

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

September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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: Come, children of God,

People: rejoice in your Maker!

Leader: Sing songs and hymns, old and new;

People: celebrate with voices and instruments, with praise and prayers!

Leader: Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

People: For God is already here, among us and within us, bringing new life to all who believe.

ALL: Let's praise God together!

***HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful (vs 1-3)*

UMH 89

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let

us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

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 *Love Divine (vs 1,2,4)* **UMH 384**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18: 15-20

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

MESSAGE **“How to Fight Like a Christian”**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Said in unison)

Merciful God, You call us to turn away from behaviors and attitudes that belong to the darkness, to live honest and transparent lives as children of the light. We confess the times when we have failed, giving in to our darker thoughts and desires; and acting in ways that did not bring honor to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us. Teach us how to live as children of the light. You call us to love one another, to put the needs and interests of those around us above our own; to love others as deeply as we have been loved by You. We confess the times when we have failed, allowing our own desires and interests to take precedence over the needs of others. Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us. Teach us how to love as we have been loved. Give us hunger to know You more, so that we may do Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

COMMUNION

UMH 13

HYMN *I Want to Walk...*

UMH 206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION *In His Time* (vs 1)**

FWS 2203

EXTINGUISHING OF ALTAR CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Music Director: Mike Nelson

Videographer: Roger Vandegrift

Liturgist: Nancy Wachter

ASL Interpreter: Lynn Kohler

Connect with us on the web:

www.stjohnsfruitland.org



 Announcements

TODAY – BAZAAR MEETING during Social Hour

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR W. PAUL NELSON – Next Sunday (Sept. 13) at 11:30 a.m. at St. John's. Fellowship Dinner follows in the Social Hall. Please bring a covered dish.

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER – Sept. 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Denny's in Fruitland. Please let Jean Powell know if you will attend.

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

FRUITLAND BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Monthly requests include diced tomatoes, soups, canned meats, tomato sauce, canned greens (any type), canned potatoes, peas, and toilet paper.

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.

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