

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Core Faith
July 26, 2026

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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

A Moment Alone ~ by Terri Hutchings

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

P: **Good things can come from something that seemed so insignificant!**

L: The spore of the yeast can leaven the whole loaf of bread.

P: **We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God's world.**

L: Come, let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders.

P: **Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve.**

AMEN

GATHERING PRAYER

L: Lord of mustard seeds and yeast, we come to you this day,
seeking your Word and will for us.

Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of others.

Give us courage to be yeast for the rising
of hope and peace throughout the world.

Open our hearts to receive your word of love and healing,
and let our spirits be ready to grow for you.

Forgive our stubborn resistance to your faithful presence.

For all things will work for the good for those who love God
and are called according to God's purpose. **AMEN**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

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

*HYMN

Seek Ye First

UMH #405

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: God of surprising love, you have called us to be your treasures,
to be those who love and serve you by helping meet the needs of others.
Jesus reminded us that we were like mustard seeds that could grow
into mighty shelters for those who felt abandoned;
we were like yeast placed in flour which causes the whole dough
rise and to be fruitful for the nourishment of God's people,

[Continued]

that we are also nets, cast into the unknown sea, gathering people for the Lord
that they might be healed and saved.
You place so much hope and trust in us.
Please help us not to fail you.
Give us courage and empower us to serve you boldly and joyfully,
for it is in the healing love of Christ that we offer this prayer. AMEN

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT **Romans 8:26-39**

READING FROM THE GOSPELS **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

THE MESSAGE *Great Things Come in Small Packages* Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

Jesus uses common imagery to illustrate the nature of God's work for the Kin-dom

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN This Is My Father's World UMH #144**

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

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC *O Thou Kind and Gracious Father ~ by George Careless*
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

***THE DOXOLOGY Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #94**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Lord, you place before us the images of the small – the tiny mustard seed, the grain of yeast, the small treasure – and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we can serve you throughout all our lives. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN** **Pass It On (It Only Takes a Spark)** **UMH #572, vs. 1**

* BENEDICTION

L: Imagine what a mustard seed of faith might do this week in your life.
Not a quart, nor a gallon, nor a truckload.
Just a mustard seed.
Imagine!
Now go and live out that grace.

All: Lord, as we go, continue to plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in your name. AMEN!

POSTLUDE *Furusato* ~ by Teiichi Okano, arr. K. Kobayashi

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

All God's People in
All Places,
And in
All Times,
Are Called to Love
And to Serve.



Ministry of the Laity

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from MinistryMatters.com ©2011, 2017, 2020 & 2026
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Special music:** If you would like to be a part of our music ministry, please contact Anthony choirdirector@potsdamumc.org.
- **Acapella North Chorus:** Rehearsal every Tuesday, 5-9pm.
- **Blessings In A Bag Beach Lunch Program:** Mondays and Thursdays, July 9th - Aug. 13th, 10:30 - 11:30am.
- **Back to School Ice Cream Social:** Saturday, August 22, 1-3pm.
- **Rain location for Porchfest:** Saturday, August 29th, 11am-5:30pm.

Worship Participants			
Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
July 26:	Christa Carroll, Tom Ortmeyer	July 26:	Tom Ortmeyer
Aug. 2:	Robin Howard, Carrie Livernois	Aug. 2:	Nancy Matthews
Aug. 9:	Christa Carroll, Debby Nikkari	Aug. 9:	Sharon Hutchinson
Aug. 16:	Tom Ortmeyer, Robin Howard	Aug. 16:	Carrie Livernois
Aug. 23:	Tom Ortmeyer, Carrie Livernois	Aug. 23:	Kathy Demo
Aug. 30:	Carrie Livernois, Debby Nikkari	Aug. 30:	Christa Carroll
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
July 26:	Norm Gardner	Aug. 2:	Robin Howard & Judy Haer
Aug. 2:	Carrie Livernois	Sept. 6:	Carrie Livernois
Aug. 9:	Kathy Demo	Oct. 4:	Sue and John Loope
Aug. 16:	Kathy Demo	Nov. 1:	Carol Willmert
Aug. 23:	Nancy Matthews	Nov. 22:	Greening of the Church: Pizza Party
Aug. 30:	Norm Gardner	Dec. 6:	Ashley Fish and Family

PRIDE is celebrated in June... but lived all year through!
Support our siblings... be present, be inclusive, be loving!

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://tinyurl.com/2s3mtnr5>