Potsdam United Methodist Church



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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 ***The Iron Rod*** **~ by William Clayton, arr. by Rebecca Belliston**

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

INTROIT ***The Family Prayer Song*** ~ [TFWS 2188]

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Joshua 24, Psalm 78, 1 Thessalonians 4)

L: The God of our ancestors has led us to this place.
P: We are witnesses.
L: We have sworn to teach God's promises to all generations.
P: We are witnesses.
L: The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory.
P: We are witnesses.
L: Let us tell the world of God's faithful love.
P: We will worship and witness together!

***OPENING PRAYER** (1 Thessalonians 4, Matthew 25)

L: Your love has brought us together, O Lord,
and it is your love that sustains us through each day.
All: We pray that you would keep us faithful.
Even as we watch for signs of your kingdom,
strengthen us to work with you
to bring about, here and now,
your reign on earth.
Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world,
today, tomorrow, and into the future.
We pray in the name of the One who comes, Christ our Savior. AMEN

***HYMN** **Stand Up and Bless the Lord** **UMH #662**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost,
we are not lost to God.
God calls us to be ready for God's new kingdom.
In all this God is with us. **AMEN**

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG…

CHOIR ANTHEM ***Come, Come, Ye Saints*** **~ arranged by: Andrew Hawryluk**

… AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

GOD'S WORD – THE NEW TESTAMENT **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

GOD'S WORD - THE GOSPELS **Matthew 25:1-13**

L: The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN** **Let There Be Light** **UMH #440, vss. 1 & 6**

MESSAGE **Ready or not, here I come…** **Rev. Heidi Chamberlain**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** **I Want to Be Ready** **UMH #722**

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 ***Prelude in D minor*** **~ by Arthur W. Marchant**

***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

All: Watchful God, you call us to keep awake—to live with open eyes and attentive hearts, ready to recognize Christ in the needs and joys that surround us each day.
As we bring these gifts, keep the flame of compassion burning within us.
Fill us with the oil of kindness, generosity, and holy attentiveness, that our lives may shine with your love in a world too often dimmed by fear and indifference.
Use these offerings and our willing spirits to bring light, hope, and welcome to your children.
Keep us awake to your presence and faithful in your service, through Christ our Lord.
AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN OF BENEDICTION** **Love the Lord Your God** **TFWS #2168**

*** BENEDICTION**

L: Go out to stay awake! Go out to keep alert and be ready!
P: We do not know the day or the hour, but we do know that God goes with us at all hours, on all days.
L: Go with the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.
All: We go to witness and serve! AMEN

POSTLUDE ***Emotions*** **~ by Terri Croclett**

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK



Matthew 25:1-13, a profound call to spiritual readiness and endurance:

- **Faith Cannot Be Borrowed:**
  When the midnight cry rang out, the foolish bridesmaids realized their lamps were going out and asked the wise for oil. The wise had to say no because spiritual depth—prayer, character, and a personal relationship with God—is non-transferable.
  You cannot coast on someone else's faith.
- **Waiting is Part of the Journey:**
  The bridegroom was delayed, and all the bridesmaids grew drowsy and fell asleep.
  Being tired, struggling, or experiencing a season of waiting does not mean you have failed.
  The difference lies in having a reserve of oil—cultivating a steady, long-term foundation before the crisis hits.
- **Live Ready, Not in Fear:**
  Jesus concludes with, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour".
  This warning isn't meant to terrify us with anxiety, but to wake us up to live with intentional purpose today!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Happy Birthday:** Tom Ortmeyer, November 10.
- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Cheery'Os:** Next meeting TBD.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** TBD.
- **Helping Hands Thanksgiving Food Baskets:** Last day for donations, Today.
- **Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday, November 17, at 10:30.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

Nov. 8:	Carrie Livernois, Debby Nikkari
Nov. 15:	Robin Howard, Christa Carroll
Nov. 22:	Debby Nikkari, Carrie Livernois
Nov. 29:	Christa Carroll, Robin Howard

Readers

Nov. 8:	Collen Gondo
Nov. 15:	Tom Ortmeyer
Nov. 22:	Christa Carroll
Nov. 29:	Kathy Demo

Greeters/Ushers

Nov. 8:	Leo Rava
Nov. 15:	Carrie Livernois
Nov. 22:	Norm Gardner
Nov. 29:	Kathy Demo

Fellowship Time Hosts

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
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
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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