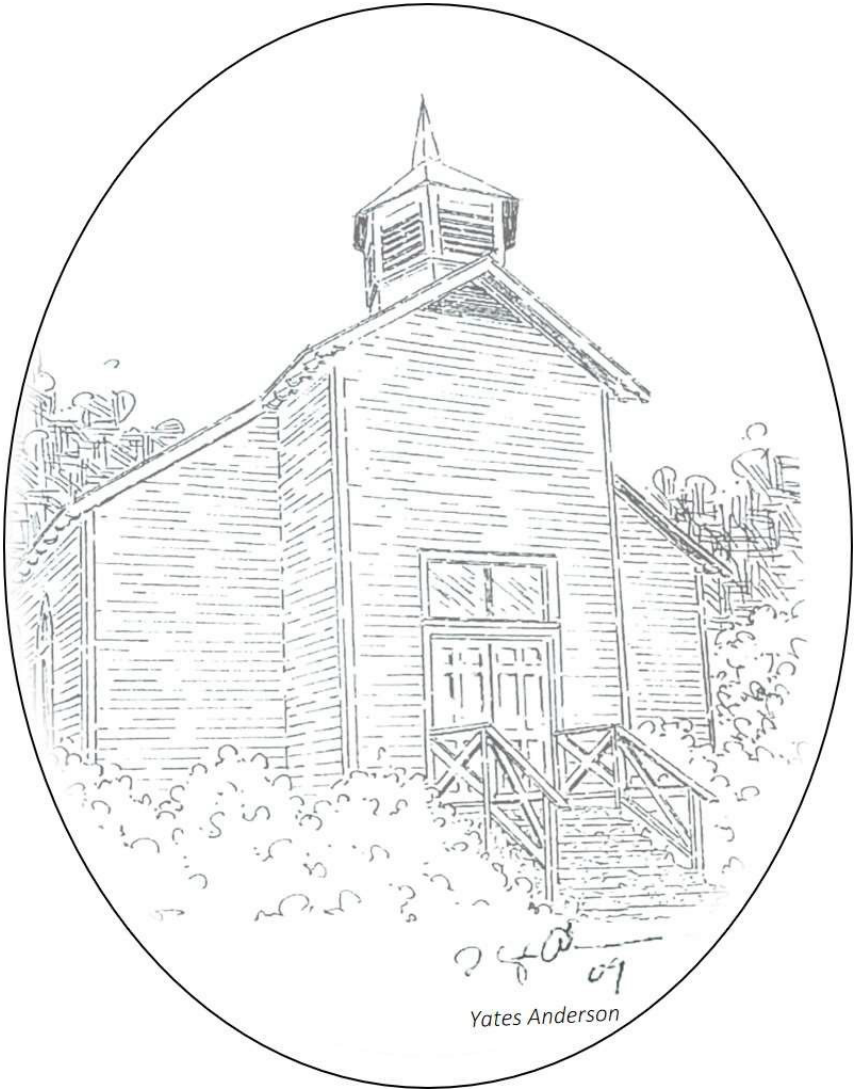

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship and Communion Service
September 6, 2026

We have the closed hearing loop system.
You may be able to turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.

To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Priere a Notre-Dame Leon Boellmann

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please respond with words in bold)*

Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.
God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.
People of God, we live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.
God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.
Followers of Christ, we live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.
God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and integrity.
Children of God, we live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.
Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world.
Let us strive to follow in the way of Jesus,
the way of truth, compassion, reconciliation, peace—
the way of God.

HYMN #560 Help Us Accept Each Other

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of the church, you call a broken people to gather as one around your table. In times of disagreement, in the throes of anger, in a world fractured by war and politics, in the frustrations we face each day with each other, teach us to listen, loose us from prejudice, soften our hearts, grant us patience, and bind us to your way of forgiving grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who invites us, welcomes us, gathers here with us and sits next to us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 12:1-14 *The establishment of Passover*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
2 "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be
the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell the whole congregation of
Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for
each family, a lamb for each household. **4** If a household is too small
for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one;
the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who
eat of it. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you
may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** You shall keep it
until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled
congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7** They shall take
some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of
the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the lamb that same
night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread
and bitter herbs. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but
roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10** You
shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains
until the morning you shall burn with fire. **11** This is how you shall eat
it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your
hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord.

12 I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike
down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and
on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.

13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live:
when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall
destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. **14** "This day shall be a
day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to
the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a
perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 149 UMH 749 *Sing praise to God*
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

1 Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
4 **For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;**
he adorns the humble with victory.
5 Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
6 **Let the high praises of God be in their throat,**
and two-edged swords in their hands,
7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment
on the peoples,
8 **to bind their kings with fetters**
and their nobles with chains of iron,
9 to execute on them the judgment decreed.
This is glory for all his faithful ones.
Praise the Lord!

Romans 13:8-14 *Love fulfills the law*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20 *Work for reconciliation*
(Please stand as you are able.)

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. **16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.
P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Gracious and loving God, humble our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of our help and healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Be reminded of this surpassing grace –
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we <u>are</u> forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH UMH 881 The Apostles' Creed
(Please stand as you are able)

GLORIA PATRI #70
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY Menuet Gothique Leon Boellmann

OFFERING
https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches

DOXOLOGY #95
(Please stand as you are able)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of peace, you mark our lives not with fear, but with mercy, and you gather us into a people shaped by grace. As you delivered your children at Passover and taught your church to seek peace with one another, teach us to live in your reconciling presence every day, clothed in patience, truth, and love. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your saving power and our commitment to your work of healing and restoration. Use what we offer to mend what is broken, welcome those who feel alienated, and build a community where forgiveness and hope have the final word. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN #632 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
(Please respond with words in bold)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, concluding: "…and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn":

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: "...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith":

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: "...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever." **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD
GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #140 Great is Thy Faithfulness

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

POSTLUDE Toccata Leon Boellmann

(Please be seated.)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Hallie Colantonio, granddaughter of Stephen & Cynthia Wood, Laura & Woody Livingston, Gary Landrum, Carl Shealey, Jim Ditzel, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer, Randall Galloway, Ed Byrd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to become a lay reader? Our current schedule of readers will be ending in mid-October. A new schedule will be made to carry us through the winter until next March/Easter. Please contact Kim Dodson at kidods2061@gmail.com if you would like to be included on this schedule, including dates you are likely NOT available. It is a gift to hear a variety of voices in worship and we appreciate those who share in the leadership of worship in this way.

Name Tags--If any church attendees need a name tag, please contact Fred Markert at 828-553-3303 or let him know when you see him.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45am on Sundays. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided.

The Prayer Ministry meets every Sunday after church at 11:30 in the Minnich conference room. Anyone is invited to join us on any given week as we lift up the prayer concerns of our community. Prayer requests may be mailed to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meets Every Thursday Night at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4-6 PM.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com
Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128
Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916
Ushers: Lysa Riggs, Joe Haraschak
Liturgist: Brian Singleton
Coffee Hour: Liz & Joe Haraschak
Liturgical selections are partially adapted from umcdiscipleship, re:worship, and ministrymatters