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**MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 20, 2026**  
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(Indicates when people are invited to stand)*

PRELUDE:

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Arr Cindy Berry

WORDS OF WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come near to the Lord.

Lord, be with us this day.

Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.

Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***HYMN: 133**

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

vs 1-3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel the comforting power of God's love and mercy in your lives. God is with us through all our experiences. Though we try we cannot stray from God's love. Rejoice! This is the good news for all of us!

AMEN.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OLD TESTAMENT: Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NIV)

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:105:1-6, 37-45 (NIV)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered.

Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel had fallen on them.

He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night.

They asked, and he brought them quail; he fed them well with the bread of heaven.

He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed like a river in the desert.

For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham.

He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy;

he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—

that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws.

Praise the Lord.

EPISTLE: Philippians 1:21-30 (NIV)

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Matthew

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON GOD’S WORD

Pastor Rob Odum

HYMN: 433

“All Who Love and Serve the City”

vs 1-3

OFFERING PRAYER

In gratitude for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts and tithes to the Lord this day.

AMEN.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

“Living for Jesus”

By Chisolm and Lowden

***DOXOLOGY: 94**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

BLESSING OF THE BOWLS

Leader: Gracious God, you took the dust of the earth and breathed into it the breath of life. Today we give thanks for these bowls, shaped from the earth by human hands.

People: Bless the hands that formed them and the hearts that gave their time and creativity.

Leader: Bless those who will take these bowls home, and the meals that will fill them. May they be signs of nourishment, hospitality, and the joy of sharing.

People: Bless all who gather around tables, and give us grateful hearts for the food we receive.

Leader: And bless the gifts these bowls will make possible through Heifer International. Bless the families who will receive livestock, the communities strengthened by their care, and the neighbors who will share in what grows from these gifts.

People: May one gift become another, and one blessing become many.

Leader: God of abundance, bless these bowls, those who made them, those who will use them, and those whose lives will be touched through them. May the work of our hands become part of your work of feeding, healing, and renewing the world.

All: Bless these bowls, O God, and make them vessels of your grace. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 HYMN: 2279**

"The Trees of the Field"

*BENEDICTION

Go forth into God's world as God's own children. Let the love of Christ be reflected in your life and your deeds. Go with joy to serve the Lord.

AMEN.

***POSTLUDE:**

"The Potter's Hand"

By Darlene Zschech

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September	Liturgists	Ushers
20th	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
27th	Linda Brumm	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
October	Liturgists	Ushers
4th	Carolyn Ettlie	Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel
11th	Lynn Sirna	Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel
18th	John Hurley	Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel
25th	Connie Ziegler	Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel

<i>This Week's Birthdays!</i>	
<i>Sept. 27th</i>	<i>Don Reid</i>
<i>Sept. 29th</i>	<i>John Stoekl</i>
<i>Oct. 1st</i>	<i>Lori Moede</i>
<i>Oct. 2nd</i>	<i>Carolyn Ettlie</i>

THIS WEEK EVENTS IN OUR AREA	
9/19-9/20 - Freshwater Food & Wine Festival	Summerfest Grounds
9/19-9/20 - Cedarburg Wine & Harvest Festival	Cedarburg
9/20 - First Responders Fest	Hart Park, Wauwatosa
9/23 - Teacher Fest 2026	Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd, Milw
9/12 -10/25 - Autumn Harvest Fest at The Elegant Farmer	The Elegant Farmer, 1545 Main St., Mukwonago
9/24-9/27 - Dialogues Documentary Film Festival	Downer & Oriental Theaters, Milw
9/26 - Bayside Fall Fest	9075 N Regent Rd, Bayside
9/26-9/27 - Germantown Hunsrucker Oktoberfest	Dheinsville Historic Park in Germantown
9/27 - Harbor Fest	Harbor View Plaza, 600 E. Greenfield Ave, Milw
Sept 27 & 28 - Pila's Nursery Fall Fest	Pila's Nursery and Garden Shop, 27S39 W27833 Genesee Road, Waukesha
9/18-11/01 - Pumpkin Fest at Basse's Taste of Country	3190 County Road Q, Colgate



OCTOBER 4th

Join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture. But it's more than just worship. It's also a time to support scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities—helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve.



Sunday, September 20th – Soup Bowl Blessing/Café after worship

Sunday, September 27th – MUMC Open House-Fall Fellowship BBQ (sponsored by the CHAOS/Mary & Linda)

Sunday, October 4th – **Volunteer needed**

Sunday, October 18th – **Volunteer needed**

Sunday, October 25th – Possibly leftovers from Oktoberfest



Sunday October 4th at 2pm

At Blessed Hope UMC

Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier

MONTHLY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Sunday, 9:15am

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday, 10:30am

CERAMICS: Mondays, 1-9pm

AIKIDO: Mondays from 6:45-8:45pm &
Thursdays from 6:45-8:45pm

NAMI: 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30pm

CHANCEL CHOIR: Thursdays from 6:30-7:15pm

JOYFUL BELLS: Thursdays from 7:30-8:30pm

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP:
2nd & 4th Wednesday from 1-3pm

SASSY SOWERS:

1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday, 9:30am-Noon

DINING OUT GROUP: Wednesday, October 7th
at 5pm at: Open Flame Restaurant,
5081 S 108th St, Greenfield, WI 53228

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: The 3rd Tuesday (Oct. 20th),
at 9am at the Forum Restaurant,
4711 S 108th St, Milwaukee, WI 53228

MEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Thursday (Oct. 15th),
8:30am at Meyers, 4260 S 76th St, Greenfield

SCRIPT CARD PROGRAM:

Orders for Script Cards (gift cards) are due on
the 3rd Sunday of each month.

OKTOBERFEST PORK DINNER:

Saturday, October 24th (fundraiser for MUMC)

YARN EXTRAVAGANZA 2:

Friday- Sunday, November 13, 14 & 15
from 9:00 to 3:00 pm

QUILT BLESSING: Sunday, November 22nd

DECORATING THE CHURCH:

6 Saturday, November 28th

BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, December 8th from 1-6pm

MEMORIAL UMC

General Information & Staff

3450 South 52nd St,
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Church Phone: 414-545-2440

Church Email: mumcgreenfield@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rob Odum, 414-238-8367

Pastor's Email: robdodum@gmail.com

Director of Music: Sarah Brumm

Hymn Leaders: Sarah Brumm,
Summer Ketchell, Emily Bergeron

Pianist & Organist: Karen Fetzer

Live Stream Production Team: Brad Weller,
Xylia-Sophia Conn, John Stoekl,
Tom Rowe, Greg Ettlie

Office Administrator: Peggy Leonhardt

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm

