

## **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday, September 28, 2025**

**Special Musical Guest: Lauren Hill**

### **Opening Words 1 Timothy 6: 6-19**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **Final Charge to Timothy**

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

### **\*Hymn "The Well"**

### **Casting Crowns**

Leave it all behind,  
Leave it all behind,  
Leave it all behind,  
Leave it all behind,

I have what you need,  
But you keep on searchin,

I've done all the work,  
But you keep on workin,  
When you're runnin on empty,  
And you can't find the remedy,  
Just come to the well.

You can spend your whole life,  
Chasin what's missing,  
But that empty inside,  
It just ain't gonna listen.  
When nothing can satisfy,  
And the world leaves you high and dry,  
Just come to the well

And all who thirst will thirst no more,  
And all who search will find what their souls long for,  
The world will try, but it can never fill,  
So leave it all behind, and come to the well

So bring me your heart  
No matter how broken,  
Just come as you are,  
When your last prayer is spoken,  
Just rest in my arms a while,  
You'll feel the change my child,  
When you come to the well

And all who thirst will thirst no more,  
And all who search will find what their souls long for,  
The world will try, but it can never fill,  
So leave it all behind, and come to the well

Yeah  
Leave it all behind

The world will try, but it can never fill...  
leave it all behind

And now that you're full,  
Of love beyond measure,  
Your joy's gonna flow,  
Like a stream in the desert,  
Soon all the world will see that living water is found in me,  
Cuz you came to the well

And all who thirst will thirst no more,  
And all who search will find what their souls long for,

The world will try, but it can never fill,  
So leave it all behind, and come to the well

Leave it all behind  
Leave it all behind  
Leave it all behind  
leave it all behind  
and come to the well

**Welcome**

**Pastor Scott Clawson**

**Call to Worship Psalm 114: 1-10**

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

**I will praise the LORD all my life;**

**I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.

**When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

**He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.**

He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets prisoners free,  
the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**The LORD reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD.**

**Hymn "How Sweet It Is" James Taylor**

**How sweet it is to be loved by you**

How sweet it is to be loved by you

**I needed the shelter of someone's arms**

And there you were

I needed someone to understand my ups and downs

And there you were

**With sweet love and devotion**

Deeply touching my emotion

I want to stop and thank you, baby  
I wanna stop and thank you baby, yes I do

### **How sweet it is to be loved by you**

Feels so fine  
How sweet it is to be loved by you

### **I close my eyes at night**

Wondering where would I be without you in my life  
Everything I did was just a bore  
Everywhere I went it seems I'd been there before

### **But you brighten up for me all of my days**

With a love so sweet in so many ways  
I wanna stop and thank you, baby  
I just wanna stop and thank you baby, oh yes

### **How sweet it is to be loved by you**

It's like sugar sometimes  
How sweet it is to be loved by you

### **You were better to me than I was to myself**

For me, there's you and there ain't nobody else  
I wanna stop and thank you, baby  
I just wanna stop and thank you baby, oh now

### **How sweet it is to be loved by you**

How sweet it is to be loved by you  
How sweet it is to be loved by you  
It's like jelly, baby, oh now

### **How sweet it is to be loved by you, oh now**

How sweet it is to be loved by you  
Just like honey to the bee baby, yeah now  
Na, na, na, to be loved by you

### **Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Prayer for the Day**

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children,  
we praise you for all you have given us,  
for all you have done for us,  
for all that you are to us.  
In our weakness, you are strength,  
in our darkness, you are light,  
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.  
We cannot number your blessings,  
we cannot declare your love:  
For all your blessings, we bless you.  
May we live as in your presence,

and love the things that you love,  
and serve you in our daily lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Search us, O God, and know our hearts.  
Test us and know our anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in us that offends You,  
and guide us on the road to life.

*(Time of silence)*

**O Lord, You have examined our hearts  
and know everything about us.  
You know when we sit down or stand up.  
You know our thoughts from afar.  
You see when we walk or lie down,  
You know every detail of our conduct.  
You even know what we are going to say before we say it.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for us,  
too great for us to understand.**

**Cleanse us from hidden faults.  
Keep us from deliberate sins.  
Don't let them control us.  
Then we will be free of guilt,  
and innocent of serious wrongdoing.**

*Listen to the promise of God:  
Those who love Me, I will deliver.*

### **Gospel Lesson**

**Luke 16: 19-31**

#### **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

"No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon      "Two Tickets to Paradise"      Pastor Scott Clawson**

**Church Conference Vote to Proceed with the New Ministry Center**

**\*Hymn "Peace Train"      Cat Stevens**

Now I've been happy lately  
Thinkin' about the good things to come  
And I believe it could be  
Something good has begun

Oh, I've been smilin' lately  
Dreaming about the world as one  
And I believe it could be  
Some day it's going to come

'Cause out on the edge of darkness  
There rides a peace train  
Oh, peace train take this country

Come take me home again

Now I've been smiling lately  
Thinkin' about the good things to come

And I believe it could be  
Something good has begun

Oh, peace train soundin' louder  
Glide on the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on the peace train

Yes, peace train holy roller  
Everyone jump on the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on the peace train

Get your bags together  
Come bring your good friends, too  
Our cause is getting nearer  
It soon will be with you

And come and join the living  
It's not so far from you  
And it's gettin' nearer  
Soon it will all be true

Oh, peace train soundin' louder  
Glide on the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on the peace train, peace train

Now I've been cryin' lately  
Thinkin' about the world as it is  
Why must we go on hating?  
Why can't we live in bliss?

'Cause out on the edge of darkness  
There rides a peace train  
Oh, peace train take this country  
Come take me home again

Oh, peace train soundin' louder  
Glide on the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on the peace train

Yes, peace train holy roller  
Everyone jump on the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on, come on, come on

Yeah, come on peace train  
Hey, yes it's the peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah  
Come on the peace train, oh peace train  
Ooh-ah, ee-ah, ooh-ah

### **Benediction: Pastor Scott Clawson**

Receive again the promises of God:

**"Because you cling to me, I will deliver you;  
I will protect you because you acknowledge my name.  
You shall call upon me, and I will answer you.  
I will be with you in times of trouble;  
I will deliver you and glorify you  
and will show you my salvation."**

Go from here with peace and confidence,  
knowing that God goes with you.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Postlude:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 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

#### **9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS**

Lay Reader: Krista Romagnoli  
Ushers/Greeters: Lafoon Family

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NMUMC by the Numbers: September 21, 2025**

8:15 AM: 16   9:30 AM: 53   11:00 AM: 60   Online: 14  
Children's Sunday School: 27

**Total Offering:** \$8,575.00   *Regular Offering:* \$7,110.00\*  
Building Fund: \$1,265.00   Memorial Fund: \$100.00  
New Ministry Center: \$100.00

*\*Regular Offering Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$5,503.92*



## **Church Meetings**

Monday, September 29: Fellowship Committee Meeting – 4:00 PM –  
Schoolhouse

Tuesday, September 30: Scripture to Life – 10:00 AM – Sanctuary

Wed. October 1: Wed Night Bible Study – 7:00 PM – Contact Patty  
Robinson

Saturday, October 4: Men's Breakfast – 8:00 AM – Schoolhouse

Saturday, October 4: Generosity Meeting – 10:00 AM – Pastor's  
Office

## **Sunday, October 5: World Communion Sunday**

### **Special Church Conference Vote This Sunday, September 28th**

There will be a special Church Conference Vote presided over by our District Superintendent Jim Miller at both services. The votes will be cast by ballot at the end of each service. Everyone is encouraged to vote, but only votes from members will be tallied for approval. A simple majority of members present is required to pass the vote.

The vote will be to approve;

- a) the preliminary architectural plans;
- b) the preliminary cost estimate;
- c) the preliminary financial plan; and
- d) the building committee's recommendation.

The language of the vote is as follows:

I fully support the funding and building of the New Ministry Center, or

I do not support the funding and building of the New Ministry Center.

**Mark Your Calendar! Our first Taco Tuesday Dinner** will be held on Tues. Oct 7, from 6-7 PM. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the sanctuary bulletin board.

**Bakers and Candy Makers:** Please bring your homemade items to the Schoolhouse any time after 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7. All donations should be labeled and pre-packaged as follows: 6 cookies, brownies, or pieces of candy; cake—cut in half; pies—no meringue, custard, or cream cheese.

A free will offering is requested and, along with the bake table donations, will be used to defray the cost of the meal and future fellowship activities

**Many thanks to** Susan Stevens, Patty Robinson, Kim Williams, and Donna Clawson for planning, preparing, and carrying out plans for the inspiring and enjoyable Women's Fall Retreat on Saturday, September 20th. Also, thanks to Lauren Hill for her music and Elaine Nichols and Carole Zimmerman for their desserts. We were blessed with 24 attendees from middle school to age 92. What a wonderful day!

### **Outreach Opportunities:**

**Ronald McDonald House:** We are continuing to collect pop tops for the local Ronald McDonald House. Start saving yours now and bring them to church.

**Centennial UMC-** Some needs are kids toothbrushes children's book and gently used children's clothing) See the website for a full list

**Birthright:** A box to support Birthright is in the back of the Sanctuary. Their biggest needs are: Diapers, (LG (5-6) Shirts (Sizes 3-5) Wipes. See the website for a full list

**Fresh Start Service:** This service will be held at 8:15 am at Fairview Chapel. (6802 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market 21774) The design for this service is for those who want to get an early start on their Sunday and those who are seeking an alternate worship experience. Acoustic guitar, prayer, a short inspirational message, and Communion will be highlighted. The service is designed to last a half hour. OR join us later for an evening service at 6:00 PM

Our speaker this Sunday is **Rev. Ernest Thomas**

### **Daily Devotions Starting 9/29/2025**

#### **Monday (9/29)- Lamentations 1: 1-6**

What do you consider the darkest time in your country's history? How did you try to make sense of what happened?

#### **Tuesday (9/30)- Lamentations 3: 19-26**

What thing do you call to mind in desperate times to find hope?

#### **Wednesday (10/1)- Psalm 37: 1-9**

What makes you fret about the wicked? How do these verses bring you comfort? Or do they?

**Thursday (10/2)- Psalm 137**

Is there a time that you hung up your harp (joy and singing)?  
What events made you pick it up again?

**Friday (10/3)- 2 Timothy 1: 1-14**

What ancestors do you recall who guided you in the faith? Lift  
their names in prayers of thankfulness today.

**Saturday (10/4)- Luke 17: 5-10**

How often do we expect accolades from others when we do a  
good deed? What does this scripture tell us about the work that  
needs to be done?