

\*Hymn #519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**Blessing**

**\*A charge to live and love more fully**

God sends us forth to love all people, no strings attached.

**We will share grace and hope with everyone whom we meet and interact.**

Jesus sends us forth to forgive our sisters and brothers.

**We will offer mercy, not judgment, to those around us, those who are a part of our lives.**

The Spirit sends us forth to trust God in every moment.

**We will live in faith, not in fear, sharing our hearts with all we meet.**

Liturgy Thom M. Shuman (with changes by Rev. McDaniel)

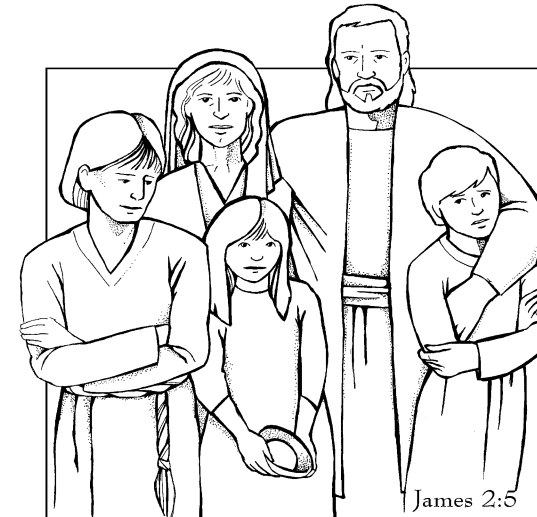
**Postlude** (Pause to gather thoughts, feelings and possible actions that may result from this time of worship.)



**Praises, Prayers and Concerns:**

- |                         |                             |                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Don Allen               | Ron Amos                    | Lois Jean Apgar     |
| Richard Angel           | Family of Harold Arp        | Darlene Bassett     |
| Family of Jim Avery     | Troy Bame                   | Frances P. Courtney |
| Family of Betty Bateson | Family of Robert Benschoter | Jennifer Essinger   |
| David Boltz             | John Castner                | Mike Gill           |
| Don Kramp               | Josh Earl                   | Patricia Harmon     |
| Darryl & Linda DeWalt   | Mary German                 | Connie Kile         |
| Michael Fox             | Betty Hampshire             | Arthur Moreland     |
| Lynn Gillian            | Lloyd Hill and Family       | Evelyn Perez        |
| Joanne Hatchor          | Teresa McGuire              | Jeremy Salaz        |
| Marcia Moore            | Diane Palmer                | Justin VanDiver     |
| Sandy Mulke             | Coke & Smoke Perez          | Deb Zulch           |
| Joe Perez               | Family of Drew Tyson        |                     |
| Lesa Secrety            | Karen Zepeki                |                     |
| Earll Wiseman           |                             |                     |

*Christ United Methodist Church*  
*301 West Main Street*  
*Portage, Ohio 43451-0218*



**HAS** not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Worship: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Vision Statement:  
CHRISTIAN SERVANTS UNITED IN MISSION TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD



[HTTP://HOME.DACOR.NET/CHRISTUMC/](http://home.dacor.net/christumc/)

Participants in this morning's Worship Service:  
Pastor: Rev. Bruce McDaniel  
Organist: Linda Allen  
Pianist: Kathy Bame  
Liturgist: Nancy Shrider  
North Greeters: Greeters: Kay and Kent Lincoln  
East Greeters: Jay and Anne Deutschman  
Ushers: Kay and Kent Lincoln

# Christ United Methodist Church

September, 6, 2015

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Kingdomtide

\*(this symbol is an invitation to stand if you are able)

## Gathering and Preparation

Take time to Welcome: Passing the Peace

Prelude....music to help us prepare for worship

## The Way of Blessing

### \*Call to Worship

Nancy Shrider

What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

**God calls us to love others as deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.**

What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

**God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgment.**

What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment, but live our lives guided by our fears?

**We commit now in this time and place to speak and act as those who trust God to come and live in our fearful hearts.**

### \*Prayer of the Day

Nancy Shrider

O Compassionate God you notice the people we walk past, and journey with them, wherever they are going. You speak out for the voiceless, and open our ears to their cries. Tender healer of the hopeless, and the one who always seeks to include the outsider: in you, faith and works skip hand in hand down the streets of the kingdom. In you, the have-a-lots and the have-nothings find themselves sitting side by side at your Table, passing grace to one another. In you, those with good names, and those with no names, are called by one name, and that name is 'Beloved.' Our prayer this hour is that you might sow justice in our hearts, so the poor might find in us a friend; sow peace in our spirits, so the angry might find in us a sea of gentleness; and sow generosity in our hands, so the hungry might find in us their daily bread.

### \*A Song of Praise

Hymn #428

"For the Healing of the Nations"

## The Way of Letting Go

Offering the Prayers we Bring

Prayer Hymn

#

We are all invited to Pray in Silence

Prayer for One Voice



## The Way of Creativity

A Conversation with the Children

Playing Favorites

Nancy Shrider

### Reading of the Sacred Text

James 2:1-10, 12-17 (The Message)

2<sup>1-4</sup> My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted? 5-7 Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms? 8-11 You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others.... 12-13 Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time. 14-17 Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this life if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

### Interpreting the Sacred Text

"God operates quite differently"

## The Way of Compassion and Justice Making

Sharing Ways to get connected

Offering ourselves through our presence, gifts, service and witness

\*Doxology

\* Offering Prayer

May we who are rich with your blessings, share them in common with those who have so little. May our gifts be used to sow justice, to feed the hungry, and to bring relief to those afflicted in so many ways. Let these words become real and concrete actions in our lives and not just remain words on a page.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sharing Ways to get connected

**Schedule of Events and Meetings for this Week**

Today, September 6, 2015 .....9:00 AM..... Worship  
.....10:00 AM..... Sunday School  
Monday, September 7, 2015.....9:00 AM..... Sermon Shaping  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015.....(CANCELLED THIS WEEK).....Book Club  
.....7:00 PM..... United Methodist Women  
Friday, September 11, 2015 .....8 AM – 4 PM..... REACH

**Stewardship of Time and Talents, August 30, 2015**

General.....\$1,981.00 Parsonage .....\$225.00  
Coffee/Outreach .....\$13.00 Hall Use.....\$150.00  
Attendance..... 38

**Announcements and Reminders**

Congratulations to ALL participants, 160 school kits were successfully completed for this year’s **FESTIVAL OF SHARING**. Again, THANKS to all those who donated their time and funding for this worthy project, a project that will benefit many who find themselves in serious and dire circumstances.



The next **Leadership Team** meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, starting at 7PM, Christ United Methodist Church.



Please make your calendars for the upcoming Christ United Methodist Church, **Charge Conference**, Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, at 7PM

The upcoming **Leadership Team Holy Currency Process** sessions have been scheduled for TUESDAYS, from 7-9 PM. Those who are members of this Holy Currency Process are: Anne and Jay Deutschman, Paul and Doris Herringshaw, Kathy Bame, Nancy Shrider, Alyce Roller, Vicky Allen, Richard Gill, and Richard Yeasting.

- September 1, 2015
- October 13, 2015
- November 17, 2015

(See next page)

**LIFE LESSONS**

A study based on using the book, **LIFE LESSONS** BY Elizabeth Kubler-Ross & David Kessler, will be a 14 week study begins this Thursday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing through December 17<sup>th</sup> (excluding November 26, Thanksgiving Day)

If you want to join what promises to be an insightful and thought-provoking study, know that you are welcome.

Each one of us at some point asks this question. The tragedy is not that life is short but that we often see only in hindsight what really matters.

In **LIFE LESSONS**, her first book on life and living, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross joins with David Kessler to guide readers through the practical and spiritual lessons we need to learn so that we can live life to its fullest in every moment.

Two experts on Death and Dying teach us about the mysteries of Life and Living.

NOTES: