



ARVADA
United Methodist Church

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

**Sunday, Aug 24, 2025; 815 am and 10 am Services
Fall Kickoff, Back to School Sunday, and Bible Blessing**

Gathering Music

Prelude

Allegro Deciso

Piano Quartet: Linda Marshall, Carolyn May, Marta Coward, and Dan Nebel
(GF Handel, arr. Virginia Speiden Carper)

Greeting

Dr. Amy Gearhart

Opening Hymn #447 - *Our Parent, By Whose Name

(F. Bland Tucker, John David Edwards) One License # 28093

1 Our Parent, by whose name all parenthood is known,
who, in your love proclaim, each family your own:
direct all parents, guarding well, with constant love as sentinel,
the homes in which your people dwell.

2 O, Jesus, who, a child within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled did to adulthood come:
our children bless in every place, that they may all behold your face,
and knowing you may grow in grace.

3 Blest Spirit, who can bind our hearts in unity,
and teach us so to find the love from self-set free:
in all our hearts such love increase that every home, by this release,
may be the dwelling place of peace.

Congregational Greeting

Rev. Lauren Boyd

Children's Time and Blessing of the Backpacks

Emily Butler

Leader:

Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.

These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rules, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for schoolwork will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

(Invite teachers to stand) Let us pray together

Leader:

Learning is a gift from God.

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both.

All: We pray that you meet friends like Ruth. Friends that are loyal and kind. Friends that remind you- you are loved.

Leader:

Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare lunches, those who sit in car lines, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

All: We pray that you are honest like Nathan and know that you are loved.

Leader:

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

All: We pray that you wake up each school day with the knowledge that you are loved. Know that you never walk alone. May you be kind. May you be honest. May you always be- YOU. This school year, like Elizabeth and Mary, we will go far together. Amen.

Offertory / Offering Prayer

Offertory Music

St. Anthony Chorale

Piano Quartet: Linda Marshall, Carolyn May, Marta Coward, and Dan Nebel
(Brahms, arr. Virginia Speiden Carper)

Scripture

Luke 1:26-30, 39-44 **NRSV**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

Lay Readers: Katie Vigil at 8:15; Megan and Teddy Ferry at 10:00

Sermon

"Dynamic Duos: Elizabeth and Mary"

Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

You've Got a Friend in Me

(Randy Newman)

You've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me.

When the road looks rough ahead, and you're miles and miles from your nice warm bed,

just remember what your old pal said. Boy, you've got a friend in me.

Yeah, you've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me.

You've got a friend in me.

You've got troubles, I've got 'em too. There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you.

We stick together, we can see it through. 'cause you've got a friend in me.
Yeah, you've got a friend in me.
Some other folks might be a little bit smarter than I am, bigger and stronger too, maybe.
But none of them will ever love you the way I do.
It's me and you, boy, and as the years go by, our friendship will never die.
You're gonna see, it's our destiny. You've got a friend in me.
You've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me.

***Benediction**

Sending Forth Music *Trumpet Voluntary*

Piano Quartet: Linda Marshall, Carolyn May, Marta Coward, and Dan Nebel
(Henry Purcell, arr. Virginia Speiden Carper)

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

Licenses: CCLI Copyright License #11138898
CCLI Streaming License #20102305
CCS PERFORMmusic License # PML12962
CCS WOSHIPcastLicense # WCL12962