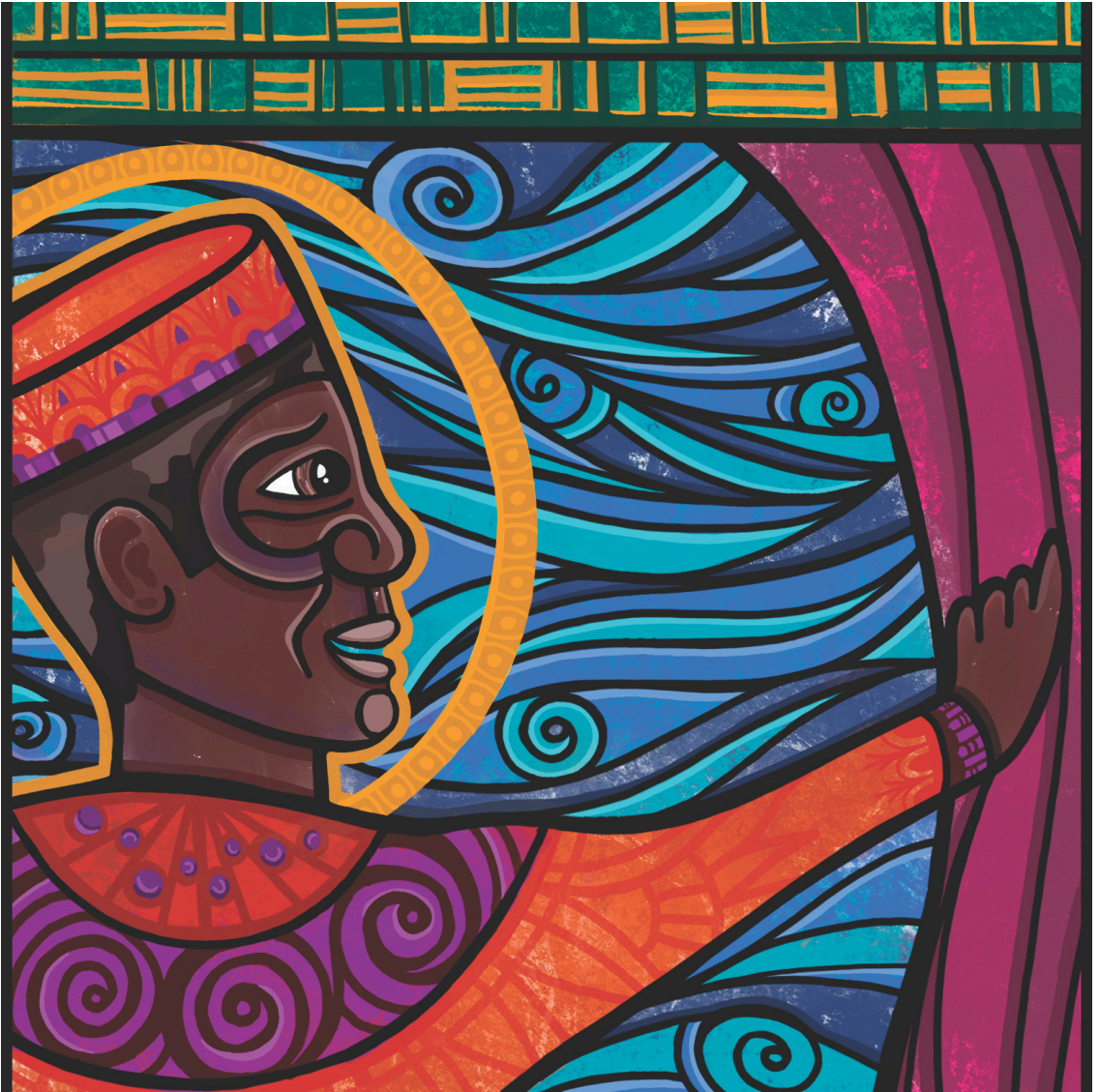




ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JULY 13, 2025

WELCOME

TO ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH



Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time guest, we're so glad you're here!

This summer, we're journeying through a worship series called Faces of Our Faith. Each week, we'll tell the story of a biblical figure - some well-known, others less familiar - whose life has shaped the story of God's people. These are the saints, seekers, strugglers, and everyday folks through whom God

has moved, reminding us that God works through all kinds of people in all kinds of ways.

You'll also notice that we're worshiping in a new space. While our sanctuary undergoes renovations, we'll be gathering here in Vickrey Hall. This may not be the setting we're used to, but we hope this space still feels sacred - a place of welcome, connection, and community.

It's a good reminder that God's presence is not tied to a particular building. Sacred space isn't just about architecture, it's about hearts turned toward God and one another. So as we prepare for worship, may we turn our hearts toward the one who made us and toward the people around us.

We're grateful you're here.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Victoria Robb Powers'.

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

JULY 13, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.

 = *please rise in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

Jeanie Chuang

Amazing Grace

Arr. by Joseph M. Martin

(Please consider the opening sentences during gathering music.)

Today, we reflect on the story of a traveler - an Ethiopian eunuch, a person on the margins, reading sacred words and longing for understanding. On a dusty road, he meets a stranger, and in that meeting, discovers that God has been pursuing him all along.

No status, no label, no distance kept him from the love of God.

And the same is true for us.

Whatever road you have traveled to arrive here — whether smooth or difficult, clear or uncertain — you are welcomed by a God whose love reaches beyond every boundary.

Let this time of worship remind us: There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

Call to Worship & Invocation

Terry Berrier & Congregation

Come to Christ, the living water,
rejected by the world, but in God's sight chosen and precious.

**We have responded to Christ's call,
and seek to be built into a spiritual house,
a living reminder of God's presence on earth.**

Once we were no people, but now we are God's people,
called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.

Therefore we sing with the Church in all ages:

**Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.
By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Let us pray:

**O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.
We thank you that you do not leave us alone, but labor to make us whole.
Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people.
Amen.**

There is Room in God's Great Welcome

HOLY MANNA



1. There is room in God's great wel - come! See! The doors are o - pen wide!
2. There is room in our good na - tion if we stand on just - ice-ground.
3. There is room for un - der - stand - ing, for the out - cast and the poor;
4. There is room in faith - ful church - es for the wound - ed and op - pressed:



Here on earth as in God's hea - ven, hear the call to come in - side!
 God has made a good cre - a - tion; col - ors, cul - tures all a - bound.
 For the Christ - ian, Jew, and Mus - lim, there is room for these and more.
 Wo - men who've been told they're worth - less, ref - u - gees who feel di - stressed,



There is so much room for dif - f'rence; men and wo - men, gay and straight.
 Wel - come, sis - ter! Wel - come, bro - ther! All those yearn - ing to breathe free!
 For the peo - ple on the frin - ges, for the ones with long ca - reer,
 Im - mi - grants who fear the fu - ture, peo - ple scorned and pushed and shoved.



In God's love, the rooms are count - less, but there is no room for hate.
 There is room for one an - oth - er but no room for big - o - try.
 There is room for build - ing brid - ges, but there is no room for fear.
 God, may we seek what you trea - sure: May we all make room for love.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Christ be with you ... **and also with you!**

If you are a guest with us this morning, we invite you to register your attendance by scanning the QR code.



Scripture Lesson

Kenna Curry

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us, **Thanks be to God!**

Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Beth Johnson

During the 11am service, children 3-years of age through 3rd grade are invited to Godly Play.

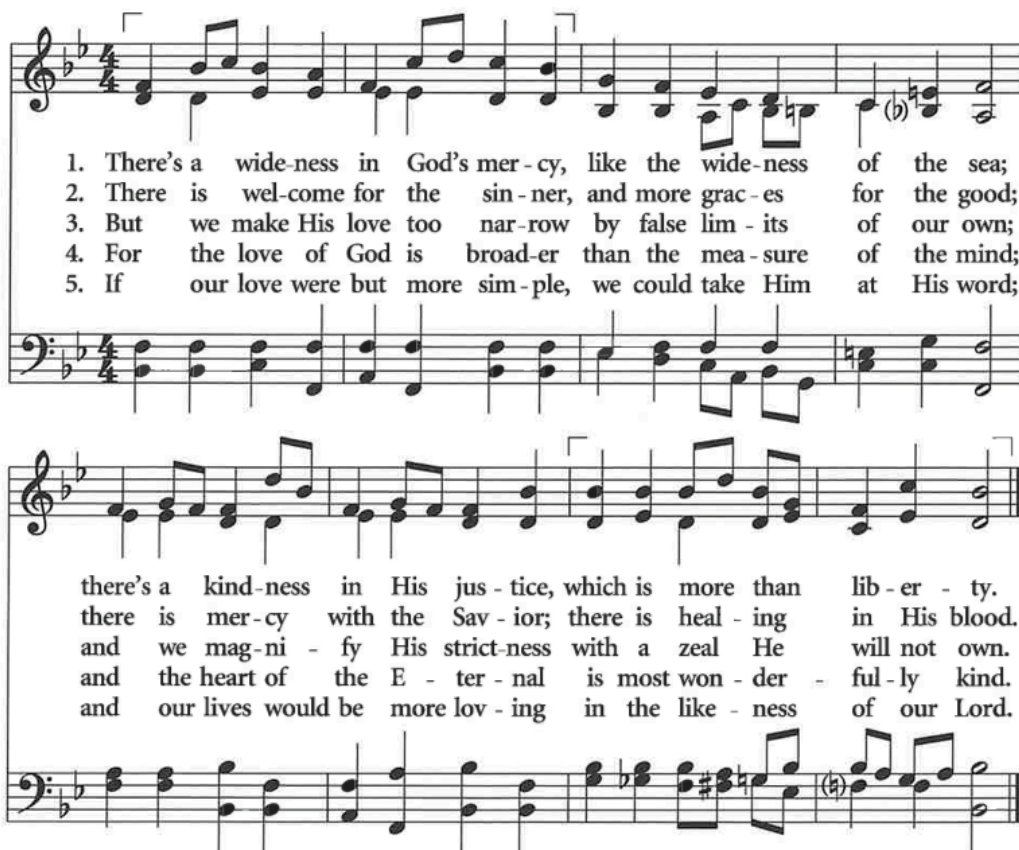
You may collect your children following the service in the Christian Education Building.

Hymn

Congregation

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good;
3. But we make His love too nar-row by false lim-its of our own;
4. For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;
5. If our love were but more sim-ple, we could take Him at His word;

there's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in His blood.
and we mag-ni-fy His strict-ness with a zeal He will not own.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be more lov-ing in the like-ness of our Lord.

Offertory Prayer

9am - David Doom & Congregation

11am - Larry Brown & Congregation

Just as the Ethiopian eunuch was open to receive,
may we open our hearts to receive God's guidance.

Just as the eunuch answered God's call,
may we likewise respond, bringing our gifts to God.

Let our offerings be a reflection of a faith which transforms us,
and a tool to spread good news to all who seek understanding and hope.

Hear now this prayer.

Loving God,

Bless these gifts and use them to bring clarity to the confused, courage to the uncertain,
and salvation to all who thirst for your presence.

May we, like the eunuch, respond to your call with obedience and joy,
walking faithfully in your path, empowered by your Spirit.

In Jesus' name, we pray,

Amen.

Offertory

Jeanie Chuang

O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go

Arr. by Craig Courtney

*We invite you to use
this time to give to
Royal Lane's Ministry.*



Prayers of the People

9am - Leslie Cechan & Congregation
11am - Cecilia Gutierrez & Congregation

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying,
God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With heavy hearts, laden with the pain of this world,
we come to you for healing.
May your love reach beyond every boundary.
Reach us in our grief, pull us from our isolation.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With humility, we pray for this planet, our homes.
Heal what is scarred and broken;
Make good what has been ravaged by flood waters or fire.
Renew the face of the Earth from North to South, from East to West,
So that your creation may speak to us of your goodness.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With hope, we pray for the nations of the world,
especially those places overwhelmed by war and conflict:
Israel, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Russia, and the Ukraine.
Bless peacemakers who work to bring justice
to their country, city, village, and household.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

(We now share silence together.)

Let us pray:
Bring us deliverance.
Passing from grief to joy,
from bondage to freedom, from death to life,
we commend to you, gracious and ever-living God,
all for whom we pray. Amen.

Solo

Cailin Jordan

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Fanny Crosby, Robert Lowry

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Dive In”

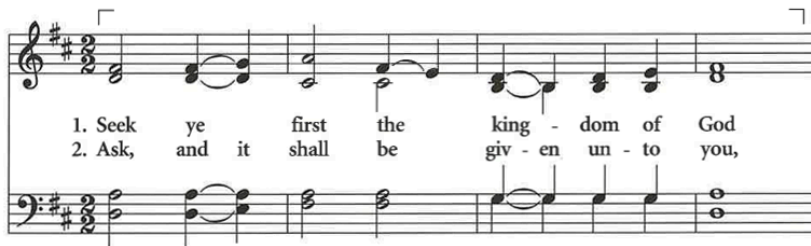
Moment of Contemplation

 **Hymn of Response**

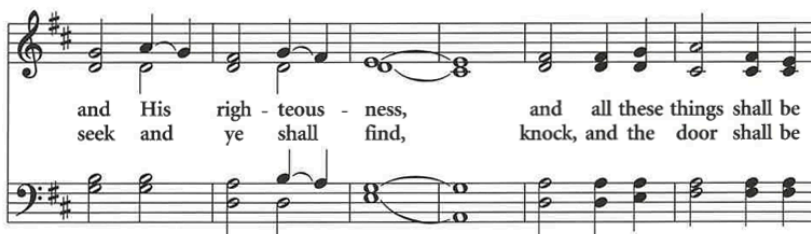
Congregation

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



and His righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Ordination of Deacon

(11:00 a.m. service only)

Presentation of Ordinand

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Cecilia Gutierrez

Statement of Purpose

Kelley Keith

Do you reaffirm your faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; do you seek the peace, unity, and purity of the church; and do you, in accepting the office of deacon in this congregation, promise faithfully to perform all the duties pertaining to your calling?

Ordinand: I do, God being my helper.

Do you, the members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, receive Cecilia as deacon within the shared ministry of Christ's mission, and do you covenant to encourage and support her in the fulfillment of her responsibilities?

All: We do, God being our helper.

Induction & Words of Affirmation

Adam Visconti & Congregation

I now ask the congregation to join in a covenant of affirmation saying:

Reaffirming our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we gladly receive Cecilia as a servant leader in our life together. We covenant to support her with our prayers, encouragement, and respect. We celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibilities for Christ's ministry, which is ours as the church. Praise be to God.

Prayer of Blessing & Declaration

Jeff Hill & Congregation

Let us pray:

Gracious God, look with favor upon Cecilia, who has been called and has committed herself to serve and lead in Christ's name. Pour out your Spirit upon her and upon this congregation. Grant this new Deacon courage, patience, wisdom, and vision; and strengthen us all in our witness to the world, and of service to others; in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, head of the church, and in accordance with the actions of this congregation, I declare that you are now a member of the diaconate of this church.

Thanks be to God!

Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Closing Music

Jeanie Chuang

Let All Things Now Living
Arr. by Robert Wetzler



WORSHIP *NOTES*

Cover Art

from *Dive In*, by Lauren Wright Pittman, graphic image, inspired by Acts 8:26-40

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I struggle with this image I created. I think I struggle because compositionally the image doesn't seem to have a focal point. The more I look at the image, however, I realize that what I was most drawn to in this text was the water. The focus ended up being the background of swirly, energetic waves of water.

In this text we meet a eunuch who is a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia. I imagine the eunuch is surrounded by opulence in the comforts of his chariot, but within this space he is wrestling and confused. His eyes wander through the theological quandaries of Isaiah—the prophecy, the metaphor, the language, the words, the letters, the punctuation—and he invites Philip to join him in this questioning space. What does it all mean? He asks Philip questions and Philip answers them, but the point of clarity comes when the landscape shifts. Instantly, the eunuch moves from questioning to a sense of awe, excitement, wonder, and maybe even a bit certainty. “Look there is water! What is to keep me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:37). The answer is nothing—not his status, not his questioning, not even his position in society as a sexual minority. Absolutely nothing keeps him from the water, and it seems as though he knows this truth deep into the very cells of his existence. Nothing holds him back from baptism. Courageously diving headfirst into a wonderfully mysterious and certainly uncertain life of following Christ, the eunuch emerges from the water drenched in the truth that nothing will keep him from the love of God. —Lauren Wright Pittman

Hymn Notes

Amazing Grace

Arranged by Joseph M. Martin
Malcolm Music 1995.

O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go

Arranged by Craig Courtney
Beckhenhorst Press Inc. 2003.

Let All Things Now Living

Arranged by Robert Wetzler
Lorenz Publishing Company 2004.

There Is Room in God's Great Welcome

Tune: William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825
("God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens")
Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Seek Ye First

Words: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Matt. 6:33, 7:7)
Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972
Words and Music © 1972 CCCM Music and
Maranatha! Music (Admin. by Music Services)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1854
Music: Lizzie S. Tournay, 1877

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
Music: Robert Lowry, 1875

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ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



Weekly Prayer Vigil

Weekly Prayer Vigil at ICE

Monday, July 14, 8:00am, Dallas ICE Office

Join our Justice & Advocacy Fellow, Mara Bim for the weekly prayer vigil occurring outside the Dallas ICE office (8101 N Stemmons Fwy). Come to pray for all those involved in and harmed by the current immigration crisis.



Children and Youth Family Night *at T.P. Hill*

Family Night

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30pm, T.P. Hill

Join us at White Rock Lake for dinner and fun. Bring the whole family to this summer gathering!



Service Event

Friday, July 25, 11:30am, Feed My Starving Children

Help pack nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. There are important tasks for sit-down volunteers, as well as children age 5 and older, who can participate if accompanied by an adult. Follow the QR code to sign up.



Welcome Class

Sunday, August 17, 10:00am, Church Library

Been visiting Royal Lane for awhile? Want your friends to learn more? Our Royal Welcome class is the perfect opportunity to learn more about our church and to ask questions of our staff. Join us for light refreshments in the library!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*

Sunday, July 13

8:00 pm: Sunset Vespers — Sister Grove Farm

Wednesday, July 16

4:00 pm: Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 212 (4:00 - 5:45 pm)

5:30 pm: Children and Youth Family Night — T.P. Hill at White Rock Lake

6:00 pm: Biblical Queer-ies Bible Study — Church Library

Saturday, July 19

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, July 20

9:00 am: Morning Worship — Vickrey Hall

9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building & Library

9:45 am: Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building

9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Harris Youth Cottage

11:00 am: Morning Worship — Vickrey Hall & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room

Children 3-year through Third Grade

*SUNSET
VESPERS*

T O N I G H T
AT SISTER GROVE FARM

*register
here:*



8-10PM
1731 Jim Cannon Road
Van Alstyne, Texas

HOW TO *CONNECT*

Event Details

See the Weekly News & Journal or Web Calendar for links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events. royallane.org/resources/event

Prayer Requests

We invite you to submit prayer requests by filling out the prayer request form on the website at royallane.org/prayer or by scanning the QR code.

Deacons on Call

Leslie Cechan & Cecilia Gutierrez

REQUEST

PRAYER



GIVING AT ROYAL LANE

We encourage you to support the missions and ministries of our church. Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200 or scan the QR code. Follow the prompts to complete the process. Standard text message rates may apply. You can also donate online at royallane.org/give.

ONLINE

GIVING



ROYAL LANE STAFF

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship
Rev. Beth Johnson, Minister to Children, Youth, & Families
Tori Jones, Communications & Ministry Coordinator
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern
Mara Bim, Justice & Advocacy Fellow
Cathy Walling, Office Administrator & Prophetic Leadership
Program Coordinator

Jeanie Chuang, Pianist
Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director
Taide Guerra, Housekeeping
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician
Brandon Green, Audio Technician
Brian Stinecipher, Audio Technician
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician