



Vestal United Methodist Church

July 25, 2021

Summer Fun Week Celebration



Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come to the Table
Summer Fun Week Theme Song

AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

*** Opening Hymn 273 UMH**

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

*** Sharing Signs of Peace**

Gathering Prayer [all read together]

adapted from a prayer by Kelli Mahoney

God, please open our eyes – let us see those around us who are in need of our compassion. Compel us to listen to them, to hear their needs. Give us the heart to be interested in their troubles and provide for us the means to help them. We want to be like you, who had so much compassion for the world that you sacrificed your Son for us. We want to have that kind of heart for the world – to be a voice for the oppressed, a giver to the poor, and encouragement for the disabled.

And God, let us be the voice of reason to those around us, calling on them to show their compassion, too. Let us be an example of you to them; a light that they see so that you shine through. Open the hearts of those around us to create a better world by providing for those who cannot care for themselves. Help us be what others need, God. This is all we ask. Use us as a vessels of compassion to a world in need. Amen.

Silence

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Mark 2:1-12

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Reaching Out to a Neighbor
Brave Enough

Mike Willis

AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Children's Message

Teresa Moore, Summer Fun Week Science Station Leader

Second Lesson

Ruth 1:1-17 (selected verses)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ... They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both sons also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then Naomi started to return to Judah with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ... But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "... Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried."

Stronger Together
I Have Love to Share

Sharon Harris
AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Living the Faith

Blessing of the Hygiene Kits

Offering Ourselves to God

Final Lesson

Leviticus 25:8-12a (from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)

"Count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven times seven years: Seven Sabbaths of years adds up to forty-nine years. Then sound loud blasts on the ram's horn on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement. Sound the ram's horn all over the land. Sanctify the fiftieth year; make it a holy year. Proclaim freedom all over the land to everyone who lives in it — a Jubilee for you: Each person will go back to their family's property and reunite with their extended family. The fiftieth year is your Jubilee year: Don't sow; don't reap what volunteers itself in the fields; don't harvest the untended vines because it's the Jubilee and a holy year for you.

Compassionate Justice

Mike Willis

* **Hymn 2174 FWS**

What Does the Lord Require of You?

* **Benediction**

Compassion Prayer

AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Postlude

Opening Hymn 273: Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

WORDS: Margaret Cropper, 1975; MUSIC: Old French melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

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1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

2. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Closing Hymn 2174: What Does the Lord Require of You

WORDS & MUSIC: Jim Strathdee

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What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

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