



Summer Worship Service
The Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost
September 13, 2026

WE GATHER

PRELUDE His Mercy is More

Matt Papa

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning of the call, the ways our families, friends, and communities may resist the good news and us as messengers of it.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Beloved, God's call takes many forms. Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run as far as we can. But take assurance in this: You are not alone. God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there.

God, help us accept your call on our lives and to trust that what you equip us to do is what you call us to do as members of the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

#145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

WE CONFESS

***EMBODIED CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

Let Us Build a House – Verse 1 only

TWO OAKS

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Virginia Smith

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Marie Rosenthal

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-15

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

“Standing on Holy Ground: Surrendering to God”

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Moses hid his face and was afraid to look at God in Exodus 3:6. How does fear or intimidation influence our willingness to accept what God is asking us to do today? In Matthew 16:22, Peter rebukes Jesus after hearing about the suffering to come. Why is it hard to accept a calling or path from God that involves hardship, sacrifice, or discomfort?

*SERMON HYMN

#426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the *PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith*, 1983)

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Douglas Wagner

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

#592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

Jesus Calls Us (from *Glory to God* - see addendum)

GALILEE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Rigadon

Andre Campra

*You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter:

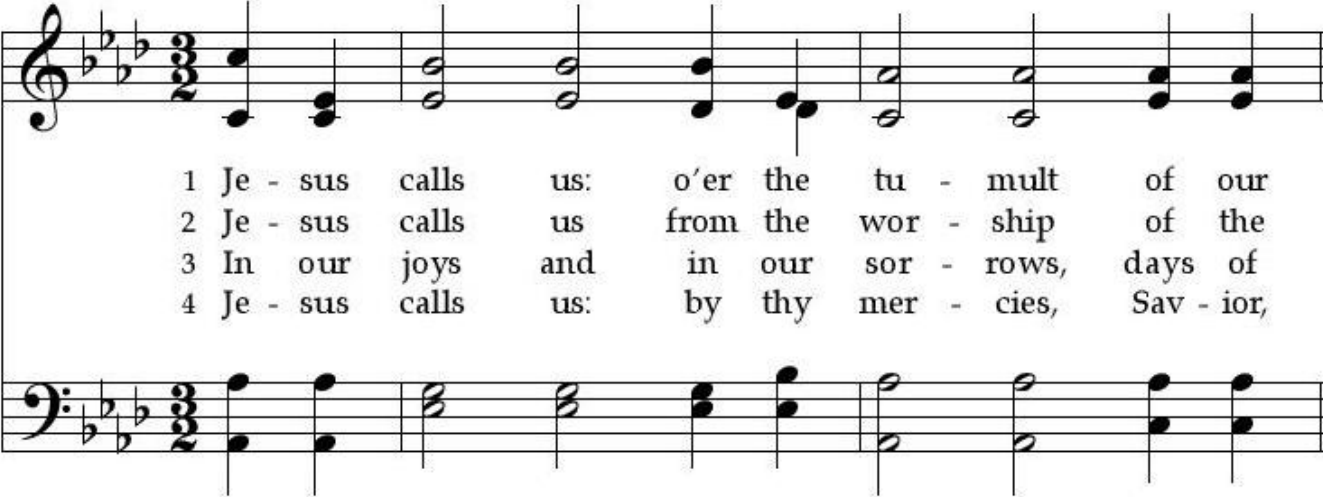
(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F (C7)



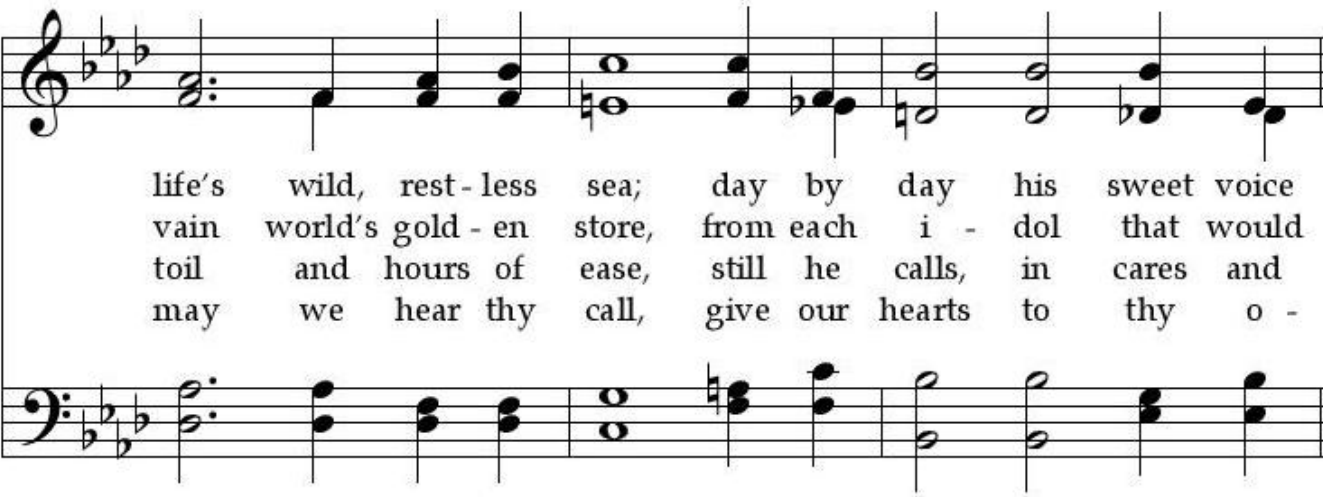
all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Jesus Calls Us

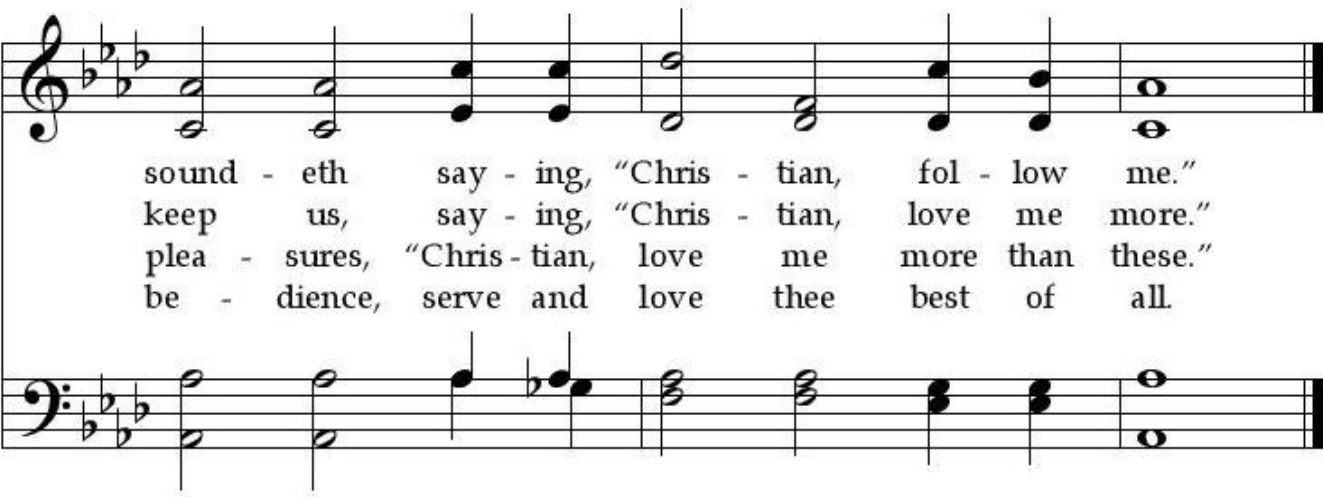
720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPT. 13, 2026

If you are new to our church, welcome! Please complete a **“Connect Card,”** available in the Narthex.

For today: Following our service you have two opportunities to connect. We have tables set up in the Narthex for anyone who would like to **discuss the morning’s sermon** and service. We also offer the **Lemonade on the Lawn** social time on the West Lawn (otherwise in the North Link). Thanks to the Keller family for hosting!

Next week we begin our **new schedule**: Holy Ground at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, and the Traditional service at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and livestreamed on Facebook and our website. We also start our two classes: **Hearts N Minds adult ed** meets from 10-11 a.m. in the Library. **Body N Soul intergenerational class** meets from 10:10-11 a.m. in Room 216. All are welcome to join either gathering.

Tomorrow we begin the new series of **Hi Neighbors speakers programs**. We’ll hear from representatives from the National Museum of Industrial History will discuss their current exhibit, **“Cheers to 250: Brewing in America.”** The social time begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 10 a.m. All are welcome; there is no charge and no pre-registration needed.

For September, we will be collecting food and personal care items for a small program, the **West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry**. Thanks for considering how you can help!

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org

Rev. Dr. Virginia Smith, Parish Associate

David Macbeth, Director of Music Ministries; dmacbeth@fpc-bethlehem.org

CARE CONCERNS

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: Please tell the hospital our church code is 724. Also, please call the church office at 610-867-5865 to let us know as the hospitals do not always collect this information. After hours, leave a message or call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Send to prayer@fpc-bethlehem.org or call 610-867-5865 and leave a message.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Urgent pastoral need? Please call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

We send an email newsletter each Friday morning; it will be emailed to those who request it: contact us at info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865. You can also request a printed copy be mailed to you.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-867-5865 · fpc-bethlehem.org

Check our online calendar for all events and activities.

Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image
(photos and video) in church communications.

Questions about our policy: info@fpc-bethlehem.org



Use this code to
donate through
our secure
website.