



13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

10:00 am

*please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.

Liturgist for today's worship is Killion Webster.

Thanks to Alex and Marshall Chaney for special music today.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CALL TO WORSHIP*

If the Lord had not been with us

**our enemies would have destroyed us
and the floods would have swept us away.**

Blessed be the Lord, who has not forsaken us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

maker of heaven and earth.

HYMN* *"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

687

PRAYER OF PRAISE*

CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God, for the sake of Jesus.

[silence]

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Kyrie Eleison. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE*

RESPONSE TO PARDON

582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

GOSPEL– Matthew 16:13-20

Killion Webster

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Alex and Marshall Chaney

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OLD TESTAMENT – Exodus 1:8-2:10

SERMON

“Midwife Power”

Dr. Linda Dickerson

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE *(from “A Declaration of Faith”)*

Throughout its history the church has struggled to be faithful to God in political situations: under persecution, or as an established arm of the state, or in separation from it. We hold Christians are to be law-abiding citizens unless the state commands them to disobey God, or claims authority that belongs only to God. We must not allow governments to impose Christian faith by legislation. The church must be free to speak to civil authorities, neither claiming expert knowledge it does not have, nor remaining silent when God’s word is clear.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/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 debts as we forgive our

debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN* *"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"* 700

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE* 295, v. 3

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – All are welcome!

Next Sunday after church – information and Q&A congregational gathering regarding new terms of call for the pastor

September 13 – called congregational meeting to vote on new terms of call for the pastor