## **Those Who Serve**

Pastor: Joy Wigal

Musician: Chris Kennedy

Treasurer: Roberta Covert

Audio/Visual Technicians: Larisa Harper & Barb Wolfe

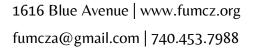
Custodian: Jordan McKee

Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hatfield

# Faith United Methodist Church

Blessing of the Animals | January 1, 2023







# Liturgist:

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life.

God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

(GENESIS 9:9–10)

The paschal lamb recalls the passover sacrifice and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. (EXODUS 12:3–14)

A giant fish saved Jonah; (JONAH 2:1–10)

ravens brought bread to Elijah; (1 KINGS 17:6)

animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh; (JONAH 3:7)

and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

We, therefore, gather to invoke God's blessing on all animals.

As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us as stewards over all the creatures of the earth.

## **PRELUDE**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 1
Blessing of the Animals Worship10:30am
Monday, January 2
Office Closed
Tuesday, January 3
Office Open10:00am-200pm
Wednesday, January 4
Office Open10:00am-2:00pm
Thursday, January 5
Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, January 8
Worship10:30am
Taking Down Decorationsafter worship
Monday, January 9
Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm
UWF Book Club1:00pm
Tuesday, January 10
Office Open10:00am-200pm
Wednesday, January 11
Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm
Thursday, January 12
Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, January 8
Worship10:30am
Monday, January 16
Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday, January 17
Office Open10:00am-200pm
Leadership Meeting 6:00pm
Wednesday, January 18
Office Open10:00am-2:00pm
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## **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Baby Christian and Family	Karen Norman
Bernice Osborne	Karen Wilson
Bev Wolford	Kevin Bushong
Betty Miller	Laura Peck
Bradley Adams	Marilyn Inman
David Inman	Marlene Farley
Dennis Cebulsky	Pastor Joy Wigal
Diana Bohn Family	Saundra Boyd
Doug Adams	Steve DeGarmo & Family
Ed McAuley	Steve Inman
Ellen Kelton	Suzanne Collins
Heidi	Terry Pickens
Jane Thorne	Thea & Mark Crawmer
Janice Moore	Tim & Sherry Dickerson
Jill Shrock	Veronica
Jim Tignor	Vicky Wolfe
JoAnne Peadon	Zola Duncan & Family
Juanita Mohler	Medical Faith Shut-in:

Karen Bay

Kathleen McCutcheon

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

All dogs and cats, large and small:

Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

Praise the Lord!

All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

Praise the Lord!

All racoons, squirrels, and deer:

Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows, and sheep:

Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

Praise the Lord!

 $\sim$  from Blessing of the Animals, on the Web of Creation website.

Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" UMH 92

## **OPENING PRAYER**

O God, you have made us and all living things to form your family on earth.

You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy.

As you take care of us,

we also ask that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them.

By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

# **SCRIPTURE READING -**Psalm 8 (CEB)

#### **BLESSING – PRAYED IN UNISON**

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea. birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless our pets and the creatures which grace our lives in other ways. By the power of your love, enable all to live life to its fullest. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are you,
Lord our God,
in all your creatures! Amen

PRAIRES AND PRAISES

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**OFFERING** 

## **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below Praise God all heavens and the earth reflecting the sacred story.

This, this is Christ the One who mirrors *light* for all of us. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

Hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" UMH 147

#### **BENEDICTION**

My furry, feathered and scaled friends, I greet you. You come from the same life force of creation that I do and I greet you as a sister / brother.

May your days be filled with love and companionship.

May your tummy always be full and may you always have a place to rest.

May you have many days of love with your human friends. May you play together and work together in gentleness and respect for one another...

My furry, feathered and scaled friends, I say farewell.

I am happy to have met you. May your life be blessed.

Pastor: Go your own ways,

Seeking peace, sharing love, and giving comfort as you go Knowing we are all connected,

Through God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen**.

From: "Blessing for All" by L. Annie Foerster (adapted)

## **POSTLUDE**