

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

O God, we join with our sisters and brothers around the world in remembering Christ's sacrifice for us. For the opportunity to eat and drink together and for the life we have received, we give you thanks and praise. In the abundance of your many gifts, grant us grace to fill one another's lives with love. Redeem, restore, and remold us until we are made new. Transform our daily bread into the bread of life, and the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

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

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
Choir singing:

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (refrain) UMH 629
You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

*Lord, in this world of strife we need your peaceful presence in our hearts.

We struggle. Tensions abound.

O Lord, hear our cries!

All Singing: **You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude, that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food.

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

*Lord, when we are torn and do not know in what direction to turn, guide our steps.

Bring us back to you, merciful God.

All Singing: **You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell; whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

*Lord, open our hearts and our lives this day to be filled with the radiance of your love.

Help us to receive your peace and to be bearers of that peace to others.

Choir Singing:

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

+INVOCATION *Leader*
God and Father of us all, glad of your welcome and with gratitude for your acceptance, in these moments of worship, reshape our hearts to be more willing to share

your love with the world. Hold us, ennoble us, challenge and equip us in the ways and being of Christ. **Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 660*
God Is Here

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

EPISTLE LESSON *II Timothy 1:1-14*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. You gave us wisdom and creativity, and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. You gave us laws to order our lives, and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies. We love war rather than peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honor the rich and powerful.

In all this we have not lived according to your will. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Leader*

God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ, through whom our sins were forgiven. May God help us to continue to sow seeds of peace to those who are near and far. **Amen.**

RESPONSE *What Wondrous Love, v. 2 UMH 292*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

THE CHURCH RESPONDS WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+DOXOLOGY *UMH 94*

The Children are invited to gather for Wiggletime.

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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

WIGGLETIME *...then, off to Children's Church!*

ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

SOLO *Renee Warner*

THE CHURCH AT TABLE

INVITATION

Come home to this table. Pause a bit from your journey to help break the bread grown in the many soils of the earth and eat. Pause to help us pour the juice of the fruit ripened on sun-baked ridges and drink. Come imagining our global sisters and brothers at their tables, enjoying their harvest of creation and labor. We join in a great feast of diversity, linked by God's just world.

COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks for the sacrifice of grain and fruit, of those who sow and cultivate, reap, and mill. We eat and drink to celebrate our connections to those whose hands and hips rocked into the dough of this bread and to remember the hungry Jesus who joins all who are hungry. We eat and drink to celebrate the bat and the honeybee, the fruit of our local farms, and those of local communities across the earth. By great mystery, we eat and drink with those gathered at many other tables and with those who have gone before us. We give thanks for

God's love shown once again as we live the story renewed in our touching and tasting at this table.

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.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP *Responsively*

We recall the supper of Jesus and his companions before his arrest. During the meal, Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and said:

(As the bread is lifted and broken, the people respond)

Take, eat: This is my body.

Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, passed it to each, and said:

(As the cup is lifted, the people respond)

Take, drink: this is the cup of the new covenant.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, weave us into a body of testimony to the life you give. With all those who have gone before us and all those yet to come, and those who gather around this table across the world, shape us into a parable of your great heavenly banquet.

Come, Holy Spirit!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(The United Methodist tradition uses grape juice.)

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

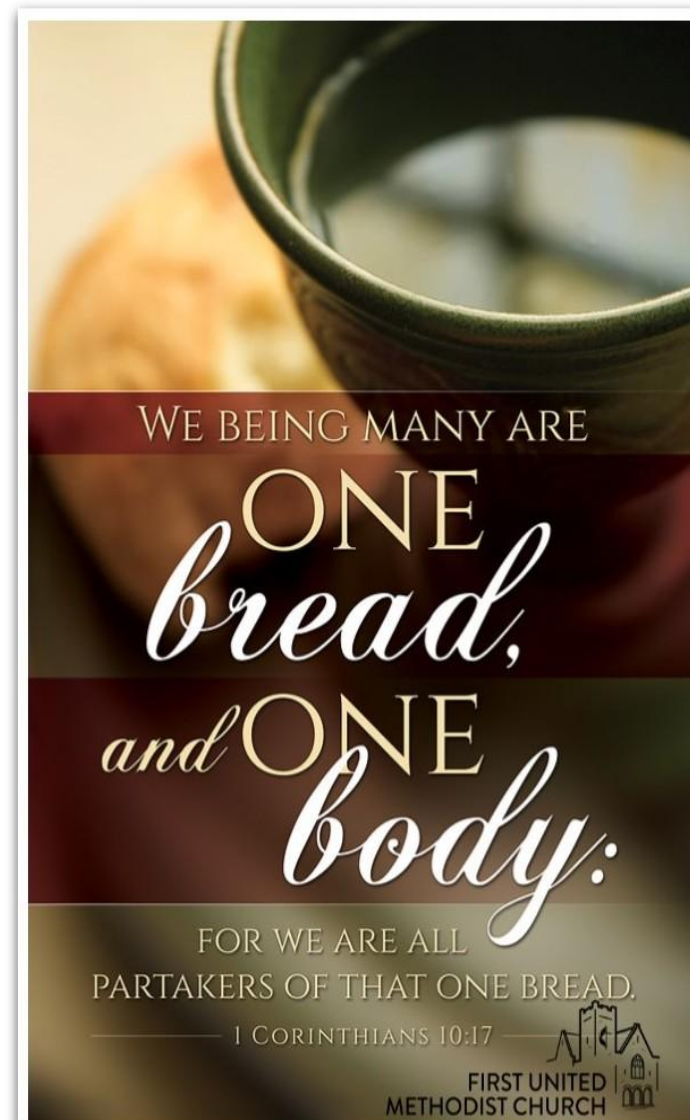
+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 567*

Heralds of Christ

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

5 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

52 S. FLORIDA ST., BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

FIRSTCHURCH26201@GMAIL.COM

304-472-9494 WWW.FIRSTCHURCHUM.COM