

September 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m. 16th Sunday After Pentecost

First United Methodist Church
Of Newton

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE

"Prelude in G" (Mendelssohn)

Henry Repp

GREETING

Rev. Todd Lattig

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Kathleen Meredith

All people are in need of the love and grace of God.

We all have moments in life where we need God to step in.

The creator of the universe steps into our lives with grace and hope.

May we share this grace and hope with all we meet.

The Lord meets people where they are.

Lord of all creation, meet us here and now. Amen.

*HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

UMH 92

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Kathleen Meredith

God of encounters, in the same way that Paul told the good news of the Gospel to the philosophers of Athens, mobilize us to accept people as they are and wherever they are — physically, intellectually, and spiritually. Beloved Jesus, help us to listen and learn from others to discover the power of your immense and infinite grace. Spirit of God, baptize us with the abundance of your love and power, to find others wherever they are, and by doing this, to encounter you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Lord is My Light"

Chancel Choir

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING

Kathleen Meredith

Acts 17:16-28

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. ¹⁷ He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

¹⁸ He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods."

¹⁹ Then they took him to the high council of the city. "Come and tell us about this new teaching," they said. 20 "You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it's all about." ²¹ (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)

²² So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you

worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.

²⁴ "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. ²⁶ From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

²⁷ "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.""

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word.

Rev. Lattig

SERMON Everybody Tell Somebody:

"Andante" (Mendelssohn) **OFFERING** Henry Repp You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically.

"Meet People Where They Are"

*DOXOLOGY **UMH 95**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Kathleen Meredith As we make our offering this morning, we thank God for blessing us. We ask that our offering today be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN "The Summons" **TFWS 2130**

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE "Toccata Brevis" (Gawthrop) Henry Repp

This Week's Schedule

Monday, Sept 18

10 Chair Yoga (HH)

6 Memorial Gathering for Guy

Parker (Sanct/HH/kitchen) 6 Everybody Tell Somebody Sermon Series Discussion zoom

Tuesday, Sept 19 Wednesday, Sept 20 10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 10-3 Life With Joy (HH)

6 Potluck Supper (HH)

Thursday, Sept 21 Saturday, Sept 23

10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 9-2 Treasures of Hope

Sunday, Sept 24

9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B)

10:30 Sanctuary Service

Tithe.ly



PayPal



Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Liturgist Director of Music/Organist Greeter Camera Operator Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd R. Lattig Kathleen Meredith Henry Repp Fred Fox Jen Phlegar Jay Morrison

First United Methodist Church of Newton 111 Ryerson Avenue — Newton, NJ 07860 973-383-4450 — newtonumc07860@gmail.com