

The altar flowers are for the glory of God and are in honor of the congregation.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Kathy Hawthorne, Nita Renick, Paul Saul, Ron Smith, Ruth Lumpkin, Jesse Armstrong, Fay Evans, Debbie Orey, Carolyn Trickett, Sandy Coffman's sister Sally, Susie - daughter of Kathy Pustejovsky's friend, Marti Herring's niece Rynlee, Carmen Slovak, Pam Cloat, R.C. Lumpkin, Dolly Ladokas, Paul Treviño, Sharlene's nephew Heath, & Bonnie Lout.

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Fay Evans & Kay Halcom

THOSE IN NURSING FACILITIES

Lynne Bigelow, Stuart Hill, Gladys Leyendecker, Jean Redus, Delores Stancik, Dolores Odstrcil, Doug Lilie, Patsy's dad Jessie, Libby Babcock's sister Dolly Ladokas, and Bob & Nancy Stiles.

OUR CHURCH LEADERS

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey,
District Superintendent Rev. Tracey Beadle
Pastor Sunshine Reyes

PRAYERS:

Karen Gardner—children's choir & injured wrist.
Vernon Hackworth—bladder treatments are tough but he's hanging in there.

PRAISE:

Tammy Rodriguez—vertigo condition is improving.
Blood drive had 22 successful donors!

Columbus Children's Community Choir
Calling all children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade!

No church membership or previous musical experience is required.

Kick-Off Rehearsal is **Tuesday, Sept. 8 in the Family Life Center**

Register either online by visiting the "Events" section of our website or coming by the church office to fill out a paper form.

First United Methodist Church

1229 Milam, Columbus, TX 78934

Office: 979-732-2643

Email: fumctx@gmail.com

Website fumccolumbustx.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00pm

Friday: closed

Wesley Nurse 979-732-5275

Pastoral Emergency

Pastor Sunshine Reyes 512-308-2616

Facebook: From your Facebook account,
search First United Methodist Church
Columbus, TX

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



SUNDAY, September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 6, 202615th Sunday After Pentecost

Reminder: As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to silent.

Welcome/Announcements

†PreludeLet us be in an attitude of prayer as they bring in the Light of Christ.

†Call to Worship

†Song of WorshipHe Has Made Me GladFWS 2270

Young DisciplesJesus Loves MeUMH 191

Offertory Prayer

OfferingFreely, FreelyInstrumental

†Doxology

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Illumination

First ReadingExodus 12:1-14Janis Arnold

MusicHoly, Holy, Holy! Lord God AlmightyUMH 64 vs 1

Second ReadingMatthew 18:15-20Janis Arnold

Centering SongMake Us OneFWS 2224

†Gospel ReadingRomans 13:8-14Ralph Thompson

Sermon

CommunionLet Us Break Bread TogetherInstrumental

†Hymn of InvitationLove Divine, All Loves ExcellingUMH 384 vs 1
(Those wishing to join our church family, please come forward during Hymn of Invitation)

†Benediction

†ShalomShalom to YouUMH 666

Please turn and face the center aisle and sing.
Please wait until the Light of Christ passes before leaving your pew.

† - (Please stand as you are able.)

Worship Servers

Accompanist - Patsy Sobel

Guitar - Bob Stiles

TODAY Sunday, September 6, 2026

Liturgist - Janis Arnold

Ushers - Shirley Kearbey & Rick Mattix

Communion - Janis Arnold, Frank & Evelyn Howell

NEXT Sunday, September 13, 2026

Liturgist - Jerome Emmel

Ushers - Robert Turk & Clayton Watz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9-10 David LaCourse

9-11 Rick Patteson

9-11 Ric Pustejovsky

Happy Anniversary

9-06 L.E. & Imogene

Kansteiner

Women’s Enrichment: Class will resume at
11am on Sept. 15, in Room 6 of the
Education Building.

Columbus Community Choir: Handing out
Christmas Cantata music on Sept 14, from
5-7pm, in the Family Life Center.

The Week At A Glance

•Sunday, Sept 6

Pastor out—vacation

10:00am-11:00am - Worship & Communion. Ralph Thompson preaching.

11:05am-12:00pm - Adult Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall

11:05am-12:05pm - Children’s Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 18

•Monday, Sept 7

Pastor out—vacation

•Tuesday, Sept 8

Pastor out—vacation

3:45pm - Columbus Children’s Community Choir Kick-off rehearsal, FLC

5:30pm-7:30pm - Trustee meeting, Ed. Bldg., Room 6

•Wednesday, Sept 9

Pastor out—vacation

8:00am-12:00pm - Food being prepped for Seniors Event, FLC.

1:00-3:00pm - Food Pantry order meeting, FLC.

•Thursday, Sept 10

Pastor out—vacation

8:00am-12:00pm - Food being prepped for Seniors Event, FLC.

•Friday, Sept 11

Office closed

Pastor out—vacation

•Saturday, Sept 12

Pastor out—vacation

•Sunday, Sept 13

Pastor out—vacation

10:00am-11:00am - Worship. Willie Mae Williams preaching.

11:05am-12:00pm - Adult Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Fellowship Hall

11:05am-12:05pm - Children’s Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 18

Anyone who wants to learn CPR, contact
Shirley Kearbey.

GOING DEEPER 09.06.2026

EXODUS 12:1-14

The central purpose of the Passover ritual meal is, in many ways, the central purpose of all ritual and worship in the biblical tradition. The ritualized meal and the words surrounding it witness to the living God, enabling a new generation to “own” those central stories and traditions as their own, thereby coming to know God more truly and love God more deeply. In the rich context of a community of faith and all its practices, “their” story becomes “our” story. “Their” God becomes “our” God. The Exodus event speaks deeply to the relocation and reformation of our souls as part and parcel of the work of bringing God’s Kingdom revolution into the here and now. Some traditions of the Christian church emphasize the parallel between this Passover event and the meaning of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross during Passover festivities years later. Just as the blood of the unblemished lambs, spread on the doorposts and lintels of Israel’s homes, allowed the firstborn to be spared the tenth and final plague, so too does the blood of Christ shed on the cross help those who believe in him to pass through the plague of sin and into eternal covenant life with God. What is the theological connection for those who do not ascribe to atonement theologies? Perhaps the good news of the cross in this framework is the revelation of a God who desires covenant not just with Israel but with all of humankind. Perhaps it is the good news of a God who not only hears and responds to the cries of one tribe but also attends to the cries of another. Have we become slipshod in our efforts to be spontaneous? When Jesus said that we must worship “in spirit and in truth,” was he suggesting that “spiritual” worship must be shaped by the truth revealed in Scripture? That suggests that, given the importance of worship and festival to our relationship with God, we ought to take great care in how we do it.

ROMANS 13:8-14

The main challenge of our time is to live with a transformed mind, one that is open to the other and leads to inner transformation. It is crucial for Christians to regard each human being as a loving partner on life’s journey and to live each day beyond the self. The church is indeed a place where people can be organized, socialized, and mobilized to love others effectively. Like art, love can be a way for people to express, explore, and perceive the world in new and revitalizing ways. To grow in love is a constant form of creative labor. If love does not dictate how people treat one another, the human family will slide into the darkness that Paul describes in Romans 13:12-13. This darkness is already part of the world and even part of the church itself. This is what Jesus said: All the law and the prophets hang on two commands, love God and love your neighbor. It is also what Jesus himself did. In light of a failure to love the neighbor, Paul presents Christ himself as the example to follow: “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me’.” Jesus acted for the sake of others, making his love genuine at the cross. The future is not a choice between keeping your head down and quietly paying your taxes and other obligations on the one hand, and carousing and quarreling on the other. For those clothed with Christ, the future is marked by seeing the “other” as neighbor and seeking the neighbor’s best.

GOING DEEPER (continued)

It’s time, insists the apostle, to wake up from our deathly, deadly, and unloving ways. It’s time to prepare ourselves and our neighbor for Jesus’ return through acts of loving service and faithfulness. Jesus’ followers need to awaken to what God is doing and to what God is calling us to do with and for God in our world. The apostle Paul insists that it’s time to stop loving ourselves more than anything or anyone and, instead, deepen our love for God above all and our neighbor as ourselves.

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Following his teaching on the progression of confrontation over sin in an attempt to reconcile, Jesus teaches that any sinner so committed to their position that they refuse to listen even to the church is to be treated like “a Gentile and a tax collector.” It is ironic (and probably intentional) that this line follows the parable of the lost sheep and precedes the response to Peter’s question about how often one has to forgive a brother who sins (repeatedly) against you. Jesus says, essentially, that being a member of the church means you have a responsibility. If your sheep gets lost, you don’t look for an hour and call it quits. You get out there and find that sheep. If your brother sins against you seventy-seven times (another hypothetical certainty), that’s how many times you forgive him. And of course, we know from the Gospel of Matthew how Jesus treated the Gentiles and tax collectors. Notice that Jesus follows this with talk about the power of agreement, saying that anything agreed upon by two on earth will be done for them by the Father in heaven. This is a promise. But notice as well that this is not where Jesus ends. Jesus says last, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” There is no question of agreement at this point. Jesus is present, really present, where two or three are gathered in the Divine Name, not just where two or three agree in Jesus’ name, but where two or three are gathered; presumably this includes the two who cannot listen to each other about a matter of sin and how to handle it. Even there, perhaps especially there, Christ Jesus is present. The subject matter of this passage could not be more fitting for Christian communities in every age, place, and situation. One of the things that plagues most Christian communities (and other communities no doubt) is the inability to handle confrontation, disagreement, and our mutual accountability when it comes to sin. We simply don’t know how to live together, fight together, and stay together. And this is because we all — and not just our brother or sister — are sinners. Jesus offers a simple guide to help us handle our sin and its consequences here. But far more importantly, Jesus promises us that he is present, that his presence is real for us, when we are gathered in his name — both in agreement and in sin. The overall theme of this passage is the community’s work to support the turn toward repentance by those who have done wrong. Jesus keeps underscoring the opportunity for the person who has done wrong to make it right. After all, Jesus was the one who proclaimed from the very beginning of his public ministry, “Repent! The kingdom of God is near!”

Readings for Next Sunday, September 13, 2026

Exodus 14:19-31 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35