



Everyone is welcome here

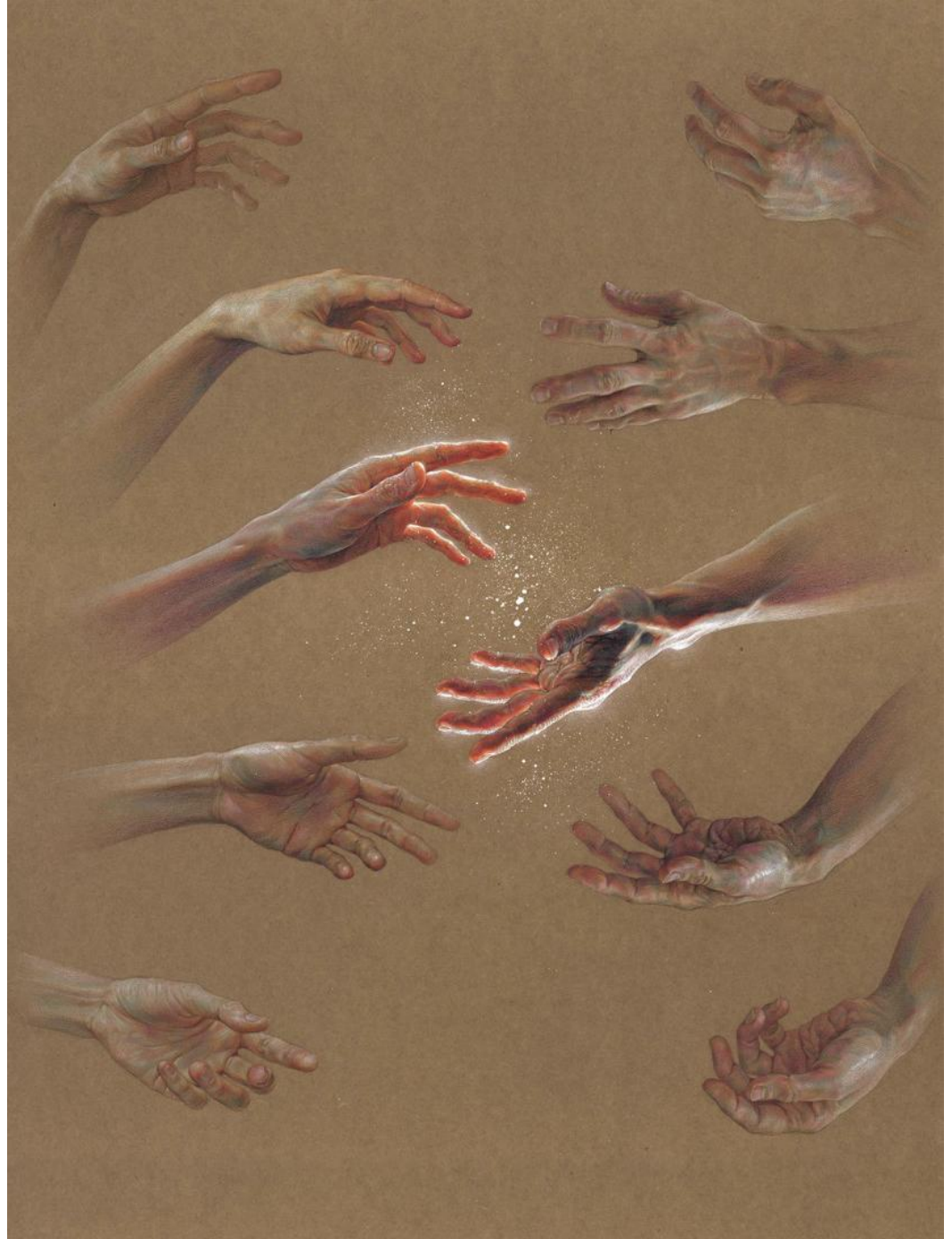
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday
June 29, 2025
10:00am

Third Sunday
after Pentecost



Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/upcbgm)

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

42 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 • 607-722-4219 • [upcbgm.org](https://www.upcbgm.org)
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Welcome to the Celebration!

June 29, 2025 • 10:00am

*Our rainbow swag display is in honor of Pride Month to celebrate love.
UPC Binghamton fully supports our LGBTQIA+ members, friends, and allies.*

In today's lesson, Luke shows a beautiful and probably idealized picture of the earliest community of believers, who live together and share everything with each other. But the beautiful unity does not last, and soon people are withholding their wealth from the common purse. The Holy Spirit strikes down both the husband and wife who have lied not just to their fellow believers, but to God. The story concludes with "and great fear seized the whole church and all who heard these things."

We Gather as a Community of Faith

OPENING BELL *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC "Great God, as We Are Gathering"

Robert Manners, *baritone*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

Great God, as we are gathering, you watch your people come.

As yet, we're walking out of step; help us to walk as one.

Great God of many gatherings, you make your people one;
from different backgrounds, ways, and lives, our journeys have begun.

Great God, as from this gathering we go our separate ways,
we're joined by you; we go as one, to travel all our days.

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

from a prayer by Rev. Sarah E. Weaver

One: We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.

All: We are celebrating the love and support that we give to one another; the constant quest that we are on to be united by God's grace.

One: We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.

All: We are celebrating a future full of outreach, a future full of service, a future full of worship, and a future full of growth. We are celebrating a future with hope.

One: We gather for worship today to celebrate our visions.

All: We are celebrating the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today, and the visions that we see today for the future.

(continued)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

One: Let us gather in celebration!

All: Let us worship God!

***SONG OF GATHERING** “Faith Begins by Letting Go” (see page 4)

GATHERING PRAYER (*together*)

by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Gracious God, among the ways of the world our hearts have wandered.

Bid them come home and be still, now.

We rest in the blessing of your grace, upheld by the abundance of your gifts to us.

May our hearts be calm, and desire nothing but you.

May our appetites be stilled, so that we might see the riches you have given us.

May our fears be healed, so that we might trust the grace you offer us.

We throw open the windows of our hearts,

that the warm light of your Word may flood in and change us.

Bless us, God, that as the scriptures are read and your good news proclaimed

we may hear with joy what you are saying to us today. Amen!

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

We Tell and Hear the Word

FOCUS LESSON Acts 4:32—5:11, CEB

4³² The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. ³³ The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. ³⁴ There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵ and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

³⁶ Joseph, whom the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (that is, “one who encourages”), was a Levite from Cyprus. ³⁷ He owned a field, sold it, brought the money, and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles.

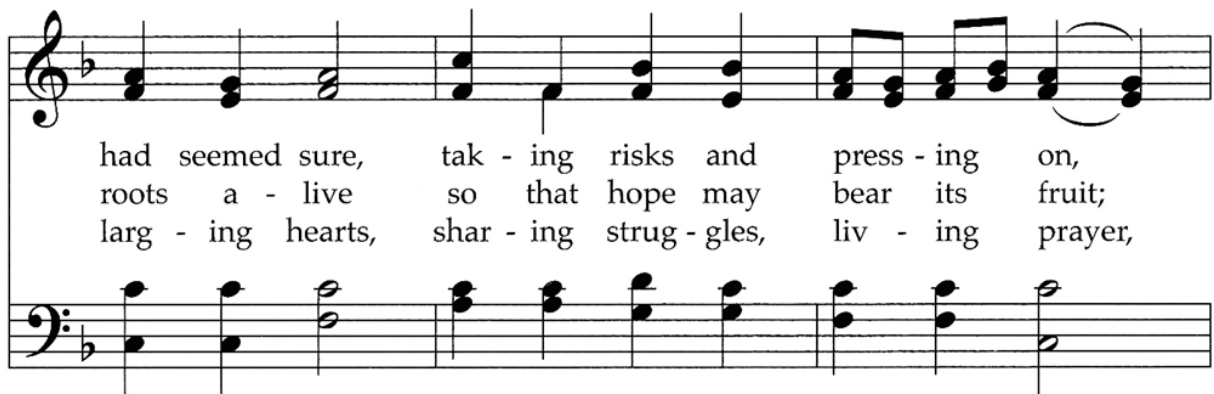
5¹ However, a man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ² With his wife’s knowledge, he withheld some of the proceeds from the sale. He brought the rest and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles. ³ Peter asked, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has influenced you to lie to the Holy Spirit by withholding some of the proceeds from the sale of your land? ⁴ Wasn’t that property yours to keep? After you sold it, wasn’t the money yours to do with whatever you wanted? What made you think of such a thing? You haven’t lied to other people but to God!” ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he dropped dead. Everyone who heard this conversation was terrified. ⁶ Some young men stood up, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later, his wife entered, but she didn’t know what had happened to her husband. ⁸ Peter asked her, “Tell me, did you and your husband receive this price for the field?”

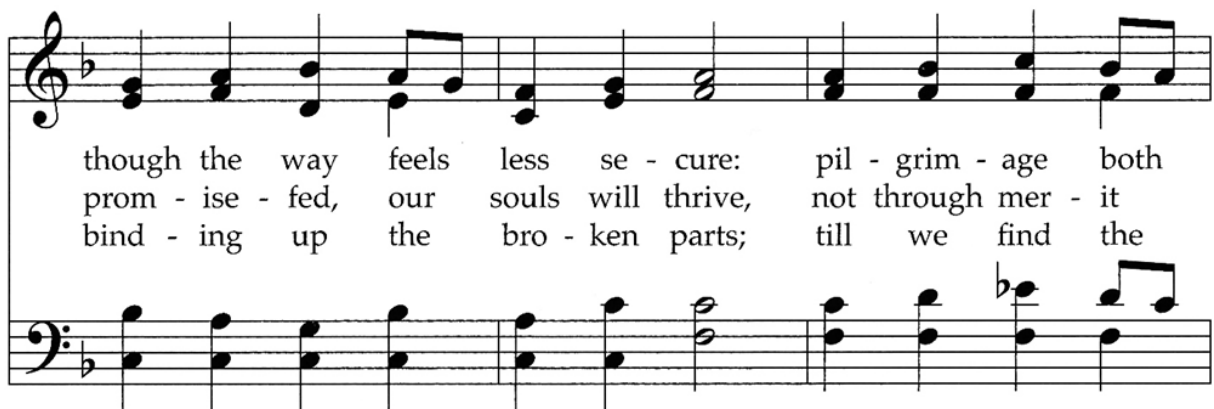
Faith Begins by Letting Go 684



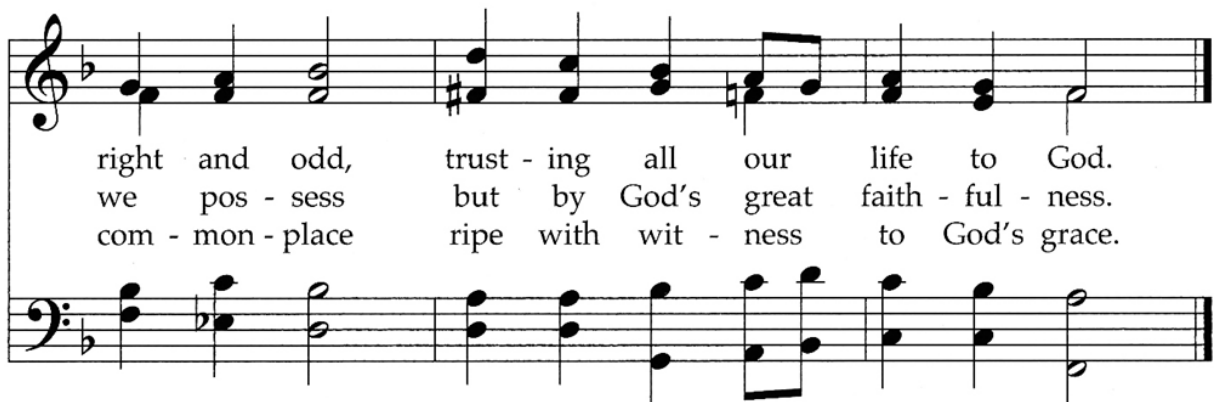
1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -



had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,



though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the



right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

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She responded, "Yes, that's the amount."

⁹ He replied, "How could you scheme with each other to challenge the Lord's Spirit? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too." ¹⁰ At that very moment, she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men entered and found her dead, they carried her out and buried her with her husband. ¹¹ Trepidation and dread seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened.

REFLECTIONS "Generosity and Community"

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE "All Things Are Yours!" (see page 6)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*)

adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton

**We believe The Word is not bound by ink and paper
but is set free in us
to dream new dreams and unfold new adventures.**

**We believe the life God gives
is not celebrated in rules
but is celebrated in our diversity.**

**We believe that as the sun sets in one land
it rises in another,
handing over the prayers of the world
from one to another.**

**We believe the story of faith comes alive
in the communities we grow
but is hurt by the barriers we build.**

**We believe transformation is a gift from God
which is never complete
and longs to be set free in us.**

**We believe resurrection is heaven's conspiracy
to redeem all that is evil
and bring to life all that is good.**

**We believe justice is God's unraveling
of all that hurts, oppresses, and dulls life in each other.**

**We believe that a spark lights a flame
which kindles an idea
that ignites a moment.**

We all have a spark within us.

Amen!

All Things Are Yours!

687

Ab Eb7/Bb Ab/C Bbm/Db Eb Fm/Eb Edim7 Fm Bb7 Eb/Bb Bb/Ab

1 All things are yours! We make that true when we re -
 2 "Give out of love," your Word com-mands. We are your
 3 O what a joy to give and then, out of com -
 4 All things are yours! We make that true when we re -

Eb/G Cm Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Eb Eb7 Ab Eb7/Bb Eb9/Bb

turn our gifts to you. And so we give, and
 head, your heart, your hands. Your Word you un - der -
 pas - sion, give a - gain. You have no needs. Though
 turn our gifts to you. And so we give, and

Ab/C Ab Dbmaj7/Bb Ddim7 Eb Edim7 Db/F Fm Bb/Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Eb Ab

so we share, in Christ's strong name ex - press - ing care.
 score with deeds by us - ing us to an - swer needs.
 that be true, the gifts we share are given to you.
 so we share, in Christ's strong name ex - press - ing care.

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WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at upcbgm.org/give, or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.



MUSICAL OFFERING “Dreams”

Grace Hickey, *dancer*

Oh, my life is changing every day in every possible way.
And oh, my dreams; it's never quite as it seems, never quite as it seems.
I know I've felt like this before, but now I'm feeling it even more; you're everything to me.
Oh, my life is changing every day in every possible way.
And oh, my dreams; it's never quite as it seems, 'cause you're a dream to me, dream to me.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*together*)

by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson

**Holy God,
Grant us a heart full of grace,
and a soul generated by love,
that we may serve you and your world.
Thank you for all those who have shown us the way
and all those who are showing us the way. Amen!**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS (*responsive*)

As each petition is concluded, the prayer leader and congregation respond:

One: Lord, in your loving kindness,

All: hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Truth-telling Savior,
you gather your people into one Body;
gathering us beyond the divisions we create
divisions we create in our anxiety about the future.

Crucified and risen Savior,
you are among us,
offering us your truth that sets us free;
and your grace that shapes a good future for all;
and your love that fills our lives and lifts us up.

These gifts draw us ever deeper into
your creative presence;
these gifts of truth, grace and love that form us into a people
who carry your life-giving future in our world.

Open our eyes to their liberating truth.
Open our hearts to receive them.

By your Holy Spirit,
form in us a passion for your purposes —
a passion that overcomes our self-centeredness;
a passion that makes us large in generosity.

Then, grant us your Spirit of wisdom,
that we may see the work you are doing
and may join in with glad and grateful hearts
and be the blessing you have summoned us to be.
We ask in the name of Jesus,
who taught us when we pray to say...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*together*)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!**

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***SONG OF SENDING** "When Peace Like a River" (see page 10)

BLESSING

Go in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to what is good.
Return to no one evil for evil.
Support the weak, strengthen the frightened, help the suffering.
Honor every person.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son, Jesus Christ, and the blessing
of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC *(together)* “When Peace Like a River” verse 4 & refrain

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

At the close of our worship this morning, the “Zoom room” will be opened in the sanctuary for a hybrid congregational meeting. Members are invited to remain in the pews; visitors are welcome to listen or to move to the lobby for a time of fellowship.

*If you are worshipping with us via our YouTube livestream,
we invite you to join us on Zoom upcbgm.org/zoom for the meeting.
To dial in as a phone call: **646-558-8656**, Meeting ID: 865 274 8433*

When Peace Like a River

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3 My sin—O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, my sin—not in
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 sur - ance con - trol: that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
 part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

Refrain

say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 taste, and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is
 scend: "E - ven so"—it is well with my soul.

with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 well with my soul,

Words: Horatio G. Spafford. Music: Philip P. Bliss (VILLE DU HAVRE). Public Domain.

Get Involved! Without any doubt, the ministry of our congregation depends largely on the dedication and selfless contributions of volunteers — the incredible individuals who give generously of their time, energy, and unique talents. Here are some ways you can help us do Christ's work in our community:

Community Meal & Pantry: Each Tuesday at 5pm, we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody, serving about 160 meals a week. Volunteers are needed during the day on Monday and Tuesday to help with food prep, and on Tuesday evening to serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

On Wednesdays from noon to 5pm, we run a free food pantry that also offers personal care & hygiene items when they're available. Volunteers help staff the pantry, and donations of non-perishable food and personal care items are always welcome.

Contact Kitchen Coordinator Sherry Conklin for more info: meal@upcbgm.org

Worship services: You may not have noticed how many people are involved in our Sunday morning worship services, but most weeks there are at least a dozen of us, and often there are more than 20: folks who read prayers and scripture, greet visitors, share musical talents, operate technology, set up refreshments, help serve communion, or contribute their ideas and support behind the scenes. If you'd like to take part, contact Worship Team chair Suzie Raboy: sraboy54@stny.rr.com

Music at UPC: Music is an important part of our coming together at United Presbyterian Church. We are excited to make music with every resource that we have, and to use a variety of styles, not all at once but intermingled. What emerges is a vibrant worship service with music that includes everyone who wishes to participate.

With summertime upon us, the choirs are taking a break until after Labor Day. We invite instrumentalists and vocalists who'd like to share their gifts to talk with any of our music leaders about providing special music for worship — you can call the church office, email music@upcbgm.org, or speak with them in person after worship.



Other ministries: Our ministry teams are always welcoming new team members. If you'd like to help with or learn more about the workings of the church, talk to one of the pastors or the elders on Session: **Campus Ministry**, Pastor Becky bkindig@upcbgm.org; **Card Committee**, Margaret Davis mdavis.margaret@gmail.com; **Community Outreach**, Pastor Kimberly pastor@upcbgm.org or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Finance**, Andy Chadwick cchadwick1@stny.rr.com; **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt shunt1@stny.rr.com or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Personnel**, Cindy Burger csburger@frontiernet.net; **Property**, Pastor Becky bkindig@upcbgm.org; **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger csburger@frontiernet.net.

Annual Congregational Meeting — Sunday, June 29, after worship

Our annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting (Part 2) will be on Sunday, June 29, immediately following the worship service. We will gather on this Sunday to conduct the ongoing business of the church for this year, knowing that the Lord of love and light goes with us every step of the way! We will elect the Session class of 2027 and the Nominating Committee for 2025–2026, and receive the team and project reports for the program year.

This meeting will be hybrid, immediately following the worship service, in the sanctuary and in the Zoom room. It would be good to have you with us, either in person or online.

Children in Worship: “Let the little children come to me...” —Matthew 19:14

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family’s needs.



There is a nursery for infants through age four staffed with two nursery attendants, if that is a better choice for your family. The nursery is at the end of the hall past the bathrooms. Nursery staff are on duty from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and listen to the service over the speaker, or to return to the sanctuary to worship. Please let us know if you have questions.

PRAYER CREDITS: **Call to Worship** from a prayer by Rev. Sarah E. Weaver © 2011, posted on Preaching in Pumps, preachinginpumps.wordpress.com. **Gathering Prayer** by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, posted on Unfolding Light, unfoldinglight.net. **We Say What We Believe** adapted from a prayer by Roddy Hamilton, posted on Mucky Paws, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Prayer of Dedication** by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, posted on Worship Words, worshipwords.co.uk.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Phil Westcott
Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*;
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebarto, Grace Hickey, Robert Manners
Technicians Chris Burger, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert