

GATHERING, PRELUDE, Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature **189**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct 3 – Steeple Celebration at Clarksburg
4 – World-wide Communion, Soup and Bread Feast at WCUMC
10 – Annual Charge Conference, Damascus UMC 1 pm

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25

dwh

We pray with the ancient words of Scripture:
Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, ...
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.**

HYMN: To God be the glory, great things he hath done **98**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION by Robert Lowry at PO

God of life and light, illumine our hearts and spirits
and attune us to the reading and hearing of your word.
May our hearing be discerning
and may this proclamation be faithful and, in all things,
may we approach your word with joy and humility. Amen

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32
Matthew 21:23–32

CONFESSION from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, on lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

**God of our salvation, we falter before the demands of your word
and turn away from your call to life.
Pour out your mercy on us
as you showed mercy to your people of old,
that we may turn from our sinfulness
and walk the path of self-emptying love
made known in Jesus Christ.
{silent prayers}**

ASSURANCE adapted from Robert Lowry at PO

Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations.
**We are forgiven; we are set free;
and we are made ready to live the living Word.
Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR: He Touched Me **367**

SERMON "Holy Roundabouts and Malfunction Junctions"
Turning from spiritual gridlock, and finding a gracious return.

HYMN: O God, Our Help in Ages Past **117**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER **895**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

Prayerfully, gratefully, joyfully we bring our offerings
for the work of the church in the world.

DOXOLOGY **95**

PRAYER by Robert Lowry at PO

**Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use.
May these tokens of our gratitude be of service
in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry,
clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive.
Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry
in a hurting world. Amen.**

HYMN: Trust and Obey **467**

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Phil. 2:5 FotW

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ.

To God be the glory.

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.

Amen

POSTLUDE Come, thou Fount of every blessing **400**

Bulletin Credits: Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (dwh)

or from Feasting on the Word (eg **FotW** – see also insert) That which is by others is used with permission.

or authors who have posted with Presbyterian Outlook (eg **PO**) This week the author is Robert Lowry

or other sources as noted.

Scriptures for Next Week - Liturgist:

Exodus 20:1-20 and Psalm 19
or Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46

Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

Year A – Sep 27, 2026 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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Scriptures:

Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32

Questions for Reflection:

The tax collectors and prostitutes, who were commonly known to be sinners, recognized God's righteousness in John the Baptist and Jesus, while the religious authorities (the elders) did not.

Do you know of any comparable examples today?

What does it mean to do the will of God?

Has God ever shown up in the middle of your complaining?

When have you been wandering in a "wilderness of sin"?

Morning Prayers:

Almighty God, give me the mind of Christ:
drive away any selfish ambition, fill me with compassion and love,
and make me a humble servant,
that all I do and all I desire may be pleasing to you;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear God, thank you for this day.

Guide my mind in your way and help me to do your will.

All praise, honor, and glory is yours. Amen.

Evening Prayers:

Lord, in my accomplishments this day, make me humble;
for my failures, give me consolation.

In your steadfast love, uphold me, and for my sins, forgive me,
that I may know your mercy and walk in the way of your salvation. Amen.

Dear God, thank you for providing for my needs.

Thank you for always being with me. Keep me through the night
and put a song of praise on my lips when I rise again.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



"The chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching and said,
"By what authority are you doing these things,
and who gave you this authority?"

Matthew 21:23

Image: James J. Tissot: Jesus Teaching in the Temple
watercolor painting, circa 1886-1894,
(source: Brooklyn Museum; "No Known Copyright Restrictions")
I have cropped the image on the right and the left sides.

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 **11:00 AM**

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland

<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede

Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon

website: <https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>

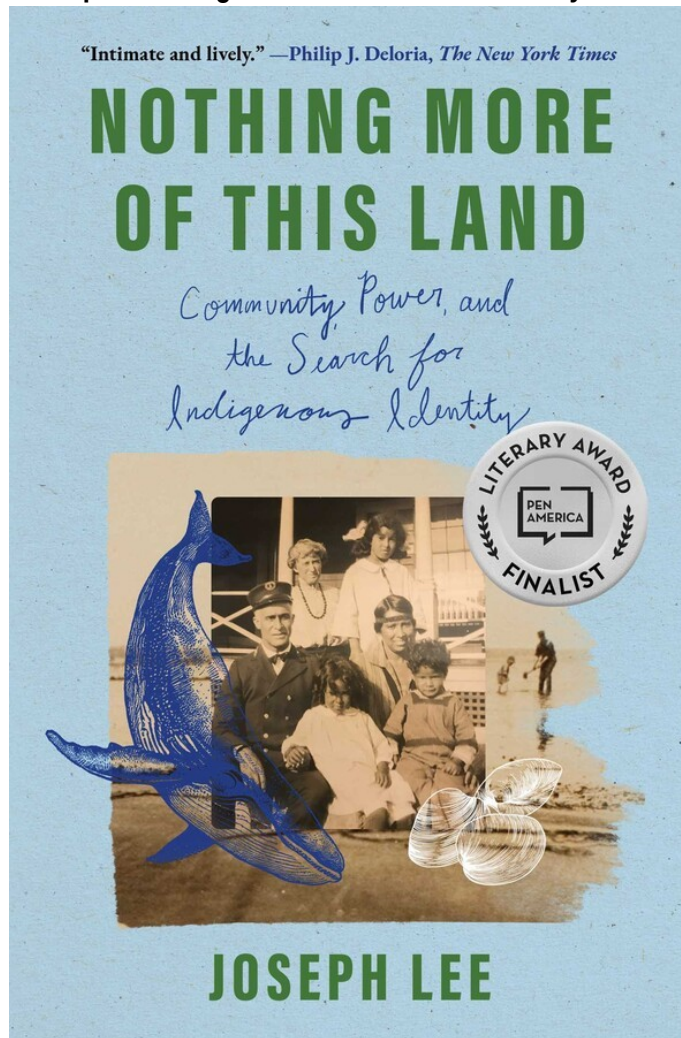
Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

Cell Phone: 240 676 7825

Email: revdwhodsdon@gmail.com



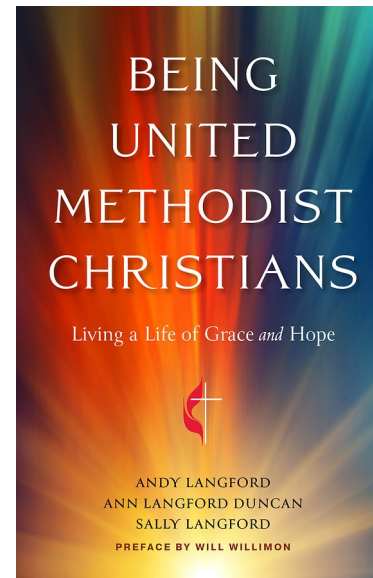
Joseph Lee is an Aquinnah Wampanoag journalist and writer whose 2025 debut book, explores Indigenous life on Martha's Vineyard.



This will be our Racial Justice focus for the first Book Club of 2027.

I expect to spend 4 sessions examining this book with you (1 session per month, January through April).

Presently, I am building a discussion guide, somewhat similar to the one produced by the General Commission on Religion and Race, for the study of "Biting the Hand".



Are You Interested?

*How to describe United Methodists?
Where do we come from?
What do we believe?
How do United Methodists act?
What are our distinctive characteristics?
What is required to be a member?
How do we grow as disciples within this great communion?*

This resource offer answers to these questions and others, in broad strokes, as we describe our United Methodist Church. The intention is to introduce you to how United Methodists live and think as followers of Jesus Christ.

This study is suitable for those who might be interested in "membership", but who first want to learn a little more. It might also be suitable for those who have been in the UMC all their lives, but who want a chance to talk about some things, especially in light of recent changes.

This is a short six chapter book (about 120 pages). I expect we could discuss it over about three sessions, though I am willing to spend more time if desired.

***The questions are: Who will be part of this discussion?
(How many books should I order?)
And When do you think would be a good day/time for it?***