

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025 9:30 a.m.
*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.
Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.
Hymnals: **UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green**
Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER
As you settle into worship, you are invited to meditate on the images adorning our altar. During this sermon series, you will see childhood games that provide more than just a playful spirit, they provide foundational life lessons that also reflect our faith. What memories and joy come forth in you as you gaze upon this altar-scape?

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts* arr. Schulz-Widmar
As you settle into the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please take a moment to fill out the “Fellowship Pads” located in the pews at the center aisle. Be sure to note the church family worshipping in the row with you.

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TFWS 2271, v.1
Come! Come! Everybody Worship
Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!
Worship and remember to keep the Sabbath day.
Take a rest and think of God; put your work away!

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
We live our lives by subtraction and addition,
building on the unsteady base of our past.
When the hurts and mistakes threaten to knock us down
our relationships and joys offer balance and strength.
No matter how messy our lives become
God remains our firm foundation.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST
We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying,
“Peace be with you.”
You are invited to respond,
“And also, with you.”

*HYMN OF PRAISE *How Firm a Foundation* UMH 529

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O Merciful One, we are thankful for the many building blocks that make up our lives; home and community, family and friends, work and play. As we gather to worship you, remind us of your desire for harmony and balance among all these pieces. Forgive us for the times we have brought a presence of instability and messiness into our lives and the lives of those around us. Help us to steady ourselves from the losses and challenges that have left us shaky. May your Holy Spirit fill

us with your love and keep us strong, building your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ANTHEM *Come and See* arr. Harris
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD
GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 7:24-27* Pew Bible, NT 7

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us
Thanks be to God

HYMN OF RESPONSE *My Hope Is Built* UMH 368

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 5:1-5* Pew Bible, NT 155

SERMON Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Jenga: Living with a Beautiful Mess

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS
During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.
After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR All GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION TFWS 2257-a

GREAT THANKSGIVING *SANCTUS* TFWS 2257-b

CONSECRATION *MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION* TFWS 2257-c

BLESSING *GREAT AMEN* TFWS 2257-d

LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION
Come and be filled with the body and blood of Christ, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go forth to love all God’s children. We will serve by **intinction**. You are invited to come by the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Return to your seats by the side aisles. The chancel rail is always available if you would like to take some time to pray. You are invited to reflect in song as all are being served. There is gluten free bread and juice available.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION
A Place at the Table W&S 3149
Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast UMH 616

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.
You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS TFWS 2271, v.3
Come! Come! Everybody Worship
Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!
Worship and remember your blessings great and small.
Give to God an offering; show your thanks for all!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
This is love...not that you spoke words of comfort, walked with the unclean and unloved, shared wisdom, bread and wine, brought healing into lives and challenged the status quo.
This is love...that you spoke the Word of God, walked a painful road to the Cross, shared living water and bread of life, brought Salvation to all the world and died for the sake of all.
As an act of love...we bring our offering to you that they may sure up those of your children living on shaky ground. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH 133

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD W&S 3180
As We Part for the Towns and Cities
As we part for the towns and cities,
where you summon us to go, guide us, Lord,
give us strength and courage, teach us all we need to know.
Keep us humble, fixed on you, forever seeking, born anew.
Kindle holy fires within us; may your Holy Spirit glow.

*POSTLUDE *Orgelstück* Knecht

Our Service Of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins

ALTAR FLOWERS
Given in honor of Casey Russomano’s birthday by Bonnie McNamara.
Given in honor of Jessie Hall’s birthday by Bonnie McNamara.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly, with our streaming team, in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby, in Blair Chapel, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM THIS MORNING

Greeter/Usher: Judy Smith/Jim Scisco

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: Caren Skoulas

Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Chip Stoll

This Week We Hold in Prayer...



Our Homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

Sunnyside at Wall: Nancy Burt

**The church has a team of prayer warriors, known as the Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIT NIGHT-All are invited to attend the UWIF kit night when the school kits will be assembled. After the task is done, helpers will be rewarded with an ice cream treat! Info: Diane Maher 731-513-8413.

CAR WASH-Troop 70 will be having a car wash fundraiser here at the church on August 9th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Please come out and show your support.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry **where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.**

Sunday, TODAY

Service of Worship In Person & Online 9:30 a.m.

Monday, August 4

AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.

Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.

12 Step Study – Fellowship Hall 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 5

Women's Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.

Naranon – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.

Wednesday, August 6

Knitting Ministry – Library 1 p.m.

Thursday, August 7

Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.

Friday, August 8

AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 9

Troop 70 Car Wash – Parking Lot 9 a.m.

Sunday, August 10

Service of Worship in Person & Online 9:30 a.m.



Well-Played Life: Lessons of Faith in Childhood Games

The First United Methodist Church

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CCLI #1588788

*The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst
Is a community of faith committed to Christ,
seeking to learn the needs of our members,
friends, and neighbors and responding with Christian love.*

Pastor: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

Secretary: Joy More

Director of Music: Denise Furda

Sexton: Lisa Costello

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Music Director Emeritus: Gary Farquhar