

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost *Lessons in Leadership* **September 20, 2026**

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

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Kathy Demo 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.com/2s3mtnr5>

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 20, 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

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ~ by Rowland H. Pritchard
arr. by Sally DeFord*

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

INTROIT

Lily of the Valley ~ [TFWS 2062]

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: In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...
P: **We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.**
L: In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...
P: **We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.**
L: In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...
P: **We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.**
L: Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...
All: **As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. AMEN!**
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

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

ANTHEM

Put a Little Love In Your Heart ~ Arr. Cristi Cary Miller

AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 1:21-30

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Second Chance Scholars

In place of the morning message and as prayer in action, we welcome **Gregory Moore as our guest speaker on behalf of Second Chance Scholars**

This amazing program was founded in response to the struggle to create a viable release plan for the first Potsdam@RCF student who transitioned from prison to continue his post-secondary education on the SUNY Potsdam campus.

- Second Chance Scholars’ mission is to support returning citizens in academic and professional success by meeting their basic needs such as housing, employment, clothing, food, social support, and other necessities.
- Second Chance Scholars seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment that fosters personal and academic growth, allowing justice-impacted scholars to realize their full potential and achieve their goals.

Each of us at Potsdam UMC can help play a role in this vital mission... starting today! If you would like to donate to this mission, please use the envelope in your bulletin and mark it **Second Chance Scholars** (make checks payable to the Potsdam United Methodist Church) or if you prefer, you can donate online <https://secondchancescholars.org>

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **Give Me the Faith Which Can Remove** **UMH #650**

THE LORD’S PRAYER **UMH #270**

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC ***Be Thou Humble ~ by Grietje Terburg Rowley***
arr. by Keith D Rowley

***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 (Philippians 1:21-30)

All: Steadfast God, for us to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kin-dom. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF BENEDICTION Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace

UMH #668

BENEDICTION

L: As you go from this place, may God bless you with wisdom, courage, and perseverance to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ as you work, rest, play, and strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. AMEN
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

POSTLUDE Love at Home ~ music by J.H. McNaughton, arr. by Sally DeFord
Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

“At Second Chance Scholars, we believe that education is a powerful tool for reducing recidivism and promoting positive social outcomes, but this must first be achieved by ensuring the stable housing one needs after returning to the community. By providing safe and secure housing and comprehensive support services, we aim to empower formerly incarcerated students while they complete their degree, achieve financial independence, remain free from prison, and encourage others on their paths to success. This not only benefits the individuals we serve but also builds stronger families and communities and contributes to cost savings for the justice system. Together, the organization aims to work with formerly incarcerated people, educators, professionals, artists, advocates, funders, and the community to overcome the many barriers to successful reentry.” – Brandon Rodriguez, SCS Board Member

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.
- **Second Chance Scholars - Guest Speaker:** Today, 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!
- **Mission and Outreach Meeting:** Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 2:30pm in the carpeted room downstairs.
- **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. 20:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Sept. 20:	Sharon Hutchinson
Sept. 27:	Tom Ortmeier, Christa Carroll	Sept. 27:	Collen Gondo
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
Sept. 20:	Norm Gardner	Oct. 4:	Sue and John Loope
Sept. 27:	Nancy Matthews	Nov. 1:	Carol Willmert
		Nov. 22:	Greening of the Church: Pizza Party
		Dec. 6:	Ashley Fish and Family