

First United Methodist Church

224 Broad Street PO Box 178
Mason, Texas 76856
(325) 347-5105
www.fumcmason.org

August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING/WELCOME

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Melany Canfield

In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

God shows us through the midwives' daring, Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.

In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God exercise power?

God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.



***SONG OF PRAISE: “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether ”**

UMH#632

1. Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment’s hem.	2. As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup: Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.
3. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.	

Acolytes bring in the light of Christ acknowledging the Presence of God.

A YEAR WITH GOD: *We color Ordinary Time green as we look for the extraordinary in the ordinariness of our life.*

CENTERING PRAYER SONG: “Jesus Name Above All Names”

FWS#2071

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.	Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.
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CONFESSION: *While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like Peter. But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of our need for your saving presence in our lives.*

God of the lost, we look for you in all the wrong places and wonder why we cannot find you.

We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.

We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen’s back door. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

All pray in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS: *It’s not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ’s gift, which transforms us into God’s children.*

It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Melany Canfield

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1: 8-2:10

Melany Canfield

⁸Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” ¹¹So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” ¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” ²⁰So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. ⁷Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” ⁸“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

SONG OF PREPARATION: “Rock of Ages Cleft for Me” v. 1,2**UMH #361**

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water, and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath, and make me pure.	2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.	4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16: 13-20**Pastor Laura**

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.****SERMON:** Doing What You have the Power to Do**Pastor Laura****OFFERING OUR GIFTS****OFFERTORY:*****SONG OF THANKS:** Doxology**UMH #95*****SONG OF COMMITMENT:** “Take My Life and Let it Be”**UMH #399**

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.	2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.	

SENDING FORTH – BLESSING

This service is live-streamed on
[Youtube.com/@fumcmason](https://www.youtube.com/@fumcmason)

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MH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing; W&S=Worship and Song

Asterisk (*) indicates to stand, as you are able.

Assisting in Worship

Lay Reader: Melany Canfield

Ushers: Winfred and Carmen Bauer

Organist/Pianist: Chris Farmer

Music Leader: Leslie Whitworth

Acolytes: *James Pierce*, *Marin Whitworth*



Prayer Guide for the Week

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Together , Let us pray for

The people of this congregation...

Those who suffer and those in trouble...

Resisting injustice, oppression, and evil...

The concerns of this local community...

The world, its people, and its leaders...

The church universal – leaders, members, and its mission...

The communion of saints...

For the grieving families of: *Gwen Kothmann Gilbert, Harold Hoerster, George Eastes, Doris Hearn, (Joyce Raska's Cousin) Taylor Garcia, Shaylee Everett.*

For individuals requesting prayers: *Barbara Young, CJ's niece Kathy (has stage 4 lung cancer), Troy Klaerner (Leslie's Brother) Susan Coe, Shirley Beth Lyles, Marty Evans (son of Dennis & Kay Evans) Rick & Bonnie Woerner (Father & Stepmother of Tiffany K.) Katherine Graham (friend of Nikki Watson diagnosed w/ cancer), LeiLei Vermulen (chemo treatments), for our students*

For our military, law enforcement, and first responders.

U.S. Army: *Kalyn Bauer*

The chapel is always open for prayer. Come by during the week and experience the current prayer station, use the prayer guide, or just sit in silence.

**MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC
STAFF—LISTED BELOW**

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker	pastorlaura@fumcmason.org
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Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.	lfrommason@yahoo.com

Giving and Attendance

LAST WEEK'S GIVING (AUG 16, 2026)	\$ 1,735.48
AUG. MTD GIVING.....	\$18,153.77
AUG MTD EXPENSE.....	\$19,313.97
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (AUG 16, 2026)	46



***Mason Ministerial Alliance
Fifth Sunday Gathering
“Chill Out in the Park”
Sunday, August 30th – 6-8PM
Fort Mason City Park - Under the Pavilion***



***Mark your calendar!!!
First Wednesday Fellowship
Sept. 2 @ 5:00 PM
To sign up for food please see Deandra, or
sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall.***

This week's Calendar

Sunday, August 23

Birthday: Tanya Lamoreaux

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

12:00 Noon First Connections

04:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

Monday, August 24

Birthday: Pam Draper

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Tuesday, August 25

Birthday: Robert Rayburn

02:40 PM Steady Steps Chapel

04:00 PM After school Chapel

Wednesday, August 26

Birthday: Raegan Palacio

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Thursday, August 27

Friday, August 28

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

06:00 PM- Fifth Sunday at the park