

September 6, 2026

BOTH/AND

Real people don't
neatly fit into boxes

In a world of either/or
we have a both/and faith



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*
arr. Moser

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord God, you made me and know me.

Convince me, O God –

that the contradictions in me are the beauty in you.

Convince me, O God –

to love all parts of me as you do.

**Convince me, O God, that each and every
attribute of mine, is by your grace. That even as
my mind runs one way and my heart another,
both are integral parts of who I am. And who I
am is loved by you.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 128 *He Leadeth Me*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of heart and mind, you call us to love you
with all that we are, yet too often we divide what
you have made whole. We rely on reason while
ignoring compassion, or follow our feelings without
seeking wisdom. We close our minds to people
who challenge us and harden our hearts toward
those we do not understand. Forgive us, God.
Meet us in our questions, stir us with compassion,
and teach us to listen for your Spirit with open
hearts and curious minds.**

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God knows us completely and
loves us fully. In Christ, we are forgiven—not in part,
but wholly. Our hearts are renewed, our minds are
opened, and we are set free to love God and our
neighbors with all that we are.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

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.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:30-31

ANTHEM

God is Love
Praise Team

Chris Renzema

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

MESSAGE

Heart and Head

OFFERING

*You may give your offering 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

O God Beyond All Praising

Holst/Miller

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and
everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your
image and breathed into us the breath
of life. When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast. You delivered us
from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign
God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And
so, with your people on earth and all the company
of heaven we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of peace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love....

Come to the table of joy...

Gather Us In TFWS NO. 2236

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

BENEDICTION

Go now, loving God with all your heart and all your mind. Let compassion move you and wisdom guide you. Listen for the Spirit, remain open to one another, and trust that God will use your whole self to share Christ's love with the world. Go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Barb Crary

Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn

Chancel Choir and Praise Team Director:

Jeannie Nelson

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,

Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

Education and Growth Opportunities

Regular Sunday School Classes resume in September.

Summer Opportunities

Children's Sunday Fun Day (Rm 6, lower level) 9:15 AM
Upper Room (Chapel) 11:00 AM
Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 9:30 AM
(Resumes in September)

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group Contact Cory Smith (Cory@umcwc.org)
to get emails about summer events

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

Connection and Sharing Opportunities

All Choirs resume in September.

Chancel Choir (Adults) Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Men's Ensemble Once a month

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
(Resumes in September)

Wednesday Night Out Dinner Wednesdays at 5:45 PM
(Resumes in September)

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*

Ongoing Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

Items for ACTnow - We are collecting the following items
that ACTnow is in need of for their community cupboard:
shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, dish soap,
toothpaste, mouthwash, baby lotion/wash, all purpose
cleaner, laundry pods, toilet paper,
and paper towels. These are items that are not available
at other food cupboards. Items can be placed at the
table in the gathering area.

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

Pop Tabs - We are collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald
House. These tabs are recycled to generate funds for
local chapters, helping to pay for essential services and
operating costs for families staying there. Pop tabs can
be placed in the receptacle 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. Re-
quests 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).

Don't Forget!



CHURCH PICNIC
Next Sunday, September 13

West Goshen Park

Sign up at umcwc.org or I
n the Gathering Area.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

United Women in Faith Salad Supper - Sept. 8, 6:00 pm in
the Fiesta Center. Pot-luck style. Bring a dish to share.
All women are invited. Bring a friend!

Women's Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 9
am in the chapel. They will study the book "Christianity and
World Religions" by Adam Hamilton. All women are invited.

The ROMEOS (Retired Men's Lunch Group) will meet on
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11:30 am at West Chester Diner.
Please RSVP to Bill (484-459-8939) Rides available if needed.

The Eagles Bucket is back! Help us raise money for our Rise
Against Hunger meal packaging event in January 2027.
The bucket will be in the Gathering Area each Sunday for
you to drop your coins (and dollars) in. Every penny helps.

The Journey Home - Film Screening and Conversation -
Thursday, Sept. 10, 6-8:30 pm at Madeleine Wing Adler
Theatre, 817 S. High Street. This documentary film explores
the lived experiences of veterans and the impact of
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Sponsored by CC
Suicide Prevention Partnership and WC University. Pick up
a flyer in the Gathering Area for more info.

Stephen Ministry training class beginning this fall! This
distinctively Christian training includes a variety of topics
such as listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in
caregiving, and grief, focusing on how to provide care
while God cures. Please contact Kelly@umcwc.org if you
are interested and would like to have more information!

UWF Church Bazaar and bake sale—This annual event is
just around the corner (Oct. 24). If you're a crafter, please
consider donating your creations. Gently used or new
household items, fashion accessories (jewelry, purses,
scarves), children's toys, and sporting goods; and games
are also needed. No clothing, furniture, electronics or
books. Contact Sue Oliver, 610-745-3324 with any questions.

Men's Retreat- October 2-3 at Gretna Glen. Fun, fellowship,
faith, and even a ropes course (optional). Sign up on the
church website. Contact Ed Olsavicky (484-883-3025) for
more information.

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Chester
County is sponsoring a walk** to raise awareness of the
mental health programs available in our area. Saturday,
October 3 at Boot Road Park beginning at 2:00 pm. Please
consider walking or making a donation. Go to [nami-
walks.org/chescopa](http://nami-walks.org/chescopa) to register or to donate. More info is in
the Gathering Area.

Wednesday Night Out - We need your help! - WNO has
become a beloved tradition in our church. Each week
during the school year we offer a delicious meal for a low
price so that individuals and families get a break from
cooking as well as a time of fellowship and fun activities.
This program doesn't run on it's own. A lot goes on behind
the scenes things to keep it running. We depend on
volunteers to set tables, clean up, help for Chef Tony with
food prep, and dishwashers. Can you help in any of these
areas? Contact Beth (bbuglioumcwc@gmail.com) WNO
begins September 23rd.

**Fall clean up day - Saturday, October 10 from 8:30 am-
2:30 pm** We will be working inside and outside. Watch for
more details and sign-ups.