



Being good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where children THRIVE.

September 26, 2021 • Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

To God Be the Glory

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. David C. Freeman

Blessing and honor, praise and love Co-equal, co-eternal Three,
**In earth below, and Heaven above, By all Thy works, be paid
to Thee!**

Thrice Holy! Thine the kingdom is, The power omnipotent is
Thine;

**And when created nature dies, Thy never-ceasing glories
shine.**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of the Lord's
name; give to God glorious praise!

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

† **OPENING HYMN 173**

Rejoice, the Lord is King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Donna Hankins

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Peter 3: 15-16

This Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reason

Rev. David C. Freeman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

† **DOXOLOGY 473**

**Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
That makest me dwell in safety**

† **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

† INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF GOD

† HYMN OF COMMITMENT 371

Ye Servants of God

During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.

† RESPONSE FOR NEW MEMBERS

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He Arose

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Clergy: Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Donna Hankins

Music & Worship Arts: James Stanley, Tim Bartlett

Audio/Visual: Christopher Cone

Altar Guild:

Liturgist: Tim Bartlett

Altar Flowers: To the glory of God and in celebration of our 6th anniversary, given by Lanny Hickey and Greg Daniels.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer: Edna Ricks, Brad Jordan, DeeAnn Holt, Melinda Martin, Harriet Robinson, Glen Taulbee, Ceile Faulkner, Bob Lanford

Sympathies:

To the family and friends of Lee Davis, who died on September 15th.

To Mark and Micah Wyers families following the death of their father, Rev. Ed Wyers, on September 17th.

To Rush and Linda Harding following the death of Rush's mother, Martha Harding, on September 17th.

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. David Freeman, Senior Pastor

Cell: 479.409.4893

Email: dfreeman@fumclr.org

Rev. Donna Hankins,

Associate Pastor

Cell: 501.319.5683

Email: dhankins@fumclr.org

Praying for YOU!

Eighteen months of separation and isolation have left us all feeling disconnected. To overcome that, we're searching for all kinds of ways to enhance people's sense of connection to one another and the church as a whole. That process begins with prayer. Each week, we'll be listing about 20 names in the newsletter for you to pray for during the week. Over the next several months, we'll be working our way through the church roll (backwards alphabetically) so that everyone is lifted in prayer. You may not know these people personally, but that doesn't matter. Praying for someone by name is a powerful way to experience a connection beyond physical distance. We'll be connected by the Spirit and the power of praying for one another. Here are the names for you to pray for this week: Emily, Kari, Presley, McKenzie, Landon, Annie, Connor, Brent, Kent, Brad, Kathy, Patrick, Colleen, Michael, Diane, Lisa, Larry, Juanita, Terri, and Russ

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY, September 26, 2021

- 9:00 am First Word
- 9:45 am Sunday School (Zoom)
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm SERVE Meeting (Zoom)
- 5:00 pm First Youth

MONDAY, September 27, 2021

6:30 pm Methodism 101 (Zoom)

TUESDAY, September 28, 2021

7:00 am Tuesday Study Group (Zoom)

9:00 am Staff Meeting

10:30 pm Worship Meeting

12:00 pm Prayer w/ a Pastor

5:30 pm FANN

6:30 pm Enneagram Group (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, September 29, 2021

5:00 pm First Steps (Online)

SATURDAY, October 2, 2021

12:00 pm First Steps (Online)

Building Connections

My kids and I love putting together Lego sets. OK! You caught me- I like to do Lego sets and I let my kids sit with me while I do them. There is something so satisfying about watching all of those tiny bricks work together to build a robot or helicopter or the city of Paris. It is simple- follow the instructions in the book, connect the Lego, and you, too, can build a firetruck.

If only human connection was that easy. Nineteen months is a very long time, but that is how long it has been since we have been fully open on a Sunday morning. While we have discovered a lot of new ways to maintain a connection as a church family over these months, we know that none of it replaces person-to-person relationships. And so, over the next weeks and months, we are going to be prioritizing opportunities for y'all to find connections with each other. We are already working to create spaces for us to enjoy our church family through worship and at our neighborhood communions. We are also kicking off a short-term ministry called "Connectors" where our staff and a team of church members will be intentionally connecting with our church family.

We also hope that you will join in on the fun! Take time over the coming weeks to reconnect with your church family. Make a phone call, send a note, invite someone to join you for lunch- whatever your comfort level, reach out!

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson, Pastor of Neighboring

neighborhood COMMUNION



Due to the success of the neighborhood communions, we are planning them for again next month! We will offer Communion the evening of October 3rd at 4 pm in 5-6 different communities in Central Arkansas. You will be able to select a location closest to you and partake with other First Church friends in the area. All social distancing and safety measures will be enforced, however we believe this enables us to be more engaged with the church family in our area. Stayed tuned for locations!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OCTOBER 3RD!