

Let's Love One Another

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026



Replacing "othering" with "neighboring"



11am Service - September 20, 2026

WE GATHER

Welcome

Pastor Kory Pritchett

Prelude

Bell Quartet

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Nettleton, arr, by Joel Raney

Heidi Fornes, Amanda Esposito, Kathy Lind, and Melissa Lonn

Centering Words

L: We come to the table and see that Jesus is with us.

P: Wherever two or three are gathered, his presence abides.

L: What we see, as the disciples did, was Jesus serving others.

P: And he asks us to do the same.

L: Even, and perhaps especially, in times of distress,
Jesus invites us to move toward others, not away.

P: We are called to see those around us as Jesus sees them.

L: As neighbors,

P: As neighbors.

L: Not "others."

P: Not "others."

Opening Song

Jesu Jesu

"Jesu, Jesu" UMH 432

Opening Prayer

Forgive us when we turn away for the sake of self preservation. Help us to embrace that loving one another is the way to abundant life. Even though it feels like a difficult thing to do, help us to see—not look away, help us to serve—not judge, help us to reach out—not pull back, help us to risk reciprocal relationship so all will know we are followers of Jesus, Lover of All. In this moment we ponder those we find difficult to understand, that we consider "others"...

[a few moments of pause]

... and in this moment we imagine them as neighbors who, like us, have needs and fears and the desire for safety, sustenance, and love.

[a few moments of pause]

Jesus, in your name we pray for the strength to love and serve, as you loved and served. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM

The Message to Young Disciples

The Gospel Lesson

John 13: 1-4a; 34-35

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God—rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist... I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

L: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

P: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Pastor Kory Pritchett

Message in Music

Bell Quartet

"Lord of the Dance"

Shaker melody adapt. by Sydney Carter

arr. by Joel Raney

WE RESPOND

The Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Kory Pritchett

The Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to Generosity

Sharing the Peace of Christ

WE GO FORTH

Closing Song

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love ~ See Insert

Leader: Please make your way back to your seats and remaining standing. As we prepare to go from this place with our closing song, we remember the mandate, the commandment, that Jesus gave his disciples and gives to us. Let us say this together:

P: "Love one another. And you are to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you are my disciples: that you truly love one another."

The Benediction

Pastor Kory Pritchett

Receive this blessing:

God, who created you ready for relationship, be with you as you seek to love in the midst of difficulty. Jesus, who showed you the way, be with you as you seek to love like him. The Spirit, who will never leave you lonely, give you capacity for love that surprises even you. In the name of the Three-in-One, go out to be Love-in-Action this week and for all time. Amen.

The Postlude

Bell Quartet

"Promised Land Calypso" American melody

arr. by Joel Raney

Jesu Jesu

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we
have from you.

Verse 1:

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

(Refrain)

Verse 2:

Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.

(Refrain)

Verse 3:

These are the ones we should serve,

these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

(Refrain)

Verse 4:

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

(Refrain)

Verse 5:

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

(Refrain)

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus 1

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Verse 3

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

Verse 4

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son

And all praise to the Spirit

Who makes us one

Prayers

Concerns Shared

Deanise Moore and Chad McLaughlin
(Sister and Nephew of Diana Hoke)
Family of Chip Rutledge
Larry and Lola Huggins

Sybil Morrison and family (sister of Perry Brown)
All in need of prayer

Those In Memory Care

Pat Staver

Active Military

To add someone serving in the military, contact info@fumcwl.org.

AWR1 Isaiah Hale
CDR James Beaty

LCDR Alex Turco
PFC Christopher Kuney

Worship Team

Audio/Visual

Livestream:

Riley Schellingerhout

Slides:

Sharon Wong

Soundboard:

Evora Schellingerhout
Isabel Burton

Band

Bass Guitar:

Becca Pritchett

Drums:

Jorge Perez de Jesus

Piano:

Charis Vander Plaats

Vocal:

Amanda Rowe
Charis Vander Plaats
Kory Pritchett
Karen Hull

Liturgists

Liturgist:

Betty Tonsing

Pastors

Lead Pastor:

Kory Pritchett

Worship Leaders

Band Director:

Kory Pritchett

Bell Choir Director:

Kathy Lind

Director of Music and Arts:

Charis Vander Plaats

Quick Links



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To be put on the weekly announcement emails, contact the church office at
info@fumcwl.org

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CCSWorshipCast 6802

GET INVOLVED

AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 20, 2026

The Vision of Hope in the Book of Revelation

How It Critiques
Christian Nationalism

Revelation: A Vision of Hope

Explore Revelation's mysterious imagery as a vision of hope and a critique of Christian nationalism. Jane Frankenberger leads this final Sunday discussion using insights from New Testament scholar Barbara Rossing. Join us September 20, from 10:00–10:50 a.m. in the Activity Center. All are welcome in this thoughtful conversation.

Voting, Voice, and Democracy

Voting, Voice, and Democracy

Explore voting rights, representation, civic participation, and American democracy through two free webinars from the General Board of Church and Society. "Beyond the Ballot" meets October 1; "Democracy on the Ballot" meets October 2. Both begin at 1:00 p.m. Find the GBCS information and registration links in the emailed Weekly Events or at fumcwl.org/weekly-events/

building a COMMUNITY TABLE

HUNGER SUMMIT 2026

OCTOBER 10, 2026 GRACE UMC
217 W. Main St., Kokomo, IN

Join us to build on hunger in our communities and across the globe. This event is a great opportunity to explore the complexity of anti-hunger work in this world, the barriers, and the paths forward. You'll get to hear from local and national leaders who are doing the work and what it takes like to have our neighbors well fed. We'll also have a meal together and share our own stories and the great experiences about. This event is free and open to all.

Like a good dinner party, we're setting a community table where physical and spiritual needs both find a seat.

Register today!

inumc.org/hunger

Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

Building a Community Table

Join United Methodists from across Indiana to explore the needs, barriers, and opportunities involved in addressing hunger. This free summit, including lunch, meets Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Grace UMC in Kokomo. Register by October 3 through the INUMC information in the emailed Weekly Events and at inumc.org/events/hunger-summit/



Fall Into Nature

Enjoy guided hikes, meditation, and nature-inspired activities Thursday, October 22, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at Stewart Woods in Purdue's Horticulture Park. This community event is free, and First Church will provide additional parking for attendees. Find Purdue's event information and RSVP link in the emailed Weekly Events. Jane Frankenberger can also answer any questions.



Art on the Wabash

Visit Tapawingo Park Sunday, September 27, from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for regional art, live music, food, and family activities. First Church member Connor Sebastian (Loughner) is among the featured artists—remember to vote for him for the People's Choice Award! Admission and parking are free.