

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost



Grace Notes

Not Fair

September 20, 2026 | Matthew 20:1-16



High Street United Methodist Church
219 S. High Street - Muncie, IN 47305
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Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Teri Crouse, Senior Pastor
Linda Ferguson, Worship Leader
Dr. Andrew Crow, Director of Music
Dr. Ann Hicks, Director of Handbells
Dr. Sally Kang, Organist
Joy Bricker, Director of
Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

WE GATHER

Announcements

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Storer Memorial Carillon

Prelude

Joy, by Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

Handbells, led by Dr. Ann Hicks

*Processional Hymn

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Hymn #340

*Call to Worship

Linda Ferguson

Leader: Come and worship, we who woke early and we who slept late;

All: we who come often, and we who do not.

Leader: Whether we are first or last, or somewhere in between,

All: there is room for all of us in God's kingdom.

Leader: There's more than enough grace to go around.

All: Let's worship God together!

*Welcome & Greeting

*Passing of the Peace

WE PROCLAIM

Children's Moment

Children are invited forward for a lesson with Pastor Teri. After the children's moment, the children are invited to Children's Church with Ms. Joy. Please pick up your children from G1 immediately following the service.

Anthem

Every Time I Feel the Spirit, arr. Howard Helvey

Sanctuary Choir

*The Apostles' Creed

Hymn #882

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

** Indicates congregation should stand in body or spirit*

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

** universal

***Gloria Patri**

Hymn #70

Prayer for Illumination

Linda Ferguson

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV - updated edition)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace Notes: Not Fair

Pastor Teri

WE RESPOND

Prayer Concerns & Community Life

Linda Ferguson

Choral Call to Prayer

Let Us Pray for Peace, music by Thomas Keesecker

Sanctuary Choir

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves, but often wish punishment or exclusion for others. We judge others while ignoring our own faults. Forgive us when we are petty, even in the presence of your generosity; and when we feel slighted by you. Enable us to

extend to others the mercy you have extended to us – over and over again. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Leader: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, and grace beyond our ability to earn it. God grants us forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

All: We live as a grateful and forgiven people. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Brief Time of Silent Prayer

Morning Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn #895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Congregational Response to Prayer

Let Us Pray for Peace, text by Nancy Kraft

Lord we pray for peace,
for the healing of creation.
May your truth and justice mend ev'ry breach;
may we learn to live as one.

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August Financial Update

Pastor Teri

Call to the Giving Life

Offertory

Since I Have Been Redeemed, arr. Mark Hayes

Dr. Sally Kang, piano

***Doxology**

Hymn #95

***Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving**

WE ARE SENT FORTH

***Closing Hymn**

Lord of All Hopefulness

TFWS #2197

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Choral Benediction

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude

Nun Danket Alle Gott, by Carl Piutti

Jenny Donnelly, organ

Church Announcements

Announcements - Announcements may be submitted at bit.ly/announcementsmunciehighstreet. They must be in by Tuesday morning.

“Bon Apple-tite” - Our new fall fellowship event will be next Sunday, September 27, after the 10 am service in Parish Hall. Join us to celebrate all things “apple.” Please bring an apple-themed side dish (interpreted broadly) to share. Come and share in fall festivities!

Office Volunteer Needed - We are STILL in urgent need of a volunteer for Thursday mornings (9 am - 12:30 pm) to staff the desk and phone in the office. Please contact Diana Smiley or Pastor Teri to help out.

Project 219 (Youth Group) - We encourage our youth and their parents to attend the organ recital this afternoon, and to invite a friend (or two!).

Organ Concert - Dr. Jan Boksztzanin, a Polish organist, professor, and scholar, will give a concert today at 4 pm here in the sanctuary. Please invite friends and family to this free event. This is a great opportunity to hear our wonderful organ.

Call to Generosity - There are many ways to respond to God’s love through your giving:

- In-person, by placing offerings in plates as ushers come through
- Text 765/222-5007
- Online: highstreetumc.breezechms.com/give/online (or scan the QR code below)
- Set up an automatic bank withdrawal through Diana (church office)
- Drop off in person during church office hours (and say Hi! while you’re here)

SNAPSHOT for Giving/Missions as of 9/13/26

Budget: \$544,554 (\$45,380/mo). Pledged: \$330,134 (\$27,511/mo).

Weekly Giving	\$3,011.00
September Income:	\$7,228.00
September Expenses as of 9/13:	\$13,168.00
Inc. YTD 2026 // Exp. YTD 2026:	\$373,719.10// \$352,119.55
YTD Mission Pantry:	\$5,160.00
YTD Mission Samaritan:	\$3,028.00

Attendance for September 13, 2026:

In-person worship: 134

Social Media views online: 85

Grand Total for Worship: 219

**Includes \$3,127.52 from a grant for the church from the Gladys Hendricks Trust,
plus a one-time extravagant gift in February*



Scan to Give

Sunday Schedule

Coffee Bar	8:30 - 11:30 am
Sing in the Sanctuary Study	9:00 am
Children's Sunday School	9:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am
It's All About Jesus (Adult Sunday School)	11:15 am
Project 219	4:30 pm

Food Pantry Needs

Beans #1 bags
Rice #1 bags
Peanut Butter 16 oz
Diced tomatoes 16 oz
Vegetables canned 16 oz

August 2026 Financial Update

As previously announced, the Church Council approved a 2026 budget of \$544,554, which again was a “meet-the-needs as is” budget. We’ve received \$330,134 in pledges for 2026. We’ll report our monthly income, which will include any one-time gifts, as well as money provided by the trustees from their accounts to cover some of our building expenses and some of the money from the Foundation grant, against both numbers.

Also as previously noted, our giving trends are unusual, because so many give through RMDs, QCDs, and other annual tax-minimizing means – usually at the beginning or end of the year. Our beginning of the year giving has come to an end. Our income for August was \$25,399. This means our total July income was \$19,981 less than the \$45,380 that’s 1/12 of our \$544,554 budget. Fortunately, our expenses were only \$32,261, which was \$6862 less than our monthly income.

Our YTD income (including the two one-time extravagant gifts in February and July) was \$366,491, which is \$3451 more than the \$363,040 we have budgeted YTD. Expenses YTD are \$341,951, which is \$24,540 less than our total YTD income, and \$21,089 less than we had budgeted for YTD. Again, unusually low utility expenses for May and June, as well as continuing tight spending control by staff through the year, contributed to this.

We encourage you to keep up your support as 2026 continues. You may give online at www.highstreetumc.breezechms.com/give/online . You may also text your offering to 765/222-5007, or mail your checks into the church at 219 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47305. As always, you may bring your offering or pledge form into the church in person; we’d love to see and talk with you. If you’re able to give extra, please prayerfully consider doing so. Your support means everything.

August 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted: \$45,380 (1/12 of \$544,554)
Pledged for 2026: \$27,511 (1/12 of \$330,134)
Actual income: \$25,399
Expenses: \$32,261
Net Income (Aug): -\$6862 (Income v. Expenses)

YTD 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted YTD: \$363,040 (8/12 of \$544,554)
Pledged YTD: \$220,088 (8/12 of \$330,134)
Income YTD: \$366,491*
Expenses YTD: \$341,951
Net Income YTD: \$3451 (Budget v. Income*)

*Includes two one-time (unpledged) extravagant gifts in February & July