Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 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 *"Lord of the Dance"*
19th Century Shaker Tune

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call To Worship

L: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. Happy are those who find delight in God's law.

P: **God is always nearer than our next breath. We gather to become more aware of that presence.**

L: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous. They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

P: **There is always more to discover than we know. God is our teacher and helper and judge.**

L: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve. Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

All: **We always seek to do good and do no harm. Help us to open our hands and hearts to the poor and needy. Amen.**

Hymn *"Jesus Loves Me"* **#191**

Opening Prayer

You watch over us, O God, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things, but in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being. Thank you for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We submit ourselves to you for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. Amen.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

A Time For The Child In All Of Us

Offertory *"Peace in the Valley"* *Traditional*

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

We who have spent much on ourselves seek to share what we have so that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of this faith community. May there be a harvest of care and compassion among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD ~

Anthem *"Pictures of Jesus"* *by Ben Harper*

Reading of the Word

Epistle *James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8*

Gospel *Mark 9: 30-37*

Hymn *"Blessed Assurance"* **#369**

Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

A Time For Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn *"Let It Be"* **Insert**

Sending Forth

L: Go forth, trusting God and one another. Live each day seeking to be trustworthy.

P: **We seek to do well the tasks set before us. We commit ourselves to quiet times for meditation.**

L: The rhythms of prayer and service enrich our lives. A gentle spirit and good fruits are the result.

P: **We seek the wisdom God imparts. We aim to serve without partiality or hypocrisy.**

L: God is watching over you and caring for you. In God's hands, your hearts are being purified.

All: **We put our trust in the God who loves us. Our strength and dignity find renewal in Christ. Amen.**

Closing Song *"Twelve Gates to the City"* **Insert**

~Bringing The Light Into the World~

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth are taken from
Led by Love by Lavon Baylor.

Other lectionary readings for Today:
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1