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ASHLAND PLACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 7, 2025 13th Sunday After Pentecost

– We Gather –

PRELUDE

Marche
Alicia Luttrell

Grieg

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Dr. Darren McClellan

Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy McMaken

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

The hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

Take Up Thy Cross

UMH 415

INVITATION, CONFESSION and PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

❖**PASSING OF THE PEACE** *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

– *We Listen* –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy and merciful God, we have come to hear your word. Help us to bear it. Break down in us all that resists your will and plant in us a willingness to turn, for we would live; we would be your disciples. By your Spirit, come to us, now in ancient texts, in everyday visions, in the need of our neighbor; we pray in the name of Jesus, our light. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 139:1-18

UMH 854

Please join the choir in the sung response when indicated by the red R.

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION *Spirit of the Living God* (Sing Twice)

UMH 393

❖SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Wheel of Grace”

Rev. Jennifer Porto

– *WE RESPOND* –

❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostle’s Creed

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And 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, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. 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 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The One* Courtney
Chancel Choir

♪❖DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Service of Word and Table II* UMH 13-15

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* (v. 1, 2, 4) UMH 382

❖BENEDICTION

❖POSTLUDE *Germany* Gardiner



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

September 7, 2025

9:00am Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
5:30pm Youth (B)

Monday Women's Bible Study, 10:00am (FH)

Tuesday Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

Wednesday Handbell Practice, 5:00pm
Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30pm
Choir Practice, 6:00pm
Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FP)

Thursday Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

Friday Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY-RESUMES TOMORROW

The Women's Bible Study will resume tomorrow, September 8, at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. This fall, we will begin a study of Jeremiah, "Return to Refuge." All women are welcome to join us for this time of study, fellowship, and encouragement.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS RESUME—SEPT. 10TH

Now that school is back in session, it's time to resume our Wednesday night gatherings and activities. Please note, the new time for dinner is 5:30pm to 6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

ACOLYTE TRAINING—SEPT. 14TH—10:00AM

We invite all 3rd-8th graders to prayerfully consider serving as acolytes. No prior experience is necessary—just a willing heart!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY AND ASCENSION BIRTHDAY!

Sunday, September 21 will be a special day. Our children will help lead both worship services, and our third graders will receive their bibles. We will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Ascension Service with a birthday cake at 10:00.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Eloise Adams (Fay Adams' sister in law), John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Barbara Bohnhoff (Becky Mayhall's mother), Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Mihyon Ellis, Peggy Emond (David Mayhall's sister), Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Marcia Golson, Jim Harter, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 8/31/25 \$6,041



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Hymns and Responses for September 7, 2025

Take Up Thy Cross

UMH 415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."
2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm; his strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel; thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

UMH 382

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.
4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

Psalter Reading from Psalm 139

Psalm 139

Ps. 139:23

Adapt. from Martin Luther
by Carlton R. Young

RESPONSE (General)



O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You pursue me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. R

Whither shall I go from your spirit?

Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, (10) even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with you. R

For it was you who formed my inward parts,

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.

Wonderful are your works!

You know me very well;

my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;

in your book were written the days that were formed for me, every day, before they came into being.

How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you. R