

Philemon: 1-21

From Paul, who is a prisoner for the cause of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy. To Philemon our dearly loved coworker, Apphia our sister, Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church that meets in your house. May the grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Philemon, I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers because I've heard of your love and faithfulness, which you have both for the Lord Jesus and for all God's people. I pray that your partnership in the faith might become effective by an understanding of all that is good among us in Christ. I have great joy and encouragement because of your love, since the hearts of God's people are refreshed by your actions, my brother. Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to command you to do the right thing, I would rather appeal to you through love. I, Paul—an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus— appeal to you for my child Onesimus. I became his father in the faith during my time in prison. He was useless to you before, but now he is useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, which is like sending you my own heart. I considered keeping him with me so that he might serve me in your place during my time in prison because of the gospel. However, I didn't want to do anything without your consent so that your act of kindness would occur willingly and not under pressure. Maybe this is the reason that Onesimus was separated from you for a while so that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave but more than a slave—that is, as a dearly loved brother. He is especially a dearly loved brother to me. How much more can he become a brother to you, personally and spiritually in the Lord! So, if you really consider me a partner, welcome Onesimus as if you were welcoming me. If he has harmed you in any way or owes you money, charge it to my account. I, Paul, will pay it back to you (I'm writing this with my own hand). Of course, I won't mention that you owe me your life. Yes, brother, I want this favor from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. I'm writing to you, confident of your obedience and knowing that you will do more than what I ask.



September 7, 2025 9:00 am

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING

To God Be the Glory

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has searched us and knows us. God knows our thoughts, our fears, our dreams and our ways.

People: God created each of us with care, knitting us together. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Leader: There is nowhere we can go from God's Spirit. Wherever we are, God is there—guiding, comforting and calling us forward.

People: God knows our hearts and still invites us to be part of God's work, together.

Leader: Today, we gather not just as individuals, but as a team—each uniquely crafted, yet united in our purpose to show and share the love of God and serve as one body.

People: In worship, we celebrate not only our individual faith but our shared journey.

Leader: Together, we grow stronger. Together, we shine brighter. Together, we reflect the love of Christ.

All: Together, let us worship God—our Creator, our Guide, and our Strength.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

*HYMN *O God Our Creator, You Work Every Day* Words on Screens
(Sung to the tune of Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, #103 Red Hymnal)

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION BIBLES

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Shout to the Lord*

September Theme: Kindness 101

SCRIPTURE READING Philemon 1-21

SERMON *Partners In the Gospel*

*HYMN *In Christ there Is No East or West, vs. 1-2 & 4* No. 548 Red Hymnal

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will receive Communion at the front of the sanctuary. Once the meal has been blessed, you will be invited to come forward. You may put your hand out and a piece of bread will be given to you. You may then take a small cup from the tray. You may eat and drink as you receive the elements. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station. Bowls are at the sides of the sanctuary to collect the empty cups.

As you return to your seat, if you would like anointing with oil, you may stop to either side of the sanctuary where a pastor will be standing. Oil will be placed on your forehead in the sign of the

cross and a prayer shared with you. Anointing is a way of opening yourself to God for a particular place in your own life or on behalf of someone else.

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation

Offertory

*Doxology

No. 94 Red Hymnal

*CLOSING BLESSING

*SUNG RESPONSE *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love, vs. 1-2* No. 2223 Black Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor

Amanda Hinthorn, Dir. of Community Engagement,
Worship Assistant

Jeanne McAndrew, Reader

Beth Smeaton, Children's Time

Chancel Choir, Music; Stephanie Klein, Director;

Marilyn Silvester, Pianist

Sue Lundeen, Organist

INVITATIONS TO ACTION

If you are not already receiving our Monday Devotional Word of the Week or our weekly Thursday email that outlines what is happening in the life of this faith community please reach out to the church office at 837-5554 or office@sunprairieumc.org so we can get you on this email list.

Middle and High School Campfire Games Today

All Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join us for games, smores, and fun tonight at 6:30 pm. No need to RSVP. Friends are welcome.

American Red Cross Blood Drive September 9th

Our church will be a host site for an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 9th beginning at 12pm. To give blood please head to their website to make an appointment. <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give>

KINDNESS 101 SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR THIS SEPTEMBER

We will begin our Sunday School year this September with an intergenerational study titled "Kindness 101." We invite all ages to join us in the Chapel each Sunday following worship. We will begin with a few questions and watch a video together. Following the video, we will divide into age groups for further discussion and activities. Age group breakdown will be: Birth through 2nd grade in the Nursery, 3rd-5th Grade in the Multipurpose Room, Middle School in the Youth Room, and High School in the Conference Room. Adults will stay in the chapel for discussion.

We will meet on September 14, 21, and 28. No need to register in advance. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jenny or Amanda Hinthorn.

Food Drive September 14th

Our next monthly food drive, September 14th, will benefit our neighborhood school Northside Elementary. The school is asking for laundry and cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Please bring your items to worship with you on Sunday morning.

Newcomer Class

If you are new to the church or just want to learn more about the ministries of SPUMC and about The United Methodist Church, join us for our Newcomer's Class on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. Childcare is available. Please talk with Pastor Jenny for more information. Childcare available if requested in the church office by September 12th.