

NURTURE THE CONDITIONS OF FRUITFULNESS:
15:2 – PRUNING – Allow God to remove whatever detracts from growth (repentance)
15:5 – YOU CAN DO NOTHING – Realize our powerlessness and need for dependence
15:9, 12, 17 – LOVE
15:10 – OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS
15:11 – COMPLETE JOY! “Joy is an unmistakable mark of genuine discipleship.”
15:14-15 – MOTIVES: We serve as “FRIENDS”
15:16 – ANSWERED PRAYER

Is there something in your life you need to let go of so that you can be more fruitful? Are you being called to new areas of obedience? Are you serving from a heart of joy and friendship?

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

- March 22**
- Worship 5pm
- March 23**
- Worship 9am
 - Adult & High School Bible Study 10:15am
 - Church Chicks 5:30pm
- March 24**
- ELO 9-2pm
 - LHN 9-11:30am
 - Ad Board 6:30pm
- March 25**
- Homestead 9am
 - Mat Weaving 9-11:30am
 - Van Buren 10am
 - Prayer Devotions @ 12noon
- March 26**
- ELO 9-2pm
 - LHN 9-11:30am
 - Mat Weaving 3:30-5:30pm
 - Vine Meal & Worship 5:30pm
 - Bells, Kids Club, Middle School Youth Group, Confirmation Adult Bible Study 6:15pm
 - High School Youth Group & Choir 7pm
- March 27**
- LHN 9-11:30am
 - Sewing Day 9-12noon
- March 28**
- ELO 9-10am
 - Office closes @ 12 noon

Announcements

March Mission of the Month is the Lenten Journey of Personal Dignity Kits

Get your Easter Lily Orders in by March 26!

College Students get your Scholarship Applications in. They are due June 1st!

Parents of High School Seniors! RSVP for the Senior Supper and bring pictures into the office that are needed for the Senior Board and the UWF.



Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship *Inspired by John 15:1-8*
Leader: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.
People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.
People: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.
Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.
People: We come because we seek to be faithful disciples. We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

Unison Opening Prayer
We meet together in the presence of a God whose love is freedom, whose touch is healing, whose voice is calm. We meet not in our own strength but in the knowledge that God's Spirit abides within us, in our worship today and in our daily lives when we depart from this place. The blessing we receive is shared, in the hope that others might be drawn to the God we serve. Amen.

***Song** #110 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Old Testament Reading *Psalms 27:4-14*

Congregational Prayer
Thank You, Father, that I am a heavenly branch that is united to the heavenly Vine, the loving Lord Jesus Christ. May His life flow through mine as sap flows through the branch that is engrafted into its parent stem. Dear Lord, I know that I am commanded to abide in You and I desire to live my life day by day, simply resting and abiding in You. Teach me Lord how to abide in You, so that all that is of myself will melt away as the Spirit of Christ pulses through my being. Fill me with Your fullness so that I may live and move and grow and bear much lasting fruit as I abide more and more in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Song** #175 “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee”
Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

***Offertory Prayer**
Father, let our giving be a reflection of your love. May these offerings be used to spread your message of love and hope to the world. Amen.

***Song** #581 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading *John 15:1-17*

Message “The Secret of Fruitful Living”

***Response** #500 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” Verses 1, 3, 5

***Benediction** *II Corinthians 13:14*
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Secret of Spiritual Fruitfulness

John 15:1-17

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

OBEY THE CALL TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT: 15:2, 8, 16
What “fruit” are we to bear? Character (such as the “fruit of the Spirit”), acts of love and justice, making disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:28-29.) The goal is the Father’s glory - not ours! **Is it your life purpose to bear much fruit for the glory of God?**

STAY CONNECTED TO THE SOURCE OF LIFE: 15:1, 4, 5, 9, 11
What does it mean to “abide” or “remain” in Christ? The life of Jesus flows through every Christian. A continual dependence upon the living Savior leads to spiritual fruitfulness. “No branch has life in itself; it is utterly dependent on the vine.” **During this Lenten season, what holy habit is God nudging you to develop so that you may abide more faithfully?**