First Church at Worship

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY — Paul Manz
Pastorale

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
The risen Christ is with us.
Praise the Lord!

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 540 — ST. THOMAS
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

* THE HYMN OF THE DAY No. 419 — I AM THINE
I Am Thine, O Lord

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON — Genesis 29:15-28

15 Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore
serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16 Now Laban
had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the
younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful
and beautiful. 18 Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven
years for your younger daughter Rachel." 19 Laban said, "It is better that I
give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with
me." 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but
a few days because of his love for her. 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give
me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." 22 So Laban
gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23 But in the
evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in
to her. 24 (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her
maid.) 25 When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban,
"What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel?
Why then have you deceived me?" 26 Laban said, "This is not done in our
country—giving the younger before the firstborn. 27 Complete the week of
this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me
another seven years." 28 Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban
gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

THE ACT OF PRAISE — Psalm 105:1-8 — AZMON

Give thanks to God, make known his Name,
His deeds, to everyone;
Sing praise, sing praise to him and tell
The wonders he has done.

Rejoice in him, all hearts that seek
To know his Name and grace;
Search for the Lord and all his strength,
And ever seek his face.

Recall the marvels God has done,
The judgments of his mouth,
O Abraham's children, Jacob's heirs,
Whom he has chosen out.

The Lord is God, throughout the world
His righteous laws prevail;
His covenant and promises
He keeps and will not fail.

THE SECOND LESSON — Romans 8:26-39

26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we
ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27
And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because
the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know
that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are
called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might
be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he
also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he
justified he also glorified. 31 What then are we to say about these things? If
God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son but
gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything
else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who
justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was
raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35
Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or
persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written, "For
your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we
are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced
that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor
things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

* THE SEQUENCE HYMN No. 405 — SEEK YE
Seek Ye First
(St. 1)

* THE GOSPEL LESSON — Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven
is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;32 it is the
smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs
and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its
branches." 33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all
of it was leavened." 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a
field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all
that he has and buys that field.
45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine
pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had
and bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown
into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it
ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it
will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil
from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all this?"
They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them,
"Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven
is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new
and what is old."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

* SEQUENCE HYMN No. 405 — SEEK YE
Seek Ye First
(St. 2)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT — Rev. Kyle

SERMON — Rev. Kyle D. Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *The Apostle's Creed* — No. 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried,
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70 — MEINKE

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Compassionate God,
We confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM — James Kirkby

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

* PRESENTATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS — Doxology No. 95

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. Amen

~ WE ARE SENT FORTH ~

* HYMN OF SENDING No. 730 — ST. MICHAEL

O Day of God, Draw nigh

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY — John Stanley

Trumpet Tune

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of our daughter, Elizabeth,
son-in-law Landon, and grandson,
Henry Reid Flowers with much love
from Woody and Beth Hagwood.

Let us remember the Youth Summer Mission Team this week in our prayers this week.

Today we welcome guest organist Timothy Brown. Timothy holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Queens University in Piano and Organ study. He also received a MBA from Wingate University. For over 35 years, Timothy provided service music in Charlotte churches as organist, pianist and choir director. Timothy also worked full-time in Corporate Finance and has recently retired from that field. Timothy is married to Rebecca Brown. They have 3 sons. Upon moving to the NC Coastal region in October, he has served as a substitute organist in several churches.

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Take a moment for prayer before you leave to acknowledge the God who loves you and welcomes you. Give thanks for those who have come before us, providing spaces like this one, set apart for the praise and worship of God.

Give thanks for the beauty of the creation that surrounds us and sings to us of the loving design of the Creator. Ask for God's presence along your journey, knowing that wherever you go, you do not go alone. May God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

FUMC Staff

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First United Methodist Church

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9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

We are so glad you are here! We are a grace-filled United Methodist community in the South Carolina conference where all are welcome.

- Restrooms are located in the rear of the Sanctuary under the staircase leading to the balcony to your left.
- First UMC offers listening devices to those who may need them. Please see an usher for assistance.
- First UMC may live stream and record services.
- Fully staffed child care is available during the 9:30 am Sunday School and the 10:30 am Worship Service.
- Busy bags for children are available as you enter the Sanctuary and in the hallway just past the double doors at the front of the Sanctuary.