

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# 14th Sunday after Pentecost

AUGUST 30, 2026



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**Bethany Lutheran Church**

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

[bethany-denver.org](http://bethany-denver.org)



**Resumes Wednesday, September 9**



**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**6:00-7:30**

**Camp Bethany**

Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Includes Children's Choir,*

*Creative Arts, and*

*Wednesday Family Worship*

**Confirmation**

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Includes Wednesday Family Worship*

**High School Youth Group**

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Includes Wednesday Family Worship*

**DINNER**

**5:15-6:00**

**ADULTS**

**6:00-6:50**

**Adult Bible Study**

**ADULT MUSIC**

**Carillon Bells**

**7:00-8:30**

**Chancel Choir**

**7:00-9:00**

**There's a place for everyone on Wednesday nights!**

# + WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Variations on “Kelvingrove”

Denis Bédard

Welcome to Worship

Deacon Debra Alba

Song of Praise

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing

ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly

quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.

*Refrain / Estribillo*

Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,

has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi  
you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my

bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

Spanish and English text and music © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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## **A Time of Confession**

Holy and gracious God,

**We confess that we have not always lived with love.**

**We have said things that caused harm.**

**We have stayed silent when our voices were needed.**

**We have acted out of fear, pride, anger, and selfishness.**

**We have ignored the needs of our neighbors and taken your goodness for granted.**

**Forgive us.**

**Open our hearts again and turn us toward mercy, courage, and compassion.**

**Lead us in the way of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

## **God's Gift of Forgiveness**

Dear friends, God does not meet us with shame. God does not hold our failures over us.

God meets us with mercy. And so that means that your sin is not the final word. God's grace is.

So receive this gift: you are forgiven, loved, and made new in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# Opening Song

## Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call

your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners

know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as

name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I

grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
mean in you and you in me?"

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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## Greeting

Pastor Nate Preisinger

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.  
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your  
commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## Children's Sermon

Pastor Nate Preisinger

## Children's Worship

Deacon Debra Alba

## We Prepare to Hear God's Word

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
*Refrain / Estribillo*  
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,  
has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi  
you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my  
bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

## + WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Tom Mroch

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord:  
If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 16:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup> “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

**Sermon Notes**

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross,  
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
 to save your soul and from death and hell.  
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown."

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **We Share God's Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.*

### **Abundantly Bethany**

To fill out your digital connection card, go to [www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect).

- ♦ Town Hall
- ♦ Wednesday Night Open House
- ♦ Dinner Club
- ♦ Senior High Retreat

## **+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +**

### **OFFERING**

*You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!*

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- Hold your phone near and **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate as they are passed



### **Offering Music**

Bethany Bluegrass Ensemble

Tis So Sweet      William J. Kirkpatrick & Louisa M. R. Stead

*Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at His word.  
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know thus says the Lord.  
Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood.  
And in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood.  
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him; how I've proved him o'er and o'er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, oh, for grace to trust Him more.  
Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease.  
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest and joy and peace.  
I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, precious Jesus, Savior, friend,  
And I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end.*

## Children Return to the Sanctuary

## + THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

### Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

### Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### Blessing of the Bread and Wine

#### The Lord's Prayer *(Ecumenical translation)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### Communion Instruction

*Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.*

### Communion Distribution

### Communion Music

Nearer, My God, to Thee      Sarah F. Adam, arr. The Lower Lights

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me.  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee.  
Though like the wanderer the sun gone down.  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.  
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee.  
There let the way appear, steps unto heav'n.  
All that thou sendest me in mercy given.  
Angels to beckon me, nearer, my God, to thee.

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Table Blessing

# + GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

## Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

### Song of Sending

O Jesus I have Promised

ELW 810

*You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.*



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

## Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;**

**Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;**

**Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

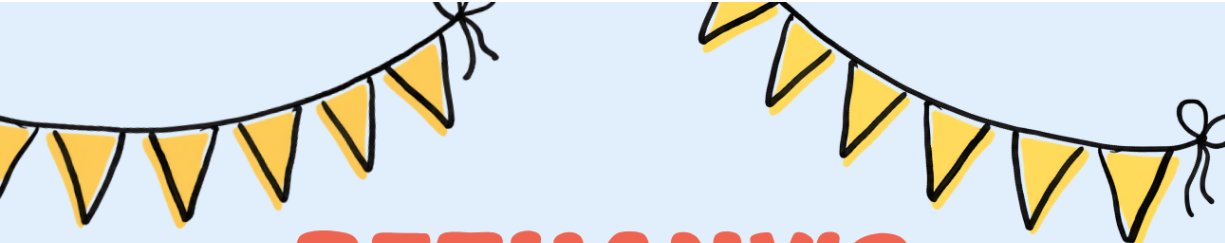
## Postlude

Celebration

Charles Callahan

### Things To Know About News & Events

- ♦ **Town Hall Meeting** - Sunday, **Today 10:20am** in room 312 Come hear updates on the United in Faith Campaign, Bethany's finances, and get a preview of the ministries coming in the upcoming program year.
- ♦ **Summer Food Drive:** Every **Sunday through Sep 6** we'll collect food to support the IFCS no-cost food market **Aug 16-Sep 6** please bring canned tuna or canned chicken.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver volunteers needed: Sat, Sep 26**, 7:50am–3:30pm, Griffith Station Homes. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at [kmdmpsy@aol.com](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com).
- ♦ **Veteran Servant Corps Project: Friday, Sep 4**, 10:30am -3:00pm. Volunteers are needed to serve a cook-out for the residents and the staff at the Fitzsimons Veterans Community Living Center (1919 Quentin Street, Aurora). Please join in on Labor Day weekend to serve these Veterans lunch and to thank them for their service. To sign up contact Vicky Daub at [lvdaub2@gmail.com](mailto:lvdaub2@gmail.com).
- ♦ **Dinner Club!** Get to know fellow Bethany members while sharing a meal. Groups of 6-8 adults gather to enjoy dinner in a home, brunch out or any meal in any location. The goal is fellowship! Our Fall into Winter groups will begin in October! Registration is open until **Sept 13**. Simply sign up on the Bethany website.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity:** Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Fundraiser – **Wed Sept 16** To raise funds for its 2026 home sponsorship. Handing out promotional items at the Rockies Game volunteers arrive at 4:15pm and the game starts at 6:40 PM We need 30-35. Please contact Kevin Dempsey at [kmdmpsy@aol.com](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com) if you would like to volunteer.
- ♦ **Deborah Circle** will be starting on **Wed Sept 16** in the library at 5:15. Feel free to stop by and join in the conversation. Contact Maren at [Marenjdiercks@gmail.com](mailto:Marenjdiercks@gmail.com) if you have questions.
- ♦ **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) Innkeeper Dinner!** Please join us on **Thursday, Sept 17** to support of the programs of Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains. This year's dinner will be held at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs. Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction at 5:30. Tickets: [www.lfsrm.org](http://www.lfsrm.org).
- ♦ **Walk To End Alzheimer's:** Please join the Bethany Walkers Group at this year's Walk on **Saturday Sept 19** to raise research funds to wipe out this horrible disease. Either meet at 8:30am at Denver City Park behind the Museum of Natural History on the lawn across from the Check-in booth or in the Bethany Church East parking lot to carpool at 8:00am. Please register and donate to our Bethany Walkers team page at <http://tinyurl.com/AlzheimersWalk26>
- ♦ **The Fourth Chapter** The book group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1 pm, beginning **Sept 22**, in the library. Our first book is "Becoming Madam Secretary" by Stephanie Dray. For more information, please contact Judi Burchfield at [judburch60@gmail.com](mailto:judburch60@gmail.com).
- ♦ **Minding Your Balance classes: Tuesdays, Sep 29-Oct 27**, 1:30pm–2:45pm, Room 412. Susan Chandler, from Denver Ki-Aikido, will offer a 5 week "Minding Your Balance" series. The cost for this series is \$75. Space is limited so please sign up online at [www.bethany-denver.org](http://www.bethany-denver.org) at the Bethany News Link by **Sep 22**. For questions, please contact Janet Mortinsen. At [Janet@Bethany-Denver.org](mailto:Janet@Bethany-Denver.org).
- ♦ **United In Faith Monthly Update** The capital raise concludes this month! Be sure to send in your commitment card. Many thanks to the 300+ households who have participated!
  - \*Executive Council has formally approved the establishment of a Maintenance Reserve and a policy governing the Allocation and Use of Proceeds for all campaign contributions.
  - \*A professional site conditions assessment is being evaluated to further educate project priorities and long-term capital planning.
  - \*Potential 2026 projects: "Roof 1" over the Fellowship Hall and central corridor east of the sanctuary; critical technology upgrades; parking lot resurfacing; grounds work to reduce maintenance and water usage.
  - \*Also! De-cluttering continues – watch for opportunities to help! We need you.
- ♦ **Flower Requests:** please be sure to fill out your flower requests at the Mission Center Desk on Sunday or send an email to Yvonne Wilken: [Yvonne@bethany-denver.org](mailto:Yvonne@bethany-denver.org) to be sure flowers are ordered.



# **BETHANY'S FALL KICKOFF**

*Wednesday, September 2 • 5:30 – 7:00pm*



**Cookout Dinner • Bouncy Castles •  
Gaga Ball • Games • Treats**

Come celebrate the start of the  
program year at Bethany!

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, [Bethany-Denver.org](http://Bethany-Denver.org), or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/ her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 9:00am One worship service in the summer - Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Worship style may be Traditional - follows traditional Lutheran liturgy or Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to [www.signupschedule.com/Bethany](http://www.signupschedule.com/Bethany) to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
  - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
  - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
  - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our friendly staffed Nursery, please speak with an Usher.