

United Presbyterian Church

October 25, 2026 22th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Deacon Andy Hill

Prelude Benjamin Watkins, piano

Call to Worship

Pastor Alejandra Haddad, liturgist

Liturgist: We gather here to worship God.

People: We are here, with heart, soul and mind.

Liturgist: We gather here as Christ's body.

People: We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.

Liturgist: The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.

People: We are here to worship and to be transformed.

Liturgist: Let us worship the Triune God!

**Opening Hymn Lord of Our Growing Years #279*

Call to Confession (liturgist)

We recognize the well-worn paths of sin in our lives and the world. Let us confess our sin together, so that we may delight in God's laws of love.

Prayer of Confession – In unison with liturgist

Holy God, we are often good at following rules while neglecting the heart of your commandments. We place ourselves in the congregation of the righteous, but take our seat among the scoffers. We seek approval of our friends, family, and others whose opinions we value, forgetting that our call is to please you, above all. You call us to be holy, but we settle for self-righteousness. You call us to be impartial, but we cannot shed our biases. You call us to love our neighbors, but we have been satisfied to keep them at arm's length. You created us to love you with soul, heart, and mind, but

we have held parts of ourselves back. Have mercy on us, God. Watch over our ways, redirect our paths, and help us love you with abandon — heart, soul, and mind. Make us instruments of reconciliation and transformation as we seek to follow your law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (liturgist)

The gospel we proclaim is good news for us all: God's mercy is eternal. We are made blameless through Jesus Christ. Freed from sin's power over us, we can bear the fruit of God's love and righteousness. Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri #579

**Passing of the Peace*

Liturgist: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Liturgist: Rejoicing in our differences, we come together as one. Let us share this peace with one another.

Music for Meditation

Prayer for Illumination (liturgist)

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit, help us meditate on your law and commandments. As your Word is read today, help us be fully present — heart, soul, and mind — and show us your way of love. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 34: 1–12 – Pastor Haddad

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22: 34–46 – Rev. McDaniel

Reverend: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon: *Choose This Day, Whom You Will Serve!* Rev. Mark McDaniel

***Hymn of Response** *When a Poor One* #407

Affirmation of Faith

Reverend McDaniel

What is the greatest commandment?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer – Pastor Haddad

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.

Call to Offering – Pastor Haddad

Offertory

***Doxology** #592

Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** *For All the Saints* #526

Charge and Benediction Reverend Mark McDaniel

Postlude Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Roby Troy Virginia Kathleen Seth

His Eyes in Honduras Nyaka Global in Uganda Pantry 279

All people who are suffering from armed conflict

Laconia United Presbyterian Church has been serving southern Harrison County for over 125 years. This small but faithful congregation meets for

worship about once a month at the local community center, having said farewell to its building in August 2024, due to its irreparable structural problems. Despite that loss, proceeds from the sale of church furnishings were donated to flood survivors in Kentucky through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the stained-glass windows, communion table, and old church bell have been given to neighboring Rehoboth. Ministry continues through support for the local food pantry. The congregation is prayerfully discerning its future, and its next steps on that path.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Pantry 279 is providing Thanksgiving dinner boxes for families in need. They need to fill those boxes as well as everyday food items. We'll be collecting food items in our little red wagon the next two weeks.

Thanksgiving: Canned yams, can openers, deserts (pie filling, pudding, cake mix,), cranberry sauce, gravy packets, stuffing, green beans, corn, jiffy cornbread mix, cream of mushroom soup, mac 'n cheese, spices, salt & pepper shakers.

Everyday items: Pasta, pasta sauce, canned meats & beans, soups, ramen, rice dishes like Knorr noodles or rice-a-roni, oatmeal, baking items, sugar, peanut butter.



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