

September 27, 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 *Fanfare (from Water Music)* Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come before God as saints and sinners—
faithful in some moments and falling short in others.

Still, the grace of God meets us here.

Christ Jesus came into the world not to condemn us,
but to offer mercy and make us new.

**We are more than our worst mistakes,
and none of us has moved beyond the need for
grace.**

So let us worship the God who knows us completely,
loves us deeply, and calls each of us into service.

**To the eternal God be honor and glory forever.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 121

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

OPENING PRAYER

**God, we are all your works in progress. As we
worship you today, help us to put behind us any
worries we might have about our worthiness,
any of the ways we remain in our resentments,
any power we find in our prejudices. May we
release this time and our whole lives to your
grace at work in us. 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.**

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace* trad.
Chancel Choir
Emily Garbenis, flute

SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 1:12-17

MESSAGE *Saint and Sinner*

BAPTISM

Paxton Thorne Czajkowski

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 Paxton 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 Paxton 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

**"Paxton, Paxton" 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.**

**"Paxton, Paxton," 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.**

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

PRAYER HYMN NO. 365 *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

TIME OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 *Jacob's Ladder*
arr. Ritter

OFFERTORY 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 (W&S) NO. 3104

Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see**

**Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear;
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed**

Refrain:

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Refrain

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below,
will be forever mine.**

Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

BENEDICTION

Go now as saints who still need grace and sinners who are deeply loved. Receive the mercy of Christ, extend that mercy to others, and trust that God can use your whole story as a witness to patience, forgiveness, and hope. Go in peace, renewed by grace and called to serve. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Sing Aloud to God, Our Strength*
Hughes

♦Please stand as you are able.

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Today we welcome into our church family through baptism, Paxton Thorne Czajkowski, son of Morgan Gilligan and Justin Czajkowski; brother of Colton; grandson of Tamara and Ben Carter and Ann and Victor Czajkowski; and great grandson of Carolyn LeFevre.

Worship Participants

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

Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm4-5, lower level)

Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm, lower level)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12, lower level)

Seekers (Rm 7, lower level)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

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

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

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*

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Wednesday Night Out is back! Join us in the Fiesta
Center at 5:45 pm for a delicious dinner and wonderful
fellowship. Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/children. We need
volunteers to help with table set up, clean up, help with
food prep for Chef Tony, and dishwashers. Use the link in
the weekly email to sign up to help or contact Beth
Buglio (bbuglioumcwc@gmail.com).

BIBLE 101: NAVIGATING THE BIBLE (Via Zoom)-6 Week
Study: Mondays from 7-8PM, Oct. 5 - Nov 2. Have you
ever opened the Bible and wondered where to begin—
or how all its different books fit together? Bible 101 is a
six-week introduction designed for anyone who wants to
feel more comfortable navigating and understanding
Scripture. Together, we will explore the Bible's organization,
its unfolding story, its different kinds of writing, and faithful
ways to interpret it. No previous Bible study experience is
necessary. Bring your questions—and bring a Bible if you
have one. Contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org)
if you are interested in joining the study.

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. Contact Kelly@umcwc.org if you are
interested and would like to have more information!

**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.

Rise Against Hunger Fundraisers—Please help us raise the
money needed for our 2027 meal packing event in January by
supporting these fundraisers:

Eagles Bucket is back! The bucket will be in the Gathering
Area each Sunday for you to drop your coins (and
dollars) in. Every penny helps.

Hoagie Sale - Sunday, October 18th. Italian, turkey, or
cheese. \$9.00 each. Order forms are available in the
Gathering Area.

Musical Gala - Saturday November 7 at 7 pm, Hors
d'oeuvres served in the gathering area before the
concert beginning at 6:00 pm. Join us for an evening
of sacred and secular music offered by local professional
musicians, exploring our theme of hunger - spiritual,
emotional, and physical. Come to hear about the
organization "Rise Against Hunger" and learn how you
can help! Suggested donation: \$25.

**UWF Fall Bazaar and bake sale—October 24 from
9 am-3 pm** crafts, gifts, jewelry, seasonal items, baked
goods, cheese, and more. All proceeds go to support
United Women in Faith outreach projects.

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. The walk
will take place on Saturday, October 3 at Boot Road
Park beginning at 2:00 pm. Please consider walking or
making a donation. Go to namiwalks.org/chescopa to
register or to donate. More info is in the Gathering Area.