

Community United Methodist Church
First United Methodist Church

WORDS OF WELCOME: Pastor Jeff

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: *Seek Ye First*

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER: Leader – Becky Williams

Leader: On this journey we have one destination.

All: We seek the higher good.

Leader: We ignore the promises of earthly glory and continue on.

All: We seek the higher good.

Leader: We redouble our efforts to live only through the love of Christ.

All: We seek the higher good.

Leader: “For we are persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,”

All: “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” for we seek the higher good. Amen.

(Adapted from Romans 8:38-39)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Leader

Leader: God of Love, we see the world as it is, and despair. How can we hope? There will always be wars and chaos. There will always be injustice and prejudice. There will always be pain and suffering. Where is the love and hope now?

All: Help us, O God, to catch your vision now. Help us to understand that your love and hope is present, and we are those to whom you have entrusted a world in need of your direction. Lead us to recognize that your work is our work, and your peace is surely our peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Pastor

O, Lord, you know us completely, and yet you have entrusted us to carry your word and your ways far and wide. Buried with you in baptism we have arisen in the newness of life in you. We are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Pastor: Welcome one another in the same way that Christ has welcomed you. Welcome one another with the peace and love of Christ which we have committed to share with one and all. Let us join together virtually to bless all within the sound of our voices, as we say:

All: May the peace and love of Christ be with each and every one of you.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS & PRAYER REQUESTS: Pastor

**SILENT/ COMMUNITY & PASTORAL PRAYERS:
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 Leader

John 1:43-51 Pastor

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

MESSAGE: *Forever Seeking the Higher Good* Pastor Jeff Holder

OFFERTORY:

DOXOLOGY: UMH #95

CLOSING: *Do Lord*

SENDING FORTH: Pastor

O God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, keep our feet on the ground and our hearts set to the obedience of your loving call. Though others may tempt us with earthly promises, may we be ever focused on your kingdom come and your will being done, on earth as it is in heaven, where only the love of God through Christ is known. May we be this good news, for there is surely nothing better than to dwell in your house forever. Amen.



Serving you today:



Liturgist:
Pastor:
Doug Kolsters
Jim Austin:
Ann Butler:
Glen Gorman:
Becky Officer
Judy Nikkel:
Judy Bradley:

Becky Williams
Jeff Holder
Praise Team Director
Sermon, PowerPoints/Praise Team
Praise Team
Praise Team
Alternate Praise Team
Bulletin Editing/Materials Printing
Mailing/Distribution

Small Group Online Study for both Riverbank and Oakdale:

Small group forming for the third week of January. Please contact Becky Officer or Pastor Jeff. **PLEASE CONTACT US THIS WEEK**

If you would like to speak with us, if you desire prayer, if you would like to become a member of these churches, if you would like to be baptized, or for any other purpose, please find our website and my contact information below:

<https://cumcoakdale.org> or <https://fumcriverbank.org>

First United Methodist Church Riverbank, PO Box 1091, Riverbank, CA 95367
Community United Methodist Church Oakdale, 1480 Poplar St, Oakdale, CA 95361

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*United Methodist Churches of Oakdale
and Riverbank, Online Worship*



Human Relations Day
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
January 17, 2021
Pastor Jeff Holder