

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, September 17, 2023, 10am.**

Online Worship

Website: www.littlefallsumc.org

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@lfumc

You can join Online Worship using your home phone or cell phone.

Call 646-876-9923; enter the Meeting ID 917 9067 6301; and enter the Passcode 139139.

Sunday Scriptures

Romans 12:14-21 and Luke 6:27-38

Today's Message! 'Be Kind'

If you have any concerns and joys and want to share them with the congregation, and ask the church to pray on Sunday, please let me know! You can email, call, or text me. Or you can submit your prayer concerns and joys here: www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer

Your generous financial support is significant and appreciated very much.
We have continued our ministries with your support.

You can support God's ministry in three ways:

1. Put your offerings in the plates at the Offering Station at the in-person Worship
2. Mail your offerings and tithes to the church office: 139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424
3. Make online donations at www.littlefallsumc.org/donation

Again, we appreciate your generosity very much.

Please see the bulletin for other announcements!

Have a good day! See you on Sunday!

Pastor Jin

Little Falls United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Service

September 17, 2023 - 10 am



139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Office Phone: (973) 256-0993

Website: www.LittleFallsUMC.org

Email: Info@LittleFallsUMC.org

***“A Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope,
Mission and Outreach Sharing Christ’s Love”***

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)**

Called to Praise

‡Prepare your heart and body for Worship

Greeting & Announcements

- We have ‘**In-Person**’ & ‘**Online Worship**’ on **Sunday, September 17th, 10am.**
- You can join our online worship via YouTube or Facebook. Type “Little Falls United Methodist Church” in the search window on YouTube or Facebook. Please use the link below to join in Online Worship. YouTube: www.youtube.com/@lfumc
- You can join the Online Worship by your phone. Call (646)-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and Passcode 139139.
- **Prayer Concerns & Joys** – If you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation, please email Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org) or complete the online form, www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer.
- **Altar Flowers** – Thank you **Lynn Wielinga** for providing the altar flowers **In Honor of Meredith Gleason**. If you would like to offer the altar flowers, please contact Janet (973) 896-8936 or ladyteddy@aol.com.
- **Fellowship Time after Worship – Church Potluck!** Let us enjoy a good fellowship time every Sunday after Worship. Please help us with hosting the coffee hour. The Sign-up board is on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Cheryle or Kathy F. if you have any questions about the coffee hour.
- **Prayer Meeting** - We will have our Prayer Meeting in **the Chapel at 1:30 pm.** Meeting Dates on **October 4, November 8, and December 6.** Terrie and Ken will lead the meeting. Please keep this prayer meeting in your hearts before our Lord, that we are open to his guidance and faithful to follow through.
- **Walk by Faith** - We will go to the community to give out our church brochure on **Saturday, September 9th, 9am and on Thursday, September 14th, 11 am.** Please join us and let us share the Good News with others and invite them to the church for a faith journey.
- **Coffee and Bible** – We will have Bible Study every **Thursday, September 14 to November 16**, at 1 pm, at Lee Lounge. We will read the ***Book of Revelation (Part 2)*** in the New Testament in the Bible and have a conversation, having coffee. Jung Ae will lead the study. Sign up online or contact Jung Ae, cclim92@gmail.com. Please join us!
- **Potluck Fellowship** - We will have a Potluck Fellowship **After Worship on Sunday, September 17th.**
- **Post Confirmation Meeting for Youths** - **Sunday, September 17th** at 5pm in Lee Lounge.

- **Young Adult & Family Gathering** – We will have a Young Adult and Family Gathering on **Sunday, September 24th at the parsonage after Fellowship.**
- **Church Wide Yard Sale** - We will have a Church Wide Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 30th.** The date is changed due to the schedule change for the Town-wide Yard Sale. The drop off date will be announced.
- **SAVE THE DATE! – Baked Potato Dinner, Saturday, November 4th.**
- **Treasured Memories** – “Treasured Memories” is a grief group for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting gathers every **2nd Wednesday of the month** in Lee Lounge at 7 pm. Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152.
- **Kids & Youths For Christ** – The 2023-2024 Season of Kids & Youths For Christ will begin at 5 pm on **Thursday, September 21st.** Kids & Youths For Christ is a program for Kindergarten to 12th grade of Christian education and fun activities. K.Y.F.C. will get together every first and third Thursday from **September 21st, 2023 to June 6th, 2024.** All Students are welcome!
- **Online Donation** – Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click ‘Donation.’ The link is www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation. Your financial support and generosity are greatly appreciated and essential for our church ministry and mission. Please consider sending your tithes and offerings to Little Falls UMC (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can send your offerings and tithes to the church every week. Or you can send offerings and tithes for a month with a check. Thanks again for your generosity!
- **Shoprite Gift Card** – To purchase a Shoprite gift card, contact Pete (973) 595-5765 or detroit50@aol.com.
- **Kohl’s Gift Card** – We will sell Kohl’s Gift Card until it is sold out. We will not reorder Kohl’s gift cards due to the change of the policy of the gift card usage.
- **LFUMC FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED** - Many families depend on the Food Pantry on a regular basis. The Pantry needs the following non-perishable items; canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, adult/children’s cereal, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes/rice, tuna, chicken, sardines, fruit, apple sauce, juice, and granola bars.
- **SOCKS FOR SOULS - Do your feet get cold?** Please help Unity Circle to provide new or gently used socks to the homeless. There is a constant need. Please drop off your socks in the large white sock in the Narthex.
- **Ongoing Collection** - UMW collects postmarked stamps, can pull tabs, and the front of greeting cards (No Hallmark). Items are donated to different charities and organizations.

‡Call to Worship

Leader: Come and learn the ways of life.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

‡Praise Song Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) Worship & Song 3104

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Children's Time

Be Kind

Ken Griffin

‡Hymn of Prayer

There is None Like You

Lenny LeBlanc

Chorus

There is none like You
No one else can touch

My heart like You do
I could search
For all eternity long and find
There is none like You

Verse
Your mercy flows like a river wide
And healing comes from Your hands
Suffering children are safe in Your arms
There is none like You

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

Prayers of the People (Response: God, in Your Mercy, hear our prayers.)

Loving and merciful God, we come before you this day, fresh from a week in which we have been challenged. Some of the challenges have caused us worry and strife; other challenges bring to us clear directions for our lives. In all of this, you are with us bringing healing and peace for our lives. We offer to you names of those who are ill, who mourn, who feel lost and alienated, wondering if anyone cares about them. Hear our prayers, O Lord. Bring your healing mercies to all these people we have named with our hearts and our voices. We also bring to you, loving God, names and situations of great joy and celebration, for you have been in our midst during these times as well as during the difficult times. Hear our praises, O God. Bring your loving presence to all these people we have named with our hearts and our voices. For it is in confidence of your abiding love and mercy that we offer this prayer. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Called to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

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

All: Amen

NT Lesson

Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the

Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

***This ends the NT Lessons.
Let us turn to the Gospel Lesson. Please stand, if able.***

Gospel Lesson Luke 6:27-38

Love for Enemies

²⁷“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Be Kind

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, Church family! I hope you had a blessed week in God's love and grace last week. Last Sunday, we considered that we should help others to walk in God's ways. We are called to be holy as God is holy. We are also called to help others be holy. One of the ways is to help them when they make a mistake. One important thing to note is that we should do it with love and grace when we help others. Also, Jesus said we should pray for them before we go to the person to have a conversation. Church family, let us help one another to walk in God's ways with a heart full of love, grace, and care, and let our prayers guide us.

"Be kind! Be nice!" How many times have you heard these words? Since we were young, as little kids, we have heard those words a lot. I also tell my kids, "Be kind to your friends to be a good person." "Share with your friend to be a good friend." As we grow up, as adults, we don't usually hear those words from others, and we don't say to others, the words "Be kind." It is because we all know that kindness is a good virtue that we possess, but every person can

choose to be kind or not. We cannot force someone to be kind to others; we can only advise or encourage them to be kind.

How about us as Christians? Is it optional for us to be kind to others or not? No, it's not optional for us. God wants us to be kind to others. In fact, God wants more than kindness. God wants us to love others. And this commandment is for us, who listen to God, who follow God's will. Jesus's words in verse 27 begin with "I say to you who are listening." Jesus's words were for the people as Jesus' followers, the faith community who were listening to Jesus, who believed in Jesus, and who wanted to follow Jesus' words. And these words are for us. Jesus's standard of kindness and love for us is very high.

Jesus said, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to receive as much again."

Please do not misunderstand the word "sinners"; this doesn't mean those who make a mistake, but rather, it refers to general people who don't believe in God, who don't consider following God's will in their lives. People usually do good to those who do good to them. They usually love those who love them. However, Jesus says to us—you and me, who believe in God and follow Jesus' teachings—to love all, including those who don't love us, and to do good to all, including those who don't do good to us.

When Jesus says, "love all," that includes our enemies—those who are against us, those who are unkind to us, those who make life difficult for us, and those who hurt us. Apostle Paul says, "Bless those who persecute you. Bless them and do not curse them." I know it is difficult for us to practice, but let us try to love all people, even our enemies. Let us try to be kind to all people, including those who are not kind to us, because we are God's children. Jesus says, "Be merciful, just as God, your Father, is merciful." As the children of God, we have inherited God's love and mercy. Let us ask God to lead us in practicing God's love and mercy in our lives. It may not be easy, so let us pray to God to guide us in loving all and doing good to all.

Think about how much God has been merciful to us. How many times did we ignore God's will or reject God's will in our lives? How many times were we against God's will because of our own desires? How many times did we betray God with our words, thoughts, and actions? God has been patient with us, gracious, and merciful.

Do you remember Joseph's story? He was sold as a slave by his brothers, so he had to endure difficult situations. God was with him, saved him, and raised him to a high position in a foreign country. When he met his brothers again, he forgave them, even though he had the power to do whatever he wanted to them. He was kind to his brothers and showed them mercy, using his power. Let's strive to be like Joseph. Let us try to forgive those who have hurt us, remembering God's mercy toward us.

Do you remember the story of the good Samaritan? He helped a wounded man with all his might, even though he didn't know him. The Samaritan's relationship with Jews was not good, as Jews often looked down on Samaritans. However, the Samaritan had compassion when he saw the dying man. So the Samaritan became the example of a neighbor in Jesus' parable,

which means we can be a neighbor to others when we help them, love them, and show kindness to them.

Church family, we are called to love one another. We are called to love all and be kind to all. This is God's calling for us. As faithful followers of Jesus who eagerly listen to God's words, let us be kind to all and let us love all. How? As Jesus said, let us "Be merciful, just as God, your Father, is merciful." Let us "Do to others as you would have them do to you." As Paul advised, let us "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep."

Today, we begin a project called "Be Kind." This project gives us an action plan to be kind and to practice God's will. Allison, Kathy, and Ken have responded to God's word and want to lead us in following God's will. Please join the project and let us be kind and love all in the name of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Called to Share

Response to Our Generous God

‡Doxology Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

‡Prayer of Dedication

ALL: Source of every blessing, as you sent Joseph into Egypt to save the world from famine, you sent Jesus into our lives to save us from selfishness and greed. For teaching us to treat others as we would have them treat us, we give you our thanks and praise. Bless these gifts, that we have received from your bounty, and send them forth to those in need. whether they be friend or foe. For all are your beloved children and our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

‡Benediction

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus