

The liturgical color is green, signifying life and growth
in the Christian Church, it is the twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE Two Choral Preludes on EIN' FESTE BURG Walther, Pachelbel
Amy Bender, organist

WELCOME Lydia Smith, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
L: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.
C: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!
L: Friends and family encourage us with care. And we, in turn, provide care for this community.
C: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!
L: We find a home in God’s creation. We find ourselves in following Christ!
C: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!
L: The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.
C: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

***OPENING HYMN** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” UMH #117

OPENING PRAYER
Most Holy and Righteous God, we come today grateful to be your children. We ask now that you connect our temporary praise to Your timeless presence. Guide us now to focus upon You, knowing that in You, our distractions become new possibilities for action. Breathe life into our singing, our praying, our speaking, our listening, our touching. We pray, O God, knowing that You have already enfolded in your care. This we pray, Amen.

Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School

ANTHEM 9:00 “Be Thou My Vision” arr. Dan Forrest
Charter Members Men's Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

11:00 “On Faith Alone” arr. Tom Fettke
Chancel Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

**Congregation invited to stand if able*

SCRIPTURE Luke 8:4-9, p. 731

KIN-DOM SIGNS Doug Koman

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
You may place your offering in the Offering Box at the entrance of the Sanctuary or give online using the link on the back of the bulletin

OFFERTORY 9:00 “Our Father” Craig Courtney
11:00 “Offertory” John Ness Beck

***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**
O God, accept our gifts to your church today. Remind us to be sacrificial in our service to others. Our gifts, our time, our talent are all from you. We seek to ‘get it right’ in you eyes. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER 9:00 AM – Unison, 11:00 AM – Chancel, “Our Father”
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.

HYMN OF CENTERING “I Surrender All” UMH #354

SCRIPTURE Luke 12:13-21, p. 737

MESSAGE “Defying Gravity: When We Get It Right” Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

COMMITMENT LITANY Commitment Litany (based on Isaiah 58:1-9)
L: God in Christ has shown us the beauty of holiness.
C: We come now to express our gratitude to God with our best gifts.
L: What are these gifts?
C: Our prayers, our praise, and the gifts of our hands.
L: These we should offer unto the Lord, but these are not all the Lord asks.
The Lord also asks that we break the yoke of tyranny and let the oppressed go free.
C: We would do all that the Lord asks.
L: The Lord asks that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and house the homeless.
C: We would do all that the Lord asks.
L: The Lord asks that we attend the afflicted and give ourselves for those in need.
C: We would do all that the Lord asks.

As we sing “Blessed Assurance”, you may walk forward,
and place your 2024 Giving Commitment Card in the baskets.

***HYMN OF MISSION** “Blessed Assurance” UMH #369

***FAITH IN ACTION**

***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 “Fantasia on OLD HUNDRETH” Gordon Young



Altar Flowers are presented by Sue Martensen
In Loving Memory of Mel and Esther Martensen, parents
Dorothy Kuchavski & Esther Creasy, sisters

For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485



Defying Gravity

October 29, 2023
Commitment Sunday
Traditional Worship



MENTOR UNITED HIGHLIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Dick Anderson, Patricia Bonner
Luke Sanvido, Star Bruno, David Fell, Norma Ickes, Bob Williams,
Ruthie Hobart, Mike Cosmo

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Kay Disbro, Delores Tackett,
Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler
Salida Woods - Doris Sturm
University Manor - Virginia Gilman
Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons
Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua
Tapestry - Gloria McFeely
Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom
Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher



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Upcoming *This Week*

Monday, October 30

- Parents Morning Out - 9:15 AM

Tuesday, October 31

- Ring Journey Group - 9:30 AM
- SALT Journey Group - 7 PM

Wednesday, November 1

- Child/Caregiver Class - 9:15 AM
- Meal Blessing
- Knitting Group - 1 PM

Thursday, November 2

- OA Meeting - 10 AM
- MOMCo Book Study - 11 AM

Friday, November 3

- MOMCo - 9:30 AM

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Meet and Greets

Pastor Ivy and Pastor Steve will continue to attend meet and greets with groups of 8 to 15 people hosted at someone’s home or at the church through November 16. Call Stephanie in the church office if you would like to host a gathering. The one-on-one Meet-and-Greets that Pastor Ivy and Pastor Steve have provided weekly in the community since August will now shift to scheduled one-on-one meetings.

Gingerbread 2024

Join us for this year’s Gingerbread House Arts & Crafts Show on Friday, November 10 from 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM and Saturday, November 11 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This is a United Women in Faith event.

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo

Please join us for another 4B luncheon & program. Nov's menu includes loaded baked potato soup with hearty bread, salad, and pumpkin brownies. Our own Kate Colbow, EOC secretary to UMC Global Ministries, will share about UM missionaries. We hope to see you Mon, Nov 13 at 12 in the Gallery. RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org or signup in Info Hub.

Sign up for Pictures

Visit the Information Hub to sign up for a time slot for your photograph to be taken for the church directory (or for you and your family!). Picture days are November 24-25 and December 14-16. You can sign up any time between now and your desired date as long as spots remain open.

Poinsettia Orders

Place your orders for poinsettias [online](#) or in the Information Hub. Orders must be in by the first weekend in December. Plants cost \$7 each.



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