



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Children's Sunday  
Sunday, June 16, 2024**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,  
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

*- Core Values, 2022*

## Sing for Joy

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord.  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. (x2)  
Let us come before him with Thanksgiving,  
And extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God,  
The great king above all gods.  
In his hands are the depths of the earth,  
And the mountain peaks belong to him.

(Repeat ALL)

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord.  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. (X3)

-Pause-

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord.  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. (X2)

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, Yeah  
Shout for joy! Shout for joy!  
Sing for joy!



## \*Opening Hymn

## *Jesus Loves Me*

*Will Lord, Soloist*

## \*Morning Prayer

Lucas DeSellier

- Esther Lawson

**He wakes me up; He makes me sleep.  
Provides for me the food I eat.  
When I cry, I call on Him,  
Because I know, with Him I win.  
Even through the hardest day,  
I trust in Him in every way.**

**He's the One who sees me through.  
Jesus lives; I know it's true.  
With loving kindness, He smiles on me.  
Because He died, I am free.  
Lord, for all, I thank you so;  
Know you'll never let me go!**

## \*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen. Amen.*

## Giving of Ourselves Call to Offering



Heavenly Father, thank you for your abundant generosity. As we give today, open our hearts to be more generous, reflecting your love. Bless these offerings to further your kingdom, and bless us as cheerful givers.

## Offertory

## Modal Prelude

- Gordon Young (1919-1998)

## **\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Dear God, I offer you this day,  
All I think, and do, and say.  
Together with what was done,  
On earth by Jesus Christ, your son.  
Please accept our gifts to you,  
And especially our hearts so true.  
We love you God, Amen.

**The Five Finger Prayer**      Lily James, Jolie Wallace, and Lucas DeSellier

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father and Mother, 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.*

**Scripture Reading**      *Colossians 3:13*

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

## **Sermon**

*Children's Skit  
First Church Sunday School*

**\*Closing Hymn**      *Life Is Better with You* – Michael Franti (Page 5-6)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**              *Prelude in a Classical Style*              – Gordon Young

## **Life Is Better with You**

Every day's not Valentine's,  
But you make it feel like most of the time,  
When I'm all alone with you.  
Pickin' up pieces of my life,  
Sometimes there's ones I just can't find,  
But they found a home with you.

Woah, I'm not afraid to be alone,  
But being alone is better with you.  
Life is better with you.

**Woah, woah, life is better with you.**  
**Woah, woah, life is better with you.**  
**And when I think about the things that we've been through,**  
**I know just one thing is true, life is better with you.**

Some days are better than other days,  
But these days, life is better with you.  
Some days are better than other days,  
These days, life is better with you.  
Life is better.

Tell me what you want, I'll give you all

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

That you need with my heart and my hands,  
Sayin' please, baby, please because nobody does  
That thing you do better than you.  
Thoughts still swimmin' round in my head  
With all the words we've ever said.  
My favorites remain, "I love you."

Woah, I'm not afraid to be alone,  
But being alone is better with you.  
Life is better with you.

**Woah, woah, life is better with you.**  
**Woah, woah, life is better with you.**  
**And when I think about the things that we've been through,**  
**I know just one thing is true, life is better.**

Every day's not Valentine's,  
But you make me feel it most of the time with you, you.  
And all my life I've tried to find the one  
Who makes me feel the way you do, you.

Some days are better than other days,  
But these days, life is better with you.  
Some days are better than other days,  
But these days, life is better with you.  
And when I think about the things that we've been through,  
I know just one thing is true, life is better with you.

**Woah, woah, life is better with you. [x5]**

## Serving You Today

### Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation	All Members of First Church
Pastor	Rev. Jack Kraaz
Director of Music Ministries	Kiel Krommer
Greeters/Ushers	Sunday School
Lay Reader	Sunday School

### Officers

Moderator	Cindy DeSellier
Clerk	Carol Mullen
Treasurer	Suzanne Kelley
Chair, Board of Deacons	Jeanne Dill
Chair, Board of Trustees	David Sanborn

### Members at Large

Lynn Galica  
Elaine Harris  
Mary Newland

### Staff

Church Administrator	Lee Brahen
Sunday School Superintendent	Erin Greene Wallace
Custodian	Linda Whippie

### Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed or contact the office by email at [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org).



## IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

### **For healing and support:**

Kwaku Darko Mensah

Julie

Mike Kurasinski

Jean Taylor

Wilhelmina Brahen

Pam Sliva

Martha Warren

Jeannette

Douglas Maliar

Buddy Richardson

Annie M.

Mary

### **For comfort in grief:**

The family of Ara Olander

The Family of James Andrew Hamel

The Family of Francis Beaulieu

### **For strength and comfort during war:**

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

### **For all service people, wherever they may be:**

Chelsea Carr

Tim Olson, USN

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Malik Pugh, USMC

## **This Week in the Life of the Congregation**

June 16, Sunday	8:00-9:45 a.m. - Continental Breakfast (F/K) 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00 a.m. - Church Potluck Picnic
June 17, Monday	3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA)
June 18, Tuesday	4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA)
June 19, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)
June 20, Thursday	4:00-10:00 p.m. - Tavern Night (Outreach) 6:30-8:30 - Prayer Shawl (F)
June 22, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
June 23, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F/K)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

PS - Pastor's Study

S - Sanctuary

SA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

SSC - Silver Street Chapel

## Church News

**Tavern Night.** This Thursday, June 20, Outreach is sponsoring Tavern Night at the Main Street Tavern with a recreation raffle including a family four pack to a WooSox game. Please plan to eat in or take out a meal to help First Church. Buy tickets for the raffle, too!

**Thank You for Music.** A special thank you to Kiel and all of our choir members for their faithful service and the glorious sounds they have brought to worship each Sunday. Thank you to Cindy DeSellier for her inspiring solos and enthusiasm and to Joe Farr-Wholley for sharing his talent as a flutist. Finally, thank you to our Sunday School Choir and their rousing anthems and to their director, Erin Wallace. We welcome any who love to sing and ask that you consider joining our choir when rehearsals begin in September.

**QR Code.** Don't have cash for the collection plate? The QR code at the end of the bulletin will take you to the First Church website where you can donate any amount you like to help the programs and missions of First Church! Please use it as the Spirit moves you.

# Welcome to First Church



**Welcome!** If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

**All members and guests** are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

**The Sacrament of Communion** is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

**Handicapped parking** and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

**Fellowship Hour** begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

**Our Let's Eat breakfast** is over for the Summer. Please join us on Welcoming Sunday, September 15, for the return of Let's Eat Breakfast.

**Learn more.** If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org), or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

