

First United Methodist Church

210 North 2nd Avenue East * Newton, Iowa 50208 * (641) 792-4648
office@newtonfirst.org * www.newtonfirst.org
facebook.com/newtonfirstumc

**“Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out,
Making Connections through Jesus Christ within Our Community and World.”**

**September 5, 2021
8:45 AM**

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Praise and Worship

THE GATHERING

Gathering Music

Jean Ibbotson

Welcome & Announcements

The Prelude

Call to Worship

Wade Sheeler

Leader: *Holy ground! We are standing on holy ground.*

People: For where God is, the ground is holy.

Leader: *Holy hands! God works through our hands,*

People: So they are holy.

Leader: *Holy words! God speaks through our words,*

People: So they become holy.

Leader: *Holy thoughts! God moves others through our ideas and dreams,*

People: So they are holy.

Leader: *Holy songs! God prays in our songs,*

People: So they are holy. Therefore let us joyfully sing.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE

In Songs of Praise

“Majesty, Worship His Majesty” (UMH #176)

Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

CCLI #155662

“Open Our Eyes” (The Faith We Sing #2086)

*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.*



Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

CCLI #155662

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (The Faith We Sing #2193 x2)
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

CCLI #155662

*Hymn of Praise 57 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs 1-4)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

CCLI #155662

The Scripture Reading – Mark 7:24-37 (NRSV – Pew Bibles NT page 40)

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Prayers of the People

THE WEEK – Beginning September 5, 2021

Today

8:45 Worship
9:00 "First Church on the Air"
(KCOB Radio 95.9 FM/1280 AM)
10:00 Park Centre Worship

Monday

Labor Day – Office Closed

Tuesday

10:00 Worship Planning Team Mtg
11:00 Leadership Development Mtg

Wednesday

9:00 Staff Meeting

Thursday

6:30 Finance Committee Mtg

WE WANT TO HONOR all veterans this year in a special way on Sunday, November 14th during the 8:45 AM service. We are requesting you provide a military picture of the veteran, years of service, and branch of service. Please get these details to the church by Friday, October 22nd by email (office@newtonfirst.org), or by placing it in the offering plate or bringing it to the church office. We look forward to this special day.

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: **Sept 5th** – Jan Booth, Deloris Butler, Allyson Killian, Tyler Latcham, Zaine Robson, Zander Robson; **6th** – Brent Warning; **7th** – Jordan Seiser, Mickey Simpson, Chris Van Sickle; **8th** – Carter Forst, Jeff LaKose, Phyllis Olson; **9th** – Kevin Ehresman; **10th** – Keith Butler, Kathy (Doug) Carpenter, Rodney McCumber, Debbie Scarbrough; **11th** – Ron Ehresman

THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: **Sept 5th** – Doug & Jeanna Barcus, Jeff & Tami Veldhuizen; **6th** – Craig & Jackie Althof; **7th** – Kasey & Angie Barnes; **8th** – Chuck & Doris Cabalka; **9th** – Dave & Jody Gooch

OFFICIARY

Pastor – Paul Smith

Financial Secretary – Dorothy McFarling

Director of Music – Rachel Faidley

Custodian – Kraig Holubar

Technical Engineers – Koni Bunse, Projection;

Tim Blount, Sound; Karter Prellwitz-Liebhart, Videography

Administrative Assistant – Joy Osborn-Daniels

Coordinator of Lay Ministries – Mel Wilson

Organist – Jean Ibbotson; Park Centre Pianist – Rachel Faidley

Lay Leader – Karen Kriz

PRAYER REQUESTS

Thanksgiving to God for...

All God's blessings
Family & Friends

Guests & Visitors
Good Health

New Beginnings
All Volunteers

God's Guidance & Direction for...

People Unemployed/Economic/
Housing Struggles
Natural Disaster Recovery
All Who Are Grieving

World Peace
Local, State & National Leaders
Sunday School Teachers/Leaders
School Students/Teachers

God's Protection & Safety for...

Those in the Military
Kevin Ehresman
Dylan Drew
Austin Leytham

Those in Mission Work
Cherie Miner
Dr. Emmanuel & Florence Mefor
Lynn & Sharon Fogleman
Rev. Doug Williams
Larry Kies
Tim Morgan

Those Protecting Us
Law Enforcement
Firefighters
EMTs

Those Who Mourn...

Those in Care Facilities...

Betty Ashby
Ruby Blount
Pam Conklin
Andy Jackson

Wilma Mott
Helen Newton
Alice Schwarz
Rita Skinner

Phyllis Snook
Elsie Ulland
Phyllis Yeutsy

Healing & Health Concerns...

Pat Beckham
Dorothy Carpenter
Steve Dailey
Cash Dickerson
Nick Dreyer
Mackenzie Eldred
Paul Frohardt

Jody Gooch
Wilma Grout
Jane Hiemstra
Jill Hoffman
Vicky Holmquist
Pat Ingledue
Clayton Killian

Sylvie Miller
Connie Myers
Sally Rorabaugh
Merna Rusk
Rev. Janna Steed
Theresa Stewart
Judy Wittenberg

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a prayer request or know of a change and want it reflected in the bulletin, please call the church office at 792-4648. Please keep us updated and let us know when you would like to be removed from the prayer list.

Hymn 2200 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (The Faith We Sing x2)

O LORD, hear my prayer. O LORD, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O LORD, hear my prayer. O LORD, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

CCLI #155662

Call to Prayer – "Our times are in your hands." We say the words, we sing the words, but we don't hear the words. If we truly embraced them, O God, we would be forced to face the disparity between our actions and the words. Too often we meander aimlessly to do "good works" in your name irrespective of your wishes, your desires and your kingdom plans. Forgive us, O God, for our misplaced enthusiasm. Draw us back to the secret place beneath the shadow of your wings, where you reveal your truth before those who become still and call upon your holy name. Amen

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

In Children's Time

Hymn 349 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

CCLI #155662

Children's Message

Offertory Scripture – Psalm 19:14 (NRSV – Pew Bibles OT page 472)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

In the Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "What a Day That Will Be"

Hill/Mauldin

Ilene Brass and Joy Stout, duet; Barb Tininenko, accompanist

The Doxology 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Dedication of Gifts

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Scripture Reading – James 2:1-17 (NRSV – Pew Bibles NT pages 215-216)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be

rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Witness to the Word

"But, I Have an Excellent Excuse!"

Pastor Paul Smith

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: So often this invitation to Communion calls you to "come" to an altar rail or a table – mind, heart, spirit, sometimes body.

Today you are reminded of this other truth – Communion always comes to us. We don't "make it" with our baking or our prayers. God is so wildly generous, no one needs to move an inch.

Please stay put, wherever and whoever you are, Communion with God is coming to you. Prepare to welcome your Guest.

Prayer of Remembrance and Consecration

Pastor: We remember so many different tables of Jesus – his acceptance of hospitality from Peter's mother-in-law and Martha, from Simon so suspicious of sex workers, Zacchaeus, love-venture capitalist, and one boy with a small picnic lunch.

We remember Jesus learning the reality lesson about who eats on and who eats under the tables of the world from a Syrophenician woman, and his teaching his disciples that lesson another evening gently and with foot washing.

We remember the Passover meal with a betrayer and a denier present, and everyone scared and so confused. Jesus used what was familiar, bread already on the table a cup from which they had drunk.

Always, even today, in the accessible ordinary anyone can reach the holiest food, and even a single cupped hand can hold this rush of wet blessing.

People: Holy God, bless every bread near the mouth of any one of your children so that

AS A REMINDER, if you are unable to join us in worship, please send your offering to the church office at 210 N 2nd Ave E, Newton IA 50208. Online giving is also available for donations to First United Methodist Church. This can be done by going to the church's website (newtonfirst.org) and selecting the "Give" tab. Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated.

NEXT WEEK IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY. All contributions support our Conference's Iowa Religious Media Service, Iowa Campership Fund, and the Christian Education Fund. Watch for special envelopes in next week's bulletins.

THE MONDAY AFTERNOON Men & Women of the Bible study, led by Christine Pauley, will begin on Monday, September 13th at 2 PM in the church library. We will start with Lesson 4—John the Baptist. Everyone is invited. Please call or text Christine at (641) 521-7472 and she will send or bring to church the lesson for September 13th. It is a pleasure to work together and learn about the faith (and failures) of people of the Bible. God will be glorified.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY MEALS will resume on Wednesday, September 8th from 5:30 PM—6:30 PM with the meals served curbside at the church's 2nd Ave E elevator entrance. Sacred Heart and First Lutheran Churches will rotate weeks of service with FUMC. Sign-up sheets for food donations for the September 8th FUMC-hosted meal will be at the Welcome Center. All meals are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

PLANS ARE UNDER WAY for a new year of Kids Club beginning Wednesday, October 6th. Please watch the bulletins, newsletter, and Facebook for further information.

PASTOR PAUL IS MAKING PLANS for a Confirmation class to begin sometime in October. Watch the bulletin and Messenger for further information.

WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES becoming available to purchase, now is a good time to remind everyone about the kits needed for the Ingathering. At the Welcome Center you will find a list of the Midwest Mission Kits that will be accepted for 2021. The kits are Personal Dignity Kit "PDK", Student Kit, Feminine Hygiene Kit, Layette Kit, and Birthing Kit. They also have a bazaar and live auction where items can be donated. They are accepting empty one-handle cloth bags and some of the kits require being placed in these same bags. All instructions and patterns can be seen at www.midwestmission.org and click on kits, projects, and patterns.

DUST OFF YOUR WALKING SHOES! The Jasper County CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 3rd. More information will be forthcoming. Call Tori Reynolds at 792-5391 if interested.

DORCAS CIRCLE WILL BE MEETING every other month on Saturday mornings, October 2nd and December 4th at 9 AM at the home of Patty Dykstra, 4 Chancery Ct, Newton. Please contact Patty at tdykstra@iowatelecom.net for further information or questions. All ladies are welcome.

it becomes the strength and hope and holiness each of us needs. Bless the small plastic cup or the beautiful chalice – and every glass in between – that reminds us that we can never spill your love and we always and in all places drink your healing. Amen

Breaking of the Bread

Leader: You will hold the bread of heaven. Honor it. It is consecrated to perfectly match your need. Receive it.

All: **We will eat it in hope.**

Leader: You will hold the cup of blessing. Honor it. It is consecrated so you become one of the Saints of Communion. Receive this one small sip – deeply.

All: **We will drink it in joy.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we give you thanks that no one is over your table and no one is under your table, but that we all share your love together. We are in the midst of difficult times for all your children – illness, fire, heat, storm, earthquake, violence – and particular sorrows and griefs and decisions for those we know. We are so grateful that you have brought this Communion to us, so we may surround with its strength and comfort those we know, and search out those we do not know to offer hope and help widely and freely. Amen

(Liturgy adapted from Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi and used with permission.)

SENDING FORTH

**In Song 617 “I Come with Joy”*

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,
We see and praise him here.*

*Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,
We'll live and speak his praise.*

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**The Benediction*

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**The Benediction*

**The Benediction Response 666 "Shalom to You"*

*Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

CCLI #155662

**The Postlude*

AS OUR CREATOR DESIGNED green leaves to turn fiery yellow, orange and red, may today's worship rekindle your faith with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Welcome.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL met on August 24th and has decided to keep the current guidelines in place for in-person worship. The council will review the guidelines at their September 28th meeting. Face masks remain optional. For a review of the guidelines, please visit the church website (newtonfirst.org).

USHERS: Calvin Holmquist, Shawn McFarling, Bob Lane, Wade Sheeler

OPENING & CLOSING CHURCH: Greg & Rhonda Loder and Jerry & Betty Yates

VAN MAINTENANCE (September): TBD

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR PAUL or the church office if you or a family member is admitted to a hospital.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK - 8:45: 76; Park Centre: 35; Total: 111

IF YOUR SCHEDULE keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services, devotions, and past services by visiting our website at newtonfirst.org.

THIS WEEK'S RADIO BROADCAST on KCOB is sponsored as a "Happy Birthday to all my grandkids!" Love, Grandma Nina.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Clayton Case.

DONATION GIVING STATEMENTS can be picked up today and will save us postage. They are on the table in the Welcome Center.

THE SEPTEMBER MESSENGER can be picked up in the Welcome Center or the church office during regular business hours.

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