

July 12, 2026

10:45 A.M.

Order for Our Worship of God

(*those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE “Morning Has Broken” arr. Wilhelmi

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The sower goes out to scatter the seed, generously and without fear.

People: **Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

Leader: Some seed falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some into good soil.

People: **Soften our hearts, O God, that your Word may take root in us.**

Leader: The Word of God is not weak; it is living and fruitful.

People: **Open our ears, open our hearts, and make us ready to receive your truth.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who sows in hope and calls us to bear fruit.

People: **We come with praise, with repentance, and with expectation.
Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and generous God, you are the sower who does not withhold your Word, but scatters it widely, faithfully, and with great hope. We thank you that your grace reaches us again and again, even when our hearts are distracted, hardened, or weary. Prepare us now to hear your voice with humility and joy. Clear away the stones of fear, the thorns of anxiety, and the hard paths of pride that keep your Word from sinking deeply into our lives. By your Spirit, make us good soil, ready not only to receive the Word but also to be transformed by it. May your truth grow in us, shape us, and bear fruit through our witness, our service, and our love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “Morning Has Broken” No. 145

SHARING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

SPECIAL MUSIC “When Morning Gilds the Skies” arr. Barnby

SERMON “What Kind of Soil Are We?” Rev. JongIn Lee

*HYMN OF REFLECTION “Hymn of Promise” No. 707

PRAYER TIME

THE GIVING OF OUR OFFERING

Offering Song “In the Garden” arr. Callahan

*Presentation “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” No. 95

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, all that we have comes from your hand, and all that we offer returns to you from the gifts you have first given us. Receive these tithes and offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them, we pray, to sow seeds of hope, justice, compassion, and peace in this community and beyond. Bless the work of your church, that through our giving many may hear your Word, know your love, and come to bear fruit in your kingdom. We offer these gifts with thankful hearts, in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” No. 152

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE Fantasia on “Forest Green” arr. Smith

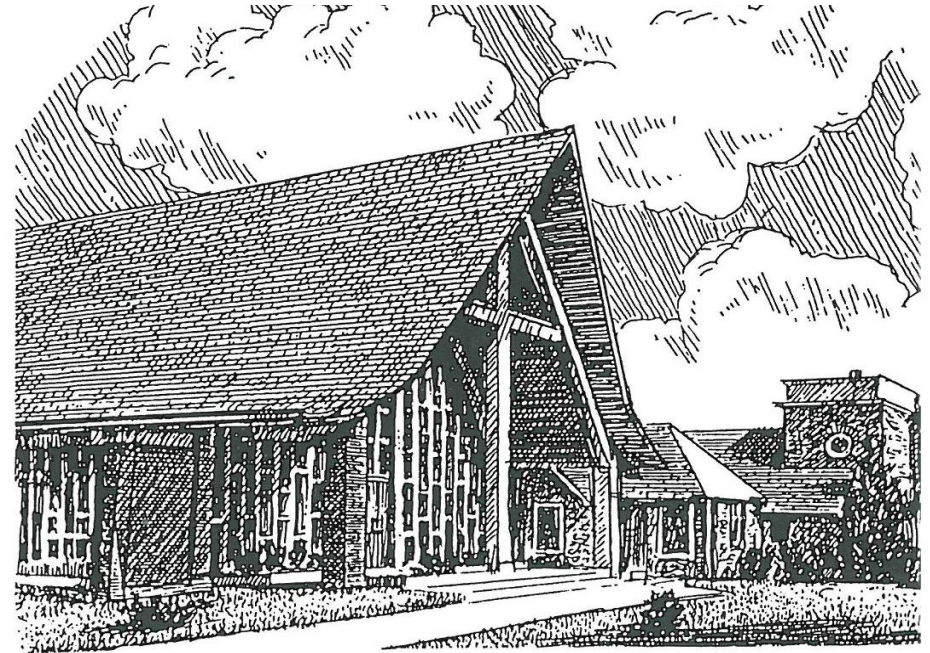
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WE WELCOME ALL to this service of worship including newcomers and visitors among us.

PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE ~ Participating this morning are Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor; Doug Gipple, Substitute Organist; and Diane Ribustello, Liturgist. We appreciate them sharing their gifts with us as we gather to worship and praise God today!

FLOWERS are given today by the family of Mabel Ann Watkins in honor and in celebration of Mabel Ann's birthday on July 15.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR TREE MANAGEMENT ~ A special offering will be received to help cover the cost of tree management on our church property. Your generous support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FRANKLIN LAKES

Organized 1855

Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor

PASTOR: *Rev. JongIn Lee*

LAY LEADER: *Doug Gipple*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: *Dr. Russell Wagoner*

CHURCH SECRETARY: *Donna E. Mulder* / **SEXTON:** *Bonnie Mann*

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Church Website QR Code



Online Giving (Vanco) QR Code



AN INVITATION

*To all who would know God and do God's will;
To all who would live and work to make
To all who seek comfort and would find rest;
To old and young, rich and poor, saint and sinner,
This church opens wide its doors
And—in the name of Jesus the Christ—
Bids you welcome to this house of the Lord!*