Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022

Albany
First United
Methodist Church

Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen, Pastor

Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director

Centering Thoughts

We are called to be strong companions and clear mirrors to one another, to seek those who reflect with compassion and a keen eye how we are doing,…We need the nourishing company of others to create the circle needed for growth, freedom and healing.

—Wayne Muller

Fellowship means, among other things, that we are ready to receive of Christ from others. Other believers minister Christ to me, and I am ready to receive.

—Watchman Nee

Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore, let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures.

—Mother Teresa

We believe the world was made by a God who is a community of persons who have loved each other for all eternity. You were made for mutually self-giving, other-directed love. Self-centeredness destroys the fabric of what God has made.

—Tim Keller

I know there is strength in the differences between us. I know there is comfort, where we overlap.

—Ani DiFranco

The seven of us on board [the Space Shuttle] represented five different religions. But we were all agreed – it just doesn't make sense how people on earth treat each other….We are all children of God traveling on spaceship earth together.

—Jake Garn

Welcome!

Prelude

Invitation to Worship Don McMorris

Let us worship God who welcomes us into the spiritual community.
Through Jesus Christ we are born anew and are connected to each other.
The Holy Spirit transforms us into God's people.
Praise God for all who travel with us on life's journey.

Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* UMH #139

Scripture: Colossians 1:3-14

Sermon: "Part of the Spiritual Community" Pastor Lura

Hymn: *Give Thanks* TFWS #2036

Reception of New Members
(SEE INSERT)

Prayer Pastor Lura

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: *O How I Love Jesus* UMH #170

Closing Blessing Pastor Lura

You are part of God's family and a member of the Body of Christ. Walk life's journey surrounded by the love of God and the spiritual community. Care for each other. Care for those you meet. Care for the earth and its creatures. Go in peace.

Postlude

Announcements:

~ The August edition of the church newsletter, The Tower Notes, is on the entryway table.

~ There will be a reception for our newest members following the worship service today, July 31. We welcome Verna Harelson, Kathryn Koos-Lee, and Bill and Debby Maddy.

~ Do you like to work outdoors? Come to the church at a time convenient for you and weed and tidy up the flower beds and other landscape. We appreciate our volunteers who help provide natural beauty for people to enjoy.

~ We are collecting school supplies for foster children. Place the items in the box in the narthex (the church entryway) by next Sunday, August 7.

~ United Methodist Women meet at noon on Wednesday, August 3, at Elmer's for lunch and a "white elephant" gift exchange.

~ Pastor Lura is on vacation August 3-9. Rev. Bill Hays will preach on August 7. Holy Communion will be served on August 14.

~ There will be a fellowship time of coffee, tea, and conversation next Sunday, August 7, following the worship service.

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~ The church office is open Tue, Wed, Thur: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~

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