

**\* We invite you to stand as you are able**

**INTROIT\*** “Come, Come, Everybody Worship” The Faith We Sing #2271

### **GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We invite all to participate by signing the attendance pad located in each pew. If you are a guest and visiting with us – we are glad you are here.*

### **A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL AND FOR ALL\***

**All: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

One: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits ....

**All: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won’t take root....**

One: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**All: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.**

One: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

**All: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.**

One: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering promise!

**All: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God’s love takes root. Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYER\***

**All: Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don’t recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Spirit of the Living God” Red Hymnal #539 vs 1,3,4

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

“Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

One: Word of God, for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE** “The Weakness of God” Pastor Anne Kadue

**HYMN** “Thy Word Is a Lamp” Red Hymnal #601

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**All: Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating**

for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ's name, Amen.

**OFFERING & HYMN**

"Hymn of Promise"

Red Hymnal #707

**DOXOLOGY\***

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**SENDING & CIRCLE OF BENEDICTION\***

**All: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

We welcome all persons of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, and physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation.



**CHURCH STAFF & WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Anne Kadue	Lead Pastor
Donald Birttnen	Worship Tech Assistant
Stephanie Caughey	Office Administrator
Donna Zilge	Office Assistant
Judy Lieffring	Worship Accompanist & Choir Director
Mike Nelson	Pianist & Bell Choir Director

*You are loved.* ❤️

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[newportumc.org](http://newportumc.org)

[stpaulparkucc.org](http://stpaulparkucc.org)

**Welcome to  
Newport United Methodist Church &  
Community United Church of Christ**

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023