

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Core Faith
August 16, 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

Diane Romlein ~ Guest Pianist

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

L: Beloved disciples, welcome! We gather as people reconciled to one another and God through grace, a gift freely and lovingly given that we do not earn or deserve.

We receive the marvelous work of grace in our lives, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

P: **No! God's grace is not fair, but a gift of God's mercy.**

L: We gather as neighbors who have experienced difficulties of every kind.

We feel uncertain, fearful, and overwhelmed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

P: **No! Our difficulties are not fair, but God's grace meets our uncertainty with mercy and love.**

L: We gather as a community that knows the suffering of our neighbors. We look at the effects of poverty, food insecurity, and trauma in our neighborhoods, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

P: **No! The suffering of our neighbors is not fair, but God's grace calls us to respond to suffering with mercy and justice.**

L: We gather as people who question how to live into God's abundance and flourishing in a world built on scarcity and greed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

All: **Yes! God's life of abundance and flourishing is fair, because it is merciful. May God's grace forms us into people of mercy, justice, compassion, and truth telling as we gather today. AMEN**

*HYMN

Standing on the Promises

UMH #374

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams, Lord. Be with us as together we experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace.

For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

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

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ / Dream of a Church, by Mark A. Miller; performed by Mittie Theobald Quinn



... AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!
READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 15:10-28

THE MESSAGE Crumbs of Faith Rev. Heidi R. Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me** **TFWS #2151**

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 **Diane Romlein ~ Guest Pianist**

***THE 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!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Matthew 15:21-28)
L: God of love and mercy, we give you thanks that the compassion of Christ
was challenged to move beyond the people of one community.
May it be a reminder to us, his disciples, to follow this example in our living and our giving.
Help us to see beyond our walls, beyond our communities,
and across the divides of nation, race and creed, and to be generous
as we share our blessings that have their source in you, God of us all.
AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN** **Freely, Freely** **UMH #389**

BENEDICTION
L: Beloved, is it fair? As you go today asking this question, remember:
Whether your answer is yes or no, there is always room for more mercy.
May we be blessed to be a people willing to share God's grace and mercy
in a world preoccupied only with fairness. **AMEN**

POSTLUDE **Diane Romlein ~ Guest Pianist**
Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We struggle with the story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman, as we aren't sure what it tells us about Jesus.

But what if we focus instead on the Canaanite woman?

What we discover is that the real struggle is what the story tells us about us:

- Are our prayers as heartfelt and persistent?
- Do we petition Jesus as though everything was at stake?
- Are we ready to put our faith on the line when we gather for worship?



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

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@potsgdamumc.org.
- **Acapella North Chorus:** Rehearsal every Tuesday, 5-9pm.
- **Back to School Ice Cream Social:** Saturday, August 22, 1-3pm, rain or shine.
- **Rain location for SLC Arts Porchfest:** Saturday, August 29th, 11am-5:30pm.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
Aug. 16:	Tom Ortmeyer, Robin Howard	Aug. 16:	Nancy Matthews
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	
Aug. 16:	Kathy Demo	Sept. 6:	Carrie Livernois
Aug. 23:	Nancy Matthews	Oct. 4:	Sue and John Loope
Aug. 30:	Norm Gardner	Nov. 1:	Carol Willmert
		Nov. 22:	Greening of the Church: Pizza Party
		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
Diane Romlein ~ Guest Pianist

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@potsgdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsgdamumc.org

Website: www.potsgdamumc.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/2s3mtnr5>