



for the Promised Land.

**September 17, 2023 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

James Stanley

*Elysium March* | William Stickles

**CALL TO WORSHIP †**

Rev. Natasha Murray

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

**You are our God; all the good things come from you alone.**

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance,  
and surrounds us with abundance.

**You are our God; our lives are in your hands.**

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life,  
whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

**You are our God; we will not be shaken.**

Let's worship God together!

**PASSING OF THE PEACE †**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 129 †**

*Give to the Wind Thy Fears* | United Methodist Hymnal

## **LITANY FOR COURAGE †**

Lord, give us courage.  
When our journey is dark and lonely,  
Lord, give us courage.  
When we are driven by despair,  
Lord, give us courage.  
When temptation calls us,  
Lord, give us courage.  
When the right choice isn't always the popular choice,  
Lord, give us courage.  
When our bodies are weak and tired,  
Lord, give us courage.  
When our hearts are heavy with burdens,  
Lord, give us courage.  
Help us to do your will always.  
Lord, give us courage.  
Amen.

## **GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SONG**

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world. Yes, we're the church together.  
The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place, the church is the people.

## **CHILDREN'S TIME** Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

### **ANTHEM**

*Gloria* | Franz Schubert

Chancel Choir

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Georgia Bell

**Exodus 14: 19-31 | Pew Bible, Old Testament Page 59**

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

### **SERMON**

**Hope is Courageous** Rev. David C. Freeman

*Hope for the Promised Land, Part 2*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### **OFFERTORY**

Kelley Ponder

*Hope* | Jason Robert Brown

### **DOXOLOGY †**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* | United Methodist Hymnal 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †**

## SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

### **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †**

As a community and individuals, responding to God's grace, we seek to be good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where all God's children THRIVE.

Through our spiritual journey and life in the community, we will work for the core values we believe all God's children need; Trust, Health, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education.

## **HYMN OF SENDING 130 †**

*God Will Take Care of You* | United Methodist Hymnal

*During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.*

## **BENEDICTION †**

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION †**

Chancel Choir

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | Peter Lutkin

### **POSTLUDE**

James Stanley

*Florindo March* | William Stickles

## **ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE**

**Clergy:** Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Natasha Murray, Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

**Music & Worship Arts:** James Stanley, Shannon Webb, Kelley Ponder, Chancel Choir

**Liturgist:** Georgia Bell

**Audio/Visual:** Christopher Cone

**Altar Guild:** Betty Harris & Ruby Wiley

**Acolytes:** Joseph Watkins & Andrew House

**Altar Flowers:** To the Glory of God and in loving memory of our friend, Kyle Linson, honoring his birthday, given by The Taco Tuesday Boys.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

### **Requesting Prayer:**

Heather Hill, Brad Jordan, Kaye Hoover, Lynn Rockenbach, Joanne Ownby, David & Hannah Cheek, Glenn Taulbee, Barbara Hanley, John Fordyce, Ann Marie Trammell, Bobby Williams, Rosie Howard, Jeff Crowe, Michael Harrison,

Anna Grace Clark, Nick Thompson, Hatley Rodgers, Bill Lewis, Ceile Faulkner, the people of Ukraine, victims of gun violence, our leaders, the United Methodist church, the people of Morocco and Libya.

## **Sympathy**

To Carolyn & Rev. Donna Hankins and Jonathan, Liam, & Evan Hankins-Hull, following the passing of husband, father and grandfather, Rev. Robert (Bob) Hankins, on Friday, September 8, 2023.

## **Board of Stewards Sanctuary Renovations Information Meeting**

Our beautiful and historic sanctuary, especially the stained-glass windows, is in need of some renovations. All are invited to the next Board of Stewards meeting at **6 pm on Tuesday, September 19**, in the sanctuary to hear about this important project. At this meeting, the Board of Trustees will share details about the repairs and the companies we plan to hire to do the work. The Stewardship and Finance Committee will explain the funding scenarios we're exploring. We hope you'll attend. But if you can't, we'll share updates throughout this process.



## **Grief Expressions A Creative Way to Engage with Grief and Loss Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 3 pm, Lunch provided**

Join us for a creative arts activity to honor whom or what you have lost. While the source of our loss varies, all can benefit from the opportunity to engage with our grief creatively and creatively. The afternoon will include lunch, prayer, and experience-based workshops in journaling and art therapy. Artistic experience or ability is not required to participate and enjoy the workshop, just the willingness to create. All are welcome. If you have questions, see Mary Jane Cole

[mcole@fumclr.org](mailto:mcole@fumclr.org). We look forward to this special space and time to acknowledge, create, and honor together!

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

### **Sunday, September 17, 2023**

9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm UWF Luncheon  
5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship  
6:00 pm Parents Book Club

### **Monday, September 18, 2023**

9:00 am Flower Girls  
1:00 pm Community Café  
6:30 pm Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage Information Session  
6:30 pm Taiko Drumming Class

### **Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

7:00 am Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
9:00 am Staff Meeting  
10:30 am Worship Planning  
1:00 pm Community Café  
2:00 pm First Arts @ FUMCLR  
5:00 pm Stewardship & Finance Committee  
6:00 pm Board of Stewards Meeting in the Sanctuary, all are invited  
6:00 pm Adult Intro to Taiko

### **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

9:00 am CDC Chapel  
1:00 pm Community Café  
5:00 pm Wednesday Nights on Center St.  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, September 21, 2023**

11:00 am Chat and Chew  
7:00 pm Ensemble

## **New Church Office Hours**

The SPRC has set a new weekly schedule for our church office, closing at noon on Friday.

The new hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 - 4:30

Friday 8:30 - 12:00



**Wednesday Nights on Center Street  
Through October 11  
Dinner 5-6 pm, Sessions 6-7 pm**

**ADULTS:**

**The Gospel According to Ted Lasso**

Exploring the spiritual and emotional truths of the hit show Ted Lasso with Rev. Freeman in the Cokesbury Center.

**Handbells 101**

James Stanley will help you learn the ins and outs of ringing a handbell, go over basic techniques and make it look less intimidating! No expectation to play in worship, just a good time to learn something new!

**Pop-Up Workshops**

Do you like a little variety? This is the session for you! A different class facilitator and focus for each of the five weeks.

Sep 20 – Building Community: The Story of Pettaway

Sep 27 – Watercolor for Beginners

Oct 4 – Disability Awareness: Creating Belonging

Oct 11 – The Beginning of Arkansas Gay for Good

**CHILDREN: Music, Faith & Fun**

2 and Under: The nursery will be open from 5:30-7 pm for our youngest disciples.

Ages 3-3rd Grade: God is at work in our lives and shows up in amazing ways! Let's create, play, and learn together!

**YOUTH: The Gospel According to Mario**

Grades 4 and Up: Play different Mario games in the youth studio as you grow in faith and have fun together!

## MOMENT IN MINISTRY



**WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK.** We have embraced our role in urban ministry. Our members and friends come because they are attracted to our vitality, warmth, friendliness, and energy. They stay because we travel with them on their journey.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNALS.** An usher will be happy to help you find the large print bulletins and United Methodist Hymnals on the center table in the Narthex, as you enter the church. Please return the hymnal to the table at the conclusion of the service.

**AUDIO AND VIDEO OF TODAY'S SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.** CD's and DVD's of today's service are available by calling the church office at 501.372.2256 or by emailing Lesley Andrews at [landrews@fumclr.org](mailto:landrews@fumclr.org).

**ATTENTION PARENTS.** We understand that worshiping with children can be an adventure, but it is essential to their growth in Christ. If your child is staying in worship, please see an usher if you would like a worship bag. However, one is available on the second floor outside the Sanctuary if you

desire a nursery. If you need assistance, please see an usher or a member of the Hospitality Team.