

First United Methodist Church

224 Broad Street PO Box 178

Mason, Texas 76856

(325) 347-5105

www.fumcmason.org

September 20, 2026

***17th, Sunday after
Pentecost***



GATHERING/WELCOME

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marin Whitworth

In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

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

***SONG OF PRAISE:** “O God of Every Nation” v. 1,2,3

UMH#435

1. O God of every nation, of every race and land, redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.	2. From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
3. Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard; with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.	

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: “My Life is in You, Lord”

FWS#2032

My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. I will praise you with all of my life, I will praise you with all of my strength;	with all of my life, with all of my strength. All of my hope is in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you, in you.
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CONFESSION: *We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart.*

But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always.

Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray, saying,

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory.

We say we will live to serve others,

but end up meeting only our needs.

We claim to live in a way that honors Christ,

but we do not take him to work, school, home.

We believe that the gospel can transform lives,

(at least, for those who need it - not us).

Forgive us, Presence of Peace.

Instead of grumblers,

may we be ambassadors of grace.

Instead of continual complaining,

may we carry compassion to the hurting.

Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

All pray in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS: *This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life.*

God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven, we have been made new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marin Whitworth

Let the wisdom of your Word rain down on us like manna and feed us, that we may be strengthened to do the work to which we are called, for the glory and honor of your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1: 21-30

Marin Whitworth

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SONG OF PREPARATION:

FWS #2197

“Lord of All Hopefulness” v. 1,4

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy: Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.	4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.
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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20: 1-16

Pastor Laura

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ ⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: Striving Side by Side

Pastor Laura

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Morning Has Broken”

UMH #145

***SONG OF THANKS:** Doxology

UMH #95

1. Be not dismayed, whate’er betide, God will take care of you; beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you. Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.	3. All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you; nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.
4. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you; lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.	

SENDING FORTH – BLESSING

**This service is live-streamed on
Youtube.com/@fumcmason**

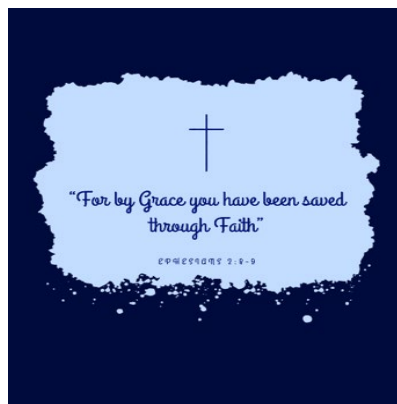
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MH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing; W&S=Worship and Song

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

Assisting in Worship

Lay Reader: Marin Whitworth
Ushers: Winfred and Carmen Bauer
Organist/Pianist: Chris Farmer
Music Leader: Leslie Whitworth
Acolytes: Coogan Williams, Wyatt Holcombe



*If you would like to order a Navy FUMC
T-Shirt, please see Deandra by Tuesday!
Price: (\$20)*



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: Paul Heidelberg, brother of Jim Heidelberg, Harold Hoerster, George Eastes.

For individuals requesting prayers: Wes Creech (Steady Steps Parent) Rene Schulze has been improving, please continue to pray for Barbara Young, Troy Klaerner (Leslie's Brother)

For our military, law enforcement, and first responders.

U.S. Army: Kalyn Bauer – ***Marines:*** Zane Chalk (Joyce Raska's grandson)

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.



Please see sign-up sheets in the Social Hall

Sept. 28- FUMC serve at Food Pantry 4pm

Sept.28 to Oct 1st - Bexa Breast Exam, FUMC is hosting this event.

Oct. 7- 1st Wed. Bring donations to make Wesley Nurse bags

Oct. 31st- 5-6:30pm- Trunk or Treat in FUMC west parking lot

WEAR YOUR NAVY FUMC T-SHIRT FOR ALL EVENTS IF YOU CAN

MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC
STAFF—LISTED BELOW

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker	pastorlaura@fumcmason.org
Heilyn Gutierrez, Office Manager	officemgr@fumcmason.org
Deandra Palacio Family Ministries	familyministries@fumcmason.org
Terri Reardon, RN Wesley Nurse	Treardon@mh.m.org
Rhett Vacek, A/V Tech	rhettvacek@gmail.com
Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.	steadysteps@fumcmason.org
Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.	lfrommason@yahoo.com

Giving and Attendance

LAST WEEK'S GIVING (SEPT 13, 2026)	\$2,420.57
SEPT. MTD GIVING.....	\$18,018.86
SEPT. MTD EXPENSE.....	\$13,241.37
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (SEPT 13, 2026)	59



Sept. 29- Steady Steps meal prep classes in the Social Hall – monetary and volunteer help needed. If you write a check, please write in the memo “Meal Prep”

This week's Calendar

Sunday, September 20

Birthday: Landyn Smith

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

Monday, September 21

09:30 AM *Prayer Shawl*

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Tuesday, September 22

12:00 Noon Girl Squad

02:40 PM Steady Steps Chapel

04:00 PM After school Chapel

Wednesday, September 23

District Professional Meeting

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

06:00 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 24

Friday, September 25

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

UMARMY National Board Retreat (Deandra)

Saturday, September 26

Birthday: Freddy Sapien

UMARMY National Board Retreat (Deandra)

Sunday, September 27

Birthday: Jerry Dutton

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts