

First United Methodist Church

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October 04, 2026

***19th, Sunday after
Pentecost***

GATHERING/WELCOME



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gerry Gamel

We live in a world that entices us with influence, power, and accolades.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call.

Sometimes we find ourselves wishing for heaven without working to bring heaven to earth.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to live righteously here and now.

Other times, we find ourselves exhausted by working for the gospel, wondering if anything we do is making a difference.

We remind one another to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call, leaning on Christ as the source of our perseverance and hope.

Beloved, God calls us not to escape this world but to build the kingdom of God in this place and in this time.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to embody God's mercy and justice as we build God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

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

SONG OF PRAISE: "I come with Joy" v. 1,2,4,5*UMH#617**

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.	2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.	5. Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

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: "Gentle Shepherd"**W&S#3096**

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, for we need you to help us find our way. Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us, for we need your strength from day to day.	There's no other we can turn to who can help us face another day; gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, for we need you to help us find our way.
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CONFESSION: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader to people: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people: Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**THE LORD'S PRAYER****YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gerry Gamel

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3: 4b-14

Gerry Gamel

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF PREPARATION:

UMH#475

“Come Down, O Love Divine” v. 1,2

1. Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing; O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.	2. O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, while my path illumining.
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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21: 33-46

Pastor Laura

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his

share of the crop at harvest time.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”⁴³ “Therefore, I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them.⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: The Heavenly Call	Pastor Laura
OFFERING OUR GIFTS	
OFFERTORY: “Sing a New Song to the Lord”	FWS #2045
*SONG OF THANKS: Doxology	UMH #95
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING	UMH, p. 13
SERVING OF THE ELEMENTS	W&S#3169
“You Feed Us Gentle Savior’	

*SONG OF COMMITMENT: “The Church’s One Foundation” v. 1, 3,4	UMH #546
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1. The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord; we are his new creation by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be his living servant people, by his own death set free.	3. Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?” But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war, we wait the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.	

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.



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: Patsy Kothmann Ziriaux, 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)

For our Veterans and military members and their families who may be struggling with their mental health, that they can get help.

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.

Assisting in Worship

Lay Reader: Gerry Gamel

Ushers: Winfred and Carmen Bauer

Organist/Pianist: Chris Farmer

Music Leader: Leslie Whitworth

Acolytes: Grace Klaerner, Grace Gonzales

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

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker	Laura.becker@masonfumc.org
Heilyn Gutierrez, Office Manager	officemgr@fumcmason.org
Deandra Palacio Family Ministries	familyministries@fumcmason.org
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Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.	steadysteps@fumcmason.org
Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.	lfrommason@yahoo.com

Giving and Attendance

LAST WEEK'S GIVING (SEPT 27, 2026)	\$1,862.48
SEPT. MTD GIVING.....	\$31,255.82
SEPT. MTD EXPENSE.....	\$24,226.95
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (SEPT 27, 2026)	51

This week's Calendar

Sunday, October 4

PRAYER SHAWL SUNDAY

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service - **Communion Sunday**

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

Monday, October 5

Birthday: John Pierce

09:30 AM *Prayer Shawl*

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

05:15 PM Trustees Meeting

05:30 PM Cantata Rehearsal

Tuesday, October 6

10:30 AM Nurture Committee Meeting

02:40 PM Steady Steps Chapel

04:00 PM After school Chapel

Wednesday, October 7

Birthday: Laura Tallent

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

04:00 TO 5:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

05:00 PM First Wednesday Night Fellowship

06:00 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, October 8

Friday, October 9

10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Saturday, October 10

Birthday: Beverly Grimshaw

Johnny Heidelberg

Sunday, October 11

Noisy Bucket Offering Sunday- Rio Tx. Donation for Steady Steps

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts



Please see sign-up sheets in the Social Hall

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

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



First Wednesday Fellowship will be October 7th at 5 PM in the Social Hall.

Bring a salad, sandwich or dessert to share plus donations for the Wesley Nurse Bags.