

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons in Leadership
September 13, 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

How Firm a Foundation ~ by J. Ellis, arr. Terri Hutchings

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

INTROIT

Make a Channel of Your Peace [TFWS 2171]

A CENTERING THOUGHT

L: When two or three gather, Christ lives in every moment,

P: **where two or three gather, Christ is present with them.**

L: Where two or three gather to worship God,

P: **glad songs of praise are lifted, hearts are filled with hope.**

L: When two or three gather to serve God's creation,

P: **Christ is feeding the hungry, Christ is building shelters of peace. AMEN**

*HYMN

God Is Here

UMH #660

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

P: **Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.**

L: The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

P: **Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.**

L: We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

P: **Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.**

L: In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

All: God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. AMEN!

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

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

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

ANTHEM

Joy Down in My Heart ~ by Mary McDonald

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

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 14:1-12

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Writing a Love Letter to our Community

In place of the morning message and as prayer in action, we will participate in **Chalk the Walk** – a community-driven awareness initiative used during September, **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**, to spread messages of hope, reduce mental health stigma, and start open conversations.

This morning, in your bulletin, you will find a piece of colored paper on which to write an encouraging message to members of our community who may be struggling.

Please, write the letter you would hope to receive if this were being written to you.

When you are finished, re-read your letter and **pick a single sentence or create an image** that sums up your message. This is the message that you will add to the front walkway to the church doors! Afterward, this lovely piece of paper, with your message, will be used to create a multi-colored bulletin board in the fellowship area to remind all to continue our prayers of love and support for the community.

The world needs each of us – no one else in all of God's Creation is exactly like us!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Take My Life, and Let It Be

UMH #399

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #270

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

Please also add your *Love Letters to our Community* to the offering plate

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*As the Dew from Heaven Distilling ~ by Joseph J. Daynes,
arr.by Keith D Rowley*

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Matthew 18:21-35)

All: God of love and compassion, we ask you to dedicate the tithes and offerings we bring to worship. We do this in the hope that you will do more with them than we could ever do on our own to heal the brokenness and division in our world. Remind us that the work of reconciliation does not get removed from our list because we put something in the offering and that mission field is within our arms' reach. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF BENEDICTION Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace

UMH #668

BENEDICTION

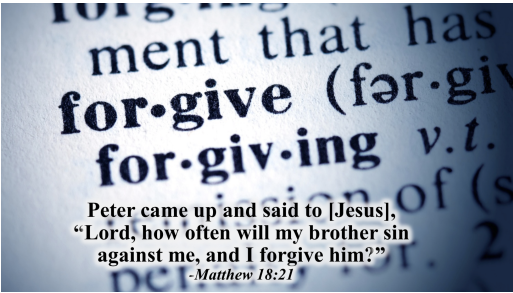
L: Travelers on the journey of faith, pay attention! God is at work all around you.
May you go ready to witness the signs of God’s love
in your midst and to be a sign of God’s love wherever you go. AMEN
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023.

POSTLUDE

Winds of Time ~ by Adrienne Foster Potter

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.**
- **Choir returns:** Today! ~ Sunday, September 13th.
- **Love Letters to the World:** Today ~ Sunday, September 13th.
- **Pastor Heidi on vacation:** Wednesday, September 9th - Sunday September 20th.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund Meeting:** Tuesday, September 15th, 5-7pm, Carter Room.
- **Second Chance Scholars - Guest Speaker:** Sunday, September 20th.
- **Cheery'Os** will meet Tuesday, September 22nd at 11:30 in the Shalom Room. Feel free to bring your lunch. Cookies and beverages will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you!
- **Super Church Sunday School:** Begins Sept. 24th and will be held the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month.
- **Church Council:** There will be a brief meeting following Worship on Sunday, September 27th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
Sept. 13:	Christa Carroll, TBA	Sept. 13:	Nancy Matthews
Sept. 20:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Sept. 20:	TBA
Sept. 27:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Sept. 27:	Collen Gondo
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
Sept. 13:	Norm Gardner	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

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

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain
Tom Ortmeyer Leading Worship

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>