

Welcome!

February 5th, 2023

“Avoid Self-Destruction”

Esther 5:9; 7

“A chronic hatred or even a cherished grudge tears to pieces the one who harbors it.”

--Harry Emerson Fosdick, *On Being a Real Person*

“There are seeds of self-destruction in all of us that will bear only unhappiness if allowed to grow.”

--Dorothea Brandt

We Gather for Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Where our treasure is, there will be our hearts also.

Many: We’re owned by what we give ourselves to.

One: The things that wreck us don’t come from without.

Many: Instead they come from deep within our souls.

One: We reap what we sow.

Many: Our lives reveal what we have planted.

One: Create in us a new heart, O God.

Many: And keep us from destroying ourselves.

All: Amen!

***Hymn: “Come, Christians Join to Sing”**

(Red Hymnal, p. 302)

A Time for Children

We Offer Our Praise and Prayer

Morning Psalm: 112

Hymn:

“Trust and Obey”

(Red Hymnal, p. 672)

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

We Attend to the Word

Sermon:

“Avoid Self-Destruction”

Dr. Bill Ireland

Esther 5:9; 7

***Hymn:**

“Higher Ground”

(see insert)

*Benediction

***The Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind blow at your back.

May the sun shine warmly on your face,

May the rain fall softly on your field.

And until we meet again,

Til’ we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Please stand if you are able.

We welcome Alexia Pantanizopoulos as our guest accompanist.