

† 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** Desiree Davis-Omburo

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Chiming the Trinity**

**Call to Worship**—from Thom Shurman

We gather here, where God would teach us:  
**so we may learn to be more compassionate,  
so we may be taught how to be more loving.**

We gather here, where Jesus would teach us  
**the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,  
the language of hope so we may speak to all.**

We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,  
**so we might know how to share grace,  
so we would learn how to welcome all.**

†**Opening Hymn** “Welcome” **W&S 3152**

**Glory Moments**

*At this time, if you have a glory moment that you would like to share of where you have seen or experienced God this past week, please raise your hand.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Living God who still speaks, we ask that You meet us right where we are; draw near to us, be in our heads and in our hearts, and may this written word come alive for us today. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading** Romans 13:8-15 Herb Schwarze

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 18:15-20

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

**Call to Reconciliation**

All we are called to do is to love - everyone. Simple... but not easy. Let us confess therefore confess where we have failed in this simple but hard task, saying:

**Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Lord, You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and often that means forgiveness with a goal of reconciliation. Yet, too often, it is with bitterness we speak to friends and family. When people have reached out to us, we confess we have hardened our hearts to them. God who reconciles yourself to us, forgive us, and help us to be reconciled to each other. Soften our hearts where they have hardened. Make us whole where we are broken. Grant us peace where there is bitterness and tension in our relationships, and fill us with Your Reconciling Spirit. Help us to be the church you are calling us to be. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Gathered as God's people, we hear the good news: God has forgiven us, God has made us whole, God sends us to serve.

**As a sign of our gratitude, we will take off the clothes of jealousy or resentment, but put on the garments of peace and hope. We are forgiven by our God. Amen.**

†**Peace of Christ**

*At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace, as the young disciples are invited to come forward.*

**Young Disciples Message**

**Sermon** Pastor Adam

†**Hymn** “They’ll Know We Are Christians by our Love” **TFWS 2223**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**The Doxology (UMH 94)**

Desiree Davis-Omburo

**Dedicating our gifts to God**

**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**

†**Closing Hymn**

“Blest be the Tie that Binds”

UMH 557

†**Benediction**

†**Chiming the Trinity**

†**Postlude**

Desiree Davis-Omburo

**Announcements:**

- You may write a prayer down on one of the prayer cards in the pews and hold it for the Prayers of the People.
- If you are interested in going on the CCoM Mission trip, please let Pastor Adam know.
- **Coffee with the Pastor** is this Wednesday **9:30 AM**-12 PM.
- The **Pastor's book of the month for September** is by Norman Wirzba, called “Living the Sabbath.”
- There will be a District-wide Creation Care Worship service @ Mt. Sylvan UMC on **Sunday, September 17 @ 4 PM**. Pastor Adam will be attending.
- **Sign up today for Pastor Adam's new video study on race, called “How to Fight Racism,” by Jemar Tisbey, on Mondays @ noon, starting on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. This will be a bag lunch study, so people are invited to bring their lunch and come to participate in this six session video series. We will meet each Monday @ noon, except for October 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Please let Pastor Adam or Rev. Rachel Randall know if you are interested in marching with our church in the **Durham Pride parade** on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Parkwood UMC is looking to join with other UMC churches in Durham to have a youth collective or a collective youth group between our churches. We're looking to hire a youth minister between our churches. **Our first Youth Collective Event will be at Duke Memorial on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Queerly Beloved Service @ 5:30 PM**. After the service, the youth will gather to have pizza and a meet and greet.

# Parkwood

## United Methodist Church

### September 10, 2023



Photo by Annie Pratt, from unsplash.com, “Black and White Goat on Gray Rock”

## Conflict Along the Way

**Sunday, September 10, 2023 • 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**