
~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

5th Ave. United Methodist Church - "Earn, Save, Give" Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP IN A TIME OF CRISIS

We must learn to give the best we have to God and others. Why? It is not just because God promises great blessings when we do, but because the meaning of our lives is found in becoming like Jesus. Jesus gave his best time, talent and treasure to his Father and to all those he served. He gave away everything he had, even his own body and blood in sacrifice for our sins. How can we give like this? Only by the grace of God.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: (UNISON)**

Gracious God, we bring our gifts to your altar, asking you to dedicate them to do the work of love and compassion in the world. We learned from Jesus, who had compassion on the crowds who gathered to hear him teach, that putting what we have in the hands of Jesus can bring abundance. Multiply these gifts with the love in which they are offered, that they might bring hope to those in need and might glorify and celebrate your love for all your children. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Here I Am, Lord" UMH 593

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: God, your people are hungry.	P: God, send me.
L: God, your people need help.	P: God, send me.
L: God, we know you need someone to go.	P: God, send me.
L: God, we know you need someone to be a light in a dark world.	P: God, send me.
L: It is written, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"	

Pastor: In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells us to go and make disciples (28:19). In the gospel of Mark, Jesus calls us to go and tell the good news to everyone, everywhere (16:15). In the gospel of Luke, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to be with us (24:49). And in the gospel of John, Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" Go now to demonstrate Christ's teachings by loving one another and by translating Christ's message with excitement and care, turning strangers into friends and friends into Brothers and Sisters. Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

POSTLUDE:

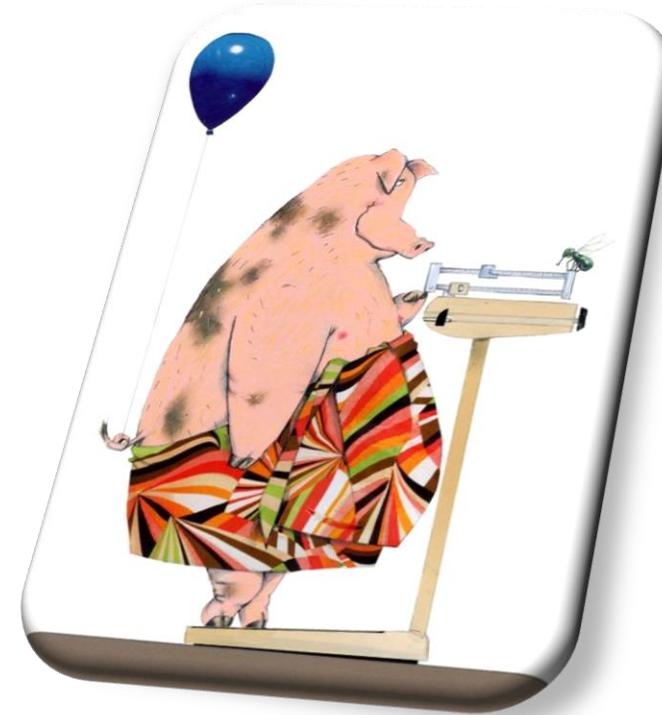


5th AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ August 2, 2020



**JESUS WANTS
*FAT HOGs!***

(6-WEEKS SERMON SERIES)

Faithful

**Available – able to
be used or
obtained; to be at
someone's disposal.**

Teachable

**Holy
Obedient
Growing**

Ms. Carol Flanders, Liturgist

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: Blessings abound for the people of God! The poor in spirit are rich; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The meek inherit the earth; the merciful obtain mercy. Peacemakers are children of God, imitating their heavenly parent. And those who search for righteousness find fulfillment in their quest. In spite of persecution and slander, gladness and joy are proclaimed. For such is the nature of God's reign in our midst.

CENTERING MUSIC:

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: We started down this pandemic road over 6 months ago; praying that it would take us to healing, a vaccine, a new normal but, more importantly a renewed relationship with Jesus.

P: It is a journey we take together, and a journey each makes alone.

L: We are invited to notice things on the way –

P: To notice the sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.

L: We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:

P: Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow, availability.

L: On this walk we rest and sing and pray and listen.

P: In our worship, we rest and sing and pray and listen.

L: Then let us worship God.

*PRAYER: (UNISON)

Good morning Lord! On this blessed new morning, O Lord, I will direct my song and my prayer unto You and will look up. This is the day that you have made, I will rejoice and be glad in it. With gratitude, I thank you for preserving my life for one more day. With gratitude, I thank you for your ultimate gift of love for me, in the

form of your Son and the sacrifice of his life on my behalf. Because of this overwhelming gift that I often cannot understand, I humbly surrender to you. So, teach me your ways that I may rely on your faithfulness. Teach us to number our days and to use our time wisely. I don't know what this day holds, but I know that you hold the day. Throughout this day, may I be keenly aware of your presence in everything I do. May my life be a living example and may others see Christ in me. There are many that are hurting in this world – may I be a salve to someone today Lord, in a way that I can't even imagine. May my words be seasoned with salt and minister grace to all that hear. May my actions be aligned with your Word. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God hears the cries of our hearts, sees our actions, knows our attitudes. In the midst of our sinfulness, God reaches out to heal and forgive us. Receive the forgiveness which God has offered to you. Live in God's love. AMEN.

~WE PROCLAIM~

2 Kings 4:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)

All: And Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.” Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.” So, she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Praise to the Living Word.**

GOSPEL VIDEO: “Lord I’m Available To You” Rev Milton Brunson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjznj1a8I1w>

SERMON: “Filling Empty Vessels” Pastor Clarissa

~**HOLY COMMUNION - GOD'S RELENTLESS INVITATION**~

HOLY COMMUNION - GOD'S RELENTLESS INVITATION

L: The Holy One be with you

P: And also, with you

L: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

P: We open our hearts to you, O God

L: Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

P: To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation - the tiny ones, the scaly ones, the human ones, the leafy ones - all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your Sacred hand. In your love for us, you claim us - individually and as a whole - as your beloveds. You will for us life abundant and you invite us into co-working with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide.

Like those who turned on Jesus when things became too difficult, we too are tempted to desert those most vulnerable.

But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.

This relentless invitation of yours that entices with freedom and joy and forgiveness is such a threat to the secular empire that still attempts to crucify every

incarnation of your love today. And so, we are reminded of the example given to us in the person of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

And so, in remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one in our commitment to the liberation of all your creatures and creations. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kingdom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR LITTLE PEOPLE~

Scripture: Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." 1 Samuel 3:4

At the beginning of the school year, most teachers make a name tag for each student in the class. The teacher does that to help the students in the class learn one another's names. Your name is very important to you, isn't it? I have heard it said that the sweetest sound to anyone is the sound of their own name. Doesn't it make you feel good when someone remembers your name?

Do you think God knows your name? I am sure he does.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of a boy named Samuel. You may remember that Samuel's mother was a woman named Hannah. She wanted a son more than anything, so she prayed and asked God to give her a son. She promised God that if he would give her a son, she would give him back to the LORD to serve him all the days of his life. God gave Hannah the son she asked for and she kept her promise to God. When the boy was old enough, she took him to the temple and presented him to Eli the priest. So, Samuel served in the temple under Eli.

One-night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said to Eli. "I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So, Samuel went back to bed. Again, the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call you, go back to bed," Eli answered a second time. A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said.

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.'" Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, again he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

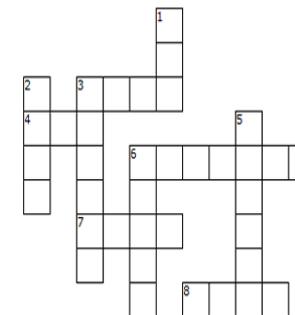
Some people think that God only calls grown-ups. That is why I like the story of Samuel. Samuel was just a young boy when God called him. God knows your name just as he knew the name of Samuel and God still calls boys and girls today saying, "Come, follow me." So, listen for God's call and answer just as Samuel did, "Here I am!"

Prayer: Dear Father, today I am listening for your call. Perhaps you have something special for me to do. When you call, I will answer, "Here I am." Amen.

The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



ACROSS

- 3. Another name for God
- 4. A priest in the temple at Shilo (1 Samuel 3:1)
- 6. A person who is employed to do work for another person
- 7. The pair of organs of seeing in the faces of humans and animals
- 8. To ask someone to come to you

DOWN

- 1. A piece of furniture with a flat surface that a person can lie on to sleep
- 2. Not strong
- 3. To give attention to a person who is speaking
- 5. A boy who ministered with Eli
- 6. To say words; to use the voice

SAMUEL	SPEAK	CALL	ELI	WEAK
BED	EYES	LORD	SERVANT	LISTEN

NAME GAME: Let children say a name from the Bible and the other classmates can try to say something that they know about that name. Children can also say their OWN name and something about themselves that they think no one else knows about them!

The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Answers can be found in 1 Samuel 3:1-10)



- ___ 1. Another name for God
A. Eli B. Samuel C. Servant D. Lord
- ___ 2. To say words; to use the voice
A. look B. speak C. hear D. listen
- ___ 3. To give attention to a person who is speaking
A. call B. speak C. listen D. eyes
- ___ 4. A priest in the temple at Shilo (1 Samuel 3:1)
A. Moses B. Eli C. Samuel D. Jacob
- ___ 5. A boy who ministered with Eli in the temple
A. Samuel B. David C. Joseph D. Daniel
- ___ 6. A piece of furniture with a flat surface that a person can lie on to sleep
A. chair B. bed C. table D. ark
- ___ 7. A person who is employed to do work for another person
A. servant B. priest C. boss D. soldier
- ___ 8. To ask someone to come to you
A. speak B. call C. sleep D. listen
- ___ 9. The pair of organs of seeing in the faces of humans and animals
A. ears B. nose C. eyes D. mouth
- ___ 10. Not strong
A. weak B. tall C. young D. blind