



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

PROPER 18 • 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

arr. Joel Raney

Introit

The Bond of Love

BOND OF LOVE

*Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!

Sing God's praises in the assembly of the faithful,

for the Lord takes pleasures in the people.

Let the faithful sing for joy.

*Hymn No. 802 (vv. 1, 4)

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

Call to Confession

Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us.

Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

The Word

Anthem

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it.

Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 12

Sermon

Rituals Aid Our Memory

the Rev. Chris Richardson

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

*Hymn No. 558 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

Invitation to the Offering

Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King. Let us praise God's name with dancing and music; let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

arr. Mark Hayes

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn No. 696

The Bond of Love

BOND OF LOVE

Sending

Charge and Blessing

The night is gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day; let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Creator who made the light, the Christ who is the light, and the Spirit who ignites the light within abide with you and all creation now and always.

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

arr. Mark Hayes

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance • 52

Offering • \$14,655

This Week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

TODAY	2:00 PM	Session meeting
Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Tuesday	11:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (PW), <i>Sacred Encounters</i> , lesson 2 (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 9/17	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson, with Communion
Sunday, 9/24	Led by the Rev. Joe Pack Arnold; MICA collection, Congregational meeting
Wednesday, 9/27	September birthday celebration
Sunday, 10/1	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 10/8	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Tuesday, 10/10	Women's Bible Study (PW), <i>Sacred Encounters</i> , lesson 3
Sunday, 10/15	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 10/22	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Wednesday, 10/25	October birthday celebration
Sunday, 10/29	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson

Welcome to Worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To visitors, we offer a special hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon; please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate.

Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson

Rev. Chris Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Chris has lived in Pike County since marrying husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

Women's Bible Study (PW)

All are invited to join in the women's Bible study (PW) this **Tuesday at 11:30 AM**. Even if you're new to the group or missed last month's lesson – it doesn't matter! The only pre-requisite is an open mind and heart to learn about the loving mercy that Jesus gave the world through sacred encounters with those in need. Refreshments are provided, and your presence is graciously welcomed! Please see Sarah Ross if you'd like a copy of the study text.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, **September 24, 2023**, a Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect three Elders to serve on our Session through 2026. The Elder Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of nominees: Sam Daniel, Robbie DeCoux, and Sarah Ross.

Vision 2023 (adopted by Session on December 11, 2022)

Believe in Me and grow our church together in 2023. In 2023, we shall regularly reach out to inactive members, encouraging them to renew participation in the life of JJWMP. We shall also increase visibility through social media and community involvement that encourages others to join our membership. This will include promotion of church facilities as a destination for appropriate community events, with special emphasis on attracting young adults and youth. In doing so, we shall be widely recognized as a vibrant, welcoming church family that loves the Lord and one another. These initiatives will serve to grow membership and double attendance by year end, 2023.

Reminder of God's Call to Stewardship

They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning (Exodus 36:3). Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions about your tithes or offerings.

Session

Watkins "Noggin" Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer		
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Dennis Ross	Melisa DeCoux	Tommy Brock
Randy White	Suzi Drummond	Linda Miller
Rusty Whittington	Whitney Rawlings	Noggin Wild

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Margy Wicker to the glory of God and in memory of her father, Tom Sanders.

Lectionary Readings and Questions for Reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20. How do you reconcile a God who would "strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals" (Exod. 12:12) with a God who would die for the sins of the entire world?

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Church office open **Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**