

# **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**246 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
724-834-1457**

**Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**[office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org)**

Chris Combs  
Marvin J. Huls

Pastor  
Director of Music

## **WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We gather here every Sunday to experience the life changing and life-giving grace of God. In this place we discover the truth of which the Bible speaks, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We are thankful for your presence among us, thankful to God for His abiding presence that goes with you this week, and hopeful that you will be among us when we gather again.

# THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2024  
8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

*The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

### GATHERING

Prelude      **“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”**  
(arr. J. Bert Carlson)

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.      **Amen.**

**HYMN      “Lift High the Cross”      #660**

***Refrain***

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1    Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***
- 2    All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*


### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**


### This Is the Feast

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

## First Reading

## Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has <sup>1</sup>heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup>supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the Lord has given <sup>1</sup>ear to me  
whenev- <sup>1</sup>er I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave <sup>1</sup>came  
upon me;

I came to <sup>1</sup>grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name <sup>1</sup>of the Lord:**

**“O Lord, I pray you, <sup>1</sup>save my life.”**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the <sup>1</sup>Lord and righteous;  
our God is full <sup>1</sup>of compassion.

<sup>6</sup>**The Lord watches o- <sup>1</sup>ver the innocent;  
I was brought low, <sup>1</sup>and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, <sup>1</sup>O my soul.  
for the Lord has dealt <sup>1</sup>well with you.

<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my <sup>1</sup>life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my <sup>1</sup>feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence <sup>1</sup>of the Lord  
in the land <sup>1</sup>of the living.

## **Second Reading: James 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.* Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. *Alleluia.***

Gospel

**Mark 8:27-38**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the eighth chapter.

**R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.



<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Youth Sermon (10:45)**

### **Sermon**

**HYMN                    “Will You Come and Follow Me”                    #798**

**1        "Will you come and follow me  
          if I but call your name?  
          Will you go where you don't know  
          and never be the same?  
          Will you let my love be shown,  
          will you let my name be known,  
          will you let my life be grown  
          in you and you in me?"**

- 2** "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"
- 3** "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"
- 4** "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"
- 5** Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## APOSTLES' Creed

With the whole church we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living 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**

## Prayers of the Church

*To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.*

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*At each petition,  
Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.*

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.  
We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of  
your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of  
the risen Christ.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.*

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may  
say Peace be with you or similar words.  
The assembly is seated.*

## **THE MEAL**

Offerings may be placed in the plates as they are passed. You can utilize your regular envelopes or the gold envelopes in the pews. You can also utilize our new online giving tool through Tithe.ly by visiting [felchurch.org](http://felchurch.org) or utilize the QR code here:

Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.



*(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church  
and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)*

# Offertory

**8:15. “The Lord’s My Shepherd”  
( arr. John Carter)**

**10:45 “Let The Whole Creation Cry, Alleluia”  
(Joanne Brown LeDoux)**

## Offertory Response:

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

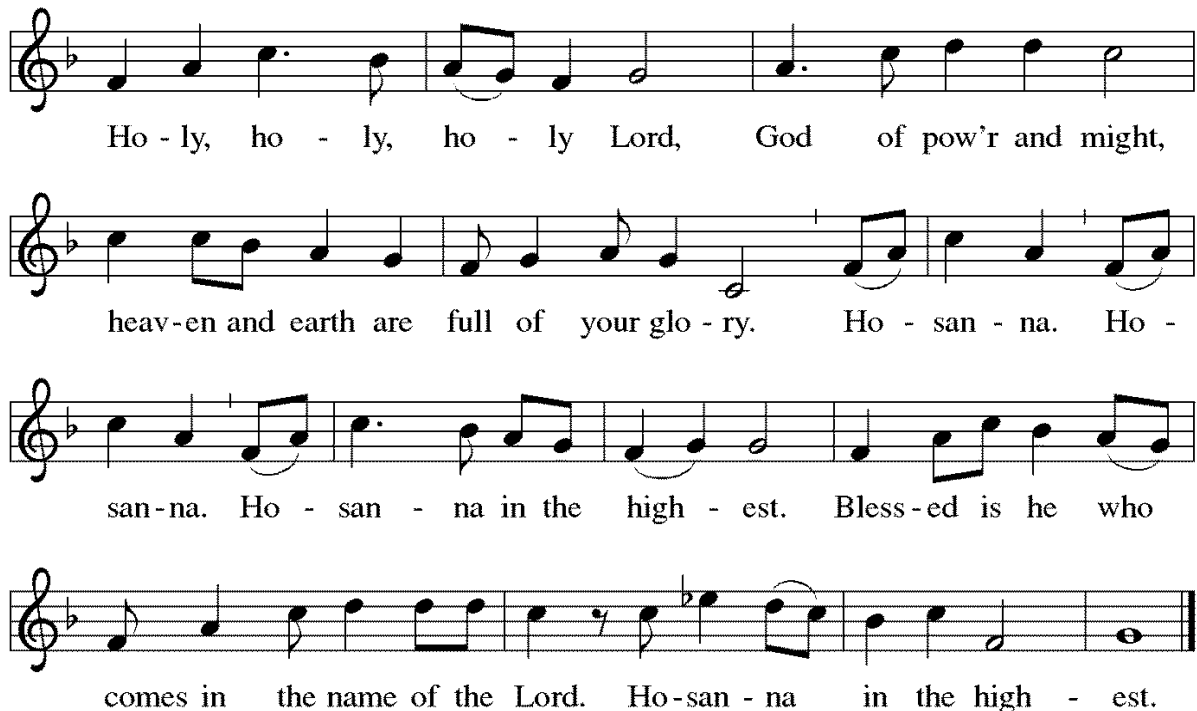
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

# Thanksgiving at the Table

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

## **COMMUNION**

*All baptized who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.*

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following:  
Communion is at the rail for those who desire.

- *We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion.*
- *As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.*
- *The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.*
- *We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.*
- *For those who need gluten free or grape juice, please tell the Pastor or assistant during the distribution.*
- *Cups can be placed in the trays near each side aisle as you return to your pew.*



- *For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.*

*The assembly may be seated.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

*After all have received,*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **Blessing**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

***Refrain***

**Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain***

**3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain***

**Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Christ is with you.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**LECTORS** are Kevin Reilly and Malcolm Sias.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

## SERVING IN SEPTEMBER:

**ALTAR GUILD** for September includes Roberta Laciak and Joan Orr.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Connie, Larry, Joanne, Marie, Jean, Kelly, Bob, Ian, Becky, Marcee, Todd, David, Reece, Pat, Rachel, Daniel, Jessica and her family, Brenda, Amber, Jenny, Jon, Lilly, and Pat.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Kip D. Boggs by the Boggs family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Pamela Ann Pastore Errett by her husband, Robert Errett.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. **If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.**

**INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM** (formerly Excelsa Health) does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**ATTENDANCE** last Sunday was 93.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** is available today and each Sunday, 9 - 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** The sign-up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

**CHOIR** rehearsal today, 10:00 AM.

**JAVA TABLE** will be open in the Fellowship Hall today between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Monday, September 16.

**BIBLE STUDY** Monday, 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

**FINANCE** Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

**FOOD FROM THE HEART** Wednesday lunch continues as a **BROWN BAG** lunch provided from 12 to 12:45 PM. Lunches will be available for pick up by people walking at the gate to the park and to those driving at the basement door on Bononi Way (alley behind the church).

**FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION** is this Thursday. Assistance is needed around 7:30 AM to help with the set-up and the need for assistance increases at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and prepare for distribution. If you can lend a hand on Thursday morning, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

**HANDBELL CHOIR** Thursday, 6:15 PM.

**PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:** Pastor Chris Combs may be reached either by calling the church office at 724-834-1457, by email at [PastorChris@felchurch.org](mailto:PastorChris@felchurch.org) or by calling or texting his cell phone at 412-973-4179. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his cell phone.

**A NURSERY** is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

**RUTH CIRCLE** plans to assemble Disaster Relief Buckets in November. Ten buckets of cleaning supplies will be delivered to the UMC distribution center in Cranberry.

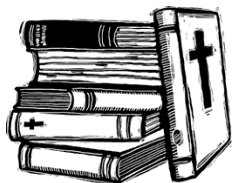
The congregation can help with monetary donations to purchase the required items. Checks can be written to FELC, with Disaster Buckets on the memo line.

All women are welcome to participate in Ruth projects, fellowship and, of course, delicious desserts. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 pm.



## **God's Work Our Hands**

## **THE PARABLES OF JESUS**



**New Bible  
Study Series**

Interested in Jesus' teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on September 16, October 14, November 18, and December 16. Hope to see you there!

## Stewardship Snippets

**Mark 8:35** – [Jesus taught,] “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”

*Jesus debunks the prevalent lie that the more we accumulate, the happier and more secure we will be. Steward/disciples learn that when we give ourselves fully to God, we save our lives and find true joy.*

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... .”*

*John 1:11*