



The First United Methodist Church
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CCLI #1588788

*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.*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

9:30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.

Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

UMH is the **Red Hymnal** **TFWS** is the **Black Hymnal** **W&S** is the **Green Hymnal**

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

WE GATHER

As you settle in the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue

Handel

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

It all begins with God's grace –

a gift of God's love.

Grace cannot be put in a box.

We receive God's grace even before we know it's there.

God shows us grace, not because of what we do,

but because we are beloved, cherished, and forgiven!

*HYMN OF PRAISE *God of Grace and God of Glory* UMH 577

CENTERING PRAYER

Loving God, you surround us in your grace so fully that sometimes, we don't even know it's there. It goes before us, with us, and behind us, our very breath and life. Thank you for this unending gift that calls us into life and love, makes our relationship with you right, and transforms us to become more and more like Jesus. In this time of worship, help us to

know and treasure your grace more deeply. Warm our hearts by its fire. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FASCINATION AND FAITH

Backpack Blessing

Our youngest disciples are invited to come forward for a special message before heading to Sunday School.

As they come forward the congregation is invited to sing.

Where Children Belong

TFWS 2233

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.**

ANTHEM

We Believe
Chancel Choir

arr. Ware

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10

Pew Bible, NT 192

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us
Thanks be to God

HYMN OF RESPONSE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

SERMON

Rediscovering Our UM Roots:
GRACE: Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.
After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD'S BELOVED PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.
You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION

My Tribute

UMH 99

**To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done.
With his blood he has saved me;
with his power he has raised me;
to God be the glory for the things he has done.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wonderful God, we thank you that your grace not only flows to us but also flows through us. We thank you for the opportunity to give our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, and for our United Methodist family where we provide for one another through leadership, financial support, and love. May our giving be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*SONG OF DEDICATION

Grace Greater than Our Sin UMH 365

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Sent Forth by God's Blessing UMH 664, vs. 1

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary in G

Heron

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

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in loving memory of Bob More by his wife, Joy.
Given in loving memory of In Hong Hur by Soon, Kathy, &
Elizabeth.

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE:	Susan McRae
COUNTERS:	Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll
USHER:	Jim Scisco
GREETER:	Jeffrey Danielson
LAY READER:	Diane Maher
FELLOWSHIP HOST:	Bonnie McNamara

Words of Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

For Your Information

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly, with our streaming team, in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby, in the rear of the sanctuary, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.



This Week We Hold In

Prayer...

Sandy Elias

Our homebound: David Miller, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann, Jack Johnson, Sandy Elias, Madeline Starkey

**The church has a team of prayers, known as the Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjimhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UWIF have Boscov's shopping passes. For a donation to UWIF, you get a 25% discount all day on October 22nd in-store and online. Your donation goes toward UWIF's mission projects.

UWIF'S GARAGE SALE is quickly approaching. Feel free to bring any donation items to Fellowship Hall's stage M-F 10-2.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY-It is a fact that some children don't have snacks to bring to school and go without while being with other children who do have snacks. Can you help those who have to go without? How about Pop Tarts?

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL starts today at 11 am in Wesley Hall. The class explores messages from many different pastors and authors while finding out what God's message is to us for day-to-day living.

SEPTEMBER is a 5th Sunday month. All donations to this fund go toward the cost of capital improvements on the church's properties. Please use the marked yellow envelopes for your donation.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

Sunday, TODAY

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 a.m.

Monday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 10

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Lydia Circle – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
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Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, September 15

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 a.m.
Community Spaghetti Dinner-*	5:30 p.m.

*Fellowship Hall

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