WORSHIP GUIDE

September 17, 2023 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Harold Henderson

WELCOME Pastor Beth Snarr
PRELUDE Sunny Baik & Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

CALL TO WORSHIP

We see light, hope, and joy;

we bring heart, soul, mind, and body;

we share blessings and fears;

we bring faith and doubt.

With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

HYMN FWS 2238

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

¹ In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wand'ring in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, evermore.

- ² Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
- ³ As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes, grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams.
- ⁴ We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
- ⁵ Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God who created us, who loves us and makes us whole.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose death and resurrection is our salvation and our example.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God who calls us to abundant life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Sunny Baik & Chancel Choir arr. Sheldon Curry

CALL TO PRAYER W&S 3008

"Open The Eves Of My Heart"

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you, I want to see you. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you, I want to see you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

HYMN UMH 277 (vs 2)

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

² First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON Wonderful Words of Life Pastor Beth Snarr

Looking Through New Lenses

Psalm 119:105

HYMN UMH 600 "Wonderful Words of Life"

¹ Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life; words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

- ² Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life; sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life; all so freely given, wooing us to heaven.
- ³ Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life; Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE W&S 3154 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

POSTLUDE Gavan Mcvay

WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



CONNECTION CARD

Please use the Connection Card for any questions, comments, or prayer requests



You can also fill one out using our First UMC app of	3	onnectionCard
Name(s):		online Connection Card
Please have a Pastor contact me	Please have someone contact me, I am interested in	
Please add me to your email list	Volunteering	Membership at First UMC
My contact information:	Growth Groups	Other Mobile
Email:	Phone:	□Home
Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests Please share only with the Pastors		

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Margaret Steptoe in loving memory of her husband Billy and in honor of her children and grandchildren.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to prayer@fumcgnv.org or note it on the Connection Card.

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS TODAY!

With the help of the study, "Bible Stories for Grown Ups" by Pastor Josh Scott, this series will invite us to consider new and deeper meanings in Bible characters and events that may be very familiar and yet can also be disturbing and challenging. As people who embrace the scripture as "wonderful words of life", how do these passages call us into deeper discipleship today?

FELLOWSHIP PADS ARE BACK

During our offering time, please add your name to the Fellowship Pad and pass it down the pew so others can add their names. If you are a first-time guest, we hope you'll also include your contact information so we can share a special welcome with you this week. Online worshippers and those with prayer concerns can still use the online Connection Cards.

IOIN A GROWTH GROUP!

Growth Groups are a wonderful way to gather with others in our faith family to to study, pray, and engage in respectful, challenging conversation in order to be formed more in the image of Jesus. These groups are of various sizes and meet on an on-going, long-term, or short-term basis. Check out our Growth Group page at fumcgnv.org/GrowthGroups or contact Janet Rocap, our Director of Adult Discipleship, at <code>janet@fumcgnv.org</code> (she also hangs out before Sunday worship in the Narthex/lobby of our Sanctuary if you want to talk to her in person).

AMPLIFY MEDIA

The Amplify Media website provides anytime/anywhere access to wonderful resources to help you on your faith journey. Their library contains motivating stories, insightful teaching, and best of all it is free! Simply register at my.amplifymedia.com and use the First UMC access code: WVXPLH

Every Sunday at 10:15 a.m., we will show the Bible Year video for the next week's readings in the Epworth Parlor. Everyone is invited to join us.

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