

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



1616 Blue Avenue | www.fumcz.org
fumcza@gmail.com | 740.453.7988



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Worship 10:30am

Monday, January 2

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

Office Open 10:00am-200pm

Wednesday, January 4

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, January 5

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, January 8

Worship..... 10:30am

Taking Down Decorations after worship

Monday, January 9

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

UWF Book Club..... 1:00pm

Tuesday, January 10

Office Open 10:00am-200pm

Wednesday, January 11

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, January 12

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, January 8

Worship..... 10:30am

Monday, January 16

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

Tuesday, January 17

Office Open 10:00am-200pm

Leadership Meeting 6:00pm

Wednesday, January 18

Office Open 10:00am-2:00pm

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	Sandra 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!

~ 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

PRAISES 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