



September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: Freedom

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Prayer

Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Entry Into Worship

Paul Meoni

One: We come expecting the Gospel to comfort us...
and sometimes it confronts us instead.

**Many: We come expecting Jesus to agree with us...
and sometimes he turns our thinking upside down.**

One: Today we hear stories of reckless celebration...
parties thrown for the undeserving, the wandering, the lost.

**Many: We wonder if grace really should be so generous...
if joy should be so wasteful.**

One: And yet here, mercy outshines judgment,
and God's welcome is wider than our rules.

**Many: Here, we are invited to join the feast,
even if we don't understand the guest list.**

One: So, come...bring your grudges, your joy, your questions.

**Many: Come and follow the One who turns the world,
and us, upside down.**

Scripture: Exodus 32: 7-14

Paul Meoni

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be

more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Sermon: Jesus Said What? – God Throws Parties for Sinners

Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Music: Beautiful Things

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

**We believe the words of Jesus still speak
even when they unsettle us,
even when they unravel our assumptions,
even when they cost us something to follow.**

**We will celebrate the finding of the lost,
even when it upends our sense of fairness.
We will join the banquet of grace,
where the guest list is written in God’s handwriting,
and the music plays until everyone is dancing.
We will resist the urge to stay outside, arms crossed,
and instead walk in, rejoicing.**

For joy is the work of the kin-dom.

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom, come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Sending Forth (Unison)

Rev. Timoth Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning, the flowers are in celebration of our 58th anniversary, given by Rich & Carol Wallace.

STAFF VACATION: **Jeff's** vacation continues through September 21st; he will return to the office on September 22nd.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL, September 14th, 3:00 pm EST: We often refer to church as a family. One of the best gifts of family is the sharing of stories across the generations. We hope to channel the feeling of a good family dinner in our new Sunday School class for all ages. Join us online only at 3:00 pm as we look at Scripture from the Revised Common Lectionary (the series of Scripture texts we typically use in worship), share insights and stories, and maybe color some pictures (if you are an adult who has not colored in awhile – prepare to re-embrace your inner child!). Register here: bit.ly/2025SundaySchool

WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY, Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm EST: Join us each Wednesday for a time of deep reflection, thoughtful conversation, and sacred curiosity as we open scripture together and explore what it means for our lives today.

10:00am EST – Hybrid: Onsite in the Chapel and on Zoom

6:30pm EST – Online only (Zoom)

Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or are just beginning to ask questions, there's space for you here. Bring your wonder. Bring your doubts. Bring your whole self. Come for the community. Stay for the transformation. Zoom link sent out weekly and available upon request.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, September 20th: Please submit to Nadine anything you'd like included in the October newsletter. Thank you!

TRANSFAITH, September 23rd, 6:30-8:00 pm: TransFaith is a 5-part series hearing faith stories from members of the trans and non-binary community. I have asked some of my favorite people to have a public conversation with me, followed by a time for Q&A. I can't wait for you to meet them! If you saw the video I created for Pride Sunday, you will notice some familiar faces. This online only class is perfect for all who want to strengthen their understanding of the trans and gender non-confirming community and learn how people of faith can be better accomplices. Register here: bit.ly/2025TransFaith

EASY WAY TO HELP WITH TAKEOUT TUESDAY: We are planning to serve our neighbors freshly baked apple crisp for our September 30th, Takeout Tuesday! We are looking for donations of apples (any variety except Red Delicious) to use for this fall dessert. Donations can be dropped off in the refrigerator in Memorial Hall (formerly known as the Vestry) any time before Saturday, September 27th. Questions? Contact Joy Tardiff.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Staff Meeting

Monday, September 15th

1:00 pm in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:



Online Giving



Events Page of Our Website