

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“In Heavenly Love Abiding” arr. by Lani Smith
Nan Leggett-Organ
L.A. Cothorn-Piano

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

✚ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Praise God”

UMH 95

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

✚ HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

UMH 496

✚ SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1-9

SERMON

“Call and Covenant”

Rev. Howard James

✚ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✚ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✚ BENEDICTION

✚ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We go forth now from this place into the world, just as Abram went, walking by faith. As we journey into the unknown of the week ahead, we do not fear, for the Lord goes with us. May we rest in His promises to make His face to shine upon us, making our lives vessels of His grace, lights in the darkness, and a blessing everyone we meet. And now, may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now, and remain with you always. Amen.

✚POSTLUDE

“God Gave to Us This Glorious Day” J. Walther

Nan Leggett, Organist

✚ Please stand if you are able.

The lovely flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.

SERVING THIS MORNING

- Greeters..... Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
- Music Director.....L.A. Cothorn
- Organist..... Nan Leggett
- Pianist.....Geneva Ashley
- Altar Committee.....Sandy Turner, Margie Rabon
and Elizabeth Gibson

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Rev. Howard James

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church
As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ’s name.

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, program, and ministry life here.

We hope the worship will inspire and comfort you as we hear
God’s message proclaimed. During this time, now more than ever,
may the grace and love of Christ surround you.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please use a microphone.)

Rob Conway

PRELUDE “He Leadeth Me”

Nan Leggett, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Symbolizing the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our service.)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who need help!

People: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Come, all who desire blessing!

People: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

Leader: Come, all who long for salvation!

People: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

All: Let us worship, the God of the Covenant! AMEN!

✠ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

UMH 206

✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same. As you did with Abraham and Sarah, you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your Church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.

✠ STATEMENT OF FAITH

Affirmation from Romans (UMH 887)

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal whose holy faith let us now declare.

People: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

✠ WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSE

Leader: God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives. Free us from our unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. Focus our hearts on you, so that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.

People: God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and blessed! Amen.

✠ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Visitors, please complete a Visitor’s Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offertory basket in the Narthex. We are happy to have you here with us today. Thank you.

Church Council Meeting Monday, September 21 beginning at 6:00.

Reaching Out will meet on Tuesday, September 22 beginning at 11:00 at Dale’s Seafood.

Charge Conference beginning Monday, September 28.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study beginning the 1st Wednesday in October. More info to come!

Save the Date for Homecoming!! Our church homecoming is scheduled for Sunday, October 11. Please be much in prayer for this special service and help us get the word out! We have “Save the Date for Homecoming” postcards available in the office. Please contact Morgan if you would like to have a postcard mailed to someone.

October News! Since we didn’t have many articles turned in for our September/October newsletter I wanted to give anyone with special announcements or events in October a chance to announce those. If anyone would like to add anything please turn those articles, dates, etc. in no later than Tuesday, September 22 please.

<i>2026 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$394,528.00</i>
<i>As of 09/13, Needed</i>	<i>\$197,910.00</i>
<i>As of 09/13, Received</i>	<i>\$160,344.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,664.00</i>
<i>Received on 09/13</i>	<i>\$17,601.00</i>
<i>Attendance 09/13</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Online Views</i>	

Prayer Concerns: The Family of Ruth Storms, Dee Watts, Chuck Wheeler, Sue Hawks, Lewellyn David, Jan Avant, Wayne & Linda Overcash, Dick & Janice Simms, Butch & Sharon Dutton, Sabra Allen, John Turner, Florence Marlowe, Mary Hutchins, Phil Stoll, Wendy Hood, Peggy & Ralph Huffman.

Prayers of Support for our ongoing ministries: WUMC Preschool & Staff, Scouts, Food Pantry.

Prayer Requests: Contact the Church Office at wumc@whitevilleumc.org to add or remove names.

Ongoing ministries:

Adult Sunday School: Meet in parlor @ 9:00 a.m.

Children’s Sunday School (ages 3-12): Upstairs classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Handbell Rehearsals: On Hiatus

Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts [ages 11-18] Mondays @ 7:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts [ages 6-10] Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Whiteville Junioresettes Club: 1st Sunday of the month @ 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: TBA

Preschool [ages 2-4]: Will resume August 31st.

Fifty-Plus Exercise Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor

Food Bank: distributes food on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

United Women of Faith: 1st Monday of the month @ 6:00 p.m. in the parlor

Caregivers Support Group: 2nd Thursday of the month @1:30 p.m. in the parlor

Reaching Out: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 11:30 (support group for widows and widowers)