

A MEASURE OF FAITH

November 16, 2025

Investing Ourselves



WELCOME

PRELUDE *All Creatures of Our God and King*
arr. Leavitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today, not to count what we own,
but to remember who we belong to.

**All that we have comes from God—our time,
our talents, our very lives.**

God has entrusted us with gifts of grace and possibility.

**We come to offer what we have and who we
are back to God.**

Let us worship the One who gives freely and calls
us to live boldly.

**With open hearts and willing hands, we come
to worship and serve.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 577

God of Grace and God of Glory

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious and giving God, You have entrusted us
with so much—life, love, faith, and opportunity.
Forgive us when we bury your blessings out of fear
or self-doubt. Remind us that what we hold too
tightly can never grow, but what we give freely
multiplies and bears fruit. Teach us to live with
generous spirits, to invest ourselves in your work,
and to trust that in giving, we will find life. Through
Jesus Christ, who gave everything for us, we pray.
Amen.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT

BAPTISM Declan Reed Raymond

Introduction to the Service

Presentation of the Candidate

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Congregational Reaffirmation and Commitment

For all of you here...

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm
both your rejection of sin and your commitment
to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian
faith and life and include Declan now before
you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good
news and live according to the example of
Christ. We will surround Declan with a
community of love and forgiveness, that he
may grow in his service to others. We will pray
for him, that he may be a true disciple who
walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian
faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old
and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of
the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day
he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and
will come again to judge the living and the
dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Eternal Father: When nothing existed
but chaos, you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you
saved those on the ark through water. After the
flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When
you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led
them to freedom through the sea. Their
children you brought through the Jordan to the
land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's
mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in
the water of a womb. He was baptized by John

and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in Christ's final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Baptism Song "God Claims You"

TFWS no. 2249, vs.1, 2

**"Declan, Declan," God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.
We this day do all agree
a child of God you'll always be.**

**"Declan, Declan," God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.
We your family love you so,
we vow to help your faith to grow.**

**"Declan, Declan," God claims you,
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.**

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

ANTHEM *Prayer Litany* Helen Kemp
Chancel Choir
Jacqui Rothera, Oboe

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:14-30

MESSAGE *Investing Ourselves*

PRAYER HYMN NO. 405 *Seek Ye First*

TIME OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

You may give your offering by text— Text UMCWC \$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
arr. Smith

OFFERING RESPONSE NO. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN NO. 593 *Here I Am, Lord*

BENEDICTION

Go now and live as people who have been entrusted with God's good gifts. Don't hold them too tightly. Don't bury them in fear. Put them to work in the world— through kindness, through generosity, through love. And as you give yourself away, may you find joy, purpose, and life in abundance. Go in peace, to serve and to shine. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Postlude in G* Mendelssohn/Blake

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Charlie Ford
Message for Growing Christians: Kristi Largoza
Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson
Organist: Steve Campitelli
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,
Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

Today we welcome into our church family through baptism, Declan Reed Raymond, son of Aidan and MacKenzie Raymond.

Godparents: Amber Porter & Dylan Raymond;
Grandparents: Craig & Colette Porter, Denise & Bob Rushing, John & Lisa Raymond;
Great grandparents: John & Susan Kelley, Gerarda Raymond .

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Today, November 16

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)
6:00 PM - Youth Group (Youth Room)

Monday, November 17

6:30 PM - Lillian Circle (Chapel)
7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (via Zoom)
7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)
7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday, November 18

10:00 AM - Mary Jane Circle (Chapel)
1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)
6:30 PM - Church Council (Chapel)

Wednesday, November 19

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
9:30 AM - Women's Bible Study (Chapel)
5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner
6:30 PM - Digital Disciple III (Chapel)
6:30 PM - Children's Choir (Rm 10)
7:30 PM - Carillon Choir (Rm 12)

Thursday, November 20

9:00 AM - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Rm 207)
6:30 PM - Chancel Choir (Rm 10)

Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School for all ages is at 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm 4-5)

Youth Sunday School (Youth Rm)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12)

Seekers (Rm 7)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group

Sundays at 6:00 PM

PM

Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library - Books for 1 year olds through teenagers. Located on the lower level.

Connection and Sharing Opportunities

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Children's Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Praise Team

Wednesdays at 7:15 PM

Carillon Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Sunshine Memory Café

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their care partner.

Coffee With the Pastor

2nd Monday, 10 AM, at

Gramm's Diner Wednesday Night Out Dinner

Wednesdays at 5:45 PM

Retired Men's Lunch Group

2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM

United Women in Faith

1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM,

Sept-May

Circles meet at various times throughout the month.

Web Dance

1st Sunday of each month, 6:00 pm,

Sept-May

High school hosted themed dance party for adults with intellectual disabilities

Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

ACT Now (formerly Act In Faith) - Items for their Community Cupboard can be dropped off at the table in the Gathering Area. Donations of paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, all purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent are needed, as these items are not available at other cupboards.

Unused hotel toiletries needed - Items go to Ronald McDonald House, Safe Harbor, and Salvation Army. Place items in the basket by the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential lay caring ministry for people who are going through a tough time. If you would like more information about how one of our trained Stephen Ministers can walk with you during this time, contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org).

PRAYER NEEDS - The full list of prayer concerns can be found on the round table in the Gathering Area. Requests are also sent through our "Prayer Link". To receive the prayer link contact Luanne Sims (lsimsumcwc@gmail.com). To submit a prayer request, please sign the form in the friendship folder or contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Commitment Sunday is next Sunday, November 23. Please pray, reflect, and consider growing in your faith and stewardship. We will receive pledges towards ministry in 2026 at both services. Thank you for your commitment to the ministries of the church.

Looking Ahead, Sunday, November 30th - We will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM that day. Everyone is invited to stay after the worship service to help us decorate the church for the Advent season.

Lost and Found - Please check the tables in the Gathering Area to see if we have anything that is yours. Items that are not claimed by today will be given to charity

Items for ACTnow - From now through November 23rd we are collecting donations that ACT Now is in desperate need of for their community cupboard. These are items that are not available at other food cupboards. Needed items are: shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, dish soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, baby lotion/wash, all purpose cleaner, laundry pods, toilet paper, and paper towels. Items can be placed at the table in the lounge area.

Bake Sale - Sunday, November 23, in the Gathering Area. Sponsored by United Women in Faith. Lots of homemade baked goods and treats for your holiday table. All the proceeds go to missions.

Poinsettia orders - Decorate the church this Christmas with a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Cost of a plant is \$15. You can also give a mission donation. This year the gift to mission will go to our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. Orders must be placed by Dec 14. Order cards were mailed this week. For questions call the church office.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - It's bell ringing time and the sign up board is in the Gathering Area. We have four dates this holiday season: 11/28, 11/29, 12/13 and 12/20. Thank you everyone for participating in the Ministry of the Bells!! If you have any questions, contact Deb Murray, 610-368-4052.

We're still taking pictures for our new Directory in the Gathering Area following the 8:45 am worship service and at Wednesday Night Out. No appointment necessary. Just bring your family and your smile.

Charge Conference - Our yearly Charge Conference will be held at the church on Tuesday, November 25, at 6 pm. District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Pittman, will be with us for this meeting.



We're moving closer to the \$14,000 that we need to package 35,000 meals on January 19th.

