



kindness.
Compassion.
humility.
respect.
love.

"The Polarization Within"

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.***

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 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

Voluntary in A minor

Boyce

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

W&S 3122

**Christ has broken down the wall,
Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one,
Christ has broken down the wall.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us take a deep breath together (take a breath). ...

The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same for us here and throughout our world.

Our desire for life and love is the same around the world.

Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same for our entire worldwide family.

Let this moment permeate our souls and the souls of neighbors worldwide.

Let us pass the peace of Christ between us.

This peace that is meant for ALL people.

*SHARING THE PEACE & LOVE OF CHRIST

We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying, "Peace be with you." Please respond by saying, "And also with you."

*SUNG REFLECTION

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

W&S 3122

**We're accepted as we are,
we're accepted as we are.
Through God's love all is reconciled,
we're accepted as we are.**

**Cast aside your doubts and fears,
cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here;
cast aside your doubts and fears.**

CENTERING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reconciling God, we ask you to help us open ourselves to compassion, for we are a divided world, and the conflict is waging even within us in this moment. Forgive us God, for the ways we colonize each other—with expectations, beliefs, judgments, and our own fear. For all the ways we squander our relationships—choosing to be “right” over “relationship.” For all the ways we abuse our freedom, engaging in hateful speech toward those not on “our” side.

Have mercy on us, God. Transform and empower us to “do unto ourselves and others” in ways that build up your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LESSON FROM THE PROPHET *Isaiah 11:6-9* Pew Bible, OT 641

The Word of God for Our Times

Thanks be to God

HYMN OF PRAISE *Help Us Accept Each Other*

UMH 560

SERMON

*Do Unto Others:
The Polarization Within – **Compassion***

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

ANTHEM

The New Covenant
Chancel Choir

Martin

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right...

...And so we lift up our voices in celebration of you!

Holy, holy, holy are you!

We join all the prophets and saints!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade of justice!

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you...

...And he told us to remember:

You are one at this table, the table of grace.

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,

and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.

Holy Spirit...Let the people say, **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION

The invitation to share God's covenant love through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ is extended to all. Come and be filled with the body and blood of Christ, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go forth to love all God's children. We will serve by **intinction**. You are invited to come by the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You are invited to reflect in song as all are being served. **There is gluten-free bread and juice available.**

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In this covenant of your grace, O God, you have fed us with your loving kindness and compassion. Send us forth from this holy meal inspired to do as you have done for us and others; strengthened to offer acts of kindness, compassion, and respect to a divided world. Amen.

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

Hymn tune UMH 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Help us to work together well,
off'ring our kindness to the world.**

**Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Compassionate God, nourished by the sacrificial love of your Son, we choose to follow his example as we look to engage with the lives of others around us. Help us look into their eyes and listen for their needs. Bless these offerings, that they may aid us in ministries of care and compassion as we follow the Golden Rule in your name. Amen.

*SONG OF DEDICATION *Go Forth for God*

UMH 670

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

W&S 3122

**We will tear down the walls!
We will tear down every wall!
God has called us, one and all;
Christ has broken down the wall!
Christ has broken down the wall!**

*POSTLUDE

Lento

Alcock

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

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Arlene & Buster Stoll in loving memory of Woody Matthews, Arlene's father.

Given by Arlene & Buster Stoll in honor of the 4th wedding anniversary of Deanna & George Robson V.

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE: Robert Scott
COUNTERS: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra
USHER: Paul Bradley
GREETER: Pamela Lynch
LAY READER: Garry Smith
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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OFFERING

World Communion Sunday is one of our church-wide special Sundays. The World Communion offering provides scholarships for students to study in fields of family pastoral care, clinical psychology, peace, crop production, law, health, rural development and more.



This Week We Hold In Prayer...

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

**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

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are always needed. Please sign up for Sundays in November.

UWIF'S GARAGE SALE is quickly approaching. Please bring your donation items to the church on Thursday, October 17th and Friday, October 18th.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY is in need of non-perishable food items. There has been a HUGE turnover this week and overstock is low. A good idea at this time is bread.

ALTAR FLOWERS-after many years, our florist has raised its price on our arrangements. Altar flower donations are now \$20 per bouquet.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HELENE-The Outreach Committee has made, on your behalf, using the donations collected in our communion offering for UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund, a donation of \$750. The committee thanks you for your ongoing generosity to this fund. If you would like to make a personal donation, you may do so at umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670. If doing so, please check the box to **"give credit to my local church"**.

CONFERENCE BOOKLET-if you would like a copy of the church conference booklet, you may obtain one in the church office or on the sanctuary entrance tables.

CROP WALK 2024 will take place on October 20th. There is a table set up in Fellowship Hall to make a donation or sign up to walk. Jeff Danielson will be there to answer questions.

OCTOBER'S COMMUNION OFFERING benefits World Communion Sunday.

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 – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.

Monday, October 7

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

Tuesday, October 8

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Daisies – Fellowship Hall	4:30 p.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m.
Lydia Circle – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a. m.
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Thursday, October 10

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

Friday, October 11

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, October 13

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.

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

“Do Unto Others” Worship Series Resources shared by Rev. Marcia McFee of
Worship Design Studio; www.worshipdesignstudio.com and Rev. Adam
Hamilton, Church of the Resurrection and ShareChurch; [Home - ShareChurch](#).