

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Celebration of Worship – *Last Sunday After Pentecost*– 11.20.16

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PRELUDE.....*The Story of Jesus*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
David Ritter Elizabeth Beck, violin I  
Laura Crawford, violin II

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. Rhoads

INTROIT.....*This is the Day the Lord Hath Made*.....Texas Street Singers (8:30)  
Warren Angell Chancel Choir (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. Address

† HYMN OF PRAISE .....“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”..... No. 694

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Dr. Address

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*My Jesus is My Lasting Joy*.....Will Address, tenor  
Dietrich Buxtehude Laura Crawford, violin I  
Elizabeth Beck, violin II

† SCRIPTURE READING.....John 15:1-4.....Dr. Rhoads  
New Testament, Page 133 in your Pew Bible

† GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.*

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\*\*CHILDREN’S BLESSING.....Billie Tate

JOYS & CONCERNS ..... Rev. Joyce

MORNING PRAYER ..... Dr. Rhoads

THE LORD'S PRAYER ..... Congregation (speaks in unison)  
*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.*

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HYMN OF PREPARATION.....“For the Fruits of This Creation.....No. 97

OFFERTORY PRAYER ..... Rev. Joyce

MUSICAL OFFERING (8:30).....*Amen*.....Texas Street Singers  
Jester Hairston      Margaret Jones, soloist

MUSICAL OFFERING (11:00).....*A Simple Thanksgiving*.....Chancel Choir  
arr. Joseph Martin

† DOXOLOGY.....No. 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,  
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Mark 4:1-20.....Rev. Joyce  
New Testament, Page 46 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE..... **SOWING, SEEDS & SOIL—A KINGDOM PARABLE** .....Rev. Joyce

**Mark 4:1-20-***The seed scattered on good soil are those who hear the word and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one. (v. 20 CEB)*

*Summary:* I love this parable about God's kingdom. Every time I read it, I am challenged to consider my life in relation to one of the four types of soil and growth in Jesus. 1. A hard path where the seed is taken. 2. Rocky ground that is shallow. 3. Patch of thorns. 4. Good soil that bears good fruit. I suppose I can connect with each type at some point in my life. So I would ask each of us to consider where we are today? Which type of soil best represents your heart, and your life in relation to the kingdom of God? Lord, we are thankful that you continue to scatter the seeds of faith. May you help each of us to be honest about where we are, so that we can become good soil, through whom your Holy Spirit will bear much kingdom fruit.

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Jesus Calls Us” ..... No. 398  
*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS ..... Dr. Rhoads  
*We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.*

BENEDICTION ..... Dr. Rhoads

SENDING FORTH.....*God Be With You*.....Texas Street Singers(8:30)  
*'Til We Meet Again* Chancel Choir (11:00)  
Fred Bock

POSTLUDE.....*Now Thank We All Our God* .....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
Johann Sebastian Bach/Virgil Fox

**Acolytes:** Grayson Hargon, Shep Smith (8:30), Kate Bell, Sophie Lee (11:00)

**Crucifer:** Kace Sweatman (8:30), Madalyn Byrd (11:00)

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

♦ **COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED AT 9:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY AND NOON IN COUCH CHAPEL.**

\* **IF YOU WISH TO JOIN** the First United Methodist Church family, please come forward at this time.

\*\**Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service:*

- *Infants–4 years (8:30 & 11:00): Children's Ministry Center*
- *K5–1ST graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 207, behind the Sanctuary*
- *2ND–3RD graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary*