

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK

An examination of faith and
the power of questioning.

QUESTION IT!



**September 13th, 2026 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Sixteenth Sunday
After Pentecost**

PRELUDE

James Stanley

Prelude in F / John A. Behnke

CALL TO WORSHIP † by Melissa Thoma

Melissa

Thoma

From stardust we are made, from divine spark—the word made flesh.
We gather to remember who we are.

In all things we are one.

We are pilgrims on the journey whose paths are interwoven and
have connected in this place and time. We share this space. We
share each other.

And in all things we are one.

We gather because though we may feel disparate, we share the
faith that God's radical love through Christ binds us.

And in all things we are one.

And so we raise our voices together. We lift our prayers together.
We join hands and hearts and raise our eyes to you. Together.

Let us worship as one.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 158 †

Come, Christians, Join to Sing | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY † by Melissa Thoma

Oh God,

You are Divine Mystery. Your creation is unfathomable in its complexity and span. Your movement both in our lives and across the globe is often veiled and difficult to decipher. Your word is so subject to interpretation as to take on opposing meaning depending on who is interpreting. We watch the horror of starvation, natural disaster and war. We experience loss and betrayal. And we are left with so many questions.

Who are You? Who are we in relation to You and Your will?

God, help us to understand that our questions are the actual spiritual work. What conclusions we draw may bend and change over time, as we deepen our connection to You. Let us not be led to believe that because we question, we do not have faith. Rather to know that because we have faith—we question.

May our questions remind us to trust and remain open to your loving grace—and to our ever evolving relationship with You.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

May the peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David C. Freeman

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!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Sean Dunbar

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Festival Sanctus | | John Leavitt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN OF PREPERATION 164

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life | | United Methodist Hymnal

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Melissa Thoma

Genesis 18: 9-14

This is the word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.

The answer is blowin' in the wind.

SERMON

Questions to explore
Part 1 of the Question it! Series

Rev. David C. Freeman

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.

The answer is blowin' in the wind.

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

Grace | Mark Hayes

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 467 †

Trust and Obey | 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 †

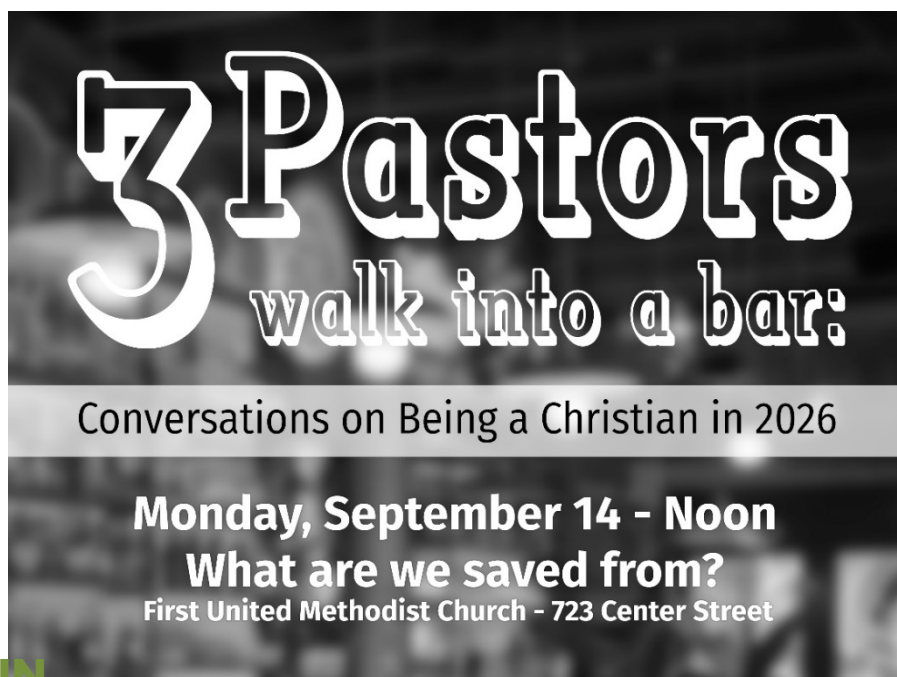
The Lord Bless You and Keep You | Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

Fague in F | 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. Heather Rose

Sean Dunbar

Organist: James Stanley

Shannon Webb

Chancel Choir

Liturgist: Melissa Thoma

Audio/Visual: Chris Cone,

Stuart Mackey

Altar Guild: Juanita Woodard, Susan Weir

Altar Flowers: To the glory of God and in memory of Horace & Irma Jewell. Given by Judy Jewell & Family.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Sandy Watson, Pat Matthews, Kay Bell, Rebecca Remmel, Coralie Hawkins, Jesse Hurst, Cheryl Sullivan, Lee Johnson, Mary Lou Rasco.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, September 13, 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
12:00 pm	Youth Tacos & Bingo
12:00 pm	UWF Lunch Meeting
12:00 pm	Leadership Council Retreat
1:30 pm	Beginner Drumming
2:30 pm	Mike Charles Basketball Academy
3:00 pm	Intermediate Drumming
5:30 pm	Canvas Community Worship

Monday, September 14, 2026

9:00 am	Flower Girls
12:00 pm	3 Pastors Walk Into a Bar
1:00 pm	Community Café

Tuesday, September 15, 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
5:30 pm	Lay Leadership Committee Meeting
6:30 pm	Intermediate Taiko

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

1:00 pm	Community Café
5:00 pm	Wednesday Nights on Center
5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 17, 2026

4:00 pm	Mike Charles Basketball Academy
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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.