Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026
10:30 a.m.

OUR LORD'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There's a Place for You Here

*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Gathering Music "He Has Made Me Glad"
words & music by Leona Von Brethorst

GATHERING TOGETHER

Think on This for Today

The life of faith is lived in community, where many gifts support the body of Christ. In the Exodus account, women work together to oppose injustice and protect life. The midwives disobey Pharaoh and call forth new life. Moses lives because of his mother, sister, and the daughter of Pharaoh. In Matthew, Peter names Jesus for who he is, and a new community, the church, begins to take root. We come together today to seek the wisdom and humility to use our power faithfully for God's purposes.

Prelude "Open the Eyes of My Heart" arr. Carol Tornquist

Graceful Engagement

Welcoming Affirmation
The Lord is on our side!
We fear nothing.
God is our help.
Blessed be the Lord.

*Call to Worship
In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?
God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

cont.

In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?
God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.
In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?
God exercises power with - with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.
Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?
We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love ALL of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ.

*Opening Hymn "Walk with Me" *R, vs. 1, R, vs. 4, R* FWS 2242

*Unison Prayer
O God, Sustainer of ALL life and Creator of the universe, You set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect ourselves. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by Your grace, enable us to overcome them. Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of Your purposes. Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives. May Your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that Your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Message And Jesus said... **Let the children come!**

Scripture Reading Exodus 1:8-2:10 CEB; Matthew 16:13-20 CEB

*Response
The word of God for ALL of us, God's people.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Bravely Using Your Influence"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012 and Pastor Kelly will receive them)

Response Song "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" *R, vs. 4, R* FWS 2120

Caring for Community
Be sure to write prayer requests, joys and concerns on the prayer board.

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together
Pray in the language and version of the prayer that most speaks to your heart.

Invitation to Giving
The peace of Christ be with you. **And, also with you!**

*Doxology TUNE: LOBE DEN HERREN, 14.14.478 (ref. UMH 139)

Praise to the One who has destined us ALL to salvation.
Praise to Christ Jesus who sends us in love to ALL nations.
Worship afresh One who is poured on ALL flesh,
Spirit of love and vocation!

*Blessing Prayer
Faithful God, You reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are - Your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in Your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen Your church as a living witness to Your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth
Beloved, God calls us to use our power wisely and in the service of those the world has disempowered.
May God bless us with the courage to notice injustices in the world and the perseverance to keep showing up with God and one another as we empower one another to set the world aright.

*Final Blessing

Respond "Yes!" after each blessing phrase and join in ALL together for the final phrase: "This day and in every day to come!"

May you resist the powers that use people. Hear the cries of the weak. Dare to work for justice and know that God - Source, Word, and Spirit - is your help, will keep you safe, and will bring you new life. You are blessed by God and sent to serve.

*Closing Hymn "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" *all verses* FWS 2237

*Postlude "God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again"

melody by William Tomer

Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available. Visit our tech room and someone will help you.

Lectionary readings: Exodus 3:1-15 *"God calls Moses";* Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 46b *"Remembering Moses";* Romans 12:9-21 *"Live in Harmony";* Matthew 16:21-28 *"The rebuke to Peter"*

Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!

Scan this QR code to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Sue Schulkers, Carol Pope, Karen Haubert, Don Mains

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org
Pastor: Kelly Liebenstein/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/
*Visit us on our website at www.ourlordsumc.org

Worship resource: **Ministry Matters, https://www.ministrymatters.com/, Discipleship Ministries, https:// www.umcdiscipleship.org/, Doxology from "Praising God" by Ruth C. Duck/Patricia Wilson-Kastner**

CCLI Copyright license: 1623710 Streaming license: 20992670

Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.

"love boldly, serve joyfully, lead courageously"