

John Knox Presbyterian Church

September 6, 2026 Holy Communion

Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.



In My Father's House are Many Rooms

Week One
The Whole House
Belongs to God

This Week's Theme: God calls Abraham from one particular place and people so that "all the families of the earth shall be blessed." The God Christians worship is never merely the possession of one nation, religion, or tribe; God's blessing is always larger than the people who first receive it.

Peacemaking Question: What if faithfulness means not protecting God from our neighbors, but trusting that God is already at work in the world God loves?

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Be Still My Soul"

arr. Melissa Terrall

Words of Welcome

*The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.***

*** Call to Worship**

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.

The world, and those who live in it, belong to God.

From every nation and people, God calls us.

From every language and land, we are gathered by grace.

*God called Abraham to leave what was familiar,
and promised that through him all the families of
the earth would be blessed.*

In God we live and move and have our being.

No people are beyond God's care.

No place is beyond God's presence.

Come, let us worship the God who is greater than our divisions.

**Let us worship the God whose house is wide enough
for all God's children.**

*** Hymn**

"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud" #11

*** Call to Confession**

** = Standing as able Italics = Leader **Bold** = People*

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and sovereign God, You are the God of all the earth, yet we have tried to make You our God alone. You have called us to be a blessing, yet we have sought blessing only for ourselves. You have created a world of many peoples, languages, cultures, and histories, yet we have allowed difference to become division and fear to become hostility. Forgive us when we confuse our understanding of You with the fullness of who You are. Forgive us when we imagine that Your love is limited by the boundaries we draw. Forgive us when we turn away from our neighbors because they look differently, speak differently, worship differently, or understand the world differently than we do. Call us again from what is familiar. Lead us beyond fear, and make us a blessing in Your world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*** Assurance of Grace**

Hear the good news:

God's grace is greater than the boundaries we build.

God's mercy is deeper than the divisions we create.

*God's love is not earned by our understanding,
our achievements, or our ability to get everything right.*

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*** Sung Response**

“Glory be to the Father”

see handout or projection

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Genesis 12: 1-3

NRSVUE

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing Ones

Second Reading

Acts 17: 22-28

The Inclusive Bible

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Hymn**

“Creator of Mountains”

#2061

GATHERING AT CHRIST’S TABLE

All are Welcome

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution and Communion Prayer

The Communion of the People

*You will be served the bread and cup in your pew.
When you are served, please hold the elements
until you are invited to partake in community.
Empty cups may be left in the pews,
placed in the basket on the narthex table,
or returned to the social hall.*

Special Music

“Softly and Tenderly”
“Near the Cross”

W. Thompson
F. Crosby

Prayer after Communion

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Cristo Es Le Peña”

Spanish hymn

* Sung Response

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Please remember to use first names only to protect the privacy of those for whom we offer prayers.

Response for congregational prayer: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Lord’s Prayer

SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* Sending Song

“God of Our Life”

#686

* Charge and Benediction

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude

Postlude

“Praise my Soul, The King of Heaven”

Henry Francis Lyte

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pianist: Melissa Terrall

Liturgist: Vallory Bunday

Music Director: Anna Robinson

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Pastor’s email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com

Pastor’s phone: 510-435-7836

Church and Community Life

SEPTEMBER is a time of beginnings – new school year, new weather trends, and new worship series. PC(USA) calls this season the Season of Peace and now promotes the World Communion Special Offering. Many churches celebrate the Season of Creation from September 1 through the Feast of St. Francis on October 4. Churches that use the Revised Common Lectionary (as we do) this year adopted a new feast day, “Feast of Creation in Christ,” for the first Sunday of September. Our fall theme seems to combine features of each of these options: *Jesus says, “In my Father’s house are many rooms.”* We live in a world of many peoples, cultures, languages, nations, and faiths. Christians confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and yet we also confess that the earth belongs to God and that no nation, culture, or religious community can claim ownership of God.

Throughout Scripture, God's people repeatedly encounter neighbors whose beliefs and practices differ from their own. Sometimes those encounters lead to fear and conflict. But again and again, God calls God's people toward justice, hospitality, humility, and peace.

This series asks:

How do we remain deeply rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ while becoming better neighbors in God's many-roomed world?

Each week we will explore a different part of the world as we work on a different step in the process of answering this always-timely question.

DO YOU LIKE PIES? We have an opportunity to enjoy ready-to-serve or ready-to-bake pies from Willamette Valley Pie Company for a very reasonable price. All proceeds will go to Congregations Helping People. These pies typically cost between \$15 and \$22 at local grocery stores, and we’re offering them for much less. Pies will be delivered frozen next Sunday, September 13. See the order form for more information. Larger print forms are available on the table in the narthex.

Join us in the fellowship hall after worship today for a piece of pie and a taste of what you could purchase for yourself, and benefit CHP at the same time!

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK and BACKPACK BUDDIES This summer, we collected peanut butter for the food bank. In July, we donated 20 jars, and in August, 31 jars. Thank you for your generosity! Going into September, Backpack Buddies can always use peanut butter and other items for their bags of weekend food, as well as monetary donations toward purchasing shelf-stable individually packaged items for two breakfast and two lunch meals for 20 children. See Sheila if you have questions.

Looking Ahead

Sept. 7	Labor Day
Sept. 13	10:30 Worship Willamette Valley Pies delivered
Sept. 17	7:00 Session meeting via Zoom
Sept. 20	10:30 Worship with Christ Jar Offering and birthday/anniversary celebration after worship
Sept. 23	4:30-6:30 Free Keizer Community Dinner at St. Edward’s Catholic Church. Held every month on the 4 th Wednesday.
Sept. 27	10:30 Worship
Oct. 4	10:30 Worship - World Communion Sunday

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays Sept. 5: Linda G.
 Sept. 14: Janet A.
 Sept. 24: Glen C.
Anniversaries Sept. 3: Judi and Mike L.
 Sept. 27: Joan and Paul A.

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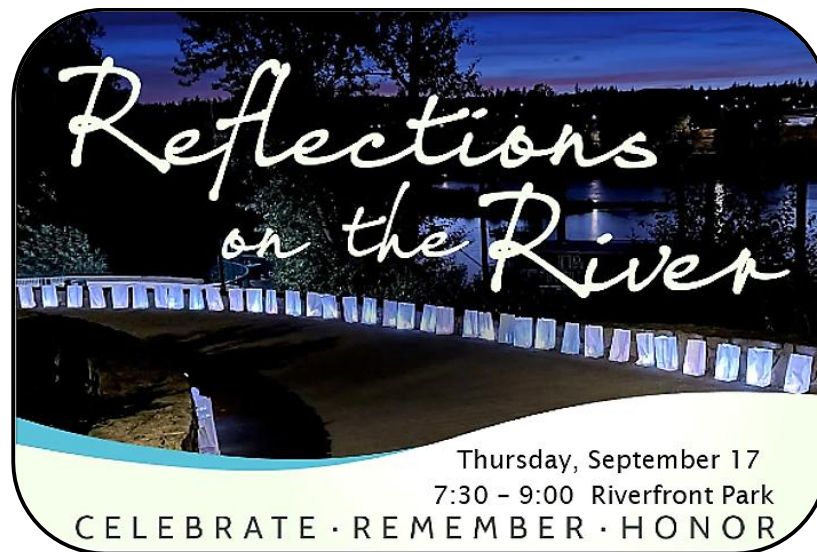
To guarantee your specific choices, we need your order by Monday, September 7. For individual timing needs, please speak with Sheila.

Order form on next page

NAME & PHONE # _____

Order Quantity	Size and Kind of Pie	Price	Total Price
	9" Peach-Marionberry Lattice top (baked, frozen)	\$10	
	8" Marionberry Crumble Pie (baked)	\$10	
	8" or 9" (not sure) Vegan Pumpkin (thaw and serve)	\$10	
	9" Cherry (unbaked) with nut allergen residue on machinery, not nuts in pie itself	\$10	
	9" Peach	\$10	
	9" Caramel Apple Crumble	\$10	
	6" Marionberry & Peach Cobbler 2 pack (26 oz. 1 each, packaged together)	\$15	
	5" Caramel Apple Pie (baked)	\$7	
	5" Apple Pie	\$7	
	5" Marionberry Pie	\$7	
		TOTAL	

Please leave order form and payment in the office (slide under door if no one is present), deliver to Sheila or another church member, or contact Sheila to make other arrangements. Deadline Sept. 7.



You are invited to celebrate, honor, and remember your loved ones at the **9th Annual Reflections on the River** event from **7:30 - 9:00 pm Thursday, September 17th, 2026**. This community event is offered by Willamette Vital Health.

The self-paced River Walk and luminaria-lit labyrinth will be available from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, including remembrance activities and information for the whole family. The River Walk will stretch from the north parking lot to the Riverfront Park Amphitheater. Reflective music and activities will be featured along the illuminated labyrinth and pathways.

Handwritten, personalized luminarias will be available for purchase for at the event that you can take home at the conclusion of the event.

Volunteers are needed for this event! You can sign up by [clicking here](#) or if you have any questions regarding volunteering, please call Brittney Blakley at 503.588.3600 or email volunteerservices@wvh.org



Image: Southside Sentinel, SSentinel.com

From The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington DC

Perhaps this ... is what September has to teach us. The seasons change whether we are ready or not. Life is full of contradictions, and so are we. Time passes, bringing with it both wonder and heartache. This September carries another memory: the beautiful morning twenty-five years ago when in a matter of hours so much that had seemed secure suddenly was not.

Much of our world feels that way now.

In prayer, I sense God's invitation not to resolve these tensions so much as to accept them as the cost of being human, to do what we can while acknowledging our limitations, and like children starting school, step out each day even when we can't see the path ahead. May God give us grace to meet the moments when we're called upon to be kind, loving and brave.

September 2, 2026 Substack post

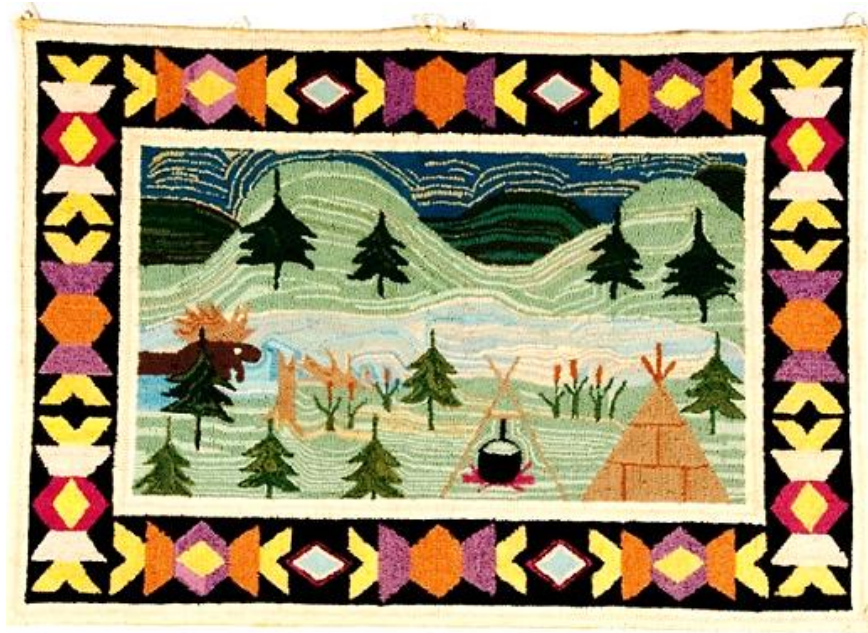


Image by John Reed, National Park Service. Hooked Rug at Grand Portage National Monument gallery.

**Great Spirit God,
we give you thanks for another day on this earth.
We give you thanks for this day
to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator.
We acknowledge with one mind
our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life.
Bind us together in the circle of compassion
to embrace all living creatures and one another.
— Ojibwe Evening Prayer**

The Ojibwe, also known as the Ojibwa or Chippewa, are a major Indigenous people of North America whose historic homeland spans the Great Lakes region and northern plains of the United States and Canada. They call themselves Anishinaabe, meaning the "True People" or "Original People". They constitute the largest Native group north of Mexico.



This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks.