**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Daniel Brauner

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Matthew 15)

L: Every sense is bombarded daily with the sound of hurtful words and the touch of polluted air and water.

**P: God’s Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.**

L: Every sense is bombarded daily, with the taste of food that does not satisfy and the whiff of corruption.

**P: God’s Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.**

L: Every sense is bombarded daily with sights that disturb and distract.

**P: God’s Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.**

L: Let us praise our maker while we have breath.

\*OPENING PRAYER (Genesis 45, Psalm 133, Romans 11, Matthew 15)

**Eternal God, part the veil that blinds us to our unity. When our families hurt and betray us, help us find ways to let go of our pain and work for the healing of all people. When we feel abandoned by those we love, help us trust in the power of forgiveness and seek to bring peace and reconciliation. When our hearts are pierced with anguish, help us reach out to those who can bring us solace and find in the search, grace upon grace, through your loving Spirit. Amen.** - B. J. Beu

**\***OPENING HYMN***Deep in Shadows of the Past*** TFWS#2246

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Genesis 45, Matthew 15)

**God of grace, you invite us to draw near and embrace the circle of your love. We come in anguish at our broken relationships—our alienation from one another, our resistance to reconciliation, our readiness to be the blind following the blind, and our readiness to give up when persistence is called for. Gather us in, and make a place to heal our anguish, ease our alienation, and end our resistance. Ready us for reconciliation, forbearance, and persistence. Turn our gaze to the one who calls our name.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Genesis 45, Matthew 15)

In coming forth, we take a single step, and God faithfully bridges the gap. You are loved and your spirit is healed in the embrace of a God of love and healing.

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 (Matthew 15)

As we learn to live generously, what we take in ceases to poison us and what goes out heals the world. As we learn to live generously, we restore human dignity to the center of our faith.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Amanda Lang and Matt Schluntz

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE Revelation 3:1-6

**“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spiritsof God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. 3Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.**

**4Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. 6Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***It is Well with My Soul*** UMH # 377

SERMON **What Jesus Says to a Dying Church** Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN  ***We are God’s People*** TFWS #2220

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE Matt Schluntz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation,

and the World.

**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 on Sunday, August 27th.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**: Need volunteers to help with tree removal in the East Parking

lot on September 23. Please contact Paul Hoffman or the church office.

**HOLY LAND TRIP:** January 11-20, 2024,10-Day Gold Select Journey in Israel, Palestine

with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung & Rev. Scott Carlson, see the 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:** Monday, August 21st

**USHER/GREETERS**: Paula and Alan Voskuil

**FELLOWSHIP:** Katrina McGillivray

**MEETINGS**

Sun., Aug. 20 Mission Outreach 10:30 am

Mon., Aug. 21 UWF 5:30 pm

Mon., Aug. 28 SPRC 5:30 pm

**Bible Verse of the Week:** 2 Corinthians 7:1

*“Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”*

**Bible Trivia this Week:**

*In the Psalms it states that one day in the courts of the Lord is better*

*than how many days somewhere else?*

*A. many B. 1000*

*C. 100 D. 77,000 See: Psalm 84:10*

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**

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**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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