

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ignite the Light, Sustain the Light, Shine the Light

September 17, 2023 9:00 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Steve Kahler

Passing of Peace

Praise and Worship *“Your Grace is Enough”*

Joyful Noise

“We Fall Down”

Call to Worship

Steve Kahler

L: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

P: **How many times should I forgive?**

L: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

P: **How many times should I forgive?**

L: Until God turns the question around: “How many times have I forgiven you?”

P: **Seventy times seven.**

L: “How many times have I loved you?”

P: **Seventy times seven.**

L: “How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

P: **Seventy times seven.**

A: **Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God’s, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well. Amen.**

Opening Hymn *“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”*

UMH 128

Opening Prayer (Unison)

LaVerne Roberg

O God of Joseph and all his brothers, your forgiveness transcends whatever wrong exists between us. Grant us the courage to forgive others, and to practice reconciliation by the kindness of our speaking, the sharing of our resources, and the honoring of your desire for good. Amen.

Hymn

“He is Lord, He is Lord”

UMH 177

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Steve Kahler

Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive and to create space for forgiveness to happen. We rush to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others as a way to suppress rather than honestly name the hurt we have experienced. We expect others to pardon our faults while we fail to attend to our own need to repent. We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift to give one another; a gift received from you. We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of as a bridge that brings us back together. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to set and respect boundaries with one another, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Steve Kahler

Offertory

Offertory Doxology

UMH 95

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

LaVerne Roberg

Generous God, you have given so much to us in love and joy; every good thing in our life reflects your caring. Even in the giving of our offerings, we have tried to give our best but know we could do more. In a world where forgiveness has become a rare commodity, it is often an asset we hold back to maintain power over one another. Help us to hear the teaching of Jesus in the generosity of forgiveness. May we learn to give that to others with wild extravagance! We pray in Christ’s name, who gave all. Amen

Prayer of the People

Steve Kahler

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. [Moment of Silence]

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

Lord's Prayer (Unison) 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Hymn of Preparation "Freely, Freely" UMH 389

Children's Time Steve Kahler

Scripture Reading Gen 50:15-21; Mt 18:21-35 LaVerne Roberg

Message "Infinite Grace" Steve Kahler

Closing Song "Chainbreaker" Joyful Noise

Benediction Steve Kahler

Postlude

Lay Speaker: Steve Kahler

Liturgist: LaVerne Roberg

Radio Sponsor: Jeff Tampir – In honor of all of the September birthdays
in his family.

Contact information for worship leaders:

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If you have a pastoral care need, please contact Colleen Petaros
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September 17, 2023



OUR MISSION

**To make disciples of Jesus Christ
Equipped to serve God and neighbor.**

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563-652-4420

www.maquoketamethodist.org

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