

August 24, 2025



Persevering to the End

WELCOME

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS
Blessing of the Backpacks

PRELUDE *Quiet Sea* Schubert

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who long for a deeper breath of grace,
all who carry burdens and hope alike.

**We come seeking the Spirit who sustains us,
the God who revives and renews.**

Blessed are those who are pressed but not crushed,
persecuted yet still praising.

**We come to be filled again—with courage,
with faith, with holy fire. Let us worship the
One who calls us forward—with love that
perseveres and power that never fails.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 57 , vs. 1-5

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Everlasting God, when the path is long and the night is heavy, You are our light and our strength. You call us not to ease or comfort, but to faithful endurance—to lives shaped by justice, mercy, and love. Breathe again into our dry bones. Fan the embers of our faith into flame. Make us bold to live the gospel, even when it costs us something. Revive us, O Spirit—not just for our sake, but for the healing of this hurting world. Together, may we rise in hope, stand in truth, and walk forward in Your power. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

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 *We Are Not Alone*
Pepper Choplin
Summer Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MESSAGE *Persevering to the End*

A TIME FOR ANOINTING

PRAYER HYMN TFWS NO.2152
Change My Heart, O God

TIME OF PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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

Adagio

Nardini/Wolff

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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN NO. 140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

BENEDICTION

Go now—faithful and free,
not because the way is easy,
but because the Spirit goes with you.
Let your life be a testimony to grace.
Let your words carry hope.
Let your actions reveal Christ's love.
And may the God of strength uphold you,
the Christ of compassion walk beside you,
and the Holy Spirit breathe courage into
your soul—
now and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Christ the Redeemer

Birchwood

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Valerie Douglas

Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn

Guest Summer Choir Director: Mike Muzzo

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,

Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush,

Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Today, August 24

11:15 PM - "Our Methodist Roots" Class (Chapel)

5:00 PM - El Buen Sunday School

6:00 PM - El Buen Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, August 25

7:00 PM - El Buen Men/Women's Group (Rm 7)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

Tuesday, August 26

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café

Wednesday, August 27

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

6:30 PM - Prayer Journey

8:00 PM - El Buen Bible Study (Rm 10)

WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - Join us at 10:00 am at West Goshen Community Park, 1023 Fern Hill Road, West Chester. We will worship together followed by a picnic and activities. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, and paper products will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as your favorite lawn chair, if you like. We could also use a few coolers. Please sign up in the Gathering Area or on the church website so that we know how to prepare.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nametags are coming to UMCWC – Did you ever find yourself wishing you knew the name of the person you just spoke to, or who you were sitting near in church? You're not alone. Our goal as a church family is to create a welcoming and connected environment for anyone who enters our doors on Sunday morning. One of the ways that we can do that is by having name tags. Beginning on September 14, magnetic name tags will be available for each person to wear during church. They will be reusable so that you can pick yours up when you come in for worship and leave it here for the next week. Please print your name (first and last as you want it displayed on the name tag) on the form in the Gathering Area or Narthex. You can also contact Sue in the office (shaughumcwc@gmail.com) Please also indicate if you need a pin type nametag. (*Those who have pacemakers or defibrillators should not use the magnetic type.) Nametags will not be given to children without parental permission.

United Women in Faith – The September general meeting will be a Salad Supper (pot-luck style, bring a dish to share) on Tuesday, September 2 at 6:00pm in the Fiesta Center. The speaker will be from Fostering Hope Chester County. All women are invited.

Disciple Bible Study - Digital Disciple 1 will be offered on Mondays at 7 pm via Zoom beginning on September 15.

Digital Disciple 3 will be offered in person on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in room 207 beginning September 17. If you would like to be part of one of these studies please sign up online or in the Gathering Area.

Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 9:30-11 am in the chapel. The first study (6 weeks) will be "The Bible With or Without Jesus by Amy Jill Levine. Contact Sue Oliver (eaglesbrad@aol.com) for more information.

Items Needed - United Women in Faith are collecting items for this year's Fall Bazaar on October 11. Donations of new or gently used items suitable for re-gifting, jewelry, purses, scarves, and craft items will be accepted until September 21st. Contact Barb Crary (barbcrary@gmail.com) for more information.

Coming next year! UMCWC 10 Day Pilgrimage in Greece – April 13-22, 2026 – "Paul's World and Mission Pilgrimage" Information packets with registration forms are on the round table in the Gathering Area or go to

<https://sbsbibletoours.org/product/departing-13-april-2026-pauls-world-and-mission/>

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).