

ORDER OF WORSHIP

\* Indicates, please stand if able.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost                      August 13, 2023, 9 am  
Liturgist: Howard Gomer

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 105)

L: Beloved disciples, welcome. As we gather, what are you seeking?

**P: We seek God’s presence all around us.**

L: Beloved disciples, if God’s presence is all around us, what are you seeking?

**P: We seek to recognize God’s presence among us.**

L: Beloved disciples, if God is among you, what are you seeking?

**P: We seek God in the faces of family, friends, and neighbors.**

L: Beloved disciples, if God is in the face of your neighbor, what are you seeking?

**P: We seek God in the search and the work for peace and wholeness for all God’s creation.**

L: As we gather today, may we meet God in our seeking and in our finding. AMEN

\*OPENING PRAYER (Genesis 37, Psalm 105, Romans 10:15 NRSV, Matthew 14)

**Eternal God, in visions and dreams, you offer us hope for a new tomorrow. Amidst life’s storms and raging waters, be with us in our time of need. Reveal to us the great works we are capable of, that we may rise above our narrow purposes, and be of service to the world. Bless our journeys, that it may be said of us: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” - B. J. Beu**

\*OPENING HYMN                      *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*                      UMH #133

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, please forgive our weakness and our lack of trust in you. We are like the disciples who, in the midst of fears and storms, could only tremble and wonder about the threatening events. Even when Jesus called to the disciples, they shook with fear. But Jesus offered words of encouragement. Impulsive Peter asked Jesus to call to him and bid him come out of the boat. Jesus complied and Peter stepped over the edge onto the waves — but fear claimed him again and he began to sink. Many of us can identify with that moment when we let go of our faith and clutch onto our fears. Help us to place our trust totally in you and your call to us. You will guide and lift us to safety — that is the promise you have given to us and we believe it. When our faith slips, scoop us up and bring us peace. Be patient with us, for we are flawed and yet loved by you. Give us strong hearts and willing spirits to be your disciples. AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Keep your focus on Jesus. He is your Savior and your Guide. He will never fail you. Rejoice, dear friends, you are called precious by our Lord. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER                      Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Spirit of God works through us, speaking hope through our words. The mercy of Christ works within us, healing neighbors through our actions in Christ’s name. Now let us freely give of our time, treasure, and talent for the work of God’s church in the world.

SPECIAL MUSIC                      Cello: Katrina McGillivray

\*DOXOLOGY                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      UMH #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER                      Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE                      Revelation 2:18-29

<sup>18</sup> “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:  
These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.  
<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.  
<sup>24</sup> Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, <sup>25</sup> except to hold on to what you have until I come.’  
<sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations —<sup>27</sup> that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’ just as I have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> I will also give that one the morning star. <sup>29</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      *The Lone Wild Bird*                      TFWS #2052

SERMON	What Jesus says to a Tolerant Church	Rev. Shon
*CLOSING HYMN	<i>Be Still, My Soul</i>	UMH #534
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Shon
POSTLUDE		Matt Schluntz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation, and the World.

**BRF SUMMERFEST PICNIC:** Today after services from 10:30 am-1:00 pm at the church.

**YOUTH GROUP:** Fishing Night, Friday, Aug. 18, 5pm-8pm at Brockway Cranberry Company. Contact Suzie Goldsmith for more information.

**GOLF OUTING:** Sunday, Aug. 20, 1 pm at Skyline, dinner will be served at church at 6 pm.

**BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE:** Donate NEW, unopened packages of underwear, socks and gym shoes for Students attending BRF Schools. Donation box is located in the Gathering Hall, final collection will be Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**MENS GROUP:** will need volunteers to help with tree removal in the East Parking on September 23. Please contact Paul Hoffman or the church office for more information.

**HOLY LAND TRIP:** January 11-20, 2024, 10-Day Gold Select Journey in Israel, Palestine with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung & Rev. Scott Carlson, see Pastor for more information.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift-giving or personal use, consider Scrip cards. Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**NEWSLETTER:** Deadline is Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

**USHER/GREETERS:** Jim and Carol Hornby

**FELLOWSHIP: Church Picnic at 10:30am**

<u>MEETINGS</u>			
Sun., Aug. 20	Mission Outreach	10:30 am	
Mon., Aug. 21	Finance Comm.	5:30 pm	

**Bible Verse of the Week:** Psalm 119:160

*“All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.”*

**Bible Trivia this Week:**

Complete the following: `Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, than...`

A. To remain silent	B. 10000 words in an unknown tongue
C. To become a castaway	D. Speak one word out of hatred

*See: 1 Corinthians 14:19*

# Black River Falls United Methodist Church



**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

PASTOR	Rev. Inwha Shon
PIANIST	Matthew Schluntz
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Amanda Lang

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