

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Summer Sermon Series: “You asked for it”

August 31, 2025 - 9:30 AM

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN *The Church’s One Foundation* (vv.1-2) UM Hymnal #546

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: the hour is upon us where we are called to worship. The words of Pilate echo through the ages: "What is truth?" Jesus, the embodiment of truth, stands before him, yet the people choose Barabbas, a symbol of denial and rebellion.

People: We, too, have been confronted with the choice between truth and falsehood, between the path of righteousness and the allure of the world.

L: Let this sacred space of worship open hearts and minds, to examine the truth of God's word and its implications for our lives. Let us consider the nature of truth, the nature of Jesus's kingdom, and the choices we make daily.

P: We seek to understand the truth of God’s word and to follow the path of Jesus

L: Let us worship God, who is the source of all truth, and whose kingdom is not of this world.

* OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, we come acknowledging your presence and seeking your guidance. Just as Pilate asked, 'What is truth?', we too often grapple with understanding what is true and right. Help us to see the truth as revealed in and through Jesus. Even when he was misunderstood and rejected by the world, he spoke the truth. Grant us the wisdom to discern truth from falsehood, and the courage to stand by what is right, even when it is difficult.

May your Holy Spirit guide us in all our decisions and actions, leading us to live lives that honor you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*HYMN

We Will Glorify the King of Kings

Black Hymnal 2087

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

RESPONSE “Jesus Loves Me” UM Hymnal #191

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER

(The congregation may raise their prayers in silence or aloud.)

Our Father, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Today, we are invited to join in that witness, to be people of truth in a world that often struggles to find it. When we give, we are joining in Christ's work, using our resources to bear witness to the truth of God's unconditional love and to extend that love to all.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

* GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Give Thanks”

Black Hymnal 2036

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Samuel 15:1-3 Pew Bible p.225

John 8:31-32; John 18:38-40 Pew Bible pp. 862 & 878

SERMON

The Truth will set us Free

* HYMN

Amazing Grace

UM Hymnal #378

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* Please feel free to stand, if you are able.

The flowers adorning the altar today are honoring Bruce and Cynthia Mercer's wedding anniversary

SERMON SERIES: “YOU ASKED FOR IT!” From July 27 through August 31, Pastor René will be preaching from some of the Bible passages and stories that have been meaningful, significant or have grounded members of John Wesley. *Today's sermon theme of “what is truth?” was offered by Mark Karsner.*

Artwork on the front cover is “The Truth Will Set You Free” by Steve Henderson.

Staff

Rev. René A. Perez, Pastor
Dr. Michael Smith, Director of Music
Lyndsey Melchiono, Church Administrator
Myles Lowery, AV Coordinator
Eloise Harmon, Treasurer
John Loewen, Sexton



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John Wesley United Methodist Church
Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

YOU ASKED FOR IT

SERMON SERIES

This week's message:
“The Truth will set us Free”





WELCOME TO JOHN WESLEY U. M. CHURCH

We are a welcoming and active congregation which seeks to **“LOVE GOD...LOVE OTHERS...SERVE THE WORLD.”**

We invite you to experience meaningful worship services, engaging Bible studies, Sunday school, fellowship, preaching, life-changing local and global mission opportunities and more. We are an active congregation. At John Wesley, there is always room for everyone to become a part of something greater than ourselves.

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Worship Every Sunday: 9:30 am

Monday September 1st

- Crafters Meeting 1:00 PM (Fitzgerald)

Wednesday 3rd

- Prayer Meeting 11 AM (Youth Room)
- Bell Choir 5:45 PM (Sanctuary)
- Chancel Choir 7 PM (Sanctuary)

Thursday 4th

- TLT Meeting 6:30 PM (Fitzgerald)

CHANGING OUR WORLD for August is Tommy's Place Foundation, Inc. A nonprofit corporation that owns and operates year-round magical vacation homes for kids fighting cancer in Falmouth, MA and Centerville, MA on Cape Cod.



Choir Season is BACK – and You're Invited!

Whether you're ready to ring out joyful tunes or raise your voice in harmony, we've got a place for YOU!

New members are always welcome!

Hand Bell Choir – 5:45 to 6:45 PM

Chancel Choir – starts at 7:00 PM

A Sacred Calling to Embody Justice, Love, and Courage. A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth, in conjunction with the New England Conference, is offering transformative Anti-Racism Activation Experiences to equip United Methodist congregations to move from resolution to action. These sessions are designed to: Equip you with the tools and language to disrupt racism in real time, Build courage to speak up with clarity and conviction, Help your community transform discomfort into solidarity, and Live out your baptismal vows to resist evil and injustice wherever they appear. You can register by going to the New England Conference's website at www.neumc.org.

2025 Online sessions: Sept. 10 & 17 @ 7-9 pm / Sept. 23 & 30 @ 7-9 pm



Worship, Food, Fun, Fellowship and a Special Blessing

Rally Sunday marks the beginning of the Sunday School year at John Wesley and it's a time to come together and celebrate the start of a new program year for our whole church.

It will be **the restart of choirs, Sunday school and bible studies**, and many church activities, including a **special blessing for backpacks, briefcases or work bags** (bring yours). Our potluck will be coordinated by the hospitality and events team.

Contact Maryellen or Christine if you would like to contribute.

Join us and bring your whole family. Everyone is welcomed!

Betty Smith and Pastor René would like to thank everyone who came out to our summer beach services. We had a blast and we are grateful for the blessing of being able to do that. We especially want to thank Matt and Frank O'Connor, Bruce and Cynthia Mercer, Tim Cline and Michael Smith for their great work in making sure we had a memorable experience.



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