



Sunday, August 9, 2026

*11th Sunday After Pentecost
Blessing of the Helmets Worship*



Winchester United Methodist Church

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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

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

— Colossians 3:23-24

Opening Prayer (Unison Prayer)

Gracious God, today we gather with grateful hearts as a community of faith to pray for our athletes, coaches, families, and schools. As we bless these helmets, remind us that true strength comes from you. Protect those who compete, guide them to play with courage, humility, and integrity, and help them honor you in both victory and defeat. Shape all of us to have the same servant's heart as Christ, so that everything we do brings glory to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* Praise Video

"Battle Belongs"

Phil Wickham

*Prayer of Confession (Unison Prayer)

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always live with the humility and love of Christ. We can become proud, selfish, or focused only on winning instead of honoring you and caring for others. Forgive us when our words or actions fail to reflect your grace. Renew our hearts so that whatever we do, on the field and in daily life, we work for your glory and serve others with joy. 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

*Hymn *"All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine"* (UMH #166)

Scripture Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon *"Winning at Football, Winning at Life"*

Blessing of the Helmets (Bulletin Insert)

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

*Praise Video *"Praise"* Elevation Worship

*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."