

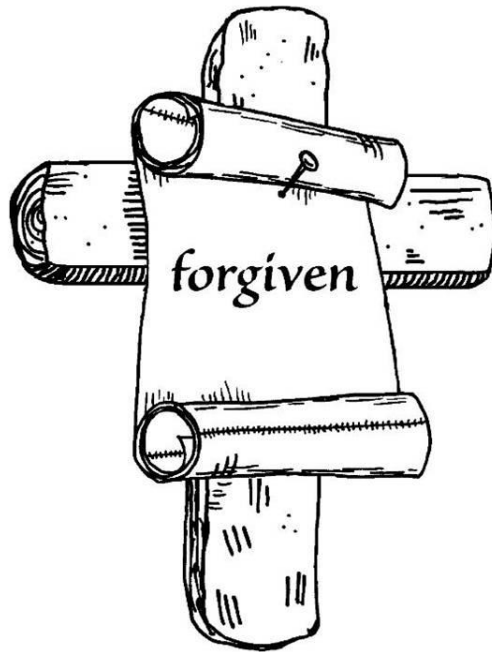
WELCOME TO WORSHIP

“16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

September 17th, 2023

Dallas United Methodist Church

Liturgical Color – Green



TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

Then Peter said to Jesus,

“Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who sins against me?

Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

(Matthew 18:21-22 ... CEB)

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

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

He Hideth My Soul

William J. Kirkpatrick; arr. by Carol Tornquist

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst,
we so often turn to God and ask:

How many times should I forgive?

When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again,
we are tempted to repeat the question:

How many times should I forgive?

Until God turns the question around: “How many times have I forgiven you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times have I loved you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

Seventy times seven.

Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God’s,
who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

Amen.

* *How Great Thou Art*

77

CHILDREN’S CHAT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive,
and we struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen.**

**We rush ourselves to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others
as a way of suppressing instead of honestly naming the hurt we have experienced.
We expect others to pardon our faults without also attending to our own need to repent.
We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift
we give to one another and that we receive from you.
We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of a bridge that brings us back together.
Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another,
to set and respect boundaries with one another,
and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.**

--- silent prayer for personal confession ---

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* *Glory Be to the Father*

70

* *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

549 (tune # 378 – Amazing Grace)

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER / THREE-FOLD AMEN

(from the ritual of the former Methodist Church)

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US:

Matthew 18:21-35

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

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"GRACE DISPENCERS"

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

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ... # 94

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways.
In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used
for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. Amen.**

* *Grace Alone*

2162

* BENECTION

* *Shalom to You*

666 (twice)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday ... Ecclesiastes 9:13-18
Tuesday ... 1 Kings 3:3-28
Wednesday ... James 3:13-18
Thursday ... Ephesians 3:1-20
Friday ... 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Saturday ... 1 Corinthians 4:1-13
Sunday ... Exodus 32:1-14 ... Psalm 106:7-8 ...
... Philippians 1:21-27 ... Matthew 20:1-16

*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

"In essentials unity.

In non-essentials liberty.

In all things charity."

- Phillip Melancthon ... often attributed to John Wesley

WESLEY'S 3-SIMPLE RULES

1) Do no harm

2) Do good

Stay in love with God

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 by using ... Meeting ID – 897 2237 3231 ... Passcode 711244

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... Patti DelGaudio ... (Wednesday, September 20th)

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS ... are due by **THIS Thursday, September 21st**.

SMALL GROUP STUDY ... BIBLE STORIES FOR GROWN-UPS ... THIS Thursday ... here ... from 10:00 am until 12:00 PM

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ... here THIS Friday, Sept. 22nd from 12:30 PM until 5:30 PM.

BAKE SALE ... at Alderson United Methodist Church THIS Saturday, Sept. 23rd ... 10:00 AM until sold out or until 1:00 PM

HOT DOG GIVE-AWAY ... at Alderson United Methodist Church THIS Saturday, Sept. 23rd ... 11:00 AM until all gone or until 1:00 PM

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE ... starting NEXT Sunday, Sept. 24th, at 8:45 AM.

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.**

*“We prove our faith in Christ,
not by the rules we keep,
but by the love we give.”*

- Jon Walker

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR MEALS-ON-WHEELS OF WYOMING VALLEY ...

Regular and Fill-In Volunteers are needed to drive meals to our clients on an as needed basis. **The need is especially great for drivers in the Back Mountain area.** For more information, please contact Amy Morris (Director) at 570-288-1023 Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

QUILTING GROUP # 1 ... meets every 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).

BLOOD DRIVE ... Our next RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be **THIS 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.](#)

QUILTING GROUP # 2 ... will meet Wednesday, October 4th, 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).

RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT ... Saturday, October 7th at Orange UMC.