



Sunday, August 16, 2026

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Back to Church Sunday



Winchester United Methodist Church

20 N. Walnut St. || Winchester, IL 62694

217-742-3610 || winchesterumc@irtc.net

winchesterilumc.org || facebook.com/winchesterumc

WINCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*A Lighthouse of Hope: Reaching, Sharing, Teaching,
Caring: United to Reflect God's Love to All!*

Gathering

Prelude & Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome & Connection

Centering Words

*"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who
has promised is faithful."* – Hebrews 10:23

Opening Prayer (Unison Prayer)

Gracious God, as we gather in your name, draw us closer to you and to one another. Bless this new season of learning, growing, and serving. As we celebrate our church this day, we give thanks for your presence here among us. Teach us the wisdom of gathering together, encouraging one another, and growing as the body of Christ. Open our hearts to your Word and your Spirit, that we may worship you with joy. Amen.

* Praise Video

"Praise"

Elevation Worship

*Prayer of Confession (Unison Prayer)

Merciful God, you call us to encourage one another and to not neglect meeting together, yet we confess that we have often drifted away from your people. We have allowed disappointment, busyness, hurt, or fear to keep us from living as part of your body. Forgive us for the ways we have contributed to the brokenness of your church instead of its healing. Renew us by your grace, help us to welcome one another with love, and make us faithful members of the community you are building. In silence, we confess the ways we have turned aside from your call...

*Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Proclaiming God's Word

Children's Sermon

Blessing of the Backpacks

*Hymn *"We are God's People"* (On Screen)

Scripture Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon *"The Paradox of Church"*

Responding to God's Word

Pastoral Prayer and

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.

Offering

*Doxology (UMH #95)

*Prayer of Dedication

Sending Forth

*Hymn *"I Come with Joy"* (UMH #617)

*Benediction

Postlude

* Please stand if able

In Our Prayers

Terry Aossey, Michael Cody, Jade, Grandma Marta, Jackie Barber, Eric Gregory, Lanise Kirk, Jack Kunz, Pam Lower, Rachel Nations, Michael Ryan, Samara White, Friends in Area Nursing Centers, Friends who are Homebound, Those in the Military: Blake Clayton, Chris Dukett, Haley Westermayer, Christian Wells, and All who are Looking for Work.

Worship Online

Our Sunday worship services can be viewed online:

- Website: winchesterilumc.org/multimedia
- YouTube: youtube.com/@winchesterillinoisunitedme213
- Facebook: facebook.com/winchesterumc

Online Giving



"If you'd like to make an offering electronically, you're welcome to use the QR code provided. Regardless of how you choose to participate today, we're grateful for your presence in worship."