

**HAMDEN PLAINS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514
203- 248-4654



September 17, 2023

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"The mission of the Hamden Plains United Methodist Church is sharing God's love by creating a safe and welcoming community, connecting people's needs with God's power, and reconciling divisions through Christ."

-Mission Statement

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

+ Those able please stand

PRELUDE

+OPENING HYMN

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

UMH #731

CALL TO WORSHIP-Liturgist

Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

How many times should I forgive?

When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

How many times should I forgive?

Until God turns the question around: "How many times have I forgiven you?"

Seventy times seven.

"How many times have I loved you?"

Seventy times seven.

"How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?"

Seventy times seven.

Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God's, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:19-31

PRAYER OF THE DAY- Pastor

We give you thanks, O Lord, we call on your name. We will make known your deeds among the peoples.

We'll sing to you, we'll sing praises to you; we'll tell of all your wonderful works. We glory in your holy name; let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.

We seek you, Lord, and your strength; and your presence continually. We remember the wonderful works you have done, your miracles, and the judgments you uttered.

You are the Lord our God; your judgments are in all the earth.

Amen and Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION -Pastor

Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive, and we struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen. We rush ourselves to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others as a way of suppressing instead of honestly naming the hurt we have experienced. We expect others to pardon our faults without also attending to our own need to repent. We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift we give to one another and that we receive from you. We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of a bridge that brings us back together. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to set and respect boundaries with one another, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 114

UMH #835

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING -Liturgist

*Please mail or drop off your tithes and offerings to:
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514.*

Noisy Offering (coins given for missions) may be dropped off at the church.

ANTHEM

"O Mary, Don't You Weep, Don't You Mourn"

UMH #134

+RESPONSE

"The Doxology"

UMH #95

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Romans 14:1-12-Liturgist

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

+ Matthew 18:21-35 -Liturgist

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

SERMON

Rev. Jeremiah Paul

GOING FORTH

+CLOSING HYMN

"The Gift of Love"

UMH #408

BENEDICTION

May you go from this place with a posture of forgiveness, leading and being led by the grace that saves us into right relationship with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Amen.

RECESSIONAL

"Sanctuary"

TFWS #2164

The Postlude

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Worship Schedule

WORSHIP TIME changes to **10:15 a.m.** Sunday, September 10th.

CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: **Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please watch for the link that will be emailed on Tuesday afternoon. Contact Pastor J for more information at 475.331.1122.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: **WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m.** If you would like more information about joining choir or being a song leader, please contact Pastor J (475.331.1122 pastorji.hpumc@gmail.com) or Dunn Pearson (dunnpearson@gmail.com) for more information. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

NEXT WEEK: 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (umh828); Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEANS MUCH! Please mail gifts to HPUMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or drop them off during office hours, Tues - Fri., 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. For Venmo, scan QR code or go to www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC.



All are invited to *Dinner for a Dollar* each Saturday, 6 – 7 p.m. take-out only through the Church Street doors.



PUMPKIN PATCH: PUMPKINS ARRIVE SUNDAY OCT 15th AT 4PM. This event, the 2nd half of October, is a signature event for HPUMC - some in the community know

us as “The Pumpkin Church” - but to make it happen we need great support from the whole congregation. So if you value the Pumpkin Patch, and/or are willing to be a worker the last 2.5 weeks in October, PLEASE sign-up on the Pumpkin Board in the Narthex or contact Nancy Estes in the office at 203.248.4654.



SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS should be called or e-mailed to Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 or secretary.hpumc@gmail.com or Holly O'Brien (203) 288-4252/ hollyobrien@snet.net

THIS WEEKS PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray without ceasing: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Jean Raccio, health issues
Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

Home Bound/ Rehab

Mary Bales, 33 Woodruff Street, #113, Hamden, 06518
Lois Hartsoe, 7310 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 06492
Pat Leno, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden, 06514
Elizabeth Mayo, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Apt. 213, Hamden, 06517
Claudette and Jimmy Morrison, 112 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514
Jean and Carmine Raccio, 15 Sunrise Cove Road, Branford, 06405
Marianne Reynolds, 520 Pool Rd. Apt. 424, North Haven, 06473
Rosemary Shaw, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 202, New Haven, 06515
Frank Teodosio, 330 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, 06525



BIRTHDAY: Kirby Stafford 9/1, Riannah Keller 9/3, Laura Williams 9/5, Carmine Raccio 9/6, Trudy Williams 9/6, Helen Donaldson 9/10, Stacey Riccardi 9/10, Robert Pilletere 9/16

WAYS TO BE IN MINISTRY AND MISSION:

- Host Fellowship Hour
- Bring your “Cans for the Congo” during office hours or on Sundays.
- Drop off food for the Hamden Food Bank.
- Cook and/or serve for “Dinner for a Dollar” (take-out only). To sign up, contact Marty Hartog at 203.506.9788 or hartogm1@southernct.edu
- Check in by phone or send a note to someone home-bound or elderly.
- Continue to mail in your tithes and offerings.
- Donate used books to our Little Free Library
- Donate used printer ink cartridges
- Stay abreast of developments by reading your e-mail or checking the website.
- Read the upcoming Sunday scriptures as an act of spiritual formation
- Become a reporter for *The Messenger*

For information about these ministries, contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654/
secretary.hpumc@gmail.com or Holly O’Brien (203) 288-4252/ hollyobrien@snet.net

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF September 17, 2023			
Sunday	September 17	Worship	9:30 am
		Fellowship Time	Following worship
Tuesday	September 19	Connectional Bible Study	6:30 pm
Wednesday	September 20	Prayer Group	11:00 am
Thursday	September 21	Admin Team	7:00 pm
Saturday	September 23	Dinner for a Dollar	6:00 pm
Sunday	September 24	Worship	9:30 am
		Fellowship Time	Following worship
CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: will resume in September CHOIR REHEARSAL: will resume in September			

Worship Assistants

	TODAY September 17th WORSHIP 10:15 am	Next Week, September 24th
Liturgist	Megan Malanson	Reon Keller
Song Leader	Marty Hartog	Frances Walker
Ushers	Reon Keller	Megan Malanson
Attendance Clerk		
Fellowship Time		
Counters	Lynn Brantley Perjah Delgado	Terri Bennett Kersten Moore

September 10: ATTENDANCE: In-person: 41 OFFERING: \$1,409

www.hamdenplainsumc.com
<https://www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/>

The YouTube channel address:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICT5iAA
 or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

**Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays
 Minister: All Congregation Members**

Rev. Jeremiah J. Paul, Pastor, pastorjj.hpumc@gmail.com
 Dunn Pearson, Musician Ministry, dunnpearson@gmail.com
 Nancy Estes, Parish Secretary, secretary.hpumc@gmail.com
 Derrick Pommills, Property Manager, pommillsfacilityservices@gmail.com

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Pastor J is available on Wednesday and Thursday's by appointment only. If you would like to meet with Pastor J, please call the office at 203.248.4654 to schedule an appointment.