

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, you have created us in love and entrusted each of us with gifts to share. Yet sometimes we doubt that what we have to offer matters. Sometimes we compare our gifts to those of others. Sometimes we hold back because we are afraid, or too busy, or we fail to notice where love is needed. And sometimes we serve without joy, going through the motions or forgetting that our service is part of your work in the world. Forgive us, Lord. Help us see ourselves and one another as you see us: beloved, gifted, and called. Open our hearts to receive your grace, and open our hands to share that grace freely with others. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Pastor: Though we wander, God searches us out. God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer. Receive this good news: God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love and joyfully serve God and neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*CLOSING SONG:

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me TFWs 2153

*BLESSING:

Pastor: Love God and serve the people.

People: Love the people and serve God.

*BENEDICTION

Serving Next Sunday:

Usher/Greeters:

Christy Jungman

Acolyte: open

Liturgy: open

Visual Tech: open

Fellowship: 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

Acolyte: open

Liturgist:

Mary Ferring

Visual Tech:

Mindy Doggett

Fellowship:

Leslie Herman

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

VAN METER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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Van Meter UMC

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



Adult Discussion Group 9:30 AM

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



Worship 10:45 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 27, 2026  Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Assistive listening devices are available from ushers.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:

Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service Hymnal 581

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with signs of peace and love.

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

Family of God, we gather to worship the One who created us in love,
each uniquely made and uniquely gifted.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

God has given each of us gifts of grace, not for ourselves alone,
but to share with one another.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

God calls us to offer who we are and what we have in loving service
to our neighbors and our world.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

Family of God, we are beloved, we are gifted, and we are called.

Let us worship the God who invites us to love boldly and serve joyfully!

We come with grateful hearts to worship and serve the Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN’S TIME

MORNING PRAYER:

**Gracious and loving God, you created each of us in your image, and
filled our lives with gifts of your grace.**

**You have given us hands to help, hearts to love, voices to encourage,
and lives to offer in service to one another. Help us recognize the gifts
you have placed within us, and inspire us to offer them freely and joyfully.
May our service become an expression of our gratitude, our love become
action, and our lives become part of your work of healing and hope in
the world. Through Christ, who showed us how to love and serve, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN of PREPARATION *Trust and Obey, v. 1,3 & 4* Hymnal 467

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER
(on screen)

OUR TIME OF GIVING

*DOXOLOGY Hymnal 95

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**Lord of all creation, you call us to serve with glad hearts, to offer what
we have with joy, and to love one another deeply. Receive these gifts as acts
of praise. Use them to build up the body, to speak your truth with grace,
and to serve others with strength not our own. Let us give not out of duty
but as joyful stewards of your manifold grace, that in all things,
through Christ, you may be glorified. In the name of the one who serves
with us, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2:1-5 NRSVUE

*GOSPEL READING: John 13:1-17 NRSVUE

L: The Living Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE: “Serve Joyfully” Pastor Heidi Myers

SPECIAL MUSIC *Listen to God’s gift of Music* Chancel Choir

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