
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- There are a series of pictures at the end of the sermon which I will talk about while on screen.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the power of serving with our time inside and beyond the walls of the congregation.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because serving opens our souls for God's grace to be at work in deep and profound ways.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the fourth week of Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm. We are using stories from Carroll and Becky Walters and their farm to help us learn about following Jesus. The videos are produced by Scott Olney of Olney Productions.

What are the next action steps?

Serve at an upcoming church work day or on one of our teams and committees for the year ahead.

What is the good news? What is the bottom line?

The good news is that, when we serve, God brings growth in our lives and in the lives of others.

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- The good news is that, when we serve, God brings growth in our lives and in the lives of others

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Walking and Weeding:
The Power of Serving Together
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2bmCfNN>

September 11, 2016
1 Corinthians 3:6-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2coU4hb>

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Serve
- Transformation of the World

Sermon Books of the Bible

- 1 Corinthians

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, PumpkinPatch, pumpkin, pumpkins, farm, farming, discipleship, faith, growth, life, spirituality, serve, missions

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Walking and Weeding:
The Power of Serving Together
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2bmCfNN>

September 11, 2016
1 Corinthians 3:6-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2coU4hb>

1 Corinthians 3:6-9, CEB **5**

Response to Scripture

Introduction **5**

Sermon Starter Video

Listen for God's Word

Place for Notes

Tool for Spiritual Growth

Prayer

Opening Story

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm

Transition

Paul and Apollos: Both Servants with Different Roles **6**

Key Scripture - 1 Corinthians 1:6

Who is Apollos?

Key Quote: Paul Sampley

Key Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:5

Winter and Spring Preparation **7**

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Response to Video

Transition

Serving Inside the Walls **8**

Introduction to Serving

Serving Inside the Walls

Lifblood of Our Congregation

Thank You for Serving

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Walking and Weeding:
The Power of Serving Together
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2bmCfNN>

September 11, 2016
1 Corinthians 3:6-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2coU4hb>

Next Step

Planting the Field **9**

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life / Response to Video

Transition

Serving Beyond the Walls **10**

Youth Mission Trip

First Kids Serve

Habitat for Humanity Build

Packing Flood Relief Buckets

Next Step

Weeding and Flowering **11**

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life / Response to Video

Connection with Discipleship Pathway

Weeds

Growth

Conclusion **12**

Good News

Call to Action

Church Work Days

Leadership Development

Invitation

1 Corinthians 3:6-9, CEB

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. ⁷Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. ⁹We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Listen for God's Word

I invite you to listen for God's word today.

Place for Notes

You can find a place in your bulletin to take notes or, if you prefer, in the event for this worship service in the Bible app on your mobile device

Tool for Spiritual Growth

When you learn something new, have a question, make a connection with your life or hear anything that will help you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ as you worship, grow, give, serve and share, write it down.

Then, use these notes as a tool to help you grow in your faith in the days ahead.

Prayer

Will you pray with me?

O God, use these words to speak good news, so that, as individuals and as a congregation, we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you, and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Opening Story

[Text here]

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

During this worship series, we are focusing on our discipleship pathway, which is this:

We live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

These are expectations for our members and invitations to all people to experience life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are many ways to live a faithful life. This is how we live as Christians here at First United Methodist Church.

Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm

We will hear from Carroll and Becky Walters of Walters' Farm. They will be sharing stories on video about their life, pumpkins and the farm. We will be looking for lessons that a pumpkin farm can teach us about living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Transition

Today, we consider the power of serving, both inside and outside the walls of the church. We begin with a closer look at the passage of scripture from 1 Corinthians.

Paul and Apollos: Both Servants with Different Roles

Key Scripture - 1 Corinthians 1:6

Paul is writing to the church which he founded in Corinth and identifies two people when he writes:

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow.¹

Himself and Apollos.

You may know a little bit about Paul, but who is Apollos?

Who is Apollos?

Biblical scholars tell us that we know relatively little about him. According to Acts, Apollos was an Alexandrian Jew who was tutored in the faith by Priscilla and Aquila. He worked with the Corinthians and was of great help to the believers there. Apollos watered what Paul and planted.²

Key Quote: Paul Sampley

J. Paul Sampley writes this:

¹ 1 Corinthians 3:6, CEB.

² Leander E. Keck, ed., *1 Corinthians*, vol. X of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 827.

*Paul differentiates his and Apollos's roles in such a way as to recognize and honor their differences, but what Paul and Apollos did is not so important as (a) that it was God working through their various efforts, and (b) that there was growth.*³

Paul and Apollos have different roles to play, yet they are similar in that God is working through both of them and their work resulted in growth.

Key Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:5

We see this illustrated in 1 Corinthians 3:5, where Paul writes this:

"⁵After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord:"⁴

Paul and Apollos are both servants and each have a role as the Corinthians grow.

Winter and Spring Preparation

Introduction to Video

People having different roles to play and all working toward the same goal is true in many areas of our life. It is certainly true at the Walters' Farm.

In this video, Becky describes the preparation that she and Carroll do in the winter and spring to be ready for the season in the fall.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-09-11 Sermon 6 - Winter and Spring Preparation]⁵

Video Transcript

Becky: We start in the winter ordering the seeds. So, I'll have half a dozen catalogs from all the sale companies that I order seeds from. This isn't like a little Burpee's package, this is like a big, you know, 3,000, 6,000 seeds. It's a large expense for us. You know, it's thousands of dollars worth of seeds that we get every year. Of course,

³ Leander E. Keck, ed., *1 Corinthians*, vol. X of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 827.

⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:5, CEB.

⁵ This video clip is 2 minutes and 1 second.

having a place to store them in the winter time. During the winter, we start going to the market to buy gift merchandise. We like the Las Vegas market and the Dallas market, so we plan trips to those areas. If we can sneak up to Seattle to see our oldest son, that's always a benefit.

We will start in on ordering the seeds and getting the merchandise and we are going to have them ship it in the summer time. So, we are just starting to get merchandise now.

All this time that I'm doing the inside things where it's nice and warm, Carroll is out trimming up the brush or, last year, he started in on a new area - his folks used to grow potatoes in it. We called it the Potato Garden. We ordered a bunch of wooden structures that we had made in Seymour, MO. Carroll was clearing all of that area up so that it was nice and pretty and pristine, so that when these wooden structures came, he would set them out there and have a new play area called the Woodlands for the kids to play in.

Then comes spring time and Carroll gets all the working of the field, the discing, the plowing, getting it all ready. Then comes the first time of June and we are planting the seeds.

Response to Video

Carroll and Becky each have different roles in the winter and spring sharing the same goal of getting ready for the fall season.

Transition

The same is true as we consider life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Serving Inside the Walls

Introduction to Serving

Here at First United Methodist Church, we believe that the spiritual practices of our discipleship pathway open us to God's grace so that we become more like Christ. Finding our role to play in serving both inside and outside the walls of the church is crucial to our life as Christians.

When we have compassion for our neighbors and put our faith into action we build up our soul, strengthen our faith and open ourselves to God's grace to be at work in our life in deep and profound ways.

Serving Inside the Walls

Serving inside the church takes many different forms:

- Helping make worship happen every week
- Serving on our teams and committees
- Volunteering your time to help out in the office
- Teaching and caring as part of FirstKids

- Weeding, mowing, trimming and caring for our building and grounds

Lifeblood of Our Congregation

This “basic and ordinary service is the lifeblood that gives [our congregation] strength. The phrase “to equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12) means that churches invite, encourage, prepare, and cultivate such ordinary service so the ministry of Christ thrives.”⁶

Thank You for Serving

“The operations and ministry of a congregation require the cooperative and helpful spirit of those who love the church and want to see it run smoothly and effectively to fulfill its mission, and the fruit of their service includes tasks well-done, community formation, connection to one another, learning the meaning of church, and changed lives for those within and beyond the congregation.”⁷

Many of you are already serving inside the walls of the church. Thank you,

Next Step

We are all servants and each one has a role to play serving inside the congregation.

Planting the Field

God also invites us to serve beyond the walls of our congregation, often focused in a day or two.

Introduction to Video

There are times on the pumpkin farm when it takes concentrated effort to get things done, as well.

Let’s take a look...

[Play 2016-09-11 Sermon 6 - Planting the Field]⁸

⁶ Schnase, Robert, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 84.

⁷ Schnase, Robert, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 84.

⁸ This video clip is 33 seconds.

Video Transcript

Becky: We have a one-row planter. I used to plan them all by hand until I got to about 10 acres of planting them by hand with a string running across the field, so I'd have straight rows. I just got too old for that! My back wouldn't take it. So, we found this one row planter and Carroll drives the little tractor. I sit on the back of it putting whatever seeds I want for wherever I want them and we plant the field.

It takes us at least a day and a half non-stop to get 30 acres planted.

Connection to Life / Response to Video

A day and a half non-stop to plant 30 acres.

This is a focused effort that is necessary to the fields planted.

Transition

If we are serious about our life of faith, we have to commit time and effort to serving other people beyond the walls of our congregation.

Serving Beyond the Walls

Let me give you some examples of the ways that you have been at work serving outside the congregation this year:

Youth Mission Trip

[Show Image]

This year, our youth took a trip to the United Methodist Boys Ranch in Gore, Oklahoma, which is a campus-based foster care site operated by the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care.



First Kids Serve

[Show Image]

On Wednesday nights, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are serve others as part of FirstKids Serve. They have visited residents at Vintage Place, made chew toys and treats for dogs waiting to be adopted, raked leaves, and made PJs for kids at the Sunshine Children's Home. This picture was taken recently on a trip to pack food at Numana. Our children are leading the way for our congregation in service.



17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Walking and Weeding:
The Power of Serving Together
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2bmCfNN>

September 11, 2016
1 Corinthians 3:6-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2coU4hb>

Habitat for Humanity Build

[Show Image]

We sent two teams to build a new home for a local family in need as part of the Habitat for Humanity build at Star and Locust this year.



Packing Flood Relief Buckets

[Show Image]

A few weeks ago we packed 26 flood relief buckets to send to our neighbors recovering from recent flooding in Mulvane and Louisiana.

Next Step

These are just a few of the ways that you have been at work serving others beyond the walls of our congregation.

We are all servants and each one has a role to play serving outside the congregation.

Weeding and Flowering

So, what happens when you spend the time to serve others both inside and beyond the walls of the congregation?

Introduction to Video

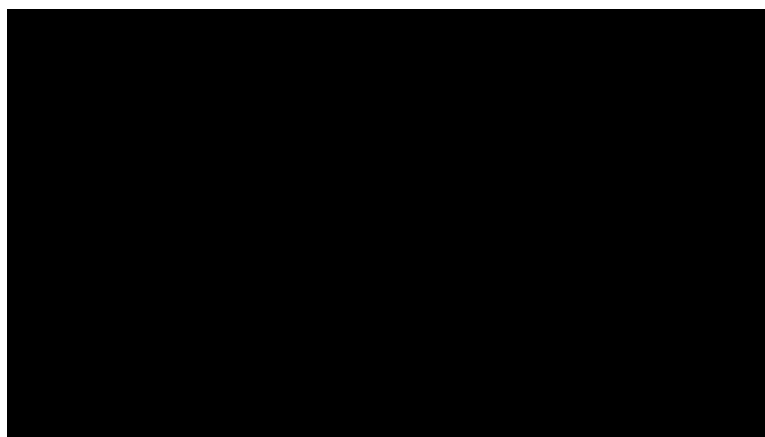
We get some insight to this from the pumpkin farm as Becky describes the work during the summer.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-09-11 Sermon 12 - Weeding and Flowering Time]⁹

Video Transcript

Becky: When it's so



⁹ This video clip is 46 seconds.

terribly hot outside, it's the weeding time. Carroll has equipment that will work between the rows, but where those pumpkins are vining, you have to have a way to weed and Carroll has been dutifully going down every day and weeding. I got the grandson out one day to help me, when I was going down. But Carroll's doing the most of it this year and trying to stay ahead of the weeds that weren't controlled with the herbicide.

We're starting to flower now. The bees... You get out there and hear the bees buzzing. It's just, totally awesome. You know, it won't be long until we start setting on some pumpkins and we'll open up the third weekend in September.

Connection to Life / Response to Video

After the seeds are planted, there are going to be weeds that come up in a field of pumpkins. There is no way around it.

The other thing that will happen after the seeds are planted, is that growth occurs, they vines begin to grow and they begin to bear fruit.

Connection with Discipleship Pathway

The same thing is true as we spend time serving inside and beyond the walls of the congregation.

Weeds

No matter our best efforts things won't go as planned either inside or outside the life of the church. Weeds will sprout in the middle of our work to make things go around here and make a difference in the lives of others in our community and beyond.

I want to ask Paul, so you planted and Apollos watered, but who did the weeding?

Growth

Yet, in spite of the weeds, and even, at times, in spite of our best efforts, our hearts and lives are opened to the work of God's grace. We begin that our effort is making a difference in the church and community.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that, when we serve, God brings growth in our lives and in the lives of others.

Call to Action

I invite you to consider serving with your time inside and beyond the walls of the church.

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Walking and Weeding:
The Power of Serving Together
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2bmCfNN>

September 11, 2016
1 Corinthians 3:6-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2coU4hb>

Church Work Days

You can serve inside the walls of the church at an upcoming church work day. Our Trustees have organized two opportunities for you to serve on Wednesday, September 21 and Saturday, October 15 starting at 8 a.m. Mark your calendar to serve with your time.

Leadership Development

Our Leadership Development team is making progress on our teams and committees for the year ahead. If you completed an interest to serve survey in July, you should hear from someone by the end of next month.

Invitation

We are all servants and each one has a role to play.
When we serve,
we join in God's work in the world,
make a difference in the lives of others, and
find our souls shaped to be a little more like Christ.