

September 14, 2025

A PLACE TO BELONG



UMC of West Chester



WELCOME

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
Holden/Prentiss

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, beloved of God, we are gathered to
be the body of Christ.

**Many members, yet one body;
each of us belongs here.**

In Christ, we are rooted, we are held,
we are loved.

**Together we find belonging, together we
find hope. Let us worship the God who calls
us into community and makes us one.**

**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

Christians, We Have Met to Worship
Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

OPENING HYMN NO. 545
The Church's One Foundation

SCRIPTURES Romans 12:4-5, Psalm 133

MESSAGE *A Place to Belong*

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious and welcoming God, You created
us for community and call us to belong to one
another in Christ. As we gather for worship,
open our hearts to your Spirit.
Where there is loneliness, bring friendship.
Where there is division, bring unity.
Where there is doubt, bring assurance.
May this be a place where all find belonging,
and may our lives reflect your love that knows
no boundaries.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN TFWs NO. 2193
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

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.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

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 *O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful*
arr. Bohm

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. 557

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

BENEDICTION

Go now as the beloved community of
Christ. Belonging not only to God,
but to one another.
May you be rooted in Christ,
May you embrace belonging,
May you live in hope,
And may you serve in love—
For this is who we are, and who God calls us
to be. Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Postlude on Duke Street*
Hatton/Radice

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Alix Kownurko
Message for Growing Christians:
Kristi Largoza
Guest Chancel 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, September 14

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)

Monday, September 15

6:30 PM - Lillian Circle (Chapel)
7:00 PM - El Buen Men/Women's Group (Rm 7)
7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)
7:30 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday, September 16

10:00 AM - Mary Jean Circle (Chapel)
1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)

Wednesday, September 17

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner
6:30 PM - Prayer Journey
6:30 PM - Digital Disciple III (Rm 207)
7:30 PM - Carillon Choir Rm 12)
8:00 PM - El Buen Bible Study (Rm 10)

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).

Education and Growth Opportunities

Children's Sunday School (Rm 6-7)

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

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) Rehearsal - Sundays at 8:15 am through September

Junior Choir (3rd-5th grade) Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (Resumes in October)

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, 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

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.

Act in Faith Amazon Wish List - Items purchased on this site will automatically be shipped to ACT in Faith. To see and purchase the needed items go to https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CN8BFI6LR8GO?ref_=abls_nvfly_yl New items will be added as needed.

South District United Women in Faith Day Apart -

Wednesday, Sept. 17 at camp Innabah. Information is on the round table 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nametags are here! If you signed up for one, you can pick yours up in the Gathering Area. Please return it to the board following the worship service. If you usually enter through the doors at the back of the sanctuary, please return yours to the board in the narthex so that it will be there when you come next week. If you didn't receive one you can still sign up. Sign the form in the Gathering Area or 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.

Rise Against Hunger - Please support the following fundraisers and help us reach our goal of \$14,000 needed to pack 35,000 meals on January 19:

The "Eagles Bucket" will be in the church each Sunday during the fall. This is another easy way to support our Rise Against Hunger event. Drop in your loose change, or dollars. Nothing is too small or too big. Every amount donated brings us closer to our goal.

Hoagie Sale - Order forms are in the Gathering Area beside the Eagle's bucket. Order a 6" hoagie (Italian, turkey, or cheese) for \$8.50. You can place your filled order form in the "Eagles bucket" or drop off at the church office. Orders will be taken until Oct. 1. **Pick-up date is Sunday, October 5.** Thank you for your support and generosity.

New Mission Statement - We are updating our church mission statement and you can vote for the one that you think best represents our congregation. Use the QR code or fill out a paper ballot in the Gathering Area.



Wednesday Night Out resumes this Wednesday, Sept. 17. Join us for dinner at 5:45. Cost is \$10/adults, \$5/children. Following dinner we will have a night of fun and fellowship and BINGO for all ages. There might even be prizes. Hope to see you there.

Digital Disciple 1 Bible Study will be offered on Mondays at 7 pm via Zoom beginning on September 22. There is still room in the class. Sign up in the Gathering Area or on the church website.

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.