

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Ascension of the Lord Sunday

May 17, 2026

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - <https://tinyurl.com>

Ascension of the Lord Sunday ~ May 17, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit.

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE *The Dearest Names* ~ by Frances K. Taylor, arr. by Laurel Hunt Pedersen

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT *See How Great a Flame Aspires* UMH #541, vss 1 & 2

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

P: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

P: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

L: Let's get to work! Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

AMEN?

All: AMEN!

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your Advocate.

Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think.

For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

UMH #154

PRAYER FOR UNITY

L: God of all creation,
who called every being into life,
who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity,
who embodies us with dignity,
granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world,
we ask for your Spirit to unite us
where we face lack of understanding and disunity
in our churches, in our communities, in our countries.
And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts.
God and Creator of all humankind,
your son Jesus Christ prayed that your church might be one,
even as you our God are one.

May you renew our minds and rekindle your love in our hearts,
so that by the power of the Spirit,
we might find the Oneness that you intend for us. (Continued)

L: God, may we recognize in your Oneness

P: ...our need for unity.

L: God, may we recognize in your Three-ness,

P: ...our need for community.

God, may we recognize in your creativity,

P: ...our need for diversity.

God, may we recognize in your Self,

P: ...our need to love each other.

All: AMEN

Adapted from the Lenten series Journey into Wholeness written by Christine Sine. Published in 2009 by Mustard Seed Associates.

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

My Heart Ever Faithful ~ by, J.S Bach

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 93

UMH #813

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

HYMN

Surely the Presence of the Lord

UMH #328

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

THE MESSAGE

Waiting for the Wind

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

You Are Mine

TFWS #2218

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Gethsemane ~ by George Careless, arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen*

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(John 17:1-1)

L: Unifying God of Grace, you have entrusted us with the joy of community.
As Jesus prayed that we might be one, we bring these gifts as a sign
of our shared commitment to your mission in the world.

Let our giving reflect our love, our unity declare your glory,
and our generosity embody Christ's presence among us.

Use these offerings to strengthen the church, to bless our neighbors, and
to glorify your name.

All: In Christ, we belong to you. In Christ, you are glorified in us. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN**

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH #413

***THE BENEDICTION**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025

L: Beloved, go now in the blessing of the Triune God
to live as diverse members of the one body of Christ, choosing unity over division,
cooperation over conformity, and collaboration over exclusion
as we work together for the flourishing of all creation. **AMEN.**

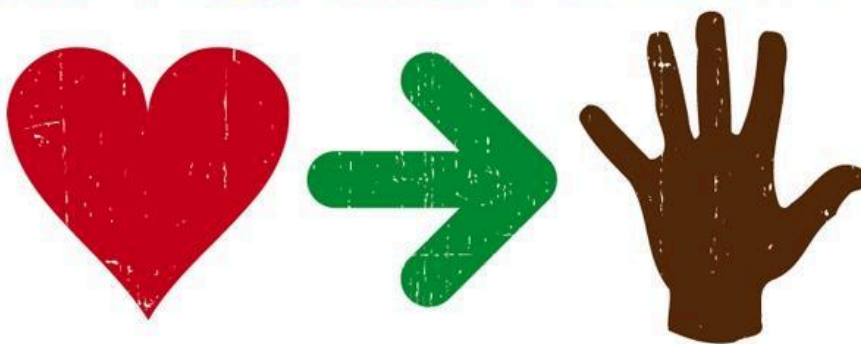
POSTLUDE

***Mother, Tell Me the Story ~ by Janice Kapp Perry,
arr. by Laurel Hunt Pedersen***

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

LOVE. GO. SERVE.



Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from MinistryMatters.com ©2011, 2017, 2020 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



**ALL I NEED
TODAY
IS A LITTLE BIT OF
COFFEE
AND A WHOLE LOT OF
JESUS**

+ The Good Cup: Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl,
Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.

+ Coffee & Jesus: will continue Mid-May with a study based on *The Chosen*.
Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Watch for details.

- **Church Council Meeting:** Monday, May 18th at 10:30am, in the carpeted room downstairs.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** May 24th.
- **Cheery’Os:** will meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 11:30. We will meet downstairs. Bring your lunch if you choose, cookies and beverages will be provided.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

Readers

May 17: Tom Ortmeier, Debby Nikkari
May 24: Robin Howard, Carrie Livernois
May 31: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard

May 17: Tom Ortmeier
May 24: Christa Carroll
May 31: Kathy Demo

Greeters/Ushers

Fellowship Time Hosts

May 17: Kathy Demo
May 24: Norm Gardner
May 31: Carrie Livernois

June 7: Sue and John Loope
July 5: Ashley Fish and Family
Aug. 2: Carrie Livernois
Sept. 6: Robin Howard & Judy Haer
Oct. 4: Sue and John Loope