

The Community Gathers

PRELUDE & BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Cindy Kocher

(*Please stand as you are able)

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us #331

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: God is the Great Sower, Scattering Seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

PEOPLE: **We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.**

LEADER: God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

PEOPLE : **We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.**

LEADER: God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

ALL: **May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Spirit Song #347

OPENING PRAYER

Life-giving God, we gather in Your presence to offer You thanksgiving and praise for all that You have done for us. Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been set free—free from the power of sin that leads to death, free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit, free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength, free to worship! May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to Your presence among us and within us, and to the Word You have for us today. To You alone, life-giving God, belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now and to the end of time. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER SONG Spirit of the Living God #393

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

"Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!" ~ Psalm 119:108

TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

#94

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hearing and Responding to the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:1-11

HYMN Jesus Loves Me #191 (First Stanza)

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Where Strength Begins" Pastor Mark Crist

Thanksgiving

PRAYER Apostle's Creed

Going into the World to Serve

OUR PURPOSE

What is our Purpose?

To Provide a place for all to BELONG to our community, BELIEVE in and experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ, and BECOME his disciples. BELONG! BELIEVE! BECOME!

*SENDING SONG Just a Closer Walk with Thee #2158

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Let There Be Peace on Earth #431
Taking the Light of Christ into the World

*POSTLUDE

COMMODITIES

WEDNESDAY
JULY 19, 2023

ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME
WE WILL MEET IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL OR BACK
PARKING LOT.



Volunteers needed

The Resource Center (107 W
7th) will be packing school
bags the following days:

**July 31st 2-7pm, Aug 1st 5-7pm, Aug 2nd 2-
7pm and Aug 3rd 5-7pm**

If you are able to volunteer, please contact
Tonya and register for a time at 785 243-1065.

16~Bill Conner
19~Don Lackamp
20~Donna Reedy
22~Don Pearson
22~Justin Poore
23~Samantha Terrill
23~Bruce Nutter
23~Kathy Wood



Events this Week:
Sunday, July 16, 2023
9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship Services
5:30pm VBS

Monday, July 17, 2023
5:30pm VBS

Tuesday, July 18, 2023
5:30pm VBS

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
10:00am Commodities
5:00pm Sitting With Jesus

Sunday, July 23, 2023
9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship Services

Upcoming Events:
July 23, 2023
Send off for Youth
Mission Trip
July 30- Aug 4
Youth Mission Trip

Prayer Requests
AMANDA WATERMAN
TERESA BENSON
LAURA CHRISTENSEN
TRISH & DAN WATERMAN
DOUG MOORE
TOM THRONSON
TARYN MOSHER



Welcome to our guests! We are
glad you are here. We hope you
were blessed by your
experience at First United
Methodist Church this morning
and will tell a friend.



"Please, LORD,
accept my
spontaneous gifts of
praise. Teach me
your rules!"
Psalm 119:108



July 16, 2023
First United Methodist Church
740 West 11th St, Concordia, KS 66901
Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:
Monday — Thursday
9:00-4:00pm
Friday
Closed

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Rev. Mark Crist, Pastor

Do No Harm ~ Do Good ~ Stay in Love With God.
John Wesley