

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Pastor: Ellyn R. Fox

Liturgist: Rebecca Linton

Prelude: *"I Need Thee Every Hour"*

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship:** see *next page*

***Opening Hymn:** *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* UMH 089

***Affirmation of Faith** UMH 885

*** and Gloria Patria** UMH 71

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations (please see back)

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace

***Hymn:** *"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"* UMH 402

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 18::21-35(NIV)

The Message: "Enough is Enough" Pastor Ellyn Fox

The Offering

Doxology UMH 95

Prayer for the Offering

***Closing Hymn:** *"Freely, Freely"* UMH 389

***Closing Chorus and Benediction:** "Bind Us Together"

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

People: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

Leader: The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

People: Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

Leader: In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

People: God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 16^h Sunday after Pentecost, dinner after the service

Next Week: 17th Sunday after Pentecost, board meeting *after service*

All Week: Keep Safe and Pray

The Upper Room and Our Daily Bread are daily devotional booklets that are available in the Narthex. Please take one or both and enjoy!

Church Office Hours are from 9-1, Monday through Thursday

The **Church phone number** is (850)576-1454

Social Media Contact Information

Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BethelUMCTLH.org](https://www.facebook.com/BethelUMCTLH.org)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and join us on Sunday for our live-stream service at [YouTube.com/@BethelUMCTLH.org](https://www.youtube.com/@BethelUMCTLH.org)

Send a concern or joy to our Prayer Request list (or ask to join the list) by sending an email to PrayerRequests@BethelUMCTLH.org

You can also send an email to pastor Ellyn at Pastor@BethelUMCTLH.org or pour through our history at our web site "BethelUMCTLH.org"

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, those in Military Service, Police, Fire, EMS first responders, Healthcare professionals and home caregivers, Teachers, Students; the Homeless; Pastor Ellyn Fox; Kathie & Al Adams; Lexie Allen; Don & Tracey Bitner; Mark Carlson, Norfleet Carter; Kay Dowden; Lake Goreau; Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; Darren Plate; Todd Qualls; Caleb Rowe; Carol Painter; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; Willie; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright

Please consider posting this list in your home where you can be reminded to pray for these concerns.

Prayer requests can be submitted to: PrayerRequests@BethelUMCTLH.org or using a prayer request form in the narthex

A Note from Ellie

How much is enough? Is it ever enough? *More* is often considered better...unless it's more distress.

More is motivation. It's why so many work, it's why so many keep *working* – if they like their job or not. *More* is a goal. *More* is a hope. *More* is how much we should be forgiving.

More frequently is whatever we don't have but want - including forgiveness.

We are not banned from noticing right from wrong. We are asked to "*Judge not, that you be not judged*" and to notice any wooden planks that happen to be in our eyes versus any splinters that are in someone else's.

We're also asked to forgive...and we hope for forgiveness.

How often should we forgive? Not seven times, not 77 times, not seventy times seven times, (490 times.) *More*.

God wants us to love others as we want to be loved. God wants us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Remember how our own sins are forgiven. Be mindful of the grace that has been given to us and offer grace to others.

Blessings always,

Pastor Ellie

Bethel United Methodist Church

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

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