

emotions and thoughts and we find ourselves stuck in the muck. Two things – one, if you are able, open up your bible and read more. Fill yourself with the Bread of Life. Turn off the TV and take in Jesus. Two, share the imperishable seed with others. I have found that sometimes when I am stuck, it is someone sharing God’s Word with me that gives me the encouragement needed to get out of the sorrow. Many of you have done just that for me. What we put into our minds and our hearts will determine what comes out of our mouths. The world needs us, our community and our families need us to be speaking light and life. Fill your soul with the imperishable seed. The seed, the love that endures forever. Amen and amen.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Jamelle Godlewski, Guest Speaker**

**Mary Ellen Harris, Liturgist**

**Thank you to Jamelle Godlewski for giving us our Devotional for this Sunday.**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

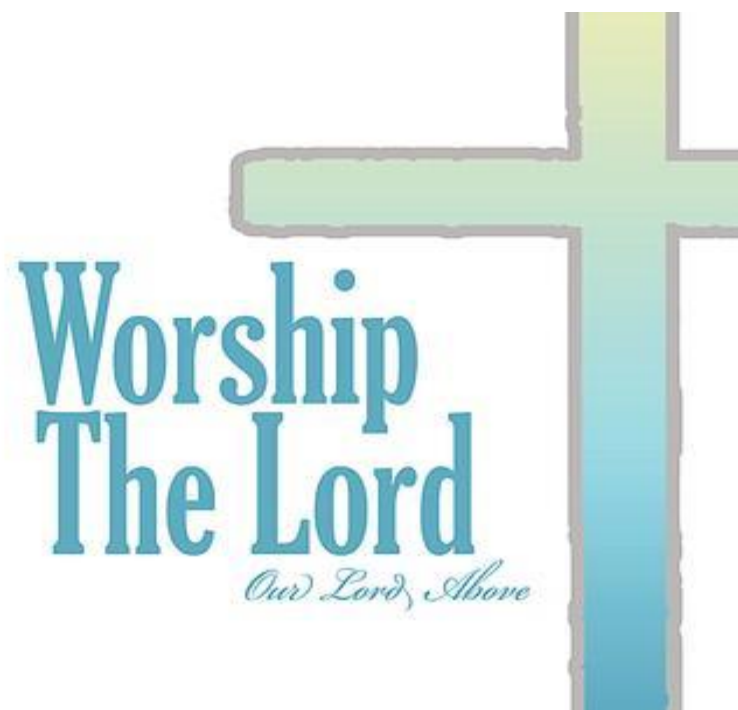
**September 20, 2020 In person church service is canceled.**

**We now have parts of our service online. You can just click [Here](#).**

***“Change for Others” – We have suspended Change for others till we have in person worship service.***

***“Food for Folks”*** For the month of September we will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products for Church Community Services. You can take your donations to them yourself and tell them it is from St. John’s UCC in Elkhart or you can drop them off at the home of Mary Ellen & Dennis Harris. Thank you!

**Welcome to St. John’s  
United Church of Christ**



**We are happy to welcome everyone attending St. John’s United Church of Christ. May God Bless you with His abundant love.**

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**September 20, 2020**

**10:15 am**

## Nourishment – The Word of God

### 1 Peter 1:22-25

What did you have for breakfast this morning? Oatmeal? Oat is a seed. Oh, you had eggs. What do chickens eat? Grain. Grain is a seed. Did you drink some milk? Milk comes from cows, what do cows eat? Hay, alfalfa that both grow from seed. We also fed our cows grain, a seed. What did you have for supper last night? Maybe pork chops? Pigs eat grain. Green beans – grows from a seed. Fresh tomatoes from your garden – grows from a seed. In Genesis, God said He created vegetation and everything we would need to survive. And for nutrition, for physical nourishment from our bodies, we need a variety of seeds.

What is the size of most seeds? Pretty small. When you look at a watermelon and compare it to the seed you plant, its amazing the size difference. Yet, that seed can grow and make such a beautiful fruit.

Have you ever ate and then still felt hungry? This happens especially when we eat junk food. Junk food isn't natural, its man made not necessarily God made and it doesn't always fill us. We don't get all of the nourishment we need. God's seed is different. First let's look at John 6.

**John 6:32-35** *Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

When we eat of the bread that God provides, we won't go hungry. There is a difference between physical hunger and spiritual hunger. Many of us know and have felt the difference. When your stomach growls, that is physical hunger. When your heart is sorrowful, when your mind is producing negative thoughts, when the only word you can use to describe yourself is empty, that is spiritual hunger.

As humans, God created us as physical and spiritual beings; both being adequately nourished is essential. Are you partaking in the bread of life? What does that seed look like?

**1 Peter 1:22-25** *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>23</sup>For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

"Not of a perishable seed, but of imperishable." How? You might ask how can this seed be imperishable? "through the living and enduring word of God." The Word of God is our seed that nourishes us spiritually. It is the absolute only thing that can.

Think about this: you planted green beans back in April or May. They probably starting becoming ripe in August. You either picked them, cooked them and ate them fresh then or you canned them for consumption later. But, if you want green beans in your garden next year, you have to plant more seed. Same thing with corn, tomatoes, watermelon, etc. The Word of God is never changing. It is always there. You don't need to keep planting it, you just need to keep reading it. Why?

**1 John 3:9** *No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.*

If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have been born again. Born of God. The seed of God has now been planted in you. Now, you don't want to choke out that seed with weeds and junk. You need spiritual nourishment. This seed is eternal. The more you consume, the more you will grow. You will start to feel different, think different. Those bad thoughts, the temptations, the sinful desires you might have (and we all have them, even if it is just gossip, or telling fibs, or coveting something our neighbor might have and we don't); all of those start to dissipate the more we feed on the Word of God. This is why we keep reading many of the same verses over and over again. Each time we read, the Lord reveals something to us. He speaks to us in a new way. He enables us to grow!

Certainly, the times we are living in, we can find ourselves surrounded by negativity, division, even hatred at times. We can be sucked in to all the bad news. We can sometimes even fall prey to our own negative