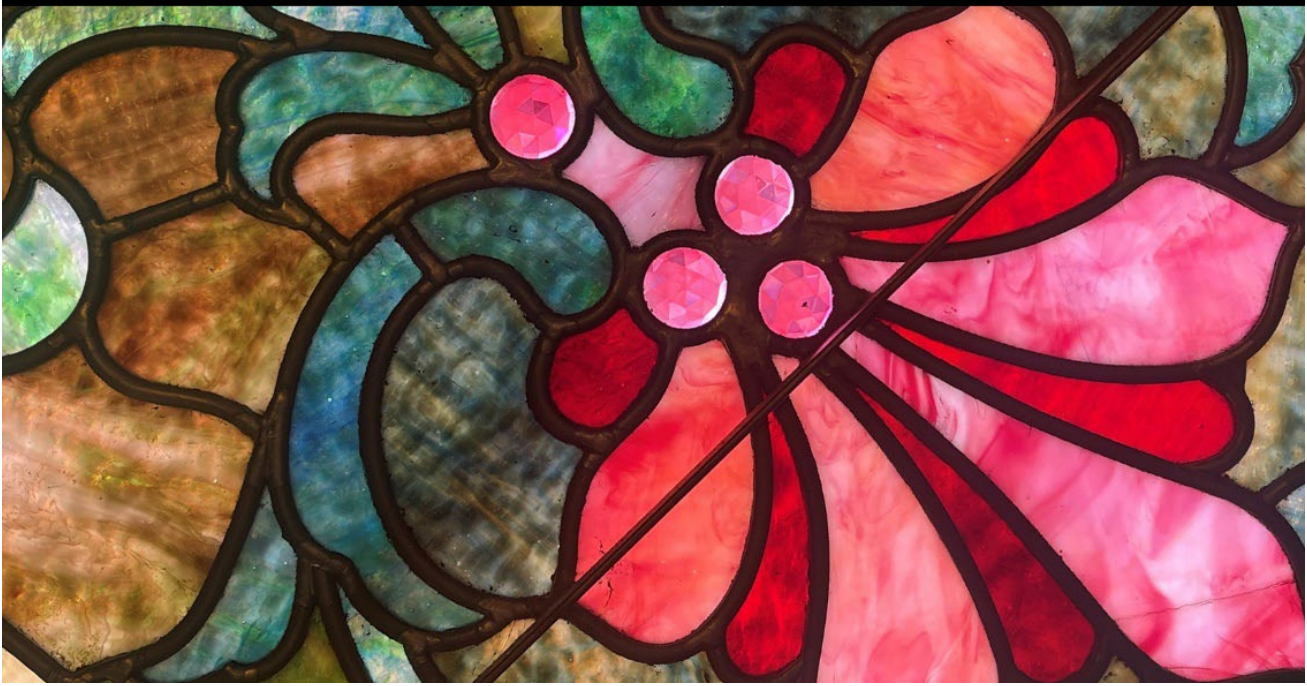




**August 23rd, 2026 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Fourteenth Sunday
After Pentecost**

PRELUDE

Kelley Ponder

Coat of Many Colors | Dolly Parton

CALL TO WORSHIP † Written by Elizabeth Small Rev. Haley Jones Wells

Welcome, all people! It is time to hear the story.

We come to hear the story of God's salvation.

Welcome, all people! Did you hear God's call?

We come because sometimes we miss God's call.

Welcome, all people! God says, "I will be with you."

We come to enter the story - with our hearts, our minds, our imaginations, and our whole selves in response to God.

Welcome, all people!

We are here. Let the story begin! Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 521 †

I Want Jesus to Walk with me | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up where we least expect you: in a burning bush, in the face of an enemy, in a livestock feed trough, on a rough wooden cross. Turn our lives upside down with your radical love. Help us fully embrace your surprises, even as we revel in the joy of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace and mercy. We pray in the name of your most amazing surprise of all: your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David C. Freeman

SONG

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me— the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Sean Dunbar

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir, Jake Wyatt, percussion

Break Forth Into Song | Allen Pote

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN OF PREPARATION 352 †

It's Me, It's Me O Lord | United Methodist Hymnal

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Scott Schallhorn

Exodus 3: 1-15

This is the word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David C. Freeman

Wherever you go, there you are

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND AFFIRMATION

I am a child of God.

I am flawed. I am enough.

I am lonely. I am fulfilled.

I am fearful. I am brave.

I am funny. I am annoying.

I am apathetic. I am driven.

I am joyful. I am angry.

I am lighthearted. I am serious.

I am dense. I am quick witted.

I am energetic. I am exhausted.

I am predictable. I am full of surprises.

I am just. I am unfair.

I am grieving. I am rejoicing.

I am who I am.

Wherever I go, whatever I do, whomever I encounter,

I am held by the I AM.

OFFERTORY

Chris Englert-Jessen

Abide with Me | arr. James Stanley

DOXOLOGY 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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

PRAYER FOR HOLY DISRUPTION †

God of the new and unexpected, Grant us the grace to welcome the "Holy Disruptions" you send our way. Break into our predictable lives with the untamed, unsettling wonder of your Spirit. Shake the foundations of our tidy faith with the fierce urgency of your love, dismantling the systems we have built to keep us safe from your risky, transforming call. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus- our comforter and disrupter. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 593 †

Here I Am, Lord | 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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS †

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION †

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †

**Be present at our table Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
Thy people bless and grant that we,
May feast in fellowship with thee.**

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor | John A. Behnke

Communion will be offered after the conclusion of the service. Anyone wanting to receive, is welcome to re-gather in the first few rows while the pastor blesses the communion elements.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Rev. David C. Freeman

Rev. Haley Jones Wells

Sean Dunbar

Organist: James Stanley

Shannon Webb

Kelley Ponder

Jake Wyatt

Chris Englert-Jessen

Chancel Choir

Liturgist: Scott Schallhorn

Audio/Visual: Chris Cone,

Mike Cole

Altar Guild: Kelly Jackson, Virginia Yeatman

Altar Flowers: To the glory of God and In Gratitude for and Loving Memory of William F. Serman. Given by Carole Lynn Sherman.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Sandy Watson, Pat Matthews, Kay Bell, Rebecca Remmel, Coralie Hawkins, Jesse Hurst, Patrick Woodruff, Cheryl Sullivan, Lee Johnson.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

on Center Street

Dinner and programming for all ages!
Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a 'bring your own' dinner together, then enjoy a night of study & fun!!

BEGINS SEPT. 9TH!

BYO DINNER 5 PM, PROGRAMS 6 PM

A graphic for Habitat for Humanity Work Day. The background is dark and textured, resembling asphalt. Various tools are scattered around the text: a yellow and black power drill, a screwdriver, a wrench, a pair of pliers, a yellow tape measure, a hammer, a traffic cone, and an orange safety vest with reflective stripes.

Habitat for Humanity
WORK DAY
Saturday, September 5, 8 am - Noon
REGISTER ON JOURNEY CARD!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, August 30, 2026

9:00 am	First Word (Cokesbury)
10:00 am	Post Service Communion
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	First Tradition (Sanctuary)
12:00 pm	Post Service Communion
1:30 pm	Beginner Drumming
2:30 pm	Mike Charles Basketball Academy
3:00 pm	Intermediate Drumming
4:30 pm	ARUMC –Central District Meeting
5:30 pm	Canvas Community Worship

Monday, August 31, 2026

9:00 am	Flower Girls
1:00 pm	Community Café
5:30 pm	Lay Leadership Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

7:00 am	Tues. Morning Study Group
9:00 am	Staff Meeting
10:30 pm	Worship Planning
1:00 pm	Community Café
4:00 pm	Mike Charles Basketball Academy
6:30 pm	Intermediate Taiko

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

11:00 am	Canvas Meal Prep
1:00 pm	Community Café
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 3, 2026

4:00 pm	Mike Charles Basketball Academy
5:45 pm	First Thursday Evening Prayer



First Time Guest?

We're glad you are here! As a thank you, we'd like to make a gift of \$5 in your honor to one of our community partners. Scan the QR code above to choose which organization to receive the donation. Thank you for being our guest today.

Need help with minor home repairs or yard work?

FUMCLR's Handy Helpers may be able to help!

Do you need assistance to change light bulbs or unclog toilets or make other minor repairs in or around your home? FUMCLR's Men of Faith and Action have organized a new group we call "Handy Helpers" which may be able to assist you. If you require assistance with minor repairs or projects, you can **email Rev. Heather Rose at hrose@fumclr.org**. She will then contact one of the cadre of men who have volunteered to see if one or more of them can come to your home and assist you.