

† Please stand as you are able.

***Prelude***

Ms. Desiree Davis-Omburo

***Welcome and Announcements***

Rev. Adam Benson

***Chiming the Trinity***

***Call to Worship***

Jesus did not say, “hear the good news and stay where you are.” He said,

**Follow me.**

Jesus said, “take up your cross and

**Follow me.**

Jesus said those who are his mother, brothers, and family are those who

**Follow me.**

Come, let us pray, sing, and find ourselves in a story that’s bigger than our story, let’s journey with a Lord who beckons us,

**Follow me.**

***Opening Prayer***

Lord, you have called us to walk this journey of faith with you. You spoke to us, reached out to us, and we followed. Sometimes the journey is difficult, and sometimes it is with great joy. Sustain us with joy, love, grace, and with Yourself. Bring us to the truth about ourselves, as hard as that may be to face, and where we are on our journey with you. Teach us how to locate our story in your bigger and deeper story. Meet us, walk with us and lead us where to go from here. Amen.

† ***Opening Hymn***

“We Are Marching”

TFWS 2235

*The children ages 0-4 may be dismissed with volunteers to go to the nursery or return to their seat*

***Prayer of Confession***

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

† ***Peace of Christ***

*At this time, you may stand and greet your neighbors offering signs of peace.*

***Prayer for Illumination***

**Lord, we hunger for your presence in word and sacrament. Come to us now in the reading of scripture, may these words be for us a Living Word for us, that we may strengthened on our journey of discipleship. Amen.**

***Scripture Readings***

Gospel Reading:

Mark 8:27-38

Herb Schwarze

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

† **Hymn**

“Would I Have Answered When You Called”

TFWS 2137

***Offering and Song***

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

TFWS 2129

† ***The Doxology*** *(to the tune on UMH 95)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures high and low.**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One. Amen.**

***Dedicating our gifts to God***

***Sermon***

“Discipleship is the Journey”

Rev. Adam Benson

***Reflecting on Where We Are on the Journey and on our Sabbath Season***

1) *What did you learn about yourself during this season of Sabbath?*

2) *What did you learn about God?*

3) *What did you learn about our life together by observing our operations here from a “balcony view?”*

4) *What did you learn about how we ought to reorient our priorities?*

***Prayers of the People: Wesley Covenant Prayer*** (Modern)

**I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have**

nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

† *Closing Hymn*                      “Where He Leads Me”                      UMH 338

† *Benediction*

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

#### **Announcements:**

**The Administrative Board meets today** in the fellowship hall in-person and on Zoom @ 2 PM. These are open meetings for anyone to attend.

**If you are interested in serving on an organizing team for an April Fundraiser, please contact Adam Waxman:**

**Sign up** (on sign-up table by front entrance) **to help with September Chili Dinner and CWS Workshop on Refugees and Immigrants on Sept. 22 @ 5:30-7 PM.**

We need volunteers to bring sides, desserts, set-up and clean-up. This is a community-wide event—anyone is invited to come.

**Sign up** (on sign-up table by front entrance) if you are interested in being on a **CWS Welcome Team** of 6 people (2 people from each church) in our CCoM

**Youth meet this Sunday, September 15 @ 11:45 AM-1:15 PM:** lunch, UMYF and continue "Compassion" curriculum

**September 23-29:** Pastor Adam will be away on vacation

**Sunday, September 29:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck and Hymn Sing Service

Please take a brochure from Bluestem, Green Burial Conservation Land and Cemetery, if you are interested in researching green burials.

#### **End of August Financial Update:**

Money spent in 2024: \$108,067, Money received in 2024: \$98,757, **Balance: \$-9,310**

**Balance in General Fund Account at the end of August: -\$3,829**

**Total of all accounts together: \$116,119**

# Parkwood United Methodist Church

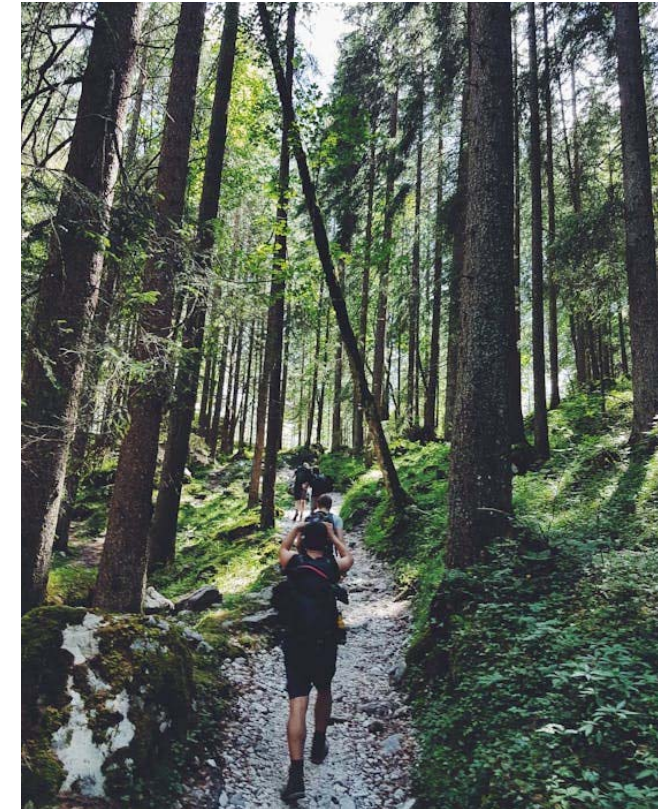


Photo by Ben Maxwell on pexels.com

## Where Are You on the Journey?

**Sunday, September 15, 2024**