

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

I take refuge in you, Lord. Please never let me be put to shame. Rescue me by your righteousness! Listen closely to me! Deliver me quickly; be a rock that protects me; be a strong fortress that saves me! You are definitely my rock and my fortress. Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name! Get me out of this net that's been set for me because you are my protective fortress. I entrust my spirit into your hands; you, Lord, God of faithfulness—you have saved me. My future is in your hands. Don't hand me over to my enemies, to all who are out to get me! Shine your face on your servant; save me by your faithful love!

Luke 15:1-7

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.



September 14, 2025 9:00 am

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

*GATHERING SONG

Down in the River to Pray

WELCOME & GREETING

*SONG

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship, trusting that God is with us.

People: May our eyes be opened to truly see one another so that we might discover God's presence in each other.

Leader: May our ears be open to the needs of the world so that we might hear God's wisdom in the words spoken around us.

People: May our hearts be open to God's grace and love so that we might find guidance and strength for the journey.

Leader: Then when we wander from God's ways and find ourselves lost on the path of life...

People: God will welcome us back so that we may celebrate and rejoice in God's presence through Jesus the Christ.

All: This is why we worship. This is why we give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Loving God, we come humbly into your presence knowing that we find it difficult to place our full trust in you. Too often we look at the world and see only violence, pain, destruction and signs of hopelessness and despair. So often we exclude and separate based on differences in how we think or look or live, rather than being grateful that you have created a world of diversity and difference. Forgive us, Gracious God. Give us eyes to see beyond our differences and to believe in the love you have for each person. Now, fill us with your empathy and grace as we make our silent confessions (silent confession).

SUNG RESPONSE

I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Down to the River to Pray

September Theme: Kindness 101

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-7

SERMON

Relentless Pursuit: The God Who Won't Give Up

*SONG

Just a Little Talk With Jesus

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Song of Thanksgiving

How Great Thou Art

*CLOSING BLESSING

*CLOSING SONG

I'll Fly Away

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor

RiversEdge, Music, Readers

Sweet Assurance, Music

Stephanie Bass Faust, Children's Time

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.

KINDNESS 101 SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR THIS SEPTEMBER
We will begin our Sunday School year this month 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 today and on September 21, and 28. No need to register in advance. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jenny or Amanda Hinthorn.

HELP KIDS LOVE READING!

For over ten years, the Madison Reading Project has been providing free new books to children in low income homes. During the month of September, our church will be collecting for the Madison Reading Project. Your donation will help a child know the magic of owning their own book. Place your donation in the giving box on the table in the Narthex. Please make any checks payable to Sun Prairie United Methodist Church and put Reading Project on the Memo line. If you are giving cash without using your personal giving envelope, and would like to receive credit for your donation, then please put your donation in the provided envelope and put your name, cash amount given and envelope number (if you know it) on the envelope.

XYZ

It is time to begin our monthly gatherings of XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest). We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, which for September is the 17th. We'll gather at 1:00 for dessert provided by Elaine Jellings, followed by a program. In September, Pastor Brad will be presenting slides on the art and life of Auguste Renoir, one of the renowned French Impressionists. Don't forget that friends are welcome!

September 21st Noisy Coin Offering

Next Sunday, September 21st, our children will collect our quarterly noisy coin offering that will go toward our third quarter loose coin collection during our children's time in worship. This quarter will be collecting for Shelter from the Storm Ministries. Bring your change and be ready to make some noise.

BEYOND ETHNIC LONELINESS:

CREATING CONNECTIONS AND BELONGING

Loneliness doesn't discriminate. Learn to ease loneliness by building connections with author Prasanta Verma. Join us Sunday, September 28 from 2-4:30 pm. Hosted by SPUMC and Sun Prairie Wellness Coalition.

Please register in advance.

The First 15 registrants receive a free copy of the book "Beyond Ethnic Loneliness" by Prasanta Verma. you can email office@sunprairieumc.org or call 608-837-5554 to request a registration form.