

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Eighth Sunday
after Pentecost
Sunday, July 19, 2026



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**please stand as you're able*

WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, arr. D. Witkowski¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gracious God, forever seeking us:

ALL: Open our minds to the truth of your care.

One: Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

ALL: Open our lips to share stories of faith.

One: Open our lives to do justice and show kindness.

ALL: Open our mouths to sing boldly and loudly your praises.

*HYMN 657

Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness, Glendon²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wondrous patience,
hold us close in the midst of doubts and fears,
for the future demands much from us.

**Our time, our energy, and our resources are needed
to expand our ministry.**

**Release through us a flow of love and courage that will bring healing where there is
hurt, creativity where there is hesitancy, new beginnings where there are dead ends,
openness where there is prejudice and justice where there is brokenness.**

Move us step by step into your vision for us.

Through Jesus Christ our guide. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

One: God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it. Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*CELEBRATION SONG HYMN 308

*O God in Whom All Life Begins, Noel*³

**1 O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.**

**2 Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-15

13 Now after [the Magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

TIME FOR WONDER (CHILDREN'S TIME) - Amy Poland

After the message, children may go with the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

SERMON

Reframing Fear with Love

***HYMN 154**

Jesus Entered Egypt, King's Weston⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD'S PRAYER

CALL FOR DISCIPLESHIP - Elder Thatcher Root, Stewardship Committee

OFFERTORY

*Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear, T. Trenney⁵
Please also pass the friendship form through the row. Bring coins! All change collected with go to a mission project as chosen by the children.*

***DOXOLOGY HYMN 607** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Old Hundreth⁶*
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound, Mc Kee⁷

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals, S. Karg-Elert⁸
The postlude is offered as a grateful thanks to God. We invite you to remain seated as we listen together.*

Leaders Today



Preacher: Rev. Julie Erkel Hagee

Liturgist: Erin DeMuth

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr/Josh Mou

Ushers/Greeters: Doug & Juanita Halls, Chuck Kamp, Ann Rowley (Deacon)



Meet the Reverend Julie Erkel Hagee

Julie Erkel Hagee was born and raised in Iowa and also considers Georgia and New Jersey home for the formative roles their people and places have played in her life. A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia (2016), Julie takes her work as pastor-theologian seriously and herself a bit less so. She knows that ministry requires thoughtful engagement with theology and culture, a heart full of grace, and a good sense of humor.

Julie's call to ministry began in childhood and eventually led her to attend Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, earning a BA degree in Biblical Studies with a minor in Pastoral Counseling in 2002. After changing denominations, she served as the Director of Children's Christian Education at Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa, before heading to Georgia for her Master of Divinity degree. Upon graduation she and her family moved to Princeton, New Jersey, where she served as the church administrator for Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church while also serving as a children's minister for Nassau Presbyterian Church. Ordained life began in 2018 when she became the Pastor of Campus Ministry and Adult Spiritual Formation in Ames, Iowa. Her current call as Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls, Iowa, began in June of 2020. Her six years there have been incredibly meaningful and formative.

Julie says, "It is an amazing privilege to witness the light of discovery in the eyes of folks when they realize that God truly loves them and that they have been empowered to share that love with others. It is my desire to help develop in people of all ages the skills they will need on their continued faith journey. When I look back at the prompting that brought me to candidate at Westminster Presbyterian Church, I am amazed by the leading of the Holy Spirit. I am excited to serve with Westminster Presbyterian Church on a collaborative ministry journey."

On days away from church life, Julie, her husband Andrew (a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary), and their son, Michael (19), enjoy exploring the community, visiting art museums, making and drinking espresso, and solving word puzzles.