



**October 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
19th Sunday After Pentecost**

**First United Methodist Church
Of Newton**

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE “Communion” (Jongen) Henry Repp

GREETING Rev. Todd Lattig

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Kathleen Meredith

Holy Spirit, heavenly God, shine upon us with the wisdom of ancient words.

Enlighten our minds, that we may perceive your presence.

Strengthen our resolve, that we may press toward growth in love and faith.

Help us grow closer to your likeness each and every day.

Amen.

*HYMN “How Great Thou Art” UMH 77

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith

God of grace and God of glory, bless us with your mercy and your steadfast love. When we pursue pointless gains and embark on dead-end journeys, guide us back to your ways. When we strive for our own righteousness, remind us that your righteousness is all we need. When we reject your teaching, or, even worse, reject your presence, love us and correct our ways. Forgive us and welcome us home into the arms of your grace and love. Amen.

ANTHEM “Lord, You Have Been Our Dwelling Place” (Larson) Choir

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

Philippians 3:4b-14 (NLT)

^{4b} Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

¹² I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON	“Toward the Goal”	Rev. Lattig
HOLY COMMUNION		(see insert)
OFFERTORY	“Aria” (Jongen)	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 using PayPal or Tithe.ly.	
*DOXOLOGY		UMH 95
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)		Kathleen Meredith
	Blessed One, bless those who receive these gifts. Bless our words, our actions, and our gifts, that they may be blessings for your world. And bless these offerings and this time of worship, even as you strengthen this community of faith and the ministries of this church. Amen.	
*HYMN	“I Want a Principle Within”	UMH 410
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lattig
POSTLUDE	“Grand Chorus” (Jongen)	Henry Repp

This Week's Schedule

Monday, Oct 9	10 Chair Yoga (HH)
Tuesday, Oct 10	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Hypnosis for Health (Choir Rm) 6 Cub Scouts (HH)
Wednesday, Oct 11	10-3 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Potluck Supper (HH)
Thursday, Oct 12	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 7 Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday, Oct 14	8 SCYO (HH) 9-2 Treasures of Hope
Sunday, Oct 15	9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service 12-3 Headstart Diaper Drive (1A) 6-8 From Jesus to Christ (HH) Video, Dinner & Discussion

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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor
Liturgist/Certified Lay Servant
Director of Music/Organist
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

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

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



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

