

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People"

October 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE (*Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME – *A Hearing Assistance system and large print materials are available. See an usher.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (**Please rise in body or spirit.*)

Leader: From the east and the west, from the north and the south,

People: God gathers us from every tribe, language, and nation.

Leader: We come with our distinct histories, our varied songs, and our shared hunger,

People: To stand at the threshold of grace where walls become tables.

Leader: Christ invites us not as strangers, but as members of one household.

People: The bread is broken for all; the cup is poured out for each.

Leader: Let our selfish divisions give way to the harmony of the Spirit.

People: With joy and praise, let us worship the living God together!

***HYMN** The Church's One Foundation (vs 1,2,4) UMH 545

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-39

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed

another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***BLESSING THE OFFERING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION *The Summons (vs 1,4,5)* FWS 2130

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:40-46

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? ⁴³"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶They looked for a way to arrest him,

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🌀 Announcements 🌀

MISSIONS TEAM MEETING – next Sunday after the service

CHURCH FAMILY DINNER - Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Olive Garden at 5:00 p.m. Please let Jean know if you will attend.

CHURCH CONFERENCE – Oct. 14 at 6:00 p.m. at Bethesda UMC

FRUITLAND BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Monthly requests include spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, soups, pancake mix, instant potatoes, fruit cups, and toilet paper. Next week is the first Sunday of the month – please remember to bring in your donation.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST FAMILY SUPPORT – Requests include: corn flour, vegetable oil, sugar, spaghetti noodles and sauce, rice, beans, and feminine hygiene products.

PRAYER CHAIN – Call or text Pat Kern at 443-783-6423.

SOCIAL HOUR – See Buddy Pennewell or Cathy Grim to help.

Music Director: Mike Nelson
Videographer: Roger Vandegrift
Liturgist: Nancy Wachter
ASL Interpreter: Lynn Kohler

Connect with us on the web:
www.stjohnsfruitland.org

