

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2023**  
**Sunday School 9:45 a.m./Worship Service 10:45 a.m.**  
*Pastor: Rev. Jim Houston*  
*Director of Music: Karen Fumerola*  
*Organist: Barbara Edwards*

(\*Please stand, if you are able, at each asterisk.)

**Welcome to our Sunday service. Please use the time during the Prelude to prepare yourself for worship in quiet reflection and prayer and allow others to do the same.**

Prelude "Thy Strong Word" *Thomas William*  
(Lighting of the Candles)

Greeting  
Leader: "The peace of Christ be with you."  
**People: "And also with you."**

Welcome and Announcements Sharon Longworth

Let us begin our worship today:

\*Call to Worship: Sharon Longworth  
Leader: Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of God's love.

**All: We praise God for His presence with us.**

Leader: Prepare Your hearts and spirit to receive God's mercy and healing.

**All: We thank God for His mercy towards us.**

Leader: Come, let us praise and worship God, who is always with us.

**All: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places.**

\*Hymn #68 "We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer"

\*Unison Invocation:

**All: Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in peril. Heal these worries and quiet the words of war. Help us to help those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish our moments of doubt and fear. Anoint us with Your love and peace. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri #812 "Glory Be to the Father"

Joys and Concerns/Time of Silent Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (debt and debtors)  
Prayer Response "Alleluia"

Offering Prayer/Giving of our Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory "The Lord's My Shepherd" *Gordon Young*

Doxology #815 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*Apostles Creed (May be found in the back cover of the hymnal)  
Hymn #219-220 "Surely the Presence" & "He Is Here"

Scripture **Exodus 12: 1-4** (pg. 58 O.T.) Sharon Longworth

**Romans 13: 8-14** (pg. 162 N.T.)

Gospel **Matthew 18: 15-20** (pg. 16 N.T.)

Pastor: "This is the Word of our Lord"

**All: "Thanks be to God."**

Sermon Rev. Jim Houston

\*Hymn #591 "Have Thine Own Way"

\*Benediction

Postlude "The Lily of the Valley" *William Hays*

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NOTE: Scripture readings are from NRSV Bible

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9/10/2023

Please call the church office or fill out a prayer card if you would like to put someone on the prayer chain or prayer list.

**Next week:** Liturgist/Lay Reader: Sheryl Cozad

Our guest minister for September 17 will be Rev. Marvin Barney.

Hello! I know it may be difficult to believe, because it happens so rarely, I am at a loss of words. All I can come up with is THANK YOU for all of your cards, texts, etc. and the love and support that comes with them all. I truly believe that it is your prayerful support that has made my recovery bearable, I thank you so much for it all! – Pastor Gerry

**School Supplies:** We are collecting school supplies again this year and a list of suggestions has been posted in the lobby. Please bring in new items as you acquire them and put them in the container provided. Thank you for your support!

**Toy Drive:** From now until the end of November, we will be holding a toy drive for the Warren Family Mission. If you wish to participate, there will be a bin in the lobby where you can drop off any new, unwrapped toys at any time. In late November or early December, we will take these toys to the Mission for their yearly Christmas give away. Please keep in mind that while it’s fun to shop for the little ones, there are teenagers who need love and support at Christmas also. Thank you in advance for your kindness. If you have any questions please see Karen Schoch.

**Choir Rehearsal:** Rehearsals have started and we invite you join us on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. If you love to sing, then we are

	9/3/23	9/10/23	9/17/23		
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>18</b>				
Benevolent					
Building Fund	\$ 5.00				
Current Expenses	\$555.00				
Floating Five	\$ 15.00				
Flowers					
Memorial Fund	\$200.00				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$775.00</b>				

**July Income**

**July Expenditures**

**July Net**

\$3,799.67

\$8,175.21

-\$4374.54

**PRAYER LIST**

**SHUT-INS**

American People	Larry Mattison	Donna Beavers
Donna Beavers	Norma Patchin	Ruth Gilbert
Becky Callahan	Mary Sabol	Betty Howren
Betsy Chapley	Ron Schoch	Betty Jamison
Bill Coy	Sue Schoch	Dick Leiby
Rodger Davis	Ukraine People	Marilyn Leiby
East Palestine People	Angie Wiland	Glenn Mark
Phil Fletcher	Layes Wood	Norma Patchin
Gerald Gammon		Sue Schoch
Ruth Gilbert		Bob Spencer
Peggy Marshal		Barb Sponaugle
		Angie Wiland

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, Sept. 13  
Thursday, Sept. 14  
Sunday, Sept. 17  
Wednesday, Sept. 20  
Tuesday, Sept. 26  
Wednesday, Sept. 27

Choir Rehearsal 3:30 p.m.  
Parish News deadline  
Sunday School 9:30/Worship 10:45  
Choir Rehearsal 3:30 p.m.  
Women’s luncheon  
Choir Rehearsal 3:30 p.m.