

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost *Lessons in Leadership* **September 6, 2026**

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

Guest Musician ~ Debby Nikkari

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>

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 6, 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

Morning Song ~ arr. Charles Callahan

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.

P: **God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.**

L: We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.

P: **God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.**

L: We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.

P: **God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.**

L: We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.

All: **Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

OPENING PRAYER

L: Lord of the church, you call a broken people around your table:

All: **in times of disagreement,
teach us to listen,
loose us from prejudice
and bind us to your way
of forgiving grace;**

through Jesus Christ, who stands at the heart of our gathering. Amen.

Written by Stephen Shakespear in Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

*HYMN

More Love to Thee, O Christ

UMH #453

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God.

All: **Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that
we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives –
that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.
We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.**

We judge and condemn.
We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.
Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be
imitators of Christ in love and service. AMEN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Alleluia! AMEN

Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good,” Used with permission.

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

***HYMN** **Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart** **UMH #160**

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

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT **Romans 13:8-14**
READING FROM THE GOSPELS **Matthew 18:15-20**

THE MESSAGE ***Wearing Church Clothes*** **Rev. Heidi R. Chamberlain**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **The Gift of Love** **UMH #408**

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 ***Deep River, African-American Spiritual ~ arr. Marianne Kim***

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20)

All: Reconciling God, you mark our lives not with fear, but with mercy, and you gather us into a people shaped by grace. As you delivered your children at Passover and taught your church to seek peace with one another, teach us to live in our “church clothes” every day — clothed in patience, truth, and love. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your saving power and our commitment to your work of healing and restoration. Use what we offer to mend what is broken, welcome those who feel outside, and build a community where forgiveness and hope have the final word. In Christ’s name, we pray. **AMEN**

A SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN **["One Bread, One Body"]** **UMH #620]**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF BENEDICTION Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace UMH #668

BENEDICTION

L: Family of God, the lessons of reconciliation and peace-making are not easy. As you move into the week ahead, may God bless you with the desire to restore community when it is broken, to hold boundaries with firmness and grace, to listen with curiosity, and to speak with gentleness, that all may know we are disciples of Jesus Christ. AMEN
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

POSTLUDE Trumpet Air and Interlude ~ Stanley Vann

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

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:



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. **The Good Cup is on hiatus Sep. 9th & 16th, while Pastor Heidi is away.**
- **Acapella North Chorus:** Rehearsal every Tuesday, 5-9pm.
- **SPPRC Meeting:** September 6, immediately following Fellowship Time.
- **Choir returns:** Sunday, September 13th.
- **Love Letters to the World:** Sunday, September 13th.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** Begins Sept. 13 and will be held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.
- **Pastor Heidi on vacation:** Wednesday, September 9th - Saturday September 19th.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund Meeting:** Tuesday, September 15th, 5-7pm, Carter Room.
- **Second Chance Scholars - Guest Speaker:** Sunday, September 20th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
Sept. 6:	Tom Ortmeyer, Debby Nikkari	Sept. 6:	Sharon Hutchinson
Sept. 13:	Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois	Sept. 13:	Nancy Matthews
Sept. 20:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Sept. 20:	Kathy Demo
Sept. 27:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Sept. 27:	Collen Gondo
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
Sept. 6:	Carrie Livernois	Sept. 6:	Carrie Livernois
Sept. 13:	Kathy Demo	Oct. 4:	Sue and John Loope
Sept. 20:	Norm Gardner	Nov. 1:	Carol Willmert
Sept. 27:	Nancy Matthews	Nov. 22:	Greening of the Church: Pizza Party
		Dec. 6:	Ashley Fish and Family