



A note from the pastor

First United Family and Friends

It is my hope that each week something is said or done during your worship experience that will encourage your hearts. This blessing may come through scripture, song, sermon or fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Importantly, it is my hope you will make God's Word personal and applicable to your daily Christian walk.

Sermon from 9/10/23: A New Plan and New Season

Reflection:

As a community of believers, we may first ask God "Why Are We Here"? We must remember we are the church. As God's children we are here to serve God as well as others. We are here to make a difference, to bring hope and the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world, and certainly to our local community. The Apostle Paul shares in Ephesians 4:12-15 The church exists for this purpose: to grow Christians into Christlikeness. The church is the means that God uses to make us more like our Savior. Next you might ask, what are you doing? How are you using your time? What is your individual contribution to better your church and community? If you ask God, and trust the answer you are given, then you must be obedient and follow through. This will align you with God's perfect will for your life. The good Lord is faithful to reveal his plan, the challenge may be for the believer to seek God for vision as you move forward. God will not only show you, He will guide you and lead you. In Micah 6:8 it states, "*but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* Also, Ephesians 4:12 shares, *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, of Christ.*" Finally, in this New Plan and New Season. The prayer is that we will reach a point of God's Finished Work and the future God desires for Us. Lastly, Ephesians 4:13 gives us a picture of the church God envisions: "...until all of us come (attain) to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. The opening phrase, "until we attain," gives the sense that we are arriving at a destination after a long trip. Paul is placing out in front of us a snapshot of something wonderful. It's a photograph of God's finished work. God's preferred future. Yes indeed, First United let us all seek God collectively for his preferred future for our lives and our church.

Prayer of Reflection for 9/11

Powerful God, our refuge and our strength, we turn to you for peace and security as we recall the 9/11 attack. We thank you for the bravery and the sacrifice of those who saved lives as firefighters, rescue crews, or people aboard United 93. Comfort and strengthen the family and friends of those who passed away.