we will collect a special offering for the Mission/Outreach Team. This money will help offset the costs of the hams and turkeys they provide for the community in November & December. Thanks so much for your continued support of this team and their mission/outreach projects!

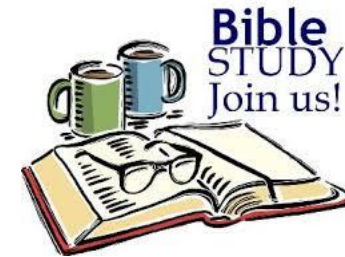
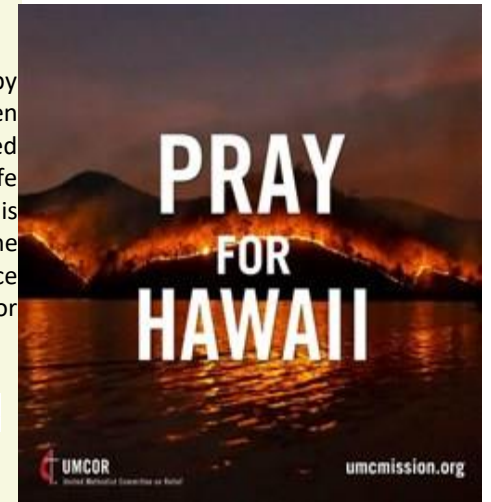
## CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M., Bethel UMC, Lower Burrell.

## Pray for Hawaii

Join us in prayer for those affected by the wildfires in Hawaii. Wind-driven fires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused loss of life and widespread damage. #UMCOR is currently coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to provide a solidarity grant for emergency supplies.

Donations made be directly to UMCOR or made through the church. Please indicate on your envelopes that your donation is for Maui relief.



**Wednesdays in October  
at 6:30 P.M.**

**This study will be on the book of Colossians.**



**October/November  
newsletter items are due in  
the office by September  
15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!**

# SHIFT

## Relationships Can Change How We View Poverty

We all want to see lasting change in our communities, but knowing how to get there is another story. SHIFT is an online course that will help you or your organization reimagine your approach to poverty and put practical tools in your toolbox to help your community thrive.

### *Realities of Poverty in America*

How did we get here, what does it mean to be in poverty in America, and can we change the way we think about poverty?

### *The Mental Tax of Scarcity*

Are there ways that we all experience scarcity at times, and what does it mean for those in material poverty?

### *The Way We Help*

Dig into the beliefs we've inherited about helping, why they may be harmful, and how we can think differently about helping.



September 11th, 18th & 25th  
5:30 pm CT / 6:30 pm ET

This virtual class consists of 2 online modules completed at your own pace combined with 3 group Zoom discussions.

For more information contact  
kwrona@communitiesoftransformation.org

Register Today!



Sunday, October 1, 2023, at Roaring Run Trail @ 2 p.m.

For more information, please see Pam in the office!



Do you long for connection? Do you feel that lately, even with all our technology, it's become more difficult to relate, to belong, and to connect with each other?

CROP Hunger Walks give you an opportunity not only to put your body in motion; but to connect with your community in a meaningful way and do something for our most vulnerable neighbors (both in our town and far away). As a community, it allows us to collectively embrace our caring human nature. Walking side by side, people from all walks of life—all ages, all faiths, all points of view—join efforts to make this world a more caring and safer place for everyone.

Walking encourages us to think about our neighbors who must walk for water, food, medical care or refugees who must walk to safety. Walking is an act of solidarity.

When you walk, give, and raise funds through CROP Hunger Walk, you are saving lives.



\$21

Five chickens for a family in Tanzania



\$25

A month of groceries for a refugee in Egypt



\$43

A biosand water filter for a family in Myanmar



\$40

A year of school supplies for a Roma child in Eastern Europe

These are just a few examples of sustainable ways to END POVERTY, all thanks to YOU.

The Jewish sages have taught us that when you save one life, you save the entire world. Join us—step up alongside our neighbors—here and across the globe—who are ready to save lives through thoughtful, long-lasting solutions to hunger. Join us for the CROP Hunger Walk.



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG



### **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY NEWS!!!**

We had a great turn out for the directory photos. There were 63 appointments made out of 68 appointments available. Thanks to those who helped during the two-day session!!



### **LAWN CARE SPONSORS**

The Trustees are looking for sponsors to help defray the Lawn Mowing service cost for the season. A donation of \$240 would cover one month service, \$120 for ½ month service, or \$60 weekly service. If you would like to donate please include the amount with your weekly donation and write “Lawn Care” on the envelope. All donations are appreciated. Thank you for your support!



### **SPONSOR A CHAIR**

The Trustees and Church Council approved purchasing 100 vinyl cushioned folding chairs for the church fellowship hall. Each chair will be \$32. We are asking the congregation to consider donating the funds to cover one or more chairs. Please make sure to indicate on your donation that it is for the purchase of the new chairs. If you have any questions, please speak to Chris Kalmar or Pastor Sara.



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Pastor Sara will be leading an adult Sunday School this fall on Spiritual Gifts. We will begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.



### **GRANDPARENTS DAY**

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Grandparent’s Day! We will do this in the midst of worship and with a fellowship luncheon after church. It will be a simple lunch, but everyone is invited to attend. During lunch we will give folks an opportunity to share memories of their grandparents. We hope to see you there.



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls while I was in the hospital.

**GOD IS GOOD!**

Bob Stewart



Revised Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.