

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Justice Will Rise* Chancel Choir

*GOSPEL READING: John 15: 12-17 CEB

L: The Living Word of God for the people of God
P: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE: “You Are My Friends” Pastor Cathy Nutting

OUR TIME OF GIVING

*DOXOLOGY Hymnal 95

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*COMMISSION:
Pastor: As we prepare to go from this place with our closing hymn, we remember the mandate, the commandment, that Jesus repeated to his disciples so they would always be restored by the love of friends. Let us say this together:
People: This command I give you: that you love one another.

*CLOSING HYMN: **Together We Serve** FWS 2175

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated for a moment of reflection.)*

*Denotes Standing as you are able.

Serving Next Sunday:

Usher/Greeters: open **Visual Tech:** open
Acolyte: open **Fellowship:** open
Liturgy: open

Talk to Leslie Herman or sign up online at vmumc.com.
(Scroll down to “sign up to be a worship helper” and click on the link.)

Ministers:
All the Church Members
Organist/Choir Director:
Mike Cooper
Pianist:
Heidi Freidhof

Usher/Greeters: open

Communion:
open

Acolyte: open

Liturgist:
Margo Suckow

Visual Tech:
Mindy Doggett

Fellowship: open

Nursery:
Brandy Halsten

Janitorial:
Hoppes Family

Administrative Assistant:
Danene Rebelsky

Kids Care Director:
Jess Jaspers

**Director of Youth and
Children’s Ministries:**
Miss Courtney

Pastor:
Pastor Cathy Nutting
(515) 975-7609 (cell)
cathy.nutting@iaumc.net

District Superintendent:
Lilian Seagren

Bishop:
Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

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Van Meter UMC

*Nurturing children, supporting families,
creating community as we share our faith.*



Sunday October 25, 2026

Adult Discussion Group 9:30 AM

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



Worship 10:45 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

October 25, 2026 - “You Are My Friends” - Love One Another Worship Series

Assistive listening devices are available from ushers.

PRELUDE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Hymnal 526

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INVITATION

*RESPONSE *Let There Be Peace on Earth* - 1st page Hymnal 431

*CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Please remain standing as you are able.)*

Jesus looked at his disciples and saw what they needed in their fear.

They needed each other.

They needed their connections to restore their assurance.

We all need to know that we are not alone.

Friends care. Friends abide. Friends love.

We are called to love each other as friends.

As neighbors,

As neighbors.

Not “others.”

Not “others.”

*MORNING PRAYER:

P. Forgive us when we let our fear sideline us,

taking us out of the action that is love.

Help us to defy the urge to belittle in order to feel safer or better.

**P. Even though it feels like a difficult thing to do,
help us to restore—not tear down, help us to serve—not judge,
help us to reach out—not pull back, help us to risk reciprocal relationship
so that all are less alone and less afraid.**

L. In this moment we ponder those we find difficult to imagine as friends,
that we consider “others”...

(a few moments of pause)

L. and in this moment we imagine them as neighbors who,
like us, have needs and fears and the desire for safety, sustenance, and love.

(a few moments of pause)

**P. Jesus, in your name we pray for ears to hear your command once again—
to love as you loved and to be a friend to all. Amen.**

*RESPONSE *Let There Be Peace on Earth* - 2nd page Hymnal 431

*PASSING THE PEACE:

Leader: Early Christians were often afraid. In the midst of their fear, they met together to
eat and pray and remember that Jesus always wanted more peace for them—for all.

And so, we continue their practice of passing the peace:

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ’s peace)

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN’S TIME *Jesus Loves Me*

BLESSING OF INGATHERING KITS

CONSECRATION SUNDAY MOMENT Lindsay Dea

HYMN OF PREPARATION *More Like You* FWS 2167

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER:
(on screen)

*Indicates stand, as you are able. **Bold** indicates all join in. FWS indicates *The Faith We Sing* book.