



*The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.

You're encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share our livestream.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

How good it is that sisters and brothers live together in human dignity. As we celebrate our common humanity this day, let us lift up a humane spirituality in song and silence, prayer and practice.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Harlan Otter

***Call to Worship**

Bonnie Weed

Every sense is bombarded daily with the sound of hurtful words and the touch of polluted air and water.

God's Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.

Every sense is bombarded daily, with the taste of food that does not satisfy and the whiff of corruption.

God's Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.

Every sense is bombarded daily with sights that disturb and distract.

God's Spirit cleanses us with every breath we take as we breathe out our praise.

Let us praise our maker while we have breath.

***Opening Prayer**

We cry to you, O Lord, from the back of the line, from the edge of the crowd, from the corner of the room.

But you make no such distinctions, nor do you set such boundaries.

Your faithfulness is great; your grace is enough.

And we are covered in your love.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH#140

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Bonnie Weed

God of grace, you invite us to draw near and embrace the circle of your love.

We come in anguish at our broken relationships—our alienation from one another, our resistance to reconciliation, our readiness to be the blind following the blind, and our readiness to give up when persistence is called for.

Gather us in, and make a place to heal our anguish, ease our alienation, and end our resistance.

Ready us for reconciliation, forbearance, and persistence.

Turn our gaze to the one who calls our name.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Response**

"People Need the Lord"

TFWS#2244

***1st Reading**

Genesis 45:1-15

Bonnie Weed

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. **3** Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. **10** You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' **12** And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. **13** You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." **14** Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

(Musical Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 15:10-20

Bonnie Weed

Things That Defile

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: **11** it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." **12** Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" **13** He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. **14** Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.^[2] And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." **15** But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." **16** Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? **17** Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? **18** But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. **19** For out of the heart

come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. **20** These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Reflecting on God’s Message “YOUR Ferris Wheel.” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem Harlan Otter

***Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
UMH #95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

Bountiful God, you are the source of all good things.

When famine threatened the world, you blessed Joseph with dreams to preserve life and save people far and wide.

When hunger threatens our world, you bless us with dreams to preserve life and prevent disaster.

When our dreams are your dreams, Gracious God, the world is truly blessed.

Accept these gifts, as a pledge to work and live your dream that all may live together in unity.

Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** “Rock of Ages Cleft for Me” UMH#361

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

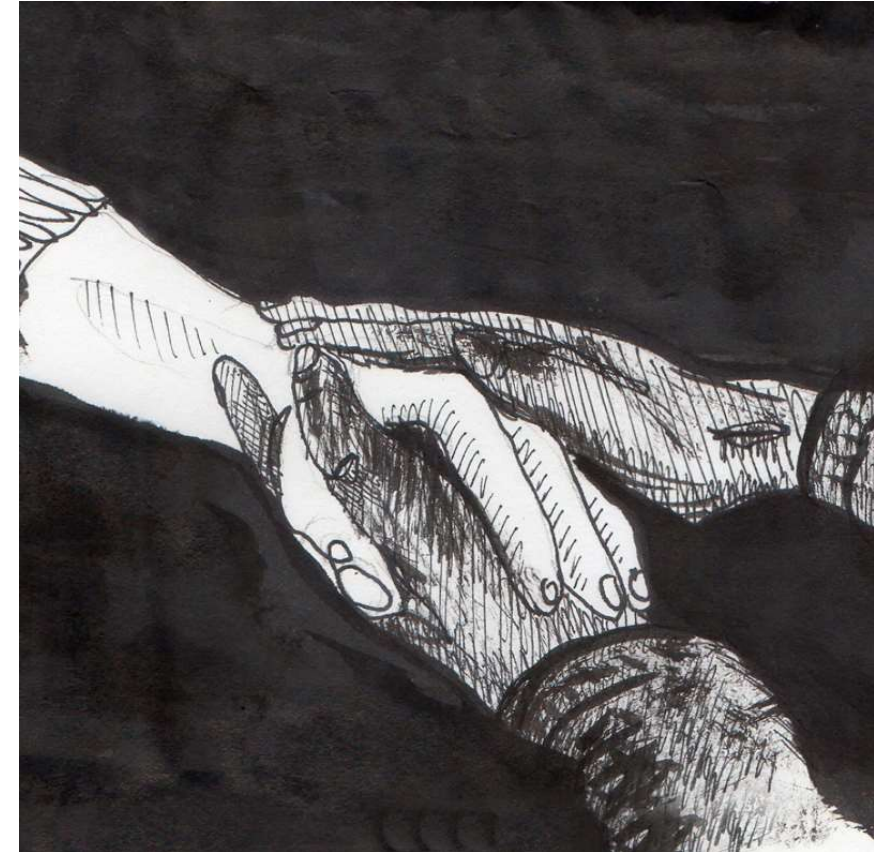
Benediction

Postlude Harlan Otter

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776 | www.newmilfordumc.org | 860.354.4596

Pastor Ed Dayton | Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams

Liturgist – Bonnie Weed | Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*



*Valente, Liz. Holding Hands

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8.20.2023 | 9:00 am

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.