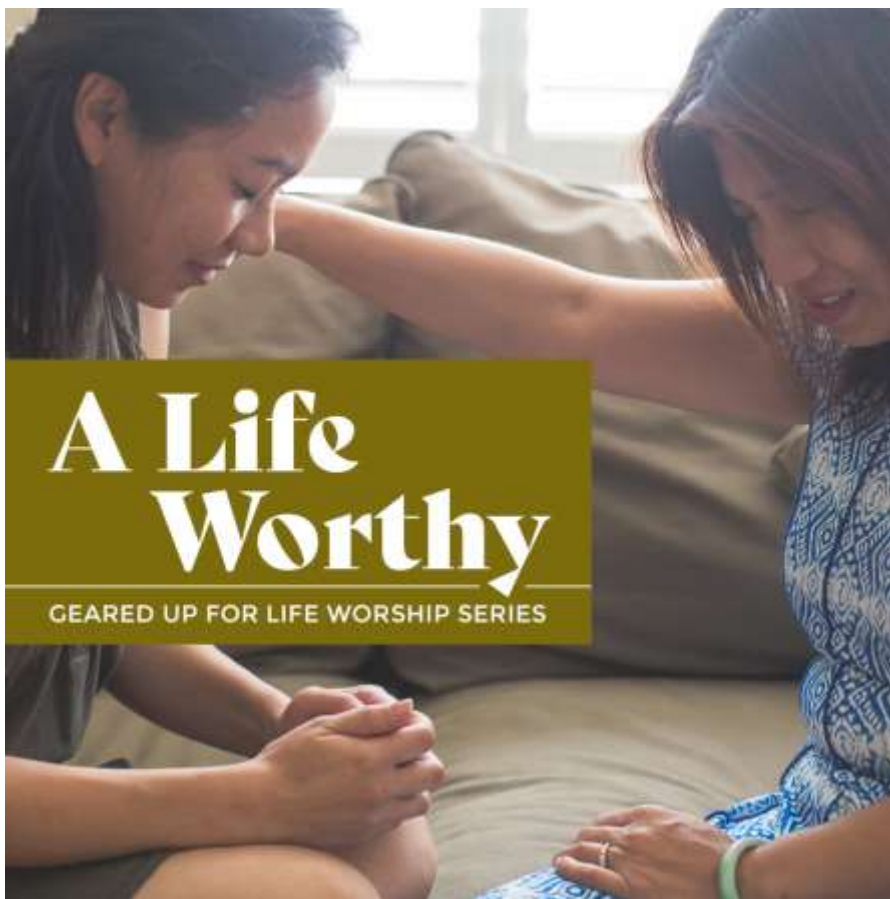


First United Methodist Church July 31st & August 1st, 2021



*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*

Greeting

* Call to Worship

L: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

P: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

L: Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

P: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

L: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

P: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

L: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

All: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

* Hymn:

"In Christ There is No East or West"

#548 UMH

Opening Prayer (unison)

We pray to the Lord our God to take us from where we are, to where you want us to be; make us not merely guardians of a heritage, but living signs of your coming Kingdom; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one. That the world may believe, that your name may be enthroned in our nation, that your church may more effectively be your body, we commit ourselves to love you, serve you, and follow you as pilgrims not strangers. In the glorious name of Jesus we pray! Amen

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

4 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

⁷ However, he has given each one of us a special gift^[a] through the generosity of Christ. ⁸ That is why the Scriptures say,

“When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. ¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Message

A Life Worthy

Pastor Tim Mitchell

Hymn of Preparation

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

#3093 WS

Celebration of Holy Communion

Call to Reconciliation

When we try to sugarcoat what we have done, scripture stares us down, reminding us of our faults. When we seek to romanticize why we have failed to live as faithful people, God refuses to go along, waiting for us to confess our sins. Let us join together as God's children, lifting our prayers to the One who is generous in love.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Compassionate One: like David, it is not easy for us to confront those deeds which

do not please you. We are so busy looking for the miracles we desire, we cannot see the gift of your presence in others. We are so intent on indulging our appetites and slaking our thirsts, we cannot taste that Bread which gives life. We spend so much of our lives bemoaning the acts of others, we have no time to look in the mirror and see our secret faces.

Forgive us, Steadfast Love. Grace us with your mercy, so we might be made whole. Touch our inner being and heal us, so we might know joy and gladness. Create new hearts within us, so they might beat as one with each other, and with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

L: Despite knowing our sin, God chooses to forgive us; seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us; holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us. This is the good news: God loves us.

P: God has graced us with mercy and created new life from our brokenness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts, people of God.

We lift them to our Lord so they might be filled with a new spirit.

Let us give thanks to God who loves us.

May our willing spirits offer praises to the One who feeds us..

Our greatest joy is to offer you our thanks and praise, Creator, Grace-giver, Healer of our brokenness. All that is beautiful was created for our eyes; all that is wonderful was created for our awe; all that is majestic was created for our praise; all that is mystery was created for our silence. But despite everything you have given us, we are not satisfied. Believing life is about our appetites, we choose the moldy bread of the world; knowing our only hope is from you, we continue to rebel; called to live in unity with one another, we cling to all which divides us.

Yet you refuse to let go of us, sending your only Son, Jesus, to call us to life in you. We have fallen, and you lift us up; we have forsaken you, and you redeem us; we are broken, and you make us whole.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices, here and now, with the faithful of every time and place, singing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of every mercy.
All creation praises one God and Father, one Lord, one Spirit.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who gifts all of God's people!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of grace and tenderness, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Though we look for him for all the wrong reasons, he holds out the bread of life to us; though we offer the cross to him, he graces us with life; though we thirst for more and more,

he offers us the cup of salvation; though we gossip and slander one another, he speaks the truth in love to us; though we would divide each other by class, race, or condition, he calls us to oneness in you.

Recalling your steadfast love in Christ, and knowing we cannot understand your grace until that eternal day when we can know your heart, we take this bread and this cup, praising and blessing you for these gifts of hope and joy.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ died, a seeming prisoner of death.
Christ was raised, so all might be freed in resurrection love.
Christ will return, finishing the work of God.**

Holy God of Truth, though we come to your Table as many, may your Holy Spirit make us one body and one spirit. As you feed us with the Bread of Life, may we feed those who know true hunger; as your justice illumines our hearts' darkness, may we be a

beacon to the oppressed and lost; as you speak to us the truth in love, may we be a voice for the powerless and forgotten; as you restore us to wholeness, may we bind up our shattered world.

Through Christ who saved us, all glory and honor are yours, God, who created us in your own image, through the Holy Spirit, in our midst making us your people, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

THE GIVING OF BREAD AND THE CUP – Drive through at Dixon First – beginning at 11:00 pm

Congregational Prayers

Telling of God's Activity and sharing Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)

Almighty Giver of All Good Gifts: Grow in us the wisdom to know that all we have to give is in our hands only because you have given to us first. Remind us that you have called us in Christ to be gentle, patient, and loving – and at one with your children everywhere. May the gifts we have been given and the gifts we share reflect the debt of our gratitude for your many blessings. We pray this in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***Hymn of Going Forth:**

"Bind Us Together"

#2226 TFWS

*Sending

L: Let us go into the world with God's gifts.

P: We will perform God's works of mercy and life.

L: Let us go into the world with the Bread of heaven in our hands.

P: We will share Christ's grace which gives life to everyone.

L: Let us go as the one body of faith and fellowship.

P: We will witness to the one Spirit of hope and faith.

*Postlude

Credits for Liturgy: Pastor Tim, Discipleship Ministries, and Nancy Burnett



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers: Katie Kromeke (Willey), Gary Pierce, Farrell Wright, Ben Bryson (grandson of Jessie Marie and Dick Dir), Corinne Hunsberger, Norm Krug, Denny Arjes, Dalton Smith, Marilyn Millin (Pat Fox's sister), Glenn Kersten, Linda Heckert, Cindy Bennett, Jackie Krager (Janet Shaw's mother), Ereka H.

Deepest sympathy to Nancy Moore and family on the passing of David Moore.

Our church is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels September 13-17 and September 20-24. We need volunteers to cover four routes each day with two people per route. I have contact information for those of you who have helped before but, if you have not been part of this ministry and would like to, please call or text Sue Stach at 815-535-7996 or email her at kevin@sue@comcast.net. Thank you! Sue

Staff Phone

DS, Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert 815-561-8285
Pastor Tim Mitchell 815-440-0278
Pastor Young Sun Lee 217-778-7898
Melissa Reynolds, Office, 815-284-2849
Tommy Whitcombe, Music, 815-440-9623
Carla Anderson, Organist, 815-590-6698
Jessie Marie Dir, Sec. of Records, 815-288-1326
Sharon Welker, Treasurer, 815-652-4384
Keith Gabany, Custodian, 815-288-5001
Laura Anderson, Youth, 815-421-3279



Weekly Bible Reading Dixon First Reads Together

July 31st & August 1st — Week 4: A Life Worthy

Ephesians 4:1-16

Keep reading the bible....it is reader's choice