

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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

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>

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 18, 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

For the Beauty of the Earth (simple gifts medley)

by Conrad Kocher & Joseph Brackett, arr by Rebecca Belliston

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

INTROIT

Abide With Me ~ [UMH #700 V.S 1 & 5]

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

Exodus 3:5 [KJV]

"Put off thy shoes from of thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Each morning, God's grace awakens us,
each evening, God's peace cradles us.

P: **Compassion is our constant companion,**
as we go through work, school, the day.

L: In every moment, God is present with us;
God whispers words which can change our lives.

P: **Justice is our faithful teacher,**
pointing to where we can carry out fairness.

L: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows,
God's light will provide a way home.

P: **We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us;**
we return home, and find a feast prepared.

L: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens,
God is the Lord of all life.

P: **In God we live and move and have our being.**

L: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

P: **We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God**
has touched our lives.

L: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

P: **Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. AMEN**

*HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

UMH #64

*OPENING PRAYER

L: We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

P: **We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.**

L: The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God,
neighbor, self, and all creation.

P: **We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.**

L: The Spirit inspires us to receive God’s Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.
P: **We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.**
L: Come, let us worship in the assurance of God’s love that chooses us, empowers us,
and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.
P: **We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God,
we belong to one another. AMEN**
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: God, you are our refuge. We believe You live among us
and the place where You are is Holy Ground.
We know You love all peoples and that their ways and lands are also Holy.
Help us to discover all Your wonders in their faith, their lives and their stories.
Send us Your spirit, and we will listen, learn, and meet You in Your Holy Ground.
AMEN

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing ~ Arr: Anna Mae Nichols*

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

THE FIRST READINGS **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**
Matthew 22:15-22

THE SECOND READING **Exodus 3:1-5**

***HYMN** **We Are Standing on Holy Ground** **TFWS #2272**

MESSAGE *Just When...* **Rev. Heidi Chamberlain**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **Here I Am, Lord** **UMH #593**

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 *Though Deepening Trials ~ by George Careless*
arr. by Laurel Hunt Pedersen

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Loving, living God, be among us now.
Show us your ways. Guide our steps.
Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving.
Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.
Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you,
gifts to be shared in service and love.
Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy
and live your message with love. **AMEN**

Written by Mary Scifres on the Ministry Matters website

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF BENEDICTION Take My Life, and Let it Be UMH #399

* BENEDICTION

L: May God bless you with the assurance that you are chosen children of God, empowered and equipped by the Spirit to live as the Family of God in a world in desperate need of the good news. **AMEN**
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

POSTLUDE *Autumn in Village ~ by Minoru Kainuma (1909-1971) arr. by K Kobayashi*
Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

*"Our own curiosity
often hinders us in
reading the Scriptures,
because we wish to
understand and argue
when we should simply
read on with humility,
simplicity and faith."
~ Thomas a Kempis (c.1380-1471)*

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from MinistryMatters.com & Discipleship Ministries ©2017, 2020, 2023, & 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Finance Meeting:** Monday, October 19, at 12:30.
- **Church Council:** Will meet Tuesday, October 27th, at 10:30am.
- **Cheery'Os:** Next meeting TBD.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** Will not meet in October.

Worship Participants			
Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
Oct. 18:	Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois	Oct. 18:	Collen Gondo
Oct. 25:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Oct. 25:	Nancy Matthews
Nov. 1:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Nov. 1:	Sharon Hutchinson
Nov. 8:	Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer	Nov. 8:	Collen Gondo
Nov. 15:	Robin Howard, Debby Nikkari	Nov. 15:	Tom Ortmeyer
Nov. 22:	Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois	Nov. 22:	Christa Carroll
Nov. 29:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Nov. 29:	Kathy Demo
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
Oct. 18:	Norm Gardner	Nov. 1:	Carol Willmert
Oct. 25:	TBA	Nov. 22:	Greening of the Church: Pizza Party
Nov. 1:	Nancy Matthews	Dec. 6:	Ashley Fish and Family
Nov. 8:	TBA		
Nov. 15:	Carrie Livernois		
Nov. 22:	Norm Gardner		
Nov. 29:	Kathy Demo		