



St. John's United Church of Christ
300 N. Huntersville Road, Batesville, IN 47006
Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

Sunday, September 17, 2023

[* = Those who are able may stand, **L** = Leader, **P** = People and **A** = All]

Words of Welcome: Who the son sets free is free indeed. ~ John 8:36

Thought to Ponder: "Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Organ Prelude: "Toccata Giojoso" — Greg Sewell

Welcome & Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 103):

L: Bless the Lord o my soul;

Let all that is within me bless God's holy name.

P: Bless the Lord, o my soul;

Let me not forget the many blessings God has given.

L: God has healed our iniquities;

God has offered us forgiveness and grace.

P: God has redeemed our very lives;

God has crowned us with steadfast love.

L: For God is slow to anger and quick to forgive,
offering justice for all the peoples.

P: As a Parent has compassion for their children,
so God has compassion for us.

For God remembers whose we are.

A: Therefore, Bless the Lord o my soul.

Let all that is within me bless God's holy name.

*Opening Hymn:

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

#549

*Prayer of the Day:

God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgmental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.

Prayer Response:

"Glory Be to the Father"

#734

Mission Moment: So Loved Closet of Ripley County

Especially for Children

The Song: **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

*Special Music: “Balm in Gilead” ~ Paul Grizzard

Sermon: “How Many Times”

Hymn: “I Then Shall Live” #372

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” arr. Dale Wood

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn: “The Church’s One Foundation” #544

*Benediction

Organ Postlude: “Festive Trumpet Tune” — David German

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

*Paul Grizzard is the Choir Director at Greenfield-Central High School (David is his accompanist).
Paul lives in Greenfield with his wife, Lauren and children Claire and Ryan.

LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:

September 3	Gary Weber	YES Home
September 10	RD Kitchell	Centerstone Uspiritus (Brooklawn)
September 17	John Kuhlman	So Loved Closet of Ripley County
September 24	Peter Frye	Boy Scouts of America, #634



St. John’s Prayer List – Those Bereaved *(these names remain on for one year):*

Florence Meyers; Marian Koester.

Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray:

Gayle Sarringhaus; Nikki Sarringhaus; John Thie (Brother to Jennifer Huffmeyer); Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Loretta Jones (Health Issues, cousin to Dale Koester); Arthur Simmons (Health Issues, cousin to Dale & Marian Koester and Barb Foster); Nikki Sarringhaus & family (Passing of her father, Greg Redmon); Jane Fussner (Cancer, friend of Christina Robbins); Sandy Gutzwiller (Cancer, friend of co-worker’s mom to Kristina Frye); The Family of Florence Meyers; David Smith (Esophagus Cancer, nephew of Joan & John Kuhlman); Randy & Becky Schebler (Health Issues); Ruth Siefert (Health Issues, friend to Elizabeth Hall); Becky Fields (Cancer, sister-in-law of Ron Meyer); The Family of Kathie Bischoff (mother of Chantel Weiler); Donna Siebert (Health Issues, friend of Martha & Charlie Dieckmann); Rev. William Tollas Family (Rev. Tollas was the Pastor here from 1965-1968); Greg Lamping (Health Issues, brother to Bonnie Johnston); Margaret Meyers (for Comfort); Vicky Wintz (Recovery); John & Connie Moody (Health Issues); Carleen Weiler (Health Issues); Bryce Timonera (During his deployment to Kuwait); Brenda Mergenthal & Family (passing of her mother); Dale Koester (Solace in the passing of Marian); Bonnie Johnston & family (Passing of her mother, Doris Lamping).

Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:

Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller, Chris Williams; Bryce Timonera.

Our Members and Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes: (For Peace)

St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville: Willis Rouse; Margaret Meyers; Carol Narwold

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

- September 20: Confirmation Class: Year 1 @ 6pm / Year 2 @ 7pm
Chancel Choir Practice @ 7pm
- September 21 Griefshare: 6-7:30pm
Celebrate Recovery: Batesville Christian Church @ 6:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 24: Chancel Choir Sings
Family/Youth Event @ Liberty Park @ 5pm
- September 27: Confirmation Class: Year 1 @ 6pm / Year 2 @ 7pm
- September 28 Griefshare: 6-7:30pm
Celebrate Recovery: Batesville Christian Church @ 6:30pm

Announcements



ICE CREAM FOR SALE: In case you missed it or have already eaten yours and need more!
Contact a member of the Sunday School Board or call the office to get yours before it’s gone!

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL HOUSE RUMMAGE SALE:

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held October 5th, 6th & 7th. The event takes a lot of hours to prepare for and we need your help on Thursday evenings hanging and putting items out on tables beginning September 7th. We usually work from 6-8pm, or anytime within those hours that you can help. We will be accepting items at the School House on the following dates and times as well as Thursday evenings from 6-8pm.

Saturdays: Sept 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30: 9-11am

Sundays: Sept 3, 10, 17, 24 and Oct 1: 10:15-11am

October 1st is the cut-off date for accepting donations.

If you have questions, please contact either of us:

Jenell Schroeder: 812-663-7422 or 812-593-0371

Jeanie Carter: 812-934-3562



SCRIPTURES



Romans 14:1-12: Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.



Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hymns

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

I love Your kingdom, Lord,
the house of your abode,
the Church our blest Redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.

I love Your church, O God—
her wall before you stand,
dear as the apple of your eye
and graven on your hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
for her my prayers ascend,
to her my cares and toils be given
till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as your truth shall last,
to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heaven.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

I Then Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive another;
the law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion;
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
your power and glory, let them shine through me;
your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,
and may your living kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,
and may you feed a hungry world through me.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word:
from heaven He came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder,
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed:
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.