

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—August 23, 2026



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from *Psalms 124 & 138*

LEADER: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

PEOPLE: **If the Lord had not been on our side, where would we be?**

LEADER: God calls us here today, wrapping us in unfailing love and grace.

PEOPLE: **With all our hearts, we give thanks and praise your holy name!**

LEADER: **Let us worship God, our maker and our strength.**

*HYMN

Take Up Thy Cross
UMH #415

“Take up thy cross,” the Savior said,
“if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.”

Take up thy cross, let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Words: Charles W. Everest (1833)
Music: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed
#881 UMH

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church.
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins.
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*universal

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 124 (NIV)

- ¹ If the LORD had not been on our side—
let Israel say—
- ² if the LORD had not been on our side
when people attacked us,
- ³ they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;
- ⁴ the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
- ⁵ the raging waters
would have swept us away.
- ⁶ Praise be to the LORD,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
- ⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
- ⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am

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HYMN

Where He Leads Me

#338 refrain Only

Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

Author: E. W. Blandy (1890)
Composer: John S. Norris (1890)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Adapted from Ruth Card Duck

We thank you, gracious God, that you hear us when we pray to you. Make us bold to trust you; make us patient to wait on you. You open wide the door to your heart...

Silent Prayers may be offered...

God, keep us faithful in little things and big tasks. May we do your bidding. When a smile, a touch, a word could bring hope to someone's life, shine through us.

So now as a people sharing the light of Christ, let us pray what Christ taught saying:

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Offer the peace of Christ by saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Respond: And also with you!

HYMN

Where He Leads Me

#338 refrain Only

Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

Author: E. W. Blandy (1890)
Composer: John S. Norris (1890)

GIVING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE

#95, UMH

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.



MESSAGE

Got Questions?

Rev. Brandon Long

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#451 UMH

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931;
versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860

Music: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963
Alt, © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House harm.

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BENEDICTION

adapted from *Unfolding Light.net*

Send us, blessed, led and accompanied by Jesus, out into the world to bear his presence to all people, to be Christ for the sake of the healing of the world, in the power of your Spirit.

In God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer we pray.
Amen!

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Lisa Dayton

Liturgist at 9:40 – Rev. Steve Hoard

Greeters at 9:40 – Barry Dixon, Victoria and Mark Rhodus



Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40 service!

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



Let's talk.

You're invited to explore life, faith, and meaning.

Good conversation

Inspiring videos

Your questions

Dinner

EXPLORE LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

Do you have questions? Doubts? Concerns? Alpha is a welcoming place to explore life, faith, and meaning through honest conversation—no pressure, no judgment, and no expectation that you have all the answers.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

12-WEEK ALPHA COURSE

Each Wednesday evening includes dinner, an engaging video, and small-group conversation.

ALPHA DAY RETREAT

Saturday, October 24 • 9:00 AM
More information will be shared during the course.

Come as you are. Bring a friend. Bring your questions.

Discover where the conversation leads.

Register at our website!
Scan the QR code or visit
armstrongchapel.org

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**We'll kick-off our new
Sunday School
year on September 13!**
Preschool, Elementary, and Teens

It's BIBLE SUNDAY too!

On Sunday, September 13, we will present age-appropriate Bibles to our **3 year olds and 3rd graders** during the 9:40am & 10:30am worship service. Families have received an email to RSVP or visit: bit.ly/4vsnwHK



Armstrong Garden Ministry for IPM

For the second year, Maureen Smith has planted a vegetable garden in the Preschool fenced area behind the church. If any home garden growers have any surplus during any week, feel free to bring to church Sunday and place in the IPM box in between the Atrium doors. Rachel Ney delivers all fresh produce every Monday to IPM (along with all other donations).



Starting in September, five families will rotate around making sure to have yummy treats available on Sundays. If you are interested in being placed on a list of volunteers to contribute food, let me know and I'll add your name to our wonderful list of volunteers! You may hear from one of the following for food item contributions beginning in September:

- 1st Sundays – Lynne Miller
- 2nd Sundays – Jane Florer
- 3rd Sundays – Bill and Niki Mitchell
- 4th Sundays – Denise Scholtz
- 5th Sundays – Barbara Bell

I certainly appreciate everyone from small groups to individuals who have helped keep this ministry going! Any questions contact me at dscholtz84@yahoo.com!

Thanks,
Denise Scholtz

NEW WOMEN'S STUDY STARTING IN AUGUST

Mondays at 6:00pm in the Armstrong Room. New 14-week study begins August 31. *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish Words of Jesus Can Change Your Life* by Lois Tverberg, PhD. This in-depth study considers how understanding Jesus' teachings in their original Jewish context unlocks vital wisdom for today. By exploring ancient Middle Eastern culture, Tverberg reveals how knowing first-century idioms helps us better grasp Jesus' words, how historical context illuminates His parables in surprising ways, and how the Jewish world teaches us to pray with holy boldness (*chutzpah*). We will examine key Hebrew words to make Bible reading richer, learning how to listen with the ears of a first-century disciple to bring practical, fresh insight to our daily walk to deepen our spiritual lives. We complete each lesson in advance, so we are prepared for class. For more details and to register, please contact Victoria Rhodus, and visit the Women United Bible Study page for the link to order your book.

Watch for more women's and men's studies to start back with new studies after Labor Day!



**Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the Armstrong Room
Class begins September 16
(through the beginning of May)
Led by Kent Smith**

Disciple 3: Remember Who You Are is the third study in the four-phase Disciple program. This 32-week study focuses on the Old Testament prophets and the letters of Paul, designed to deepen participants' understanding of their identity as God's people. Participants will each need to order a study manual and have a study Bible.

If you have questions about the Disciple program, please reach out to Kent at 513-476-7227. Register at bit.ly/4bLPJC9.



Stay connected with  **Armstrong**
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Rev. Brandon Long, Director of Discipleship