

October 25, 2026: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Disabilities Awareness / Reformation Sunday

~~ *GATHERING BEFORE GOD* ~~

GREETINGS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ JOYS ~ CONCERNS
~ GOD MOMENTS ~CELEBRATION SUNDAY ~

† **HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"** **UMH #117**
The Light of Christ Enters

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) **see insert**

~~ *PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD* ~~

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 **UMH #789**

CHORAL HYMN "Help Us Accept Each Other" **UMH #560**

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 22:34-46

INTERACTIVE/CHILDREN'S TIME

† **HYMN "Love the Lord Your God"** **TFWS #2168 (2x)**

MESSAGE "Tested"

~~ *RESPONDING IN THE SPIRIT* ~~

A MODERN AFFIRMATION **UMH #885**

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

† **Doxology** **UMH #95**

OFFERTORY / PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH #895**

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

~~ *SENDING FORTH* ~~

† **HYMN "Make Me a Servant"** **TFWS #2176**

The Light of Christ Leads Us into the World

† BENEDICTION

† Postlude “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” UMH #664

† *Standing as you are able to the glory of God*

Lectionary for Nov 1, 2026 (23rd Sun after Pentecost):

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Thank you for joining us for worship.

~~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~~

TODAY:

9:00 am Worship – Georgetown UMC

10:30 am Worship – South Otselic UMC

11:45(ish) South Otselic UMC Administrative Board

3:00 pm *Weekly Worship – Oxford Veterans Home*

WEEKLY / BIWEEKLY / MONTHLY:

† **Pastor in the office** – Wed 11 am to 2 pm, Thurs 1-4 pm

† **Administrative Board** – Georgetown, 3rd Sunday 8:15 am;
South Otselic, 4th Sunday 11:45(ish) am

† **Food Pantry** – 3rd Thursday each month 3-6 pm
Special requests call Kevin Grewe 607-337-8941

† **Sunshine Shop** Thu & Fri 10-4; Sat 9-noon
– Next open Nov 5-7, Nov 19-21, Dec 3-5, Dec 17-19;
closed for January

– For emergency clothing, call 315-653-7490.

† **Community Lunch** – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, noon, South
Otselic UMC; next dates Nov 5, Nov 19

UPCOMING EVENTS:

† **Trunk or Treat** – Georgetown UMC Oct 31, 5-7 pm

† **Daylight Savings ENDS** – November 1, 2 am

† **Charge Conference** – Nov 1, 7 pm, Norwich (Broad St)

† **Rummage Sale** – Nov 14, 9am-2pm South Otselic UMC

† **Wreathmaking** – Nov 23, 9 am, South Otselic UMC

† **Thanksgiving meal** – Nov 29, 11:45 South Otselic UMC

PRAYER LIST: (Short Term):

From 10/18 – Lexi Miner

From 10/11 – Give God thanks!

From 10/4 – Laurie Brussel, Chris Marquard, Elva White, family of Paul Thurston

From 9/27 – Cornell assault situation, people in storm areas, Georgetown UMC

(Long Term): Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Doug Evans, Linda Excell, Ted Gargas, Kevin Grewe, Roger Hakes, Chuck Hathaway, Fran Knickerbocker, Patti Lamandia, Diane MacGregor, Cassandra & Christopher Marquard, Chris Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Naber, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Justin Sheldon, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Jim Slocum, Harvey Stalker, Normajean Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, David Wentworth

Travel mercies for family and friends

Our men and women in the military

World leaders, our country, & the need for peace

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

October: 28-Madelynne Newton

November: 1-Chris Kalin; 2-Kevin Grewe; 9-Shira Shen; 11-Vicky Shen; 19-Brian Newton; 25-Carl Johnson



*October 25, 2026: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Disabilities Awareness / Reformation Sunday*



*United Methodist Churches of
South Otselic* *Georgetown*



*PO Box 47,
South Otselic, NY 13155*
<https://www.sotselicumc.org/>



*990 State Hwy 80,
Georgetown, NY 13072*

Pastor – Melanie Simmons
H: (607) 674-9527; C: (607) 371-0431
melanie@simmonsasylum.com
Office phone (315) 653-7728

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- ² **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- ³ You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, O mortal ones!"
- ⁴ **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**
- ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- ⁶ **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**
- ¹³ Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!
- ¹⁴ **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- ¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.
- ¹⁶ **Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.**
- ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish for us the work of our hands;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

NRSVue

¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan,

² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,

³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

⁴ The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command.

⁶ He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.

⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated.

⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and

wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land,

¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

NRSVue

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,

² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.

³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery,

⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts.

⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed,

⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,

⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

NRSVue

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.”

⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Call to Worship (responsive) *by Dr. Lisa Hancock¹*

We are chosen children of God,
bound together by the Holy Spirit.

**We belong to God, and through God,
we belong to one another.**

When we feel tested by hard decisions,
calls to advocate against injustice,
competing narratives,
and worrying misinformation, we remember:

**We belong to God, and through God,
we belong to one another.**

When we struggle with damaged trust and the need to
repair our relationships with God and one another,
when we are called to go against the social current
to build communities of mercy and justice,
we remember:

**We belong to God, and through God,
we belong to one another.**

Come, let us worship God whose grace surrounds us
when we feel tested and tried, empowering us to remain
faithful disciples of Jesus Christ when we face chaos,
division, injustice, and hardship.

**We come to worship God who chooses us,
empowers us, and inspires us to live
as the Body of Christ
in a broken and hurting world. Amen.**

¹ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026 and posted on <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/always-give-thanks/week-2-twenty-second-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-2-twenty-second-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-always-give-thanks-liturgical-resources>

God created all living things good: a litany for Disability Awareness Sunday² *By Deaconess Lynn Swedberg*

God created all living things. God created humans in God's image, and God said that God's creation was good!

So we, too, believe that people of all ages, shapes, and abilities are created in the image of God.

God called leaders like Jacob who limped from a hip injury and Moses who had a speech disability to lead God's people!

So we, too, welcome pastors and leaders with disabilities alongside pastors and leaders without disabilities.

The Psalms celebrate that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and that God has loved us since before our birth!

So we, too, celebrate each child, with and without disabilities, as a unique and wonderfully made gift from God.

Jesus welcomed children and said that His followers were to come to God like children!

So we, too, are to be open and childlike in our praise of God and love of neighbor.

Jesus reached out to people with mental and physical disabilities and helped them be welcomed members of their communities!

So we, too, welcome all people into our congregations, worship, and fellowship.

Paul taught that the Church needs people of all gifts and abilities in order to be the whole Body of Christ!

So we, too, look for the gifts that each of us brings to the church and our communities, and we help each person find ways to serve God.

Paul preached and spread the gospel throughout much of the known world despite his poor vision and thorn in the flesh that kept him humble!

So we, too, are witnesses for God, offering our whole selves without excuses.

Only God our Creator, Savior, and Spirit is perfect!

We are all human, called, not to be perfect, but only to do our best as loving followers of Jesus who help build God's reign on earth and bring hope and justice for all. AMEN

² https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a_Eo4FsQPUTwicdfLrS09oGEAGxwLF2J/view