

*Faith United Methodist Church*  
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*                      *September 15, 2019*  
*God's People Gather to Worship at 9:00 am*

† OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Father, we celebrate with you the return of even one lost person who has wandered into the thickets of sin and has now come back into the fellowship of your Church. We give you thanks that through your Son, Jesus Christ, we have come to know you. May every act of worship be for us a celebration of your mercy and love. Amen.

† GREETING *(Welcome each other in the name of Christ.)*

† CALL TO WORSHIP *(RESPONSIVELY)*

Leader     This is sanctuary! We've been busy all week losing and finding things, feeling successful and feeling inadequate!

**People     *We are glad to be here! We're expecting to rest and relax, to be real, open, and receptive to divine grace.***

Leader     What shall we do to accomplish your expectations?

**People     *Sing. Pray. Speak. Listen.***

Leader     Then, let us be fully engaged — mind and body — with Holy Presence.

† OPENING HYMN 89                      Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(IN UNISON)*

God of Insightful Silence — we've settled in with one another. We want to feel settled in with you. We want to be nestled into your breath so we may be free from distractions. When we stray from your best for our lives, bring us back. When Holy glow around us dims, brighten the path you set before us. When we let go of what is vital to our souls, sweep away the dust so we can see the real thing. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, we come into your presence with songs of praise and thanksgiving for your forgiveness. You have given this to us freely, and nothing we can do will remove your forgiveness from us.

OLD TESTAMENT READING                      Psalm 20                      *Page 391, pew Bible*

† NEW TESTAMENT READING                      Luke 15:1-10                      *Page 740, pew Bible*

OFFERTORY

We experience goodness in the midst of violence and suffering; one way to demonstrate gratitude is to find ways to continue goodness here and elsewhere. We do that with our time, our skills, and our money.

DOXOLOGY                      Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow                      *Page 95, UMH*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you for finding us when we stray from your Spirit. Use us and our resources to manifest your love and hopes for this world. Amen.

† HYMN 593                      Here I Am, Lord

SERMON                      *Maybe Next Time*                      Rev. David A. E. Whitt

† HYMN 585                      This Little Light of Mine


† PRAYER

God of love, you sent your Son among us to be the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen our desire that all persons will come to you. Please grant us to be a blessing to the world and help bring many others to the true joy of believing. May we never lose heart and always be a sign of hope for all who we meet. Grant us the gift of courage to follow your call...

† BENEDICTION

May the road continue smooth before you. May there be enough light along the way. May peace greet you at every crossroad and joy accompany you to the end. Through whatever pain and suffering is yours to endure, know that God is in it with you. Amid every temptation that comes to you, be aware that wisdom is ours for the asking. **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.**

† HYMN 666                      Shalom to You



Good morning and welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. Our hope is that you will feel God's presence through friendly faces, meaningful worship, and opportunities to serve God's people. We are blessed by your presence and our doors are always open to you. *Please complete a visitor card found in the back of the pew in front of you and give it to an usher.* We have a gift for you that we feel will have an impact on your life! We hope you feel at home and invite you to worship with us again.