

† Please stand as you are able. The congregation may join in by reciting **the words in bold.**

Prayer and Attendance Cards: Please help us take attendance by writing your name on the prayer card (in the buckets) that is most appropriate for you. You may also write a prayer concern and hold it for prayers of the people.

Prelude Zack Schwarze

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Centering Words

“I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.”—John 12:24 (CEB)

Call to Worship—from Psalm 119:105-111 (the Message)

By your words I can see where I’m going;

they throw a beam of light on my dark path.

I’ve committed myself and I’ll never turn back
from living by your righteous order.

Everything’s falling apart on me, God;

put me together again with your Word.

Adorn me with your finest sayings, God;
teach me your holy rules.

My life is as close as my own hands,

but I don’t forget what you have revealed.

The wicked do their best to throw me off track,

but I don’t swerve an inch from your course.

I inherited your book on living; it’s mine forever—

what a gift! And how happy it makes me!

I concentrate on doing exactly what you say—

I always have and always will.

Opening Prayer

Cultivating Lord, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word fall on fertile soil

within us. May they take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

†**Opening Hymn**

“Thy Word Is a Lamp”

UMH 601

Glory Moments

*If you would like to share about a time this past week when you experienced God or God’s glory, please raise your hand and a mic will be brought to you. After each glory moment, Leader: And all God’s people said, **People: Glory!***

Prayer for Illumination

God of light, by your Word you give light to the soul and show the path where you are calling us. May we be open to your light and directed on your path.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:1-11

Herb Schwarze

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23

Leader: this is the word of God for us the people of God, **thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Confession

Lord, our Divine Gardener, we confess that our hearts may need tilling, and we know that we have allowed sin to take root within us. Lord, sift and soften the soil of our hearts. Germinate new life within us, that we might grow with integrity, sprout new life, and bear forth a good harvest, for your glory. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Prayer and Confession

Words of Forgiveness

All with ears to hear, listen! Our God is abounding in grace and steadfast love. When the soil of our hearts hardened, God rains down abundant love and mercy for us to start, again. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People (to leader): In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

†**Peace of Christ**

Sermon

“God Does the Planting and the Growing (Not Us)”

Pastor Adam

†**Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

UMH 451

Prayers of the People

If you have a prayer concern you would like for us to pray for in this service, you may write it on a prayer card and raise it in the air for an usher to collect.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Tithes and Offerings

The Doxology (UMH 94)

Dedicating our gifts to God

†Closing Hymn

“Marching to Zion”

UMH 733

†Benediction

†Chiming the Trinity

†Postlude

Zack Schwarze

Announcements:

- Neil Franks from CVLC announces CCoM Mission Trip to Appalachia in 2024.
- July-September Newsletters and Calendars are now available.
- We are doing a School Supplies Drive for Parkwood Elementary until Sunday, August 13.
- **Coffee with the Pastor** resumes this week on **Wednesday @ 9 AM—12 PM** at Starbucks (4834 Apex Hwy.). On **Wednesday, July 26 @ 11 AM**, we'll meet to discuss the Pastor's book of the month: Henri Nouwen's "Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety."
- This coming Saturday, **July 22 @ 9-11 AM**, we'll be having a **Yard Work Day**. We'll be weeding, putting down mulch, and planting flowers. Kat Benson's and Autumn Boyer's girl scout troops have been invited to join us. Come!
- **Sunday, July 23 is Egg Collection Day:** bring out ya' eggs for Urban Ministries! You need to collect 300 dozen eggs by the end of the year to see Pastor Adam in a chicken costume.
- **Pastor Adam's "A Disciple's Path"** also starts on Sunday, July 23rd @ 9:30 AM. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet by the entrance, if you want to join.
- **The next Pizza, Potluck, and Movie Night** will be **Fri., July 28 @ 5:30 PM!** We will be watching the film, "Jesus Revolution."
- **Sunday, July 30th:** we'll have a Hymn Sing service and a 5th Sunday Potluck.

Parkwood United Methodist Church July 16, 2023



“A Sower Went Out to Sow,” author unknown
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/feargal/5765705109/>

**God Does the Planting and the Growing
(Not Us)**

Sunday, July 16, 2023 • 7th Sunday after Pentecost