

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

“7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

July 16th, 2023

Dallas United Methodist Church

Liturgical Color – Green



TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

*“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop.
But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.
For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat.”*

(2 Corinthians 9:6, 10a ... New Living Translation)

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Standing on the Promises

music by R. Kelso Carter; arr. by Joel Raney

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants,

created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil

and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

May we nurture and grow God's new reality,

bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

** For the Beauty of the Earth*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love,

we admit to you that we are like stony fields,

capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,

but also, we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.

Your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others,

your justice has grown on us, but we have inadequately implemented it,

your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste,

your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to set fruit.

Most loving God, please open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel.

Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place,

**and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve
but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us.
Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church)

**We believe in the one God,
creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh,
our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins,
in the life of love and prayer,
and in grace equal to every need.**

**We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.**

**We believe in the church,
those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service.**

**We believe in the reign of God
as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God,
where we are all brothers and sisters.**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness
and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

* *Glory Be to the Father*

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* *O Lord, May Church and Home Combine*

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CHILDREN'S CHAT

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Loving God,

We thank you for the ministry of this church.

We remember the light this church has been in the neighborhood ...

The vacation Bible schools, the mission projects, the meals, activities and other events
that have brought life and liveliness to our community.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have done among us.

We thank you for the gift we have been to one another.

We remember the Sunday school teachers, mentors, and pastors
who shaped us and formed us in Christian love.

We recall the saints who have gone before yet whose care and influence are still so present.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have done among us.

*Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

We thank you for your provision that never runs out.

We attend to your call out of scarcity and into abundance
as well as your assurance that we can depend on you, the God who provides.

We notice that our community has so much need,
and we trust that you will provide the way for us to meet those needs when we follow your voice.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you are doing among us.

We thank you for the gifts you are nurturing among us now.

We notice the Spirit at work among your people, bringing forth gifts of compassion, justice,
cooking, caring for children, really excellent hugs, and kind, encouraging words.

We are learning to celebrate the gifts we have

rather than despair of the gifts we think we ought to have.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you are doing among us.

*O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.*

We thank you for the dreams you give us,
dreams of a new reality where all people can thrive as a community brought together in love.

We welcome your invitation

to imagine how God-given abundance could transform our neighborhood.

Your dream is good and beautiful, even when it feels daunting.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you will do among us.

We thank you for the ways you guide us into new expressions of your love in the world.

We grieve for the ideas and ministries that gave life in the past that we now set aside
to make room for new imaginings to take root.

We rejoice that you continue to journey with us
as we imagine a new reality into being, because nothing is impossible with God.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you will do among us.

*All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER / THREE-FOLD AMEN :

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven ... hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come ... your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins ... as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial ... and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom ... the power ... and the glory are yours ... now and forever. Amen.

GOD'S WORD FOR US:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... the People respond: "Thanks BE to God")

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **"THE EXTRAVAGENCE OF GOD'S LOVE IN SEEDS "**

* OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD ...

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ... # 95

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous and abounding in love, God,

Thank You for showing us what generosity looks like.

We confess that at times it's easy for us to focus on things that don't matter.

But today, we surrender to Your will, trusting in You completely.

Change the way we think, and give us generous hearts.

Make us aware of the resources we have, and how we can use them to serve others.

Help us to live lives that bless others just as You have richly blessed us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* *O Blessed Spring*

2076

* BENEDICTION

* *Hymn of Promise*

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THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday ... Psalm 25:1-21
Tuesday ... Luke 12:35-40
Wednesday ... Micah 7:1-20
Thursday ... Colossians 3:12-17
Friday ... Luke 8:11-15
Saturday ... James 5:7-11
Sunday ... Exodus 3:1-12 ... Psalm 103:1-13
... Romans 8:18-25 ... Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

THANK YOU

*Thank you to all of those who supported the Williams family after their house fire.
Your generous donations and prayers were very much appreciated by the family.
I also want to thank you personally,
as students become a part of our lives as teachers and we think of them as our own.
- Allie Barnes*

***Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?
May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?
Without all doubt, we may.
Herein all the children of God may unite,
notwithstanding these smaller differences."***

- John Wesley

INFORMATION FOR YOU

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ... if you would like to know more about what it means to be a "professing member" of Dallas United Methodist Church, please contact the church office or Pastor Dave. He would be glad to talk with you about this very important step in your faith journey.

PRAYER WITH OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ... Join our DS, Rev. Judy Walker, and other laity and clergy from across our Scranton Wilkes-Barre District Supervisory Area for 30 minutes of intentional prayer on Wednesday mornings starting at 7:45 AM. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89722373231?pwd=YUIBRm1ya1U0OWZ2dlIIVNFJsdXM4UT09>

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS ... are due **THIS Thursday, July 20th**. Please see that yours is turned in to the church office by then. Thank you!

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR ... We have a calendar on the bulletin board in the entranceway for you to mark down birthdays and anniversaries.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED ... The cost to sponsor the weekly ALTAR FLOWERS in "HONOR" of or in "MEMORY" of someone is \$50.00 ... There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the entranceway for you to do so.

WORSHIP BULLETIN SPONSORS NEEDED ... The cost to sponsor the weekly WORSHIP BULLETIN in "HONOR" of or in "MEMORY" of someone is \$10.00 ... There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the entranceway for you to do so.

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED ... Please contact the church office if you would be willing to supply and set up refreshments for our time of fellowship following Worship next Sunday.

MINISTRY & MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

*“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”*

- John Wesley

BACK-MOUNTAIN FOOD BANK ... We have a shopping cart in the Mission Area of the Prayer Room to place your non-perishable food item contributions. This ministry is hosted / located at Trucksville UMC.

COMMUNITY CARE CABINET ... Works in cooperation with the BACK-MOUNTAIN FOOD PANTRY. Personal Care items are needed for this ministry. This ministry is hosted / located at Shavertown UMC. We have a container on the table in the Mission Area of the Prayer Room to place your contributions for this ministry.

RUTH’S PLACE ... Ruth’s Place needs the following items (all sizes) for women ... pajamas ... sweatpants ... T-shirts ... flip flops ... feminine hygiene products. We have a container for your donations on our Mission Table in the Prayer Room.

SHOEMAKER HUB ... collects household items (dishes, glasses, small appliances, etc.). We have a container for your donations on our Mission Table in the Prayer Room. **Please note that the HUB currently has a need for dresser-type furniture and kitchen tables.**

*“I cannot do everything,
but I can do something.
And I will not let what I cannot do
interfere with what I can do.”*

- Edward Everett Hale

DALLAS UMC STREAMING TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED ... We hope to expand our Streaming Team in order to give team members a break. No experience is necessary. We will train you. If you or someone you know (adult or teenager) would be interested in this ministry opportunity, please ask them to contact Pastor Dave. Interested persons need not be members of this church.

QUILTING GROUP # 1 ... will meet this Tuesday from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. This group meets in the Wesley Room making “ugly sleeping bags” for MY BROTHERS KEEPER MINISTRIES. For more information please contact Judy Donlin (570-675-2693).

QUILTING GROUP # 2 ... will meet this Wednesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Please bring your own lunch. This group meets in the Wesley Room making “PROJECT DJ QUILTS” (for ill children) and “QUILTS OF VALOR” (for veterans). For more information please contact Judy Donlin (570-675-2693).

BLOOD DRIVE ... Our next RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be **Friday, September 22nd, from 12:30 PM until 5:30 PM.** If you are able, please donate here. You can schedule your appointment online at www.redcross.org/give-blood . [If you can volunteer to help welcome donors or help with the canteen, please contact our church office.](#)