Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 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 "His Eye is on the Sparrow" by Charles Gabriel

GATHERING TOGETHER

Think on This for Today

This worship focuses on overcoming our natural resistance to God's call. We'll hear parallels between reluctant biblical leaders and our own modern hesitations, most likely. Let us be encouraged today to lean on God and our faith community to boldly fulfill our shared mission together.

Prelude "Jesus Loves Me" by William Bradbury

Graceful Engagement

*Call to Worship
Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.
God, help us accept Your call on our lives.
Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning of the call, the ways our families, friends, and communities may resist the good news and us as messengers of it.
God, help us accept Your call on our lives.
Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.
God, help us accept Your call on our lives.

cont.

Beloved, God's call takes many forms.
Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run as far as we can.
But take assurance in this:
We are not alone. God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there.
ALL Together we Pray:
God, help us accept Your call on our lives and to trust that what You equip us to do is what You call us to do as members of the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn "The Summons" *vs. 1, 5* FWS 2130

*Unison Prayer
Pour your Light, Holy Spirit of God, into our hearts and minds. Help us to know more clearly and grasp more fully the Good News of Jesus. And help us then to know how to share it. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with You and the Father, are One God. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

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

Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1-15 CEB; Matthew 16:21-28 CEB

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

Sermon "Our Shared Story: The Next Chapter"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

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

Litany Response *see insert or on screen*

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
Holy God, You call ordinary people from unexpected places and send them into hard and holy work. As You met Moses in the fire that did not consume, and as You met Peter on the road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we bring. Shape us by Your presence, not by fear; by service, not by power; by love that risks itself for the sake of others. Receive our offering as a sign that we trust Your "I AM" to go with us and that we are willing to follow Christ, even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring freedom, healing, and hope to Your world. Let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth
Beloved, when the path is easy and when the path is rough, when God calls through a burning bush or a still, small voice or a loving rebuke, remember: you are not alone.
May God bless us with the courage and humility to accept God's call and with the assurance that if God calls us, God will equip us.

*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!"
Acceptance, today, means grabbing hold or climbing on board and saying, "This is the path I will follow; this is the vehicle upon which I will ride because this is the means to liberation and domination. This is the model for leadership in the church of Jesus the Christ."

*Closing Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" *vs. 2* UMH 593

*Postlude "I Need Thee Every Hour" by Robert Lowry

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

Lectionary readings: Exodus 12:1-14 *"The Passover";* Psalm 149 *"Sing praise in the congregation";* Romans 13:8-14 *"Live honorable as in the day";* Matthew 18:15-20 *"Reconciliation in the community of faith"*

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 (children's sermon), Izzy Veit, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Bianca Enriquez, Pat Mehring (worship leader), Debbie Huyck (reader), Carol Pope (sermon), Karen Haubert, Don Mains

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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**

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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"

Litany Response

What would this church become if everyone contributed the way I do?

Would the church be friendlier?
Would guests be welcomed?
Would children be disciplined?
Would lonely people be noticed?
Would ministries be strengthened?
Would burdens be shared?
Would prayer increase?
Would encouragement multiply?
Would the pastor be refreshed?
Would the church be healthier?
That question is uncomfortable because it turns the conversation inward. It is easy to talk about what "the church" should do.
It is harder to remember that WE are the church.
There is no mysterious group of people somewhere else who are supposed to create community for us.
The church becomes loving as its people practice love.
The church becomes welcoming as its people welcome.
The church becomes generous as its people give.
The church becomes deep as its people pursue maturity.
The church becomes faithful as its people remain faithful.
At some point, the community we are looking for will require the contribution we have been withholding.
May we overcome our reluctance when we hear God's call and respond without excuses, so that we may Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously. AMEN