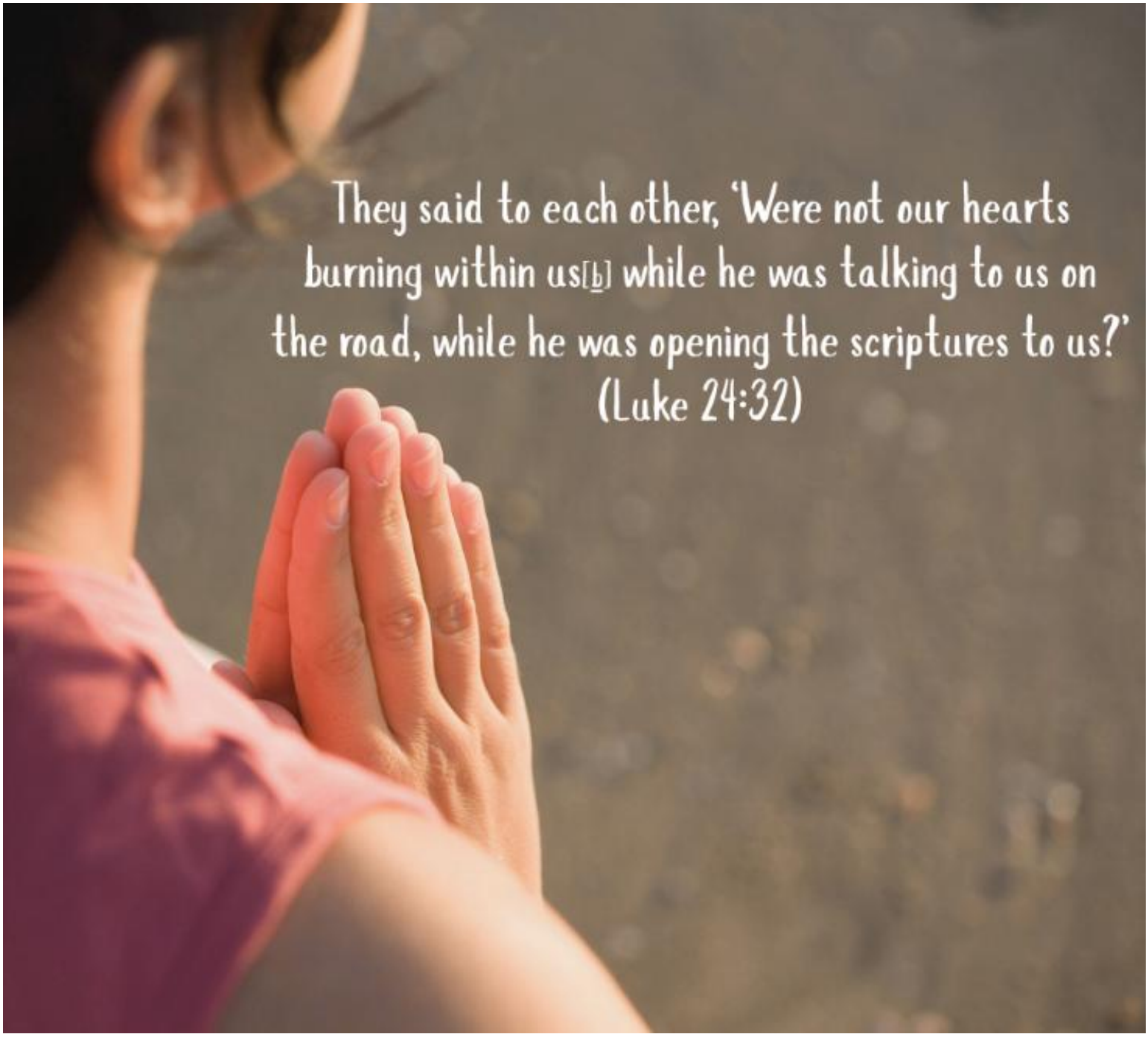

August 23, 2026

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(†) The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.
This is the place
where God will transform us into disciples.
We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.
This is the place
where God will write compassion on our souls.
We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.
This is the place
where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

† HYMN OF PRAISE

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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess we have strayed away from your Word
We cry out to you, O God
We confess that we have allowed the worries of this world
to drive us away from your vision for our lives
We cry out to you, O God
We confess that there is strife and contention all around us
We cry out to you, O God
Let us confess together:
That we are powerless
and have taken our focus off your Word….
that we have not allowed your Word
to work in our lives,
yet we continue to cry out to you
in times of trouble and need.
Grant understanding and wisdom
that we may see your vision and apply it in our lives.
Hear our prayer, O God, and Call us back to you.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The scriptures tell us that God's love will find us
no matter how far away we are from the Word
because we belong to God.
God's Word will bring us back to God.
This is the good news of the Gospel!
Thanks be to God!

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: *Psalm 119:103-105* *(Pg. 495)* **

SPECIAL MUSIC –Thy Word Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still You're there right beside me,
nothing will I fear as long as You are near,
Please be near me to the end.

Verse 2

I will not forget, Your love for me and yet,
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side,
I will love You to the end.

CCLI Song # 14301: Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Vinny Mae's Girl; For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #21279385 / Streaming #21279392

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

† HYMN

Deep in the Shadows of the Past 2246

WORDS: Brian Wren
MUSIC: English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

KINGSFOLD
CMD

Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co.; arr. © Oxford University Press

Words: Brian Wren © 1995 Hope Publishing Co. 380 Main Place Carol Stream IL 60188; Ralph Vaughn Williams, © 1995 Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon St. Oxford UK; Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

† GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24: 25-32 (Pg. 861) **

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON:

Encountering God Through Prayer -4

In Scripture

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

† **HYMN**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER SONG **Surely The Presence of The Lord** *WOLFE*

Chorus
Surely the presence
of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power
and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face,
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

CCLI Song # 7909: Words and Music: Lanny Wolfe © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music Company; For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #21279385 / Streaming #21279392

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG *(See Above)*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
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OFFERTORY MUSIC

† DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge,* 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 with Refrain

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

† HYMN

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† Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: *Michelle Parker*
Video and Sound Engineer: *Sam Tweedy*
Cover Image: *Staff created under CANVA license to FUMC*
Altar Flowers: In Celebration of Susan & Randy Parsell's 55th Wedding Anniversary Given by Sharon Parker

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****Worship elements by "UNFOLDING LIGHT"*

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Looking Ahead

Common Lectionary Readings for August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 / Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45

Romans 12:9-21 / Matthew 16: 21-28

First United Methodist Church

"Feed the Need"

Putting Our Faith into Motion
By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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