

The Falls Village Congregational Church
August 16, 2026 10 a.m.
12th Sunday after Pentecost - Remembrance Sunday
The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson, Guest Minister

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – *Humbly We Adore Thee* - arr. M. Larkin

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –

Leader: We come carrying the lives of those who have shaped us.

People: We remember with gratitude those whose love and wisdom live within us. Something of them continues in us.

Leader: We give thanks for those who still walk beside us—family, friends, teachers, companions, and those who have challenged us to grow.

People: We are because others have been.

Leader: God has woven our lives together across generations, through joy and sorrow, love and loss.

People: May love we have received become love we give.

Leader: Let us remember and be grateful. Come, let us worship the God who holds every life in everlasting love.

All: We are not alone. We belong to one another, and we all belong to God. Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn #649 “*Give Thanks for Life*”

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we come today carrying many people within us. Make them present in our worship as we give thanks for those who have died and those who still walk beside us. Open our eyes to own the gifts others have given us. Help us cherish what gives life, release what no longer serves, and become more fully the people you call us to be.

Remind us that none of us travels alone. We belong to one another, and all of us belong to you. We are because others have

been. And together we live in Your great heart. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, you have given us to one another, yet we confess that we often do not recognize the gift. We remember kindness and then forget to give thanks. We carry old wounds long after they have occurred. We hold tightly to judgments and resentments. We postpone words of gratitude, forgiveness, and love, thinking there will be another opportunity to speak them. Jesus reminds us that what comes from the heart matters. Forgive us for the words and actions that have come from fear, impatience, anger, or indifference. Cleanse our hearts of all that diminishes life. May what comes out of us be worthy of the love that entered us. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not ask us to erase the past or pretend that our relationships have been perfect. God meets us in the whole story—in love and loss, gratitude and regret, wounds and reconciliation—and offers us grace. In Christ, what has been broken can be healed, what has burdened the heart can be released, and what has separated us can become a doorway to new life.

People: We receive God’s grace. We are forgiven and set free to forgive, to love, and to begin again.

Leader: Thanks be to God, whose mercy is greater than our past and whose love makes all things new.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

A Time of Remembrance

Litany of Remembrance and Ringing of the Bell

Hymn #637 “*For All the Saints*” (v. 1)

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you

And also, with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15
Matthew 15: 10-20

Sherry Newman
Rev. Eileen Epperson

Prayer Rev. Eileen Epperson

Sermon: “The People We Carry With Us” Rev. Eileen Epperson

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory Anthem – *We Have Built this House on Faith* –
Angerman and Martin

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn #701 *“Shall We Gather at the River”*

Benediction

Benediction Response
God Be With You Till We Meet Again

You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

Scripture Lessons for August 16, 2026

Genesis 45: 1-15

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to

you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Matthew 15:10-20

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.^[a] And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE 2026

Almighty and Everlasting God, before whom stand the spirits of the living and the dead

We praise you, O God, and bless your name.

For family members and friends and members of the household of faith, whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us forever.

We praise you, O God, and bless your name.

For the grace that was given to each of these persons, and the trust and hope in which they lived and died,

We praise you, O God, and bless your name.

We remember with thanksgiving each of these persons whom we now name before you:

(names read and bell tolled)

That we may hold them in continual remembrance, that their wisdom and goodness may inspire us to be more faithful disciples,

Hear us, O God.

That we may have a hope beyond this world, and think of them as with you and be sure that where they are, we may be also,

Hear us, O God.

This we pray in communion with the Holy Spirit, with the faithful in heaven and the redeemed in all ages, and all those who still fight and struggle and seek to be trustworthy disciples on earth. **Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE – #637, v. 1

**For all the saints who from their labors rest
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

LOVED ONE

Bonnie and Bruce (Brother and Sister)
Bruce Lobdell (Husband)
Frank and Velma Chapman (Parents)
Joyce Beebe
Ruth Beebe
Linda Gerassa
Pat DeRossi
Beloved Husband Wally

REMEMBERED BY

Barbara Lobdell
Barbara Lobdell
Barbara Lobdell
Bill Beebe
Bill Beebe
Bob and Diane Anderson
Bob and Diane Anderson
Christine Wallace

David, William, Donald (Brothers)
Robert and Mildred Wallace (In-laws)
Tom and Chris (Parents)
Akke Jasmine-DeVlas
Norman Jasmine
Regina Harmon
Loved Ones, Family and Friends
Akke Jasmine-DeVlas
Bill and Mary Blass
Bruno and Helen Heinz
Carmella Rodriguez
Tiny, Teresa, Bill and Linda
Clara Shufelt and Virginia Stickles
Lester Hadsell
Marcia Racine
Andrea Bargabos
J. Arden Godshall
Jacqueline Hamilton
Kevin Hamilton
Richard and Jeanette Birdsall
Riley Simmons
Bill Mayne
Brian Bulson
John Heggen
Ole Heggen
Marion Randolph
Robert Randolph
Autumn Anderson Fisher
Bruce Anderson
Helen Cook
John Cook
Richard Cook
Ann Hughey Green
Bill and Mercedes ("Pete") Hughey
Rob and Rosie Blass
Grover and Laura Atwood
James and Wilma Campbell

Christine Wallace
Christine Wallace
Christine Wallace
Dennis Jasmine
Dennis Jasmine
Dennis Jasmine
Diane Montagna
Dick and Donna Heinz
Dick and Donna Heinz
Dick and Donna Heinz
Dick and Donna Heinz
Dick and Donna Heinz
Frank and Ruth Hadsell
Frank and Ruth Hadsell
Frank and Ruth Hadsell
Godshall Family
Godshall Family
Manny and Melissa Lopes
Manny and Melissa Lopes
Manny and Melissa Lopes
Margo and Chuck Lewis
Maria and Larry Bulson
Maria and Larry Bulson
Maria and Larry Bulson
Maria and Larry Bulson
Mary Randolph
Mary Randolph
MaryAnn Anderson
MaryAnn Anderson
Sherry Newman
Sherry Newman
Sherry Newman
Terry and Kay Blass
Terry and Kay Blass
Terry and Kay Blass
Tracy and Mary Atwood
Tracy and Mary Atwood