



+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

*UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing*

You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

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### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus. Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be ours. It will be you shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us. Let us preach you without preaching not by words, but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you. –Mother Teresa

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THANKS BE TO GOD! WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.”*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

Beloved, we gather today in the joy of God’s salvation and our faith, a faith handed down to us over generations that we claim and proclaim today in this community. By faith, our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends shared God’s love with us, a love that longs to draw us all as members of the Body of Christ. By faith, we remember the story today, the story of God’s desire for all creation to be reconciled to God and one another.

**By faith, we carry the faith forward, building a community of belonging, provision, and care as we journey with God in this world where we live, work, and play. By faith, we gather to nourish and encourage one another along the journey building God’s already-but-not-yet kingdom here and now. Amen.**

+INVOCATION *Responsively*

Surprising God of mercy and love, thank you for calling us to this place and time. We praise you that you challenge us to show our faith in ministries of peace and grace, offering compassion to all in need.

**Open our hearts and minds today to hear your words of encouragement and challenge. We offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *FWS 2236*

*Gather Us In*

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### THE CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH

THE PSALTER *Psalms 25:1-6, 20-21*

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

LITANY FOR LEARNING

A Prayer for the New School Year *Responsively*  
*When an ( \* ) appears, please raise your hand as a student raises a hand to gain a teacher’s attention. All students, teachers, and school personnel are asked to stand.*

We stand before you, Lord, to declare your greatness. You have given us creation, which is the fruit of your creative genius and power. You call us to care for your world. Help us to learn about your world so that we can be faithful to our calling.

**We thank you for creation.**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We promise to use our minds to study your world, to use our eyes, hands, and ears to learn, and to use our voices to discuss, question, and investigate.

**We are fearfully and wonderfully made!**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We celebrate ideas, numbers, words, and skills. We celebrate puzzles, paints, and crayons. We celebrate imagination, instruments, formulas, and enzymes. All of it, Lord, is a part of your world.

**Your world is marvelous!**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We thank you for teachers who teach about your world. We thank you for staff and service personnel who maintain our learning environment and safely transport students. We thank you for students who see the wonder of your world unfold before them as they study. We thank you for textbooks that explain and help us explore the wonders of your world. We thank you for our classmates.

**We thank you, Holy One, as you go with us into this new season of earning.**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

Help us to learn with joy. Nudge us to set higher goals when learning is easy, to keep on trying when learning is difficult, and to use the full potential you've given each of us.

**Thank you, Lord, that we serve you in our learning.**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

Help us to know that when our student days are over, you will show us where to serve you further, using

what we have learned to meet the challenges of your world.

**Help us to be faithful.**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We thank you, God, for all persons who give their lives to education and students. We support and encourage them in learning.

**Students:**

**Give us a desire to learn. Give us strength and energy. Give us a desire to do our very best.**

Father, we will uphold our students, teachers, and service personnel in prayer.

**Students, Teachers, and Personnel:**

**Together, Lord, we promise to study and use our learning today and tomorrow as we serve you faithfully.**

**We give you all the praise, honor, and glory.**

**\* WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Unison*  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

THE CHURCH WORSHIPS BY GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+DOXOLOGY *UMH 94*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD  
THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 273*  
*Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands, v. 1*

**Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness, blessing children small, washing tired feet, and saving those who fall; Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all.**

WIGGLETIME *...then, it’s off to Children’s Church*

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*  
*Eva Atha, Director*

SERMON *Rev. Steven Meadows*

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THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 64*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*  
People of God, made ready by your faith in the Living God and God’s divine love and saving grace:  
Go forth into God's world to serve in ministries of kindness, witness, and peace. Know always that God's peace is with you.  
**Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

*...and the worship continues.*



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**Here in this place  
new light is streaming  
now is the darkness  
vanished away**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost  
10 August 2025  
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