



ARVADA
United Methodist Church

**6750 Carr Street • Arvada, CO 80004 • 303.421.5135 •
www.arvadaumc.org**

**Sunday, August 23, 2026; 8:15 and 10:00 am
Fall Kickoff, Family Worship, Backpack Blessing, and Picnic**

Gathering Music

Prelude

(Calvin Seerveld)

In the Fish for Three Days Buried

Shabach Ensemble

Greeting

Rev. Matt Franks

***Opening Hymn**

God of All Learning

(Carolyn Winfrey Gilette, arr. Carlton R. Young)

God of all learning, God of all knowing,
we bring these backpacks filled with supplies.
Bless all these tools of learning and growing.
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.

Bless all the students, young ones and old ones —
walking or riding, traveling by bus.
May they remember that you go with them,
and that they all are precious to us.

Some kids are poor and some kids are wealthy;
may we give all the tools that they need.
May we make sure they're safe, loved and healthy
so that they all may thrive and succeed.

Bless all who learn and bless those who guide them,
bless those who teach and counsel and care.
May they remember you walk beside them.
Through all their school days, you, Lord, are there.

Congregational Greeting

Rev. Lauren Boyd

Children's Message and Backpack Blessing (10:00)

Emily Butler

Children of God and curious thinkers,
be filled with questions about yourself and the world around you.
Be blessed with discernment as you decide when, where, and to whom you
will ask your many questions.
And when there is no answer to be found, or none that satisfy,
cling to the greatest promise of all: God loves you and will never leave you.
Amen.

Congregation:

**God of wonder and curiosity, open my mind to the amazing world
around me today. When I am confused or curious, guide me to wise
people who can help me understand new things. And no matter how
long it takes for me to learn, I know you are always my patient teacher.
Amen.**

Offertory / Offertory Prayer

Offertory Music

Jonah

Shabach Ensemble

(Daniel Mattix) CCLI Song #7111014

Scripture

Jonah 1:17, 2:1-10; 3:1-5 CEB

Meanwhile, the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish: "I called out to the LORD in my distress, and he answered me. From the belly of the underworld I cried out for help; you have heard my voice. You had cast me into the depths in the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounds me. All your strong waves and rushing water passed over me. So I said, 'I have been driven away from your sight. Will I ever again look on your holy temple?' Waters have grasped me to the point of death; the deep surrounds me. Seaweed is wrapped around my head at the base of the undersea mountains. I have sunk down to the underworld; its bars held me with no end in sight. But you brought me out of the pit. When my endurance was weakening, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, to your

holy temple. Those deceived by worthless things lose their chance for mercy. But me, I will offer a sacrifice to you with a voice of thanks. That which I have promised, I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!" Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

The Lord's word came to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you." And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days' walk across.)

Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, "Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

Pastor: The Scripture of faith for the people of faith.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Now That is a Fish Story"

Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

Step By Step

(David Strasser) CCLI Song # 696994

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways.

And, step by step, You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days.

***Benediction**

Sending Forth Music

Song of Hope

Shabach Ensemble

(Alvin Schutmaat) CCLI Song # 5193990

***Please stand as you are able.**

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