

The liturgical color is green for the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE** “Celebrate with Ringing” Michael Mazzatenta  
Canticle Bells

**WELCOME** Michael Fournier, liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Leader: When the winds howl and the waves rise, we are tempted to look away.  
**People: But when we fix our eyes on Jesus, we find our footing again.**  
Leader: The world around us clamors for our attention—news, noise, and fear.  
**People: Yet Christ calls us to come, to step out in faith, to trust His voice.**  
Leader: Even when distractions swirl and doubts creep in—  
**People: God reaches out, steady and sure, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”**  
Leader: So come, with hearts ready to listen and eyes set on the One who calms the storm.  
**All: We come to worship Christ, our Savior and our focus, the One who stills our distractions and lifts us up in love.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Give to the Winds Thy Fears” UMH 129  
*Hymn History:* The words to the hymn we sing today are the result of two gentlemen. The original hymn was written by Paul Gerhardt. He was born in Germany in 1607 and died in 1676. Gerhardt was a Lutheran Minister who is considered one of Germany’s greatest hymn writers. The inspiration for the words are from Psalm 34:4, “I sought the LORD and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” (NIV). John Wesley, on his way to the state of Georgia, heard Moravians sing this German hymn while they were sailing across the Atlantic in 1735. The hymn eased Wesley’s anxiety about crossing the ocean and he decided to translate the it into English. The music used for this hymn is an adaption of William Walter’s FESTAL SONG.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**OPENING PRAYER**  
**Loving God, in a world full of noise and distraction, help us fix our eyes on Jesus. When fear and doubt rise like waves, reach out Your hand and steady us. Still our minds, calm our hearts, and draw us close to You. In this time of worship, renew our faith and remind us that You are near. Amen.**

**BAPTISM**

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

*Children invited to stay with families or to go to Sunday School at this time*

**ANTHEM** “Beautiful Savior ” arr. Jody Van Kley

**SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS**

*\* Congregation invited to stand if able*

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**  
**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.**

**MENTOR IN MINISTRY**

**SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** “Walking 'Cross the Sea” Pepper Choplin  
Chancel Choir; Larry Fram, soloist; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

**\*DOXOLOGY #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 uplifts!**  
**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN OF CENTERING** “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” UMH 349

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 14:22-33, p. 692

**MESSAGE** “Distractions: Don’t Be Distracted”  
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

**DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES, GIFTS AND SERVICE**

**\*HYMN OF MISSION** “Take My Life, and Let It Be” UMH 399

**PRAYER**  
**Holy God, take our lives and let them be consecrated to your service. Take our moments and our days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. These pledges we offer—both those placed here today and those still to come—are symbols of our deeper commitment: to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to serve others in your name. Bless what we dedicate, O God, that our lives and gifts together may bring glory to you and joy to your people. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION SUNG RESPONSE "Go Now In Peace"  
Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.  
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POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" Piet Post

*Liturgy and prayers written by Pastor Steve with assistance from ChatGPT*

Altar Flowers are presented by Ellen Mladineo  
In Thanks to Kathy Fellows, Kathy Jojczyk, and all those that help with  
Fellowship Hour

Pulpit Flowers are presented by Chris Fletcher  
In Celebration of 34 years of marriage

From November 9th:  
Altar Flowers presented by Deb & Dale Lewis  
In Memory of Betty Klein, mother and grandmother

To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485



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Pastor Steve Stultz Costello, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Ivy Smith, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Tammy Palermo, Pastor of Children & Family Ministry

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Mentor United Methodist Church

Traditional Worship | November 16, 2025



DISTRACTIONS