

† 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.

***Brief Townhall following worship today:*** You are encouraged to stay after worship today for a brief meeting to announce and talk through Parkwood UMC taking a Sabbath during July-August.

### ***Prelude***

#### ***Welcome and Announcements***

#### ***Chiming the Trinity***

#### ***Call to Worship—by Thom Shuman***

All around us, God is looking for folks who will join in serving others.

**It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us, watching for them to bloom in our lives.**

In our midst, Jesus is walking among us, tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

**It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls will grow big enough to welcome everyone.**

From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work, gently tending this garden called life.

**It is as if the Spirit has found the perfect spots to bring forth crops of justice and peace.**

#### ***Opening Prayer—by Will Willimon***

Lord Jesus, we are here this morning because somehow you secretly planted a seed in our hearts and minds. When we were focusing on ourselves, distracted, or feeling weighed down, you somehow still get through to us. Speak to us this morning, Lord. We will do our best to be wide open and awake. We will try not to listen to our fears and reservations and instead listen for you call out to each of us. Lord Jesus, giver of the good seed, giver of growth, bring your word to harvest in us. Amen.

† ***Opening Song*** “Great Things”

#### ***Prayer for Illumination***

**Seed Planter: You place faith deep within us, so we can bear witness to Your just and loving kingdom. Your love regulates our hearts, so we can welcome all in your name. Help us to be good soil to receive to the seed, the life and growth You desire for us, in the reading and hearing of Your Word. Amen.**

#### ***Epistle Lesson***

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

#### ***Gospel Reading***

Mark 4:26-34

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

#### ***Prayer of Confession—Thom Shuman***

How you must grieve over us, God of all. You give us blessings to share with others, but we hoard everything for ourselves. You look for us to join you in loving one another as we love ourselves, but we have a hard enough time loving ourselves well, much less others. You offer us joy and wonder to embrace joyful community, but we have clung to other distractions in isolation.

Have mercy on us, Anointing God, as you pour your forgiveness into our lives. Plant the seeds of grace, hope, love, and peace in us, so we may blossom and share all these gifts with everyone we meet. In Jesus’ name, amen.

*Silence is kept*

#### ***Assurance of Pardon***

God’s love is not logical and understandable. For God forgives those we never would and welcomes those we would continue to ignore.

**This is the One who has mercy on everyone, pouring grace and joy into everyone, including us! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

#### ***Peace of Christ***

*At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace.*

#### ***Sermon***

“Good Earth”

Rev. Meghan Benson

#### ***Hymn***

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

UMH 92

#### ***Prayers of the People***

*If you have a prayer or a burden you would like have prayed for, you may raise your prayer card up in the air during this time.*

#### ***The Lord’s (Body) Prayer***

#### ***Invitation to the Offering***

*The Doxology on UMH 94*

*Dedicating our gifts to God—Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the Body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death and into life, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

† *Closing Hymn*      “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”      **TFWS 2153**

† *Benediction*

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

You are encouraged to stay after worship today for a brief meeting to announce and discuss Parkwood UMC taking a Sabbath during July-August

**Announcements:**

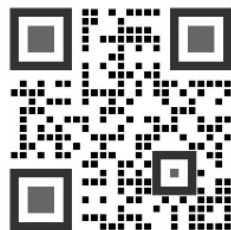
**June 23-28:** Pastor Adam will be the pastor in residence at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland, NC. Camp Chestnut is a UMC camp that host a number of summer camps for kids and youth. He will not be at the office and will be staying on site that week.

**June 25-27 @ 7-8:30 PM** Triangle Grace Lutheran is having a conversation series on human identity which promises to be interesting, engaging, and worthwhile.

**Sunday, June 30:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck immediately following worship, and youth will meet that evening @ 5-7 PM at the church.

**July-August** will be an intentional Sabbath from meetings, book and Bible studies. We will be focusing on rest, renewal, reconnecting with God, with each other, and with ourselves.

*QR Code to Give Online:*



# Parkwood United Methodist Church



“The Sower III,” by Vincent Van Gogh

## Creation, Growth, Transformation

**Sunday, June 16, 2024 • 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**