



## *Prayer Garden Communion*

*Welcome to the Prayer Garden for our Summer Worship Service. This prayerful space welcomes all visitors at any time. On the first Sundays of July, August, and September, we gather for meditation and communion. We pray this service offers you an opportunity to engage with the Divine and with the community.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining us as we gather every Sunday year-round in our sanctuary for worship. Join us for any and all of our ministries where we hope to help each other grow in faith, love, and service. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know.*



***First United Methodist Church***

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CCLI#1588788

# **PRAYER GARDEN COMMUNION SERVICE**

*Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.*

September 1, 2024

8:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Gavotte*

Camidge

WELCOME

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.

**Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.**

We have felt the refreshment of time-away.

**Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.**

Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence and love.

**Let us open our spirits to receive God's direction for our lives.**

SONG OF PRAISE      *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*

**Come, now is the time to worship.**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship.**

**Come, just as you are before your God, come.**

**One day every tongue will confess you are God.**

**One day every knee will bow.**

**Sill the greatest treasure remains for those who  
gladly choose you now.**

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of mercy and abundant love, we gather in this beautiful garden to worship and hear again your healing words of compassion. We come to be transformed by your love; which offers us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You invite us into ministries of peace and justice, yet we often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who

serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world. As we enter this fall season, may we renew our understanding and desire to be faithful servants in our thoughts, words, and deeds.  
Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

GOSPEL LESSON

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, & 21-25*

MEDITATION

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

SONG OF RESPONSE

*Change My Heart, O God*

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter, I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the One who loves us beyond all expectations.**

Let us offer our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**Our voices unite in joy and thanks to the One who brings us hope and healing.**

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving...

...So, we lift our voices with joy and hope, singing with the choirs of angels in heaven and with all the faithful of every place and time, singing of your glory.

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Lover of righteousness.**

**All creation overflows with praise for you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed are you Lord who anoints us with unexpected grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you and blessed is your beloved son, Jesus Christ...  
...As you have called him Beloved at his baptism,  
and as you raised him from death to give us life,  
so, we give ourselves to live for him in grateful praise and  
service.

**Christ was born, hearing your morning song.**

**Christ died, doing your will even in the moments of his despair.**

**Christ was raised, in fulfillment of your own purpose.**

**Christ will come, the first fruits of our resurrection.**

Generous God, pour out your Holy Spirit...

...Then, when your Spirit  
unites us at your Table in heaven,  
as we clasp hands with all your beloved,  
we will sing your glory for all eternity:  
God in Community, Holy in One.

**Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which  
you have revealed yourself to us. Grant that we may go into  
the world in the strength of your Spirit, as we accompany  
others and offer your presence along the way in your name.**

**Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings,  
and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the  
forgotten, and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might  
become a kind of first fruits for those whose lives are so  
empty. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

SONG OF DEDICATION     *Christ, We are Blest*

**Christ, we are blest as we gather to dine,  
strengthened for love by the bread and the wine.**

**This is your body, now entering ours,  
strong with your loving, miraculous powers.**

**Jesus, you feed us, then bid us to leave,  
sharing with others the love we receive.  
We are your body, sent by your command,  
making love real as the bread in our hands.**

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*Andante*

Greene

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***Our Service of Worship Has Ended  
Our Worship Through Service Begins***

**Our Leadership Team Serving Us Today In Worship...**

**Preacher:** Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

**Lay Reader:**

**Music:** Denise Furda

**Technology & Streaming:** Chip Stoll

**Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry...**  
**where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.**

**Sunday, TODAY**

Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.

**Monday, September. 2      OFFICE CLOSED**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 3**

Women’s Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 4**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Knitting Ministry - Library	1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 5**

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.

**Friday, September 6**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:00 p.m.
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**Sunday, September 8**

Service of Worship in Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School – Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11:00 a.m.

**Pastor:** Jill Hubbard-Smith

**Secretary:** Joy More

**Director of Music:** Denise Furda

**Sexton:** Lisa Costello

**Streaming Team:** Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

**Director of Wesley Nursery School:** Noel Worthington

**Director of Music Emeritus:** Gary Farquhar

***The First United Methodist Church of  
Oakhurst***

***Is a community of faith committed to  
Christ,  
seeking to learn the needs of our members,  
friends, and neighbors, and responding  
with Christian love.***