Who Are We?

_Psalm 8 (The Voice)_

*For the worship leader. A song of David accompanied by the harp.*

_This Davidic psalm based on Genesis 1 celebrates not only God’s majesty as Creator but also the unique place of human beings in His creation._

1. O Eternal, our Lord, Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth; Your magnificent glory shines far above the skies. 2. From the mouths and souls of infants and todders, the most innocent, You have decreed power to stop Your adversaries and quash those who seek revenge. 3. When I gaze to the skies and meditate on Your creation—on the moon, stars, and all You have made, 4. I can’t help but wonder why You care about mortals—sons and daughters of men—specks of dust floating about the cosmos.

5. But You placed the son of man just beneath God and honored him like royalty, crowning him with glory and honor. 6. You ordained him to govern the works of Your hands, to nurture the offspring of Your divine imagination; You placed everything on earth beneath his feet: 7. All kinds of domesticated animals, even the wild animals in the fields and forests, 8. The birds of the sky and the fish of the sea, all the multitudes of living things that travel the currents of the oceans. 9. O Eternal, our Lord, Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth.

Over fall break, Chris and I went to Niagara Falls for a few days. It was a late anniversary getaway. I was excited to go, to see one of the wonderful works of God’s hand, but I could never have prepared for the beauty of that place. The drive up was beautiful with the trees changing colors and the bright sky on the fall day, but nothing would compare to the first look at the Falls as we went up the elevator on the Skylon Tower. It was absolutely breathtaking. It was just what I needed for my spirit to be renewed.

I am going to be a little vulnerable in this post. The last few months have been a struggle for me spiritually. I began to question what God wanted for and from me. This is a first in my ministry, so I didn’t really know what to do. On Friday afternoon, Chris and I took a ride on the Hornblower Boat Cruise, Canada’s version of Maid of the Mist. I can’t fully describe the peace I felt while on that boat, and I don’t even like boats! As I was looking at the Falls and feeling the mist on my face, Psalm 8 was on my lips. It was so easy to give praise to God when seeing such beauty, our God is a majestic God! As we rode closer into the mist of the Horseshoe Falls, I was in tears. I closed my eyes and offered a prayer of praise to our Creator. The mist was more like a full rain by this time, and I was overwhelmed by God’s grace. I was in awe at how great our God is and yet he still cares about my life, and yours. Who am I that God would care about me? The vastness of his creation is amazing and yet, he has placed us just lower than the angels in the great realm of life. God loves us and cares for us in all the emotions of our lives. We are not alone! Standing in the midst of the Falls gave me the assurance of God’s presence and peace in my life.

As the weekend continued, I was very aware of God’s presence. As I walked around taking it all in, I was reminded of a vision I had when Chris and I interviewed with the SPRC of First Church two years ago. After meeting with the committee we walked into the sanctuary to pray and allow the SPRC to discuss our interview. I stood in the back and closed my eyes, thanking God for his leading and call on my life. What I saw during that prayer was a sanctuary filled with people of all ages offering praise to God. The place was filled to overflowing and the Spirit was palpable, even in the vision. I believe that God, at Niagara Falls, was reminding me of what He has in store for our church. There are so many people in our community who are lost and who struggle with knowing that God cares for them. People who think that God cannot love or care for them because of their sin. We are called to share with them that God does care, that in the great realm of life, the beauty of all creation, the greatness of who God is, they are valued and loved.
I am renewed in my spirit and feel a clear sense of what God is calling me to do, calling First Church to do. God is calling us to reach those in our community who are lost, to live out our mission of making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. God is calling us to create worship and ministry that reaches into our community and makes that vision of a full sanctuary a reality. That will require change and passion for the lost on our parts. Do you have a desire to see the lost found? To help those searching for meaning, find it? Do you have a desire to see our church overflowing with people who love God and know God loves them? If you do, then I invite you to join me in prayer for the Holy Spirit to flow through our congregation igniting our hearts with passion for the lost. In the coming weeks you will hear more about how we can make God’s vision a reality in our midst. I covet your prayers as I continue to seek God’s guidance and create plans for our leadership to set goals and strategies to fulfil our mission. I am excited by what God is doing, and I pray you experience this excitement as well.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Amy

NEW WORSHIP TIME COMING

In response to feedback and input from the congregation we will be changing the time of the second worship service. Beginning Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin worship at 10:00 am. Our Discipleship Groups will meet at 11:15 am. We are making this change so that we can continue to reach the most people on Sunday morning for worship and for discipleship. When we had Sunday school scheduled between services we were reaching about 15-18 adults with no children or youth attending. With changing the time of worship and Sunday school, we have been able to reach more adults, closer to 30-35, and we have children and youth participating. As leaders, we know that an earlier time has been difficult for many in our congregation. With moving from 9:30 to 10:00, we are addressing that difficulty and still allowing time for discipleship to happen after. We know this change is needed for us to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to help us meet our vision to Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love. As we seek to care for and grow as disciples within the congregation, we are also called to reach beyond our walls and seek the lost. To do this we have to make sure we are putting God’s will and vision first and our preference second. Our leaders pray that as a congregation we will see this new time as a positive way for us to move forward in following God’s will for First Church.
You may order Anniversary shirts in various colors on **Sundays, Nov 1, 8, 15**, at church from Carol and Mike Pettibone. The shirts sized Youth through 5X will be ready for pick up at church in time for Christmas.

- **Short Sleeved T-Shirt**
  - $12.00

- **Polo Shirt**
  - $22.00
  - (small breast emblem only)

- **Hooded Sweatshirt**
  - $25.00

- **Long Sleeved T-Shirt**
  - $15.00

- **Crew Neck Sweatshirt**
  - $20.00

- **Full Zip Up Hooded Sweatshirt**
  - $30.00
  - (logo on back only)

**PICK UP IN DECEMBER**
Pictures are needed of the elevator/new entry construction for the history displays. Please bring any pictures to the office and we can make copies so you can keep your original. Thanks.

Over 50 devotions have been received. If you haven't turned yours in yet please do so right away. Thank you.

Shirts may be ordered at church on Sundays Nov. 1, 8, 15 from Mike and Carol Pettibone. Payment is needed with your order. (See reverse page for more info)

Decorating for Advent

The 1st Sunday of Advent will be Nov. 29. Decorating will be done throughout the week from Nov. 22 (after worship services) through Sat. Nov. 28. If you are able to help, please contact the church office or Nancy Thompson.

Thanks
Thank You Notes…

Thank you for your generosity to the service of Community and Family Services. The money will be used for preparing lap blankets for Counsel on Aging. The lap blankets will be distributed during the months of November and December, just in time for Christmas!

The Committee of Community & Family Services

Pastors and Congregation of First UMC,
The family of Ella Grace Lopez want to sincerely “thank” all of you for the prayers before, during, and after Ella’s surgery. Other than a slight infection, Ella is now well, happy, and back at her Christian Day-Care. Thank you, also, for the beautiful knit blanket and the “special readings” on the cards about the blanket. We really felt God’s presence throughout our great-granddaughter’s illness.

God Bless,
Jim & Margie Edwards
and the family of Ella Grace Lopez

You have no idea how much your prayers and cards have meant to me and my family the last almost two years. You have an amazing ministry. The cards you send out weekly are so encouraging. It is amazing to know people are lifting up prayers for me every week. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Brent & Mandy Arnold & family

November Birthdays

11/01  Amy Covington
11/01  Joe Hawkins (17)
11/04  Carol Pettibone
11/05  Erik Hisner
11/06  Justin Landis
11/07  John Hopkins - G.M.

11/08  Jennifer Sims
11/09  Cindy Heimann
11/09  Betty Langohr
11/09  Kyle Snyder
11/10  Mickey Friedt
11/10  Emma Knaub (7)
11/10  Peggy Werling - G.M.
11/11  Nathan Brune
11/11  Ryan Dotson
11/11  Janine Felabom
11/11  Faye Haggard
11/11  May Moore
11/11  Tammy Putteet
11/12  Emma Littler (11)
11/12  Phyllis Ulman
11/13  Nan Everett
11/14  Ellen Basham
11/16  Shanna Burgin
11/16  Kacie Wallace (11)
11/18  Amberly Gutierrez
11/19  Carol Cummings
11/19  Sarah Rash
11/19  Betty Thieme - G.M.
11/22  Lawrence Bradburn - G.M.
11/23  Ryan Bassett
11/23  Karen Darling
11/23  Joe Wolpert
11/24  Esther Kline
11/24  Logan Smith
11/26  Jeremy Jones
11/28  Mary Heffner
11/30  Anita Sell

G.M. - Golden Meadows

November Anniversaries
11/01  Scott & Calynn Bassett
11/21  Derek & Barb Jung
11/22  Ken & Deb Heysterly
11/29  Ken & Mary Jean Meyer
Family Focus

The holidays are sure to be here before we know it! It’s so easy to get sucked into the consumerism that surrounds that time of year. It seems the more we get sucked in the harder it is to see what the season is really about, being thankful for God’s love and rich blessings and for his grace.

I’d like to encourage you to set aside just a few minutes each day in December to sit down as a family and drink in that beautiful grace. At the ministry fair on November 1st we will have Christmas devotional books available titled, “Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas” by Ann Voskamp. According to the publisher, “It can serve as a precious guide to help recapture the sacredness of the Advent season and to help the entire family understand and celebrate the epic pageantry of humankind from Adam to the Messiah.” Wow! Sounds good right?!

“We teach the scriptures to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”
Deuteronomy 11:19

We are working on a fun Christmas program with the kids. But, we really need ALL the kids to attend ALL the practices to make this as awesome as possible. Please bring your kiddos to church on Sunday mornings (you were planning on coming anyway right?) and encourage them to join us for this opportunity to grow in faith as we learn the Christmas story and serve in love as we use our abilities to share with the congregation.

Mark your calendar...

Sunday, December 13th—children’s Christmas program during morning worship

Sunday, December 20th—Agape Express Puppets at 6pm
BRING CHANGE FOR MISSIONS

This month we are collecting loose change for Love, INC. Love In the Name of Christ's vision is to see Christian churches united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities.

You can bring your loose coins each week and put them in the offering plate, or you can bring them in once a month, either way they will be collected and added to all other coins for the month. Thank you in advance for BRINGING CHANGE FOR MISSIONS!
Golden Meadows

Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 24
6:30 pm
at Golden Meadows

A special message from Pastor Amy
Music by Wauneta & Bill Reinhart

Thank you to our children for the treat bags!
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a
BIG HEART

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving
The Hope Chest will be closed on
Nov 26th and 27th to celebrate
Thanksgiving with our families.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
Nov 20th and 21st
Open on 21st until 3pm. Stop in and enjoy
shopping, specials, snacks and as always free
coffee.

Christmas Jars will be placed in local stores
on Nov. 16th. Funds collected are given to
families who are having financial difficulties
to help them have a nicer Christmas. Last
year we were able to help 30 families. Your
support with our projects are always appreci-
ated.
Thank You
The Hope Chest Staff
TANA’S COLORFUL WORDS!
Highlighted Center is Reading / Literacy Center.

Young children like books and being read to. Children are language learners from the beginning. Remember your first baby’s cooing sound? In this center, children will learn the following to aid with reading skills.

- Word recognition
- Ability to be self-directed
- Fine motor control by writing and drawing
- Comfort with their own skills and abilities
- Matching and connecting letters with beginning sounds
- Recognition of consonant sounds and words beginning with the same sound
- Recognize their name learning to print their name
- Understand grouped letters together form words and names
- Differentiate between different names / words
- Use books to learn about different topics

We see printed words everywhere! We also hear words used differently. Is it important as a parent, that your child learns to like reading? Books are our friends. Books can take us places, we’ve never been. Books can be read any time, anywhere. Books can teach us here and there. A great way to end the day is to curl up with a book. Reading to your child they will learn, reading can be fun!

Until they come out again!

THAT’S A FACT

As adults we too grow, learn, and know there are some defining words children need to know and understand in their lives! The dictionary defines child care provider’s use of words in the following way.

Dependability – Children need to feel they can depend on the adults around them to keep them safe and help teach them to be dependable themselves.

Directions – Children need simple forms of directions until they develop such as “Pick up three toys.” Everyone follows some directions daily.

Determination – Children have determination right from the start. How we as adults guide children, teaching them to use their determination, is how a child will learn to use it properly.

Encouragement – Children have the need to be guided gently in what they are trying to do. When you say, “You, can do it,” you are showing them your support and faith.

Esteem – Children have the need to feel good about themselves as human beings. We are all God’s children!

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

THAT’S A FACT!
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<th>Thu</th>
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<td>All Saints Sunday</td>
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<td>9:30-Worship</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp;</td>
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<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>7 pm-Discipleship Team</td>
<td>5 pm-McIntosh-Engstrom</td>
<td>7 pm-McIntosh-Engstrom</td>
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<td>10:45 am-Ministry</td>
<td>Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>6 pm-Kids First Board</td>
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<td>Wedding Rehearsal</td>
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<td>11:15 am-Carry-In Lunch</td>
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<td>5 pm-Youth Group</td>
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<td>10:45 am-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp;</td>
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<td>Pastor Amy out of office</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Board of Trustees</td>
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<td>5 pm-Youth Group</td>
<td>Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
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<td>5 pm-Youth Group</td>
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<td>6:30-Prayer in the Chapel</td>
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<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
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<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
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<td>2 pm-Bible Study</td>
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<td>6:30-Prayer in the Chapel</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>6 pm-Finance Committee</td>
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<td>7 pm-Youth Group</td>
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<td>7 pm-Administrative Council</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 9:30-Worship</td>
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<td>7 pm-Administrative Council, 7 pm-A.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 am-Discipleship Groups</td>
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<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
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<td>10 am-5 pm-Hope Chest</td>
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November 1
All Saints Sunday
Ministry Fair & Carry-in Lunch

November 24
Golden Meadows Thanksgiving Service 6:30 pm

November 29
First Sunday of Advent