

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

September 27, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth 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: We come to hear the Word.

People: We come to do the Word.

Leader: We come to experience Comfort.

People: We come to experience Challenge.

Leader: We come to find Cost.

People: We come to find Joy.

Leader: We come to find Humanity.

People: We come to find Community.

Leader: We come to find Church.

People: We come to find God.

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***HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH 140

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" ³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" ⁴Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the

people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

UMH 888

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 71

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

HYMN *Praise to the Lord (vs 1-3)*

UMH 139

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21: 23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ²⁹“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

MESSAGE **“Nostalgia”**

***HYMN** **God of Grace & God of Glory (vs 1,3,4)** **UMH 577**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *In His Time (vs 2)* **FWS 2203**

EXTINGUISHING OF ALTAR CANDLES

POSTLUDE



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🌀 Announcements 🌀

ONE BOARD MEETING NOTES – The meeting was devoted to preparing the required documents for the upcoming Church Conference.

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: Cathy Grim

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

