

**First Presbyterian Church**

Service for the Lord's Day  
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2017

10:00 a.m.

***World without end, without end. Amen!***  
***World without end, without end. Amen!***  
***World without end, without end. Amen!***  
***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Hymn Sing (9:45)  
Concerns of the Church  
Prelude

"Beautiful Savior"

arr. Hobby

Call to Worship

God's creation delights and astonishes.

***Let the people pause and wonder!***

God, the Creator, has made it all.

***Let all creation shout and sing! Alleluia!***

\* Hymn 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground  
when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth  
crowd out your place in our lives.  
Forgive our frail and human ways  
and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,  
for you are our hope for deliverance. Amen.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response (Hymnal 582)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:6-11 (OT, p. 685)

Psalter: Psalm 65 (Hymnal 38)

A Time with Children

Special Music

"The Lord is My Light"

Courtney

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NT, p. 13)

Sermon: "Seeds"

Rev. Carter

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 171 "A Sower Came From Ancient Hills"  
\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

"Assurance"

arr. Beck

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Congregational Amen (601)

\* Postlude

"Praise to the Lord"

arr. Brunner

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\* All who are able shall stand.

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God and with heart warming gratitude for my mom, Nancy Ford, and fond memories of my dad, Paul Ford, by Barbara Wadsworth.*

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music / Soloist	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Laura Schillinger
Ushers	Bill Farrell
Welcomer	John Conklin

*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*



*We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.*

**First Presbyterian Church  
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Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
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[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**

*But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit ...*

*Matthew 13:23*



### ***Isaiah 55:6-11***

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

### **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what

was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."