



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

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 are encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share recorded service.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude Harlan Otter

Welcome Pastor Lee

Welcoming Statement Together

Announcements

UM ARMY Presentation Steve Kolitz, Avery Smyser

Praise & Worship "Come, Now is the time to Worship" Screen
"What a Beautiful Name" Insert

Words to Ponder Martha McMahon

God showers us with blessings, even when we complain. Perhaps especially when we complain. This is good news indeed!

Call to Worship Martha McMahon

Give thanks to the Lord..

Call on God's holy name.

Sing praises to our God.

Tell of God's wonderful works.

The Lord offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.

God issues water from solid rock to quench our thirst.

Give thanks to the Lord.

Let everything that draws breath praise God.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Together

Guide our way, Caretaker God, in the wilderness of our lives. Offer us the bread of heaven, that we may taste your Spirit and be nourished in body and soul. Reveal your presence among us and show us the tender mercies of your love. In joy and jubilation, we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer Together

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 and ever. Amen

*Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420

Passing of the Peace of Christ Together

WE SHARE THE GIFTS

Children's Message Rosaura Frias

Invitation to the Offering Pastor Lee

In the wilderness of our lives, God's grace is like water flowing from a rock, transforming arid desert into flowing rivers. In thanksgiving for God's mercy, let us give from our abundance as we collect today's offering.

Offertory Anthem "Seek Ye First" Chancel Choir
by Karen Lafferty

*Doxology UMH #95

*Offering Prayer (in unison) Together

Gracious God, you provide bread in the wilderness and life-giving waters in the desert. We offer you our thanks and praise. May our gifts and offerings bless your world—that all may be blessed, and all may find purpose and passion, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Words of Illumination Martha McMahon

As we listen today, may our hearts open to a God who does not ration mercy, who does not distribute grace by seniority, who does not love us in proportion to our performance.

*Gospel Reading: Mathew 20:1-16 Martha McMahon

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflecting on God's Message

"Equality or Equity"

Pastor Lee

Prayers of the People

Pastor Lee

We Reach Out to the World

*Sending Hymn

"God Will Take Care of You"

UMH #130

*Benediction

Together

God meets us on our wilderness journeys, that we may not journey alone.

Christ tends us on our wilderness journeys, that we may receive our daily bread.

The Spirit sustains us on our wilderness journeys, that we may be strengthened for what lies ahead.

Go with God's blessings. Amen

Postlude

Harlan Otter

Event Announcements:

- Our **Evangelism Committee** invites you to a **light lunch** after worship **TODAY Sunday, September 20** following our worship service.. We'll be serving a variety of soups, stews, bread, and beverages—simple, warm, and delicious. Stick around afterward for a friendly trivia game and some laughter.
- **Adult Sunday School:** begins **TODAY** 11:00 – 12:00 (DO)
 - **Textbook:** "Social Principles of the UMC 2025–2028" (\$10)
 - **Duration:** 6 weeks (Open to both current and new members!)
 - We encourage new members to take this course for membership certification. If you feel led to join this class, please let Pastor Lee or Sharon, our office manager, know by September 13.
- **Adult Bible Study:** Wednesday September 23, at 7:00pm via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81593998216> Member ID: 815 9399 8216
- **Nominations Committee Meeting:** Tuesday October 6 at 7:00pm (DO)
- **Parish Joint Church Charge Conference:** Sunday November 1 at 3:00pm; Location is TBD
- **Prayer Center:** The sanctuary is open every Wednesday 12:00 Noon to 1:00pm; a quiet hour set apart to pray for world peace.

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



Youtube
.com

09.20.26 | 9:30am

In the Sanctuary

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.

Pastor Yongyeun Lee 203-969-5461; Email: yongyeunlee@gmail.com

Music Director, Harlan Otter | Liturgical Arts, Barbara Williams | Liturgist – Martha McMahon

Children's Participation: Acolyte and Bell Ringer

Ministers: *All members of the New Milford UMC*

Pastor's Office Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00PM, Tuesday through Friday

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