



Life is Better Together:
Back to Church Sunday

September 21, 2025



Scan to check out our website.

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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS
WELCOME OF GUEST
PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Kerry Foote
Rev. Kerry Foote Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

(Inspired by Hebrews 10:19-22)

Liturgist: We gather together to worship, knowing that God is already here among us;

Congregation: Knowing that there is nothing that separates us from the presence of our Lord.

Liturgist: Wherever we are, wherever we go, God is near.

Congregation: So let us enter into this service of worship with confidence and hope,

Liturgist: knowing that God is already with us, and that He stands eager to meet us

Congregation: And bless us with His love.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

We Are the Church (v. 1-5)

UMH #558

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

Liturgist

Liturgist: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

Congregation: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

All: Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NKJV)

Liturgist

⁹Two *are* better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, For *he has* no one to help him up. ¹¹Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm *alone*? ¹²Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Kerry Foote

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to remember that we need to come to church, read your word, and pray to keep sin out of our life. We realize that even when we do our best, we will still sin, so we ask your forgiveness in Jesus' name. Amen.

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

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PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Rev. Kerry Foote

Prayer cards are on the information table. If you have a prayer that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out the card and pass it toward the center aisle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect them during the hymn and pray over cards at the chancel rail.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

They'll Know We Are Christians (v. 1-4)

CEL #429

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kerry Foote

SERMON

Title: Life is Better Together

Theme: Back to Church Sunday.

Main Idea: We were designed for connection, not isolation. The presence of Jesus makes our gathering powerful.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts)

Rev. Kerry Foote

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings

UMH #95

HOLY COMMUNION

See insert.

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his

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On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Congregation: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Blest Be the Tie that Binds (v. 1-4)

UMH #557

*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

A Parting Blessing

Rev. Kerry Foote

God's blessing be upon us as we leave and return changed to our homes. May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision.

And may the blessing of our adventurous Creator God go with us.

And may the blessing of the Son, who showed us how to live, re-shape us.

*And may the blessing of the Spirit joyfully enable us in our renewed living...and all of God's children said ... **Amen.***

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Love and Fellowship

See screens.

POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you are able.*