

August 2, 2026



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Immortal, Invisible* arr. Peterson

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come carrying many things—sorrow and memory, hope and longing.

We bring all of who we are.

There are seasons when joy feels distant—
and days when grief lingers close.

And still, God speaks: “I will turn their mourning into dancing.”

We hold to that promise.

God gathers the scattered, heals the broken, and restores what has been lost.

God is at work among us.

Not rushing us, not dismissing our pain—

but walking with us toward healing.

Come, let us worship the God who meets us in our sorrow and leads us into joy.

With open hearts, we come.

OPENING HYMN NO. 140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always trust your promises. We hold tightly to our grief and struggle to believe in your restoring work. We turn inward, forgetting that you are still at work among us. Forgive us, we pray. Turn us again toward your hope and help us to trust that you are leading us toward joy. *Silent Prayer*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God does not leave us in our sorrow, but meets us there with grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glorify 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 Psalm 137

ANTHEM *Sanctuary of Grace* Joseph Martin
Summer Choir

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:10-13

MESSAGE *From Mourning to Dancing*

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 *Voluntary VI, Op. 14* Elgar

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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed life into us. You have walked with your people through every season—in joy and in sorrow, in wandering and in return. When your people were scattered, you gathered them. When they wept, you heard their cries. When hope seemed lost, you spoke a promise: “I will turn their mourning into joy.”

And still, we have struggled to trust. We have doubted your goodness, and held onto what weighs us down. Yet you have remained faithful. In Jesus Christ, you came to dwell among us—to share in our suffering, to bear our grief, and to reveal your restoring love. He welcomed the broken, comforted the grieving, and brought hope where there was despair. 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. In him, we see your promise fulfilled—that sorrow does not have the final word. Through his life, he walked alongside those who mourned. Through his death, he entered into the depth of human suffering. Through his resurrection, he opened the way to new life and joy. 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 cup. 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, heal what is broken among us, comfort what is grieving within us, and restore us as your people. Turn our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy, and our lives into a witness of your renewing grace. 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 NOS. 474, 624, 614

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING SONG

Graves into Gardens Elevation Worship
**I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Our empty praise and treasures that fade
are never enough.
Then You came along
and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied
here in Your love.**

Chorus:

**Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing; nothing is better than You.**

**I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws, Lord,
You've seen 'em all and You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain
is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace
won't find me again.**

Chorus

**You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into garden.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.**

Chorus

BENEDICTION

Go now, carrying both the truth of your sorrow and the promise of God's joy. For God does not rush your healing, nor turn away from your pain—but walks with you, gently and faithfully, toward restoration. And in time—in ways you may not yet see—mourning will give way to dancing, and sorrow will be met with joy. Until then, go with hope. Go with trust. Go with the quiet assurance that God is not finished with you yet. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Susan Corum
Message for Growing Christians:
Rev Cyndi Stouffer
Summer 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).



The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs,
beverages, and paper products. Please bring a
side dish or dessert according to your last name
(A-K: side dish, L-Z: Dessert)

Sign up at umcwc.org or in the Gathering Area.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Young Adults Beach Day (for 20/30 somethings) -

Saturday, August 8th @ 12noon at Marsh Creek State Park.
Bring a packed lunch. Games, fellowship, and fun! ...your
kids are welcome.

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!

Back Porch Book Club - August 11 Read the book "The
Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali and then come
to the Women's Back Porch Club at the home of Sarah
Cass on August 11 for discussion. Bring a dessert and a
lawn chair. Please contact Sarah (610-436-7409 or email
at cassarah2@verizon.net) if you are planning to attend.

Summer Choir - No experience necessary. The choir will
practice at 9:00 am each Sunday before the worship service. If
you like to sing, join us.

**Salvation Army Dinner Teams and Sunday Night Safe
Harbor Meal Teams** are forming for September 2026 -
August 2027. We serve the first and fifth Saturdays of each
month at Salvation Army and the first Sunday at Safe
Harbor. Salvation Army teams require a commitment of
four meals per year and Safe Harbor three times a year.
Sign up at the round table in the Gathering Area. Contact
Karen Herr at jwherr@verizon.net if you have questions.

Oct 24 - UWF Church Bazaar and bake sale - We are
looking for crafters to donate their creations for us to sell.
We are also looking for gently used or new household
items for our gift shop and "free" flea market; fashion
accessories (jewelry, purses, scarves); children's toys;
sporting goods; and games. No clothing, furniture,
electronics or books are wanted! Please contact Sue
Oliver, 610-745-3324 with any questions.

Men's Retreat-Save the date! October 2-3 at Gretna Glen.
Fun, fellowship, faith, and even a ropes course (if you
dare). Contact Ed Olsavicky (484-883-3025) for more
information.

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).

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