

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 6, 2009 10:00 a.m.**

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*Our mission is to change peoples' lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~

Greeting of Peace

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call To Worship

L: Valued without distinction and called without favor;

P: **we gather in the love of God.**

L: Invited to places of deep change and entrusted with lives of grace;

P: **we gather in the compassion of Christ.**

L: Encouraged to be authentic and inspired to make a difference;

All: **we gather in the power of the Spirit.**

Hymn *"I Will Call Upon The Lord"* **#2002**

Opening Prayer

God of surprise and awe, you who can turn our many hatreds and fears around; come to us in this time of worship. Challenge our sure perspectives and unsettle our fixed opinions. Above all, instill in us a vision for a new world and a re-creative way of living wholeheartedly within it. Amen.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

Offertory *"Of My Hands"* **Insert**

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

Source of all goodness and compassion, move us this day to be generous in our giving and care. May we not hold back in fear or self-protection but give so that others might find renewed meaning and hope in this life, in this time. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

A Time for the Child in All of Us

Anthem *"Beautiful One"* *arr. Jeremy Camp*

Reading of the Word

Epistle *James 2:1-10, 14-17*

Gospel *Mark 7: 24-37*

Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

Celebration of the Sacrament

Invitation **Pg 12**

Prayer of Confession

So often, O God, we know the theory, so often we mouth and sing words of inclusion, compassion, and "justice for all." Yet the reality remains – our confession rings true – it is a truly difficult thing to love our neighbors as they really are; to feel as they may feel, and to be as they may be. We pray, then, for hearts open to gradual, yet genuine change. May the encounters we seek and the trust we help create bring us to more hopeful understandings about ourselves and the world of your making. May there be peace in our restlessness; may there be peace in our time, O God. *(Pause for Silent Reflection.)*

Words of assurance

L: Friends, hear the good news: The Spirit of God is at work to bring about the peace and healing we so desire. Open and attentive to Spirit's life-giving ways, we are a forgiven and free people.

P: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Kim Nadreau, Keyboard

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn

"O Lord, Your Beautiful"

#2064

Sending Forth

L: Friends, go into this new week being quick to listen, slow to speak, and fully prepared to be changed in both heart and mind.

P: **We will follow in the ways of Christ. We will seek a more understanding and compassionate world.**

L: And so now may the love of God, the grace and generosity of Jesus, and the abiding friendship of the Spirit be with us now and evermore.

P: **Amen!**

Closing Song

"Let Your Spirit Rise/I Will Arise"

Insert

~Bringing The Light Into the World~

Call To Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Sending Forth are from Seasons of the Spirit.

Other Lectionary readings for September 6th are:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125