

First United Methodist Church

May 1st & 2nd, 2021



*Worship: 5:00 pm on Saturdays in the Chapel
10:00 am on Sundays in the Sanctuary*

*202 S Peoria Ave
Dixon, IL 61021*

Services online at: www.fumcdixon.org - Facebook: First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL

*Our mission is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation
of the world by faithfully uplifting the message of Christ*

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

L: Come and sit with me; we shall study the Word.

P: Together we shall read and understand.

L: Come and kneel with me; we shall break the bread.

P: Together we shall eat and be satisfied.

L: Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters.

A: Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be changed.

Hymn:

"All Who Hunger"

#2126 TFWS

Opening Prayer (unison)

Lord, we would grow with you, new shoots reaching out, hands stretched upward. Like leaves newly formed soaking up your light and warmth Lord, we would grow with you.

Lord, we would grow with you in sunshine and rain, in darkness and light, In cold days and summer days, from Springtime to Winter Lord, we would grow with you.

Lord, we would grow with you and bring forth fruit that is pleasing to you. Fed by your living water giving sustenance to others Lord, we would grow with you.

Lord we would grow with you because your Holy Spirit dwell with us. Thank you Lord! In your precious and powerful name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40 NRSV

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."³⁰ So Philip

ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message:

Call and Response

Pastor Tim Mitchell

Celebration of Holy Communion

Call to Reconciliation

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as we pray, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

God of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.

Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

L: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God’s love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

P: Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God’s love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of searches be with you.

And also with you.

Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.

Lift songs of praise to our God.

**We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming,
“God has done it!”**

“Get up,” you cried to your Word and Spirit,
“and go down the wilderness road to chaos.”

And so they went,

calling forth life out of nothingness,
planting seeds that branched into vines,
pouring clear water into earth’s hollows,
crafting us in your imaginative image.

You showed all of this to us, with delight in your heart,
but we did not understand what we were seeing,
and so chose death and sin
to be our guides in this life.

Though we loved you last, you loved us first,
sending your prophets to declare all you had done,
but we continued to abide
in the tangled briars of temptation.

So you sent Jesus to us,
the One who would bear your fruit
of salvation and hope for all your children.

With those who seem to intuit your hearts,
with those seeking to understand your hopes,
we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of eunuchs and evangelists.
All creation bears fruit in glorifying you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Love is your language of holiness, Branch weaving God,
And Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart.

When we were wandering lost and alone,
trying to understand what we were doing,
he crossed over glory to join us
in this journey we know as life.

When we could do nothing
to prevent our bondage to sin,
he came to set us free.

When we could not learn
how to make things right with you,
he went down the wilderness road
into the cold tomb of death,

so, as your raised him to new life,
he might proclaim to us,
“God has done it!”

As we seek to abide in Jesus,
as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom,
we speak of the mystery known as faith:

**Christ died, that we might live through him;
Christ was raised, that he might live through you;
Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.**

Abide in us at this Table,
as you pour out your Spirit
on the gifts of the bread and cup,
and on your children gathered in this place.
The broken bread reminds us
that you loved us first so that,
as we eat of it, we might put the needs
of the hungry, the searching,
the hurting, the lonely before our own.
The cup of grace nourishes us
so we can go over and join
the oppressed and the outcasts,
intertwining our branches with theirs,
so we all become part
of the Vine of justice and of hope.

Then, when we no longer sleep in death,
but are gathered around your Table
with our sisters and brothers of all time and places,
we will join in singing with one voice and heart,
“You have done it, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.”

Sharing of the Bread and Cup.

Sharing of the bread and cup through drive through Communion after the service until 11:45 am at the church. You may also stop by the church during the week and pick up your communion elements

Dedication of our Gifts and ourselves

God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. Help us to respond to the call. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Congregational Prayers

Telling of God's Activity and sharing joys and concerns

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.

Hymn:

"Down to the River to Pray"

#3164 WS

Blessing and Sending

Pastor Jay: Go now, in the love of our God.

People: We will live for others through our God.

Pastor Young Sun: Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

People: We will forgive others, just as we have been forgiven.

Pastor Tim: Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

People: We will serve others in every need, in every place, in every heart.

Credits for Liturgy: Pastor Tim, Rev. Thom Shuman, and Nancy Burnett



Philip and the Ethiopian Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

F Z B Z A T E N P D S R W M D
A O M R Q N G A Z A A I A H N
C T R A O F G B F J M Z T U U
H V B G X C Y E E S A H E L A
A K O S I H G R L X R L R I A
R R R M A V U M Y N I A B P O
I B H I R S E R O I A E I B E
O M H N A O B N N M Y N S B T
T S W L K U A P E W R R A Y H
I G E M N G U D J S U M I Z I
V R H A Q R N E E S S U A W O
B A P T I Z E D S N L U H C P
P H I L I P V L U I Y K D I I
O D K L X K T Y S S E D Q J A
J E R U S A L E M R I P I Z N

ANGEL
BAPTIZED
CHARIOT
ETHIOPIAN

FORGIVENESS
GAZA
ISAIAH
JERUSALEM

JESUS
PHILIP
ROAD
SAMARIA

SINS
WATER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers: Katie Kromeke (Willey), Gary Pierce, Farrell Wright, Irma DeLashmet, Ben Bryson (grandson of Jessie Marie and Dick Dir), Corinne Hunsberger, Norm Krug, Nancy Moore, Denny Arjes, Dalton Smith, Marilyn Millin (Pat Fox's sister), Glenn Kersten, Russell Johnson

Deepest sympathy: to the family of Dale Quick, who passed away on Sunday

THE CHURCH IS NOT accepting any recycling items until further notice!!!!

Women of Joy 2021

Women of Joy! Yes!! This is a time-out and away with other women to savor our relationship with God. Music, worship and personal testimonies from women on the frontline in an overnight experience. Friday, August 13 - Saturday, August 14 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Conference only—\$109. Conference with lodging prices—go to womenofjoy.org or call 256/355-1554 for registration and pricing. Let's caravan together:)

Staff Phone #

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**Weekly Bible Reading
Dixon First Reads Together**

Week 5/3-5/7: Joel 2-3, Amos 1-3

Monday: Joel Chapter 2

Tuesday: Joel Chapter 3

Wednesday: Amos Chapter 1

Thursday: Amos Chapter 2

Friday: Amos Chapter 3

Saturday: Preparing for worship—John 15:9-17

