

September 13, 2026

* HYMN *"Here I Am, Lord"* UMH 593

God of unexpected places, speak through voices we may not expect to hear. Give us the courage of Lydia: the courage to listen without already knowing the answer, to allow what we hear to change us. Free us from a faith that protects its boundaries more carefully than it loves its neighbors. Make this church a place where dignity is never rationed, where difference is not feared, where the excluded are welcomed, and where every person can discover that they are cherished by God. Open our hearts today, and then open our hands, our homes, our church, and our lives, until the love we proclaim becomes the love we practice. In the spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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.

CHOIR “*Martha, You Have Many Cares*” MF Smith

Lydia's faith became tangible in the way she used what she had to make room for others. Our giving can do the same. We do not give simply to maintain a church; we give so that ministry can happen, neighbors can be served, justice can be pursued, and the circle of welcome can grow wider. Let us give generously, that our resources may help create the kind of community we proclaim: welcoming, courageous, compassionate, and filled with love.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

* RESPONSE “Give Thanks” Black Hymnal 2036

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE	Acts 16:6-15	Pew Bible p.
1	Paul and Silas went to the city of Philippi. They were the first to preach the Gospel there.	1
2	They went to a place by the river, where many people gathered to hear them.	2
3	A woman named Lydia, who sold purple cloth, heard them and believed.	3
4	She and her household were baptized.	4
5	Paul and Silas continued to preach in the synagogue.	5
6	Some Jews opposed them, so they decided to leave the city.	6
7	They went to the prison, where they were kept.	7
8	At midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns.	8
9	Suddenly, an earthquake shook the prison.	9
10	The doors opened, and the prisoners fled.	10
11	The jailer woke up and found the doors open.	11
12	Paul and Silas told him that they were slaves of God.	12
13	The jailer believed and was baptized.	13
14	Paul and Silas continued to preach in the city.	14
15	Many people believed and were baptized.	15

* HYMN	<i>“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (v.1,3)</i>	UMH 462
SERMON	<i>Lydia: Faith and Hospitality</i>	
* HYMN	<i>“They’ll Know We Are Christians”</i>	Black Hymnal 2223
* BENEDICTION		
CHORAL POSTLUDE	<i>“Live in Charity”</i>	Taize

(*) Signifies stand if able

The flowers today are displayed in memory of Andy Dahl, by Jan Dahl

✝ The liturgy for today’s worship service was inspired by an article titled “Lydia of Thyatira: Courageous Hospitality” posted by Janet Cardillo.



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Strong & Faithful

Women

WHO LEAD

Deborah

SEPTEMBER 6

wisdom & courage

Lydia

SEPTEMBER 13

faith & hospitality

Susanna Wesley

SEPTEMBER 20

patience & commitment