

**Central United Methodist Church— service at 10:00 a.m.**

**September 8th, 2024**

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Linda Merritt – Certified Lay Servant

Liturgist: MJ Strickland Musician: Kyle Akin

Streaming Coordinator: Rick Velez

• Service on Facebook:

- <http://www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodists>

Centering Music:

Kyle Akin

Greetings and Ringing of the Bell:

MJ

Opening Prayer/ Call to Worship: (in unison) “Prayer of St. Francis”

UMH 481

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
— St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, 13th century*

**Responsive Reading:** (from Psalm 124) Leader (L) reads first. **Congregation (P) reads the bold type.** **UMH #846.**

<sup>1</sup> If the Lord had not been on our side—  
let Israel now say—

<sup>2</sup> **if the Lord had not been on our side  
when foes rose up against us,**

<sup>3</sup> **they would have swallowed us alive  
when their anger was kindled against us;**

<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us,

<sup>5</sup> **then the raging waters  
would have gone over us.**

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be to the Lord,  
who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

<sup>7</sup> **We have escaped as a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;**

the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> **Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth**

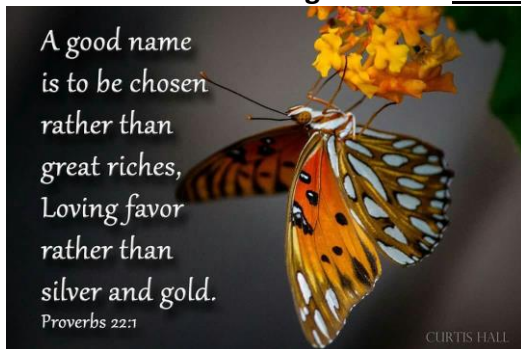
**Opening Hymn:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

(verses 1-4)

**TFWS #2153**

**Old Testament Reading:** **Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23** (GNT)

MJ



**22** If you have to choose between a good reputation and great wealth, choose a good reputation.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord made them both.

<sup>8</sup> If you plant the seeds of injustice, disaster will spring up, and your oppression of others will end.

<sup>9</sup> Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.

<sup>22</sup> Don't take advantage of the poor just because you can; don't take advantage of those who stand helpless in court. <sup>23</sup> The Lord will argue their case for them and threaten the life of anyone who threatens theirs.

**Epistle Reading:** **James 2: 1-17** (GNT)

MJ

**2** My friends, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a rich man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes comes to your meeting, and a poor man in ragged clothes also comes. <sup>3</sup> If you show more respect to the well-dressed man and say to him, "Have this best seat here," but say to the poor man, "Stand over there, or sit here on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup> then you are guilty of creating distinctions among yourselves and of making judgments based on evil motives.

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear friends! God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. <sup>6</sup> But you dishonor the poor! Who are the ones who oppress you and drag you before the judges? The rich! <sup>7</sup> They are the ones who speak evil of that good name which has been given to you.

<sup>8</sup> You will be doing the right thing if you obey the law of the Kingdom, which is found in the scripture, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." <sup>9</sup> But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker. <sup>10</sup> Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all.

<sup>11</sup> For the same one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Even if

you do not commit adultery, you have become a lawbreaker if you commit murder. <sup>12</sup> Speak and act as people who will be judged by the law that sets us free. <sup>13</sup> For God will not show mercy when he judges the person who has not been merciful; but mercy triumphs over judgment.

### **Faith and Actions**

<sup>14</sup> My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? <sup>15</sup> Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. <sup>16</sup> What good is there in your saying to them, "God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? <sup>17</sup> So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

<b>Youth Message:</b>	<i>"Things That Go Together"</i>	MJ
<b>Hymn:</b>	<i>"Together We Serve" (verses 1-4)</i>	<b>TFWS #2175</b>
<b>Sermon:</b>	<i>"Tell and Show"</i>	Linda Merritt, Certified Lay Servant
<b>Passing of the Peace:</b>		
<b>Special Music:</b>		CUMC Choir
<b>God Moments:</b>	<i>(Joys and Concerns)</i>	MJ
<b>Pastoral Prayer:</b>		Linda
<b>The Lord's Prayer:</b>		All
<b>Sharing Our Gifts:</b>	<i>(Tithes and Offerings)</i>	
<b>Doxology:</b>	<i>(UMH #95):</i>	
<b>Prayer of Thanksgiving:</b>		Linda
<b>Announcements:</b>		MJ
<b>Closing Hymn:</b>	<i>"Make Me a Servant" (sung twice)</i>	<b>TFWS # 2176</b>
<b>Benediction:</b>		Linda

---

### ***Birthday Wishes***

**September 7-** Kevin O'Hara  
**September 8-** Sally McLean  
**September 13-** Jenn Aiken

**October 5-** Bobbie Stidham  
**October 14-** Kyle Akin  
**October 19-** Ann Burnham  
**October 20-** Cindy Velez

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**- UMW meeting following the service

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**- Worship with our friends at Oak Point

**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**- Yard Sale from 9am to 2pm, Donations welcome, see sign-up sheet to help with the sale.

**Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**\_ Soup Supper, tell your friends! 5pm to 6:30pm

***\*We are collecting for another Saver's run so bring in your household items, soft goods and books. If you have any questions or need help, see Jody Battistini (508-947-8285).***

## LAY SERVANT SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Counter</u>
9/08/24	Linda Merritt	MJ S	Olivia F	Kevin O	MJ S
9/15/24	Susan Scott	Paul B	Bill G	Bill G	Paul B
9/22/24	Ann Burnham	Linda M	Nancy E	Kevin O	Bob R
9/29/24	Dave Dextraze	Susan R	Sherri V	MJ S	Susan R

***Thank you for worshipping with us at Central United Methodist Church.***

***Come as a stranger, leave as a friend.***

### Ministry Team

**Rev. Neil (Sandy) Sweet**, Coordinating Pastor, Elder [sandypadre@aol.com](mailto:sandypadre@aol.com)

**Ann Burnham**, Certified Lay Minister [Tedann84@verizon.net](mailto:Tedann84@verizon.net)

**Dave Dextraze**, Certified Lay Minister [Ddextraze1@comcast.net](mailto:Ddextraze1@comcast.net)

**Susan Scott**, Certified Lay Speaker [susiscott@aol.com](mailto:susiscott@aol.com)

**Paul Battistini**, Certified Lay Minister, Team Leader & Emergency Pastoral Care:  
cell: (774) 766-2390 [paul\\_batt@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_batt@hotmail.com)

### OFFICE:

14 School Street, Middleboro, Ma 02346

Email: [middleboromethodists@verizon.net](mailto:middleboromethodists@verizon.net)

Website: [middleboroumc.com](http://middleboroumc.com) Church

FB page: [www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodists](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodists)

