



## FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue  
West Bend WI 53095

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**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
August 6, 2023

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Katie Glaser, Liturgist  
Deanna Gibeau, Singer  
Deanna Gibeau, Organist  
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

**JOIN US** IN PERSON OR ONLINE  
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

### **WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC**

Whether you're just beginning to explore your faith or have been following Christ for years, you and your whole family can belong at Fifth Ave. UMC

**\*Note: L: denotes worship "Leader" ~  
P: denotes "People"**

**PRELUDE:**

**"Largo"**

**Karl Schulz**

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**~WELCOME ~**

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**Pastor:** There are a few stories in the Bible that are troubling. These stories are challenging and make us think. God is revealed to be a little different from what we have come to expect. Today's story is one of these, the story of God coming to Jacob, the great patriarch, and wrestling with him through a long, dark night. I wonder if we can be so comfortable with God that the idea that God confronts us, changes us and, yes, even attacks us is, yes . . . troubling, to say the least. You see, we do not make God, God makes us. This is the theme for our worship this morning.

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~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

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**CENTERING MUSIC:**

**“All I Need is You”**

**Dan Adler**

**\*GATHERED IN WORSHIP** (Responsively)

**L:** The God of steadfast love calls us together and has promised to us the gift of Presence.

**P:** God names us and gathers us as one body. God inclines an ear to us and hears our prayers.

**L:** When God meets us, we find refuge. And yet also—when God meets us there is also struggle and pain.

**P:** God leads us to face ourselves and our potential, and God prompts us to wrestle with our fears.

**L:** God calls us to daring commitment and service

**P:** And so, we have come once more, to hear God's promises.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (Unison)

God of prophets, hear our cries. We do not intend to deceive or to utter lies. We seek to avoid violence and divisions. We want to live peacefully among all people. Yet we find ourselves violating the best we know and shrinking from situations that call for courageous witness. We are far from realizing the full life you intend for us. Hear us. Forgive us. Bless us, we pray. Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**L:** God meets us face to face and listens to our every longing. In Christ, we are given a refuge and saved from our deceptions. We are freed to give up our old ways and to walk in newness of life. Let us live, then, as people who are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**\*HYMN:**

**“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

**UMH 185**

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~WE PROCLAIM~

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**\*Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSV)** (Unison)

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with

God and with humans, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved. The sun rose as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.”

**L:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**P:** Thanks be to God.

**SERMON:** “Scripture”

**Rev. Michael Morning**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

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**~AN INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~**

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**\*DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” **UMH 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!

**\*HYMN:** “Come, Share the Lord” **TFWS 2269**

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**~SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ~**

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**A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III**

**UMH pp. 15-16 and on screen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Unison)**

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN** “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” **UMH 418**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE:** “Praise to Thee” **Fintian Walker**