

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 20, 2026, 9:00 a. m.
Worship Leader - Pastor Jeffrey Brace
Liturgist – Julie Hull Accompanist – Cindy Greene
Ushers – Dennis Peabody & Jillian Bauer Fellowship Host – Jim & Sherrie Cottrell

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting

L: The Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: The risen Christ is with us.

P: Praise the Lord!

Greeting One Another

Gathering Hymn – Crown Him With Many Crowns UMH 327

Call to Worship

L: Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

P: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

L: The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

P: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

L: We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

P: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

L: In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

P: God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

Opening Hymn – He Leadeth Me UMH 128

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading –

Message – Lessons in Leadership: Grace

Prayer of Confession

L: O God, we seek your mercy...

P: yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.

We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship.

The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend; still, we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items.

We are eager to do your judging.

And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance.

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.

Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

(Silent prayer of confession)

Words of Assurance

L: God’s gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Time of Sharing

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering

Doxology - UMH 94

Offertory Prayer

Closing Hymn – O How I Love Jesus

UMH 170

Benediction

Dismissal Hymn – The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve TFWS 2241

This Week:

SU 20 – Noisy Can Sunday, Women's Small Group 10am,
Fellowship Lunch – Noon @ Anchor Bar & Grill in Newville
MO 21 –
TU 22 –
WE 23 – Building A Beloved Community study 10:30am or 6:30pm
TH 24 – Movie @ 241 Northside 12:30pm
2nd service music practice 6 pm
FR 25 – Pastor's Sabbath Day
SA 26 - Open Table @ 4pm

Next Week:

SU 27 –
MO 28 –
TU 29 – Pastor Jeff is out of the office Sep 29-Oct 1st for School of Leadership
WE 30 – Building A Beloved Community study 10:30am or 6:30pm
TH 1 - 2nd service music practice 6 pm
FR 2 – Pastor's Sabbath Day
SA 3 –

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our congregational survey.

If you have not yet participated, there is still time. The study looks at how people participate in the life of the church and how that may be related to congregational health.

The survey takes about 25–30 minutes.

Survey link:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C023-Lay>

The survey will remain open for about two more weeks.

Participation is voluntary. The survey does not ask for your name or email address, and church leaders will not be told who has or has not participated.

Thank you for considering sharing your perspective.

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September 20, 2026



"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times".

Matthew 18:21-22