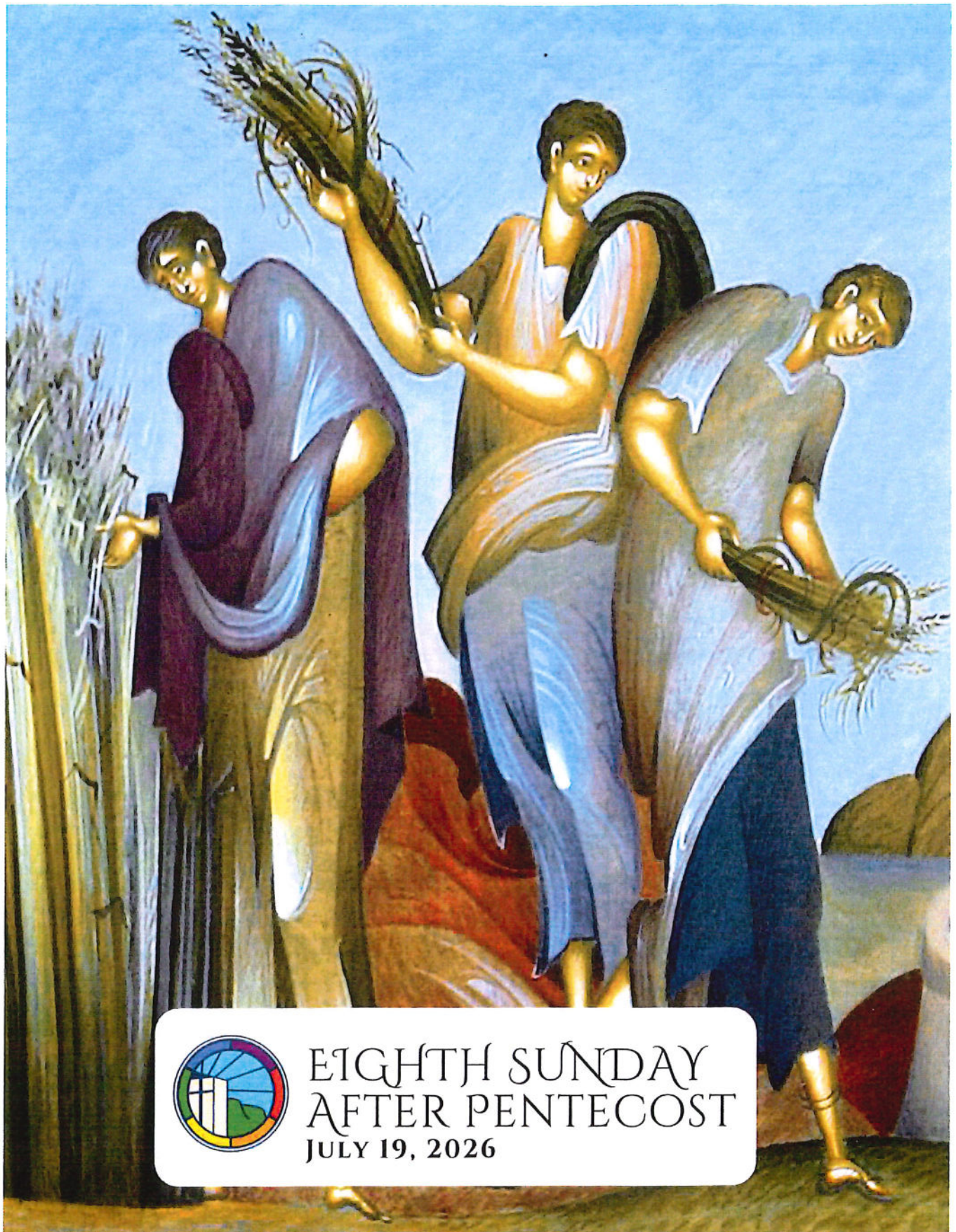




EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 19, 2026

Welcome! At First Congregational United Church of Christ, our mission is to live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God’s presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back toward the center aisle.

All are welcome. Jesus calls us to welcome all into God’s family. Children are not only welcome—they belong here. Activity bags are available next to the Community Room’s doors, and there are tables for coloring. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is also available; all childcare workers have undergone background checks. Summer JAM will not take place today; instead, children are invited to color at the tables in the Community Room. Also, a restroom for families and all bodies is next to the Chapel.

Livestreaming Notice for Worship. We are again worshipping in the Community Room. We cannot guarantee that the livestream will be available from this alternative location this Sunday. We encourage you to come to worship in person.

Please ask an usher if you need assistance, a large-print or sensory-friendly bulletin, or directions—we are glad to help.

Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship.....	Sherry Sawle
Preaching.....	Stephen Minnema
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Diane Breeser
Head Usher	Randy Breeser
Usher	Diane Breeser
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton

An asterisk (*) in the order of service indicates all who are able may stand.

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Beach Spring"

Nancy Allen, Piano

arr. Line

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us today. Please pass the Friendship Folder, fill out the information you wish to share, and note those worshipping near you so you can greet them by name.

Prelude Music

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Nancy Allen, Piano

arr. Keveren

*Call to Worship

One: Come, people of God. The Holy One has planted seeds of love throughout the world.

Many: We come to tend what is good and to nurture what gives life.

One: In every heart, every family, every community, beauty is growing.

Many: We trust God is at work, even when we cannot yet see the harvest.

One: May God make us a people whose lives bear the fruit of justice, mercy, hope, and love.

Many: Come, let us worship the God who is bringing life from every field.

The musical score is written for piano on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground, And I know that there are an - gels all a - round. Let us praise Je - sus now; We are stand - ing in God's pres - ence on ho - ly ground.' The score consists of five lines of music. The first line ends with 'We are'. The second line ends with 'And I'. The third line ends with 'Let us praise'. The fourth line ends with 'We are stand - ing in God's'. The fifth line ends with 'ground.' and a double bar line.

A Moment for Silence

Take this moment of silence to become still and attentive to God.

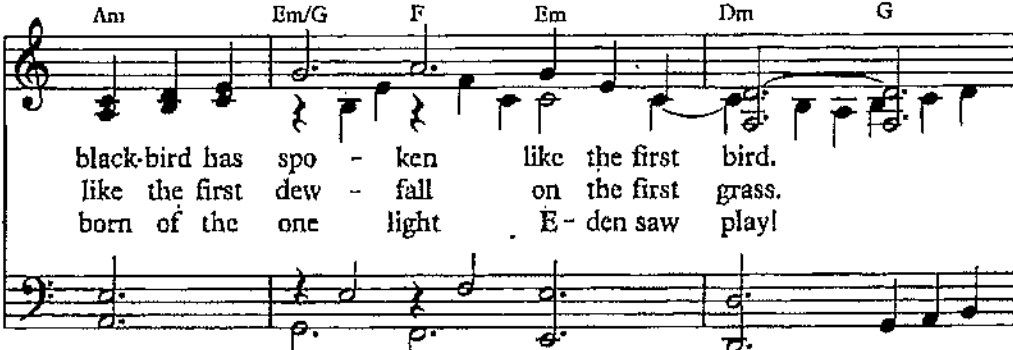
*Hymn 35 (All join in singing the hymn.)

"Morning Has Broken"

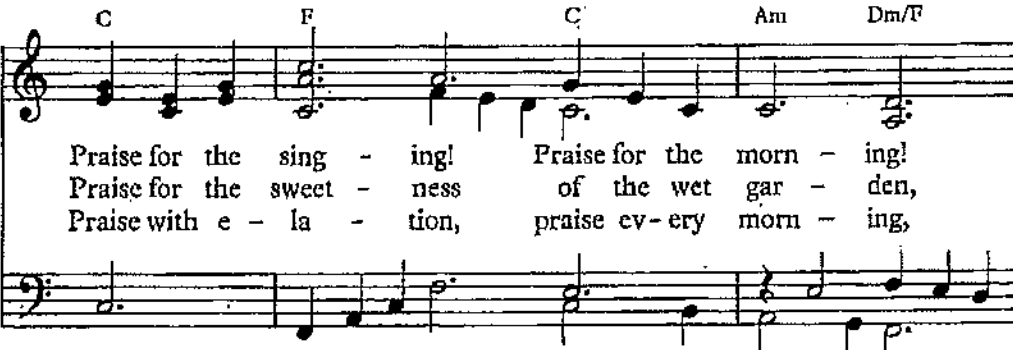
BUNNESAN



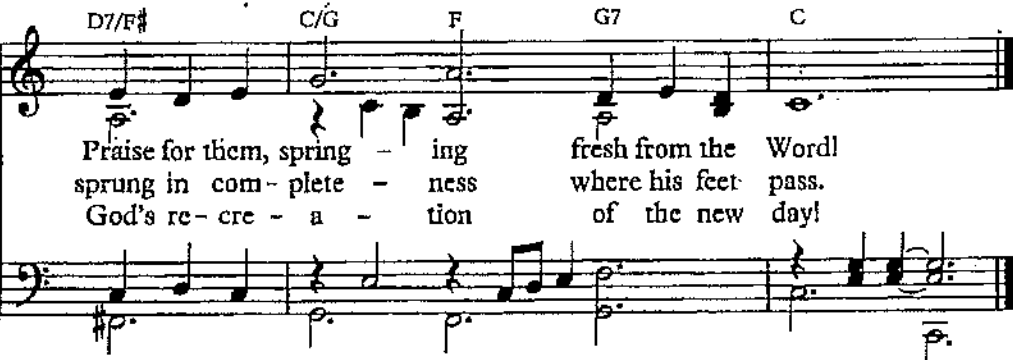
1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



Am Em/G F Em Dm G
black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



C F C Am Dm/F
Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



D7/F# C/G F G7 C
Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*Share Christ's peace with one another with a wave or a bow and words such as:
"Peace be with you. / And also with you."*

Listening

for the Still-speaking God

The Word for Children

Sherry Sawle

Children will join Sherry Sawle in the center aisle as they walk forward for the Word for Children. Children in Pre-K through Grade 3 are invited after the Word for Children to color at the tables in the Community Room.

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

SPIRITUAL

All:



1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon-na let it shine,
This lit - tle light of mine
I'm gon-na let it shine; This lit - tle light of mine
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine.

The First Lesson

Ephesians 4:14-16

Diane Breeser

The Psalter

Psalm 86:11-17 (*Reading is based on The Common English Bible.*)

One: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

Many: **give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

One: I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart,

Many: **and I will glorify your name forever.**

One: For great is your steadfast love toward me;

Many: **you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

One: O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

Many: **But you, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

One: Turn to me and be gracious to me;

Many: **give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.**

One: Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,

Many: **because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon

"The Recovery of Conversation"

Rev. Steve Minnema

✠ Responding

with the voice of hope

***Hymn 40** (*All join in singing the hymn.*)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5. For each per - fect gift of thine to our race so free ly giv'n,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,
 • for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 grae - es hu - man and di - vine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n.

REFRAIN
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the People

Leader: God, in your love,

All: hear our prayer.

The Prayer of Jesus (*Said by all. Pray using the language for God that is most meaningful to you.*)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) 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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

∞ Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Music at the Offertory

"Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us"

Nancy Allen, Piano
arr. Keveren

***As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of OLD 100TH (Hymn 34).**

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Going

to be messengers of good news

***Hymn 72** *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

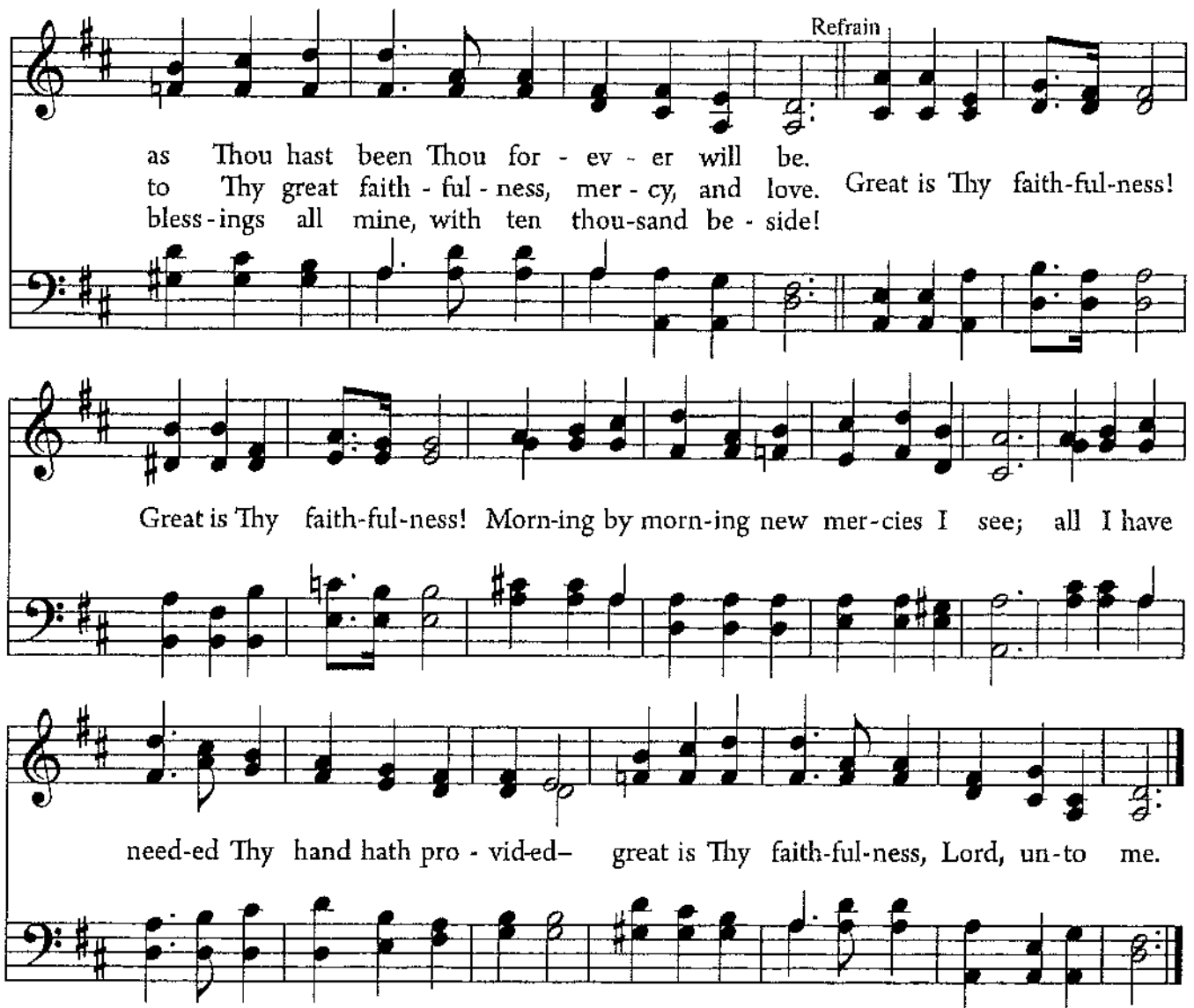
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

A musical score for the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". It features three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes three numbered verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody with more lyrics. The third system concludes the piece. The music is written in a key with two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature.

1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow of
2. Sum - mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to

turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor-row,



Refrain

as Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er will be.
 to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have

need-ed Thy hand hath pro - vid-ed- great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"A Mighty Fortress"

Nancy Allen, Piano
 arr. Page

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*Flowers today are given in memory of
Linda Hamilton by John Hamilton.*

Announcements:

This Week in Our Church:

Sunday, July 19

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Nursery

11:15 am WISE Committee Meeting (L)

Thursday, July 23

4:15 pm Service & Worship Meeting (CR)

Friday, July 24

Office Closed

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Loud Offering

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Nursery

CALENDAR KEY

C = Chapel, CR = Community Room, J = JAM Rooms, K = Kitchen,

L = Lounge, N = Narthex, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary

Koffee Klatch @ Havenwood



Join us for conversation, community, and yummy coffee.

Where: Havenwood

3700 Emerald Drive East, Onalaska

When: Tuesday, July 28

Time: 11:00 am

2026 – 2027 FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

September 2026
Building & Grounds

October 2026
WISE Committee

November 2026
Service & Worship

December 2026
Visitation

January 2027
Finance

February 2027
Christian Education

March 2027
Membership

April 2027
Creation Care

May 2027
Missions & Social Justice



Join Us For Woman's Book Club

Where: The Blarney Bar at Eagle Crest South

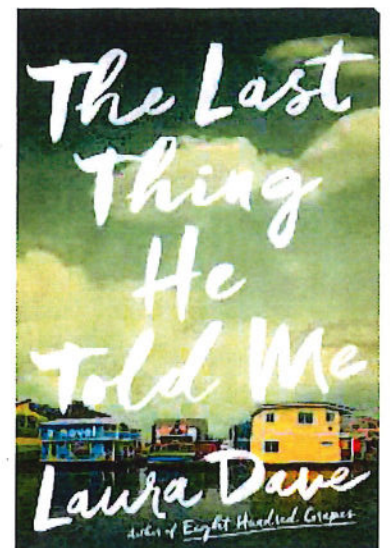
When: July 27

Time: 1:30 pm

We will discuss

The Last Thing He Told Me

by Laura Dave





ROOF & SOLAR PANEL UPDATE

No doubt you've noticed there's been a lot of work happening both inside our building and on the roof!

We're currently awaiting the final inspection of the new roof, which will allow us to move forward with the installation of the solar panels.

The torrential rains in April and early July revealed a few areas where the roof membrane had not been properly sealed. As a result, water entered the Community Room during the first storm and, more recently, leaked through the roof above the men's restroom into the Narthex. In both cases, the roofing company responded immediately, accepted responsibility, and is completing the necessary repairs.

Repairs and updates to the Community Room are now underway. Because an exact match for the existing wallpaper could not be found, the Church Council approved replacing the wallpaper throughout the entire room. Removal of the existing wallpaper is scheduled for mid-July, with installation of the new wallpaper to follow shortly thereafter.

As with most construction projects, there have been a few unexpected challenges along the way. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue working to keep these projects moving forward.

We are always happy to hear your questions, comments, or concerns.

Construction Management Team

Beth Moore • John Storlie • Rick Waniger • Bill Ohm

