

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Commitment Sunday

November 16, 2008

✠ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD ✠



There were plenty of good reasons to stay home this morning:

- *The old easy chair is more comfortable than a pew.*
- *The plump Sunday paper, with news and sports and funnies, seems more readable than scripture.*
- *The TV preacher can be turned on (and off) at the flick of a switch.*
- *The music on the stereo is by our own selection.*
- *The company or the solitude there is just fine, thank you.*
- *The only request for an offering at home comes in a child's voice -- "Play with me!" -- or a dog's bark or a cat's meow for food.*

Yet, we have the very best reasons for being here: to praise and honor God, to discover neighbors, to offer service, to grow in faith.

The choice has been well made. Welcome to worship!

THE PRELUDE "The Church's One Foundation" **Wesley**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

THE INTROIT "Lift up Your Head, O Ye Gates" **Hopson**
The Chancel Choir

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 116*)

How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

I will walk in the his presence as I live here on earth!

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE** "God of Grace and God of Glory" **No. 577**

***THE OPENING PRAYER**

THE FIRST READING (*Acts 2:42-47 ✠ pew bible, NT p. 111*)

THE RESPONSE "Together We Serve" (*thin black hymnal*) **No. 2175**

Sing verses 1 and 4 in joyful response to the gift of God's word.

- ♪ **Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.**
- ♪ **Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The "Passing of the Peace" is a sacred and grace-filled sign that those in the community of faith are reconciled in love to one another through the love of God in Jesus, the Christ. It may be expressed as a verbal exchange ("The Peace of Christ be with you" or simply "Peace") or by gesture. Much more than a friendly greeting, it expresses the peace of Christ that dwells among God's people.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR CHILDREN

Sara Ryan

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "In Heavenly Love Abiding" **trad. Finnish melody**

***THE DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **No. 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*THE CONSECRATION OF GIFTS

***THE HYMN OF BLESSING** "What Gift Can We Bring" **No. 87**

*In loving response to the gift of God's word, the people come forward, placing their **commitment cards** (or other appropriate symbols of commitment to Christ's holy Church) on the chancel rail for consecration. As persons come forward, the congregation sings "What Gift Can we Bring" (no. 87), followed by hymns 389, 419 and 593 (as needed.)*

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE RESPONSE "Bless Thou the Gifts" **No. 587**

JOYS & CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER *(followed by the Lord's prayer, no. 895)*

***THE SECOND READING** *(Acts 3:1-10 ✠ pew bible, NT p. 111)*

THE ANTHEM "Not to Us O Lord" **arr. Schrader**

THE SERMON "Free for All" **Rev. Tom**

***THE HYMN OF PEACE** "Take My Life and Let It Be" **No. 399**

***THE LEADING OF THE LIGHT**

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE** "They'll Know We Are Christians" (**✠TFWS**) **No. 2223**
Choir & Congregation

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

***THE POSTLUDE** "Trumpet Tune in D Major" **Johnson**

WE ARE SENT TO WITNESS AND SERVE

** Please stand as you are able.*

✠ thin black hymnal (The Faith We Sing)

*First United Methodist Church, South Charleston
Commitment Sunday ✠ November 16, 2008*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Nov. 16: Ethel Akers (Riverside Nursing Home), Alma Snyder (Teays Valley Center), Ray Morrison (*Thomas*), Carrie De Fade (*Sharon Byrd's friend*), Dorothy Hill, Marie Tatterson, Marshall Mitchell, Butch Byrd, Jeff Lynch (Bud Anderson's friends), Marie Tillman (Pat Burchett's mother), Karen Stewart, (Donna Stewart's daughter in law), Anna Dean Miller, B. J. Berkhouse, Violet Whited (Harold Wright's cousins), Judy Smith (Rick Johnston's sister), Mary Reese (Melinda Adamson's mother), Missy Nicely, Mike Johnson (Herk & Pat Nicely's friend, daughter, Herk's co worker), Margaret Armstrong (Harry Warwick's cousin), Jason Fultineer, Eric Stepp, Susan Fultineer, Jerry Case, (Roy Fultineer's cousin, friend, aunt and co worker), Emma Kate Marmen and Ron Walker, Charles Schultz & family, (Dawn Wells' cousins & friends), Katherine Watson (David Watson's mother), Phyllis Permalia, Clarence and Michael McCoy, Karen Morgan.

ITALICS –New on our Prayer List

We will leave names on the prayer list for three weeks. If you would like to have them kept on, please call the church office.

Altar Flowers are to the Glory of God.

Congratulations to Karen Johnston who received the United Methodist Women's Life Member pin on Sunday, November 9, 2008.

Thank you from the Staff to the Staff Parish Committee and United Methodist Women for the lovely Staff Appreciation Reception. We appreciated the delicious food and the kindness shown to us by word or card. *Rev. Tom, Gena, Janice, Linda, Pat and Sara*

Our Custodian, Janice Pauley, will be on vacation from Monday, November 17, through Sunday, November 23. Please make sure you clean up after your activity.

This Week's Church Calendar: Nov. 16– Nov. 23

<u>SUN:</u>	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:50 AM	Pre Service Prayer in Chapel
	11:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	UM Youth in youth room
<u>MON:</u>	1:00 PM	Marceline Smith Circle in parlor
	6:30 PM	Social hall reserved
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts in scout room
	7:00 PM	Frances Ryan Circle in parlor
<u>TUES:</u>	10:30 AM	Craft group in social hall
	6:30 PM	Southridge lions in social hall
	6:30 PM	Cubs in scout room
	7:00 PM	Charge Conference at Cross Lanes UMC
<u>WED:</u>	5:30 – 7:00 PM	WOW! For children in social hall
	6:30 PM	Searching the Scriptures
	7:00 PM	Walker Ringers rehearsal
<u>THUR:</u>	11:00 AM	Young at Heart program & luncheon in social hall
	6:30 PM	Tiger Cubs in scout room
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir rehearsal
<u>SUN:</u>	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:50 AM	Pre Service Prayer in Chapel
	11:00 AM	Worship

WOW volunteers for Wednesday, November 19

Kitchen: Linda Eggleton, Kathy Moore, Billie Jean Wright

Floor: Lorrie Mottesheard, Malissa Hohmann, Jenny Schenck

Heart and Hand Bell Ringers Needed! We will be ringing bells for the Toy Fund at Kroger's Riverwalk on Saturday, December 13, 2008, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to help pay for toys purchased for those that need assistance. A sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Heart and Hand continues to need our support in every area.

Pecans have arrived – if you ordered pecans, you can pick them up after church in the Library. If you didn't order pecans, you can purchase them from the United Methodist Women for \$7.50 a pound.

**We are in need of sponsors for the Church Ad in the weekly newspaper for
December**

If you would be interested in sponsoring an ad, please fill in your name and place in the collection plate along with your check in the amount of \$28.00. Thank you for your donations.

Name: _____ will sponsor the church ad in the newspaper for \$28.00. Checks should be made payable to the church.

Christmas Food Baskets 2008 Once again we will be preparing baskets for neighborhood families that need a little help during the holidays. Look for the following items when you go to the grocery store and bring them to the church at your convenience: Ketchup-36 oz, mustard-20 oz, mayonnaise-32 oz, shortening-3 lb, peanut butter-2 lb, large can of juice like Juicy Juice, and coffee-35-39 oz. A complete list of other items needed will be published soon.

Save your HP, Dell, Lexmark Ink Cartridges – Please bring your empty cartridges to the church office to help cut cost with office supplies for the church. The empty ink cartridges can be turned in at Staples for credit towards future purchases of office supplies.

Please sign the registration pads at the end of each pew. This helps the office keep in touch with those that have not been in church for several Sundays

Greetings to all our Visitors today. We hope you picked up a yellow cross lapel pin located outside our front doors. Our congregation wants to meet and greet you prior to worship service by shaking of hands and words of kindness shared during The Peace of Christ time and after our service. Our sanctuary is one of Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors. May we grow in our fellowship together praising God for our precious life, obtaining forgiveness through Jesus Christ and words shared through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for sharing your time in fellowship with us today.

The Ministry of Worship

The Ushers: Jim Snyder, Barney Lilly, Harold Swisher, Bob Nester, David Pauley, Carl Childress, Herk Nicely, Charles Allen, Danny Murphy, and George Russell, Alex Rhodes

The Acolyte: Spencer Fultineer and Jake Thomas

The Director of Music: Gena Ryan

The Organist: William (Pat) Holbrook

Christian Education Director: Sara Ryan

Administrative Assistant: Linda Nehr

The Pastor: Thomas P. Nolan

Tape Ministry: Don Ryan, Gary Good, Ed King and Dan Blackwood

Nursery/Toddler: Assistant: Natalie Price; Adult Volunteers: Ken Bostic and Kathy Emery-Fultineer

(For infants through age 3)

The Ministers: You, the members and friends of First Church

Let us hear from you!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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