

AUGUST 30, 2026 | THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORSHIP AT WESTFIELD



SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to complete the care pad in your pew.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Fear says: Hold tightly to what you have.

Christ says: Open your hands.

Fear says: Protect yourself at all costs.

Christ says: There is more to life than saving yourself.

Fear says: Stay where it is safe.

Christ says: Follow me.

Fear fixes our minds on the things of this world—
on scarcity and security,
on power and preservation,
on everything we are terrified to lose.

But Jesus calls us toward another way,
another kingdom,
another kind of life.

**So we come to loosen fear's grip.
We come to set our minds on the things of God.
We come to follow Christ.**

Let us worship God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

GATHER

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

INVOCATION

God of life beyond our imagining,
we confess how easily fear becomes our compass.

We look at a frightening world
and begin believing its rules:
protect what is yours,
hold tightly to what you have,
keep danger at a distance,
make sure somebody else pays the price.

Then Jesus comes among us
speaking of crosses,
of losing and finding,
of giving ourselves away
and discovering life on the other side.

Turn our minds toward your realm.

When fear tells us there is not enough, teach us generosity.

When fear tells us to protect only our own, teach us solidarity.

When fear tells us power will save us, teach us love.

When fear tells us death has the final word, teach us resurrection.

Set our minds again on the things of God,
and give us courage enough to follow where Christ leads.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

The Summons
KELVINGROVE



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. **Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?**
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4. **Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?**
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus asks his disciples,
"What will it profit them
if they gain the whole world
but forfeit their life?"
So let us confess the things
we have mistaken for life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
we confess that fear gets the better of us.
**We fear losing what we have,
so we cling to it.**

We fear people we do not understand,
so we keep our distance.
**We fear change,
so we make an idol of what has been.**

We fear scarcity,
so we hoard what could be shared.
**We fear vulnerability,
so we choose control.**

We fear suffering,
so sometimes we look away
when following Jesus would require us
to move closer.

Forgive us, O God.
We have set our minds
on human things
and called them holy.

Turn us again toward your realm.
Teach us that safety is not the same as salvation,
that control is not the same as faith,
and that saving ourselves
is not the same as finding life.
Give us courage to follow Jesus
in the costly way of love.
Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Hear the good news:

Jesus does not call perfect disciples.
Jesus calls Peter—
Peter, who gets it gloriously right
and disastrously wrong,
sometimes within a matter of minutes.

And Jesus keeps calling him.

That same grace is ours.

When fear turns our minds away from God,
Christ calls us back.

When we cling too tightly,
Christ opens our hands.

When we lose our way,
Christ meets us on the road.

So take heart:
**We are forgiven.
We are beloved.
We are free to begin again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE**
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

12
Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
3
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
6
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free!
9
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**
Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam - 'ly of God
5
I've been washed in the foun - tain, wrapped in God's love!
10
Joint heirs with Je - sus as we trav - el this sod;
14
For I'm part of the fam - 'ly, the fam - 'ly of God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

All are invited to sing as the children come join the pastor in the front of the sanctuary.

Jesus Loves Me

Je - sus loves me this I know. For the Bi - ble tells me so.
5
Li - ttle ones to him be - long. They are weak, but he is strong.
9
Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!
13
Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so!

SONG OF BLESSING Take, O Take Me



INVITATION

PRAYER

God of wisdom and wonder,
you created minds that question,
hearts that imagine,
hands that create,
and spirits that never stop growing.
Today we give thanks for the gift of learning.
Bless these backpacks
and all they will carry.
Bless the books that will be opened,
the pencils that will grow shorter,
the papers that will be written,
the problems that will be solved,
the lunches that will be eaten,
and even the assignments that occasionally get forgotten.
Bless the students who carry them.
Give them curiosity when something is new,
persistence when something is difficult,
courage when they make mistakes,
and compassion for the people learning beside them.
Remind them that a grade can measure an assignment,
but it can never measure their worth.
Bless the teachers who will welcome them.
Give them patience,
creativity,
wisdom,
and the ability to see possibility
even on the difficult days.
Bless administrators and aides,
counselors and coaches,
bus drivers and cafeteria workers,
custodians and volunteers—
all those whose work makes learning possible.
Make our schools places where questions are welcomed,
differences are honored,
kindness is practiced,
and every child knows that they belong.

And when this year becomes difficult,
as some days surely will,
remind us that none of us walks into the
unknown alone.
You go before us.
You walk beside us.
You stand behind us.
And wherever the road leads,
your love goes with us.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

May God bless the bags we carry
and the burdens we carry within them.
May God bless our going out
and our coming home.
May God give us curious minds,
courageous hearts,
kind words,
helpful hands,
and friends for the journey.
When the way is clear,
may we walk it with joy.
When the way is difficult,
may we walk it with courage.
When we lose our way,
may grace help us find it again.
And wherever this year takes you—
into classrooms and cafeterias,
onto buses and playing fields,
through successes and disappointments,
new friendships and new discoveries—
remember this:
You are loved.
You belong.
And you never go alone.
May God go before you to show the way,
beside you to be your companion,
behind you to encourage you,
beneath you to hold you up,
and within you to remind you
that you are God's beloved.
Go learn.
Go wonder.
Go grow.
Go love.
And go with God.
Amen.

STUDY SUMMARY

Matthew 16:21–28 finds Peter confronting a future he cannot imagine and does not want. His fear leads him toward the world’s familiar logic: protect what you have, avoid what might cost you, save yourself. But Jesus points toward God’s realm, where love matters more than self-preservation and life is found not by clinging tightly to it, but by giving ourselves away. This passage asks us to consider what fear has taught us to protect—and what might become possible if we set our minds instead on the things of God.

NRSV

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

THE MESSAGE

Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, “Impossible, Master! That can never be!”

But Jesus didn’t swerve. “Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works.”

Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?

“Don’t be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You’ll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift. This isn’t pie in the sky by and by. Some of you standing here are going to see it take place, see the Son of Man in kingdom glory.”

RESPONSE TO READING

Through this Scripture God is still speaking,
and we are listening.

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Chapman

HEAR
GOD SPEAKS TO US IN
SCRIPTURE, PREACHING,
AND SONG

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

CALL TO PRAYER Lead Me, Guide Me



SHARING OF CONCERNS

For all these persons
and all who are in need.
Hold your people near, O God.

SHARING OF JOYS

We give thanks to God
for these blessings.
Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Fear asks,
"What if there isn't enough?"

Faith asks,
"What if there is enough to share?"

The world teaches us to measure life
by what we can acquire, accumulate,
and protect.

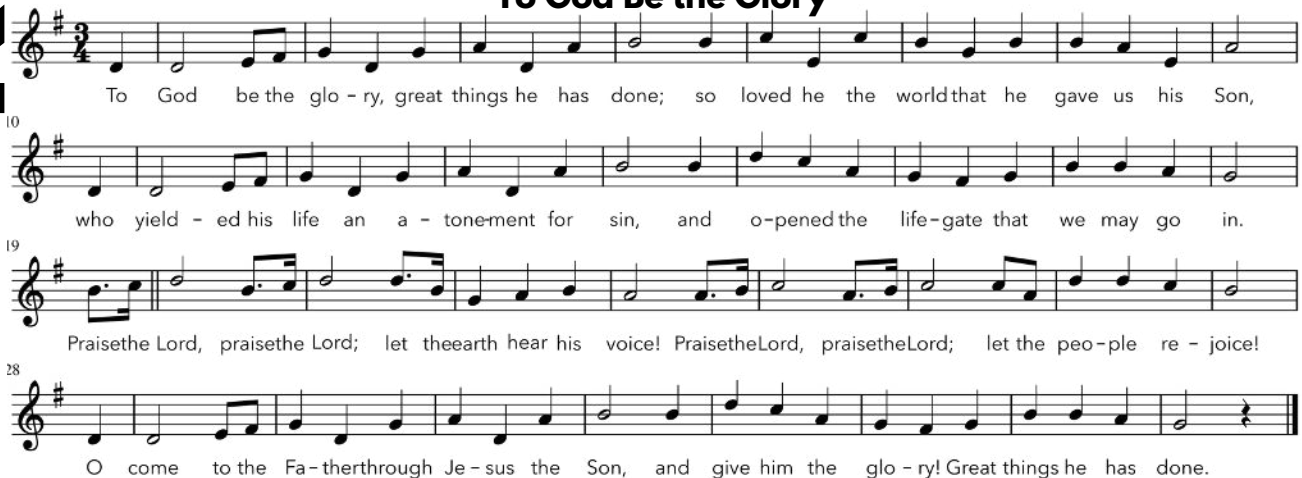
Jesus asks a different question:
"What will it profit you
to gain the whole world
and forfeit your life?"

So we give today
not because we are unafraid,
but because fear will not govern us.

We give as an act of trust
in the abundance of God
and the coming of God's realm.
Let us bring our gifts.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY To God Be the Glory



*CLOSING HYMNS IT IS WELL

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll;
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;

what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
 is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 the trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de - scend,

It is well, it is well with my soul.
 and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 ev - en so, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

BECAUSE HE LIVES

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Je - sus; He came to love, heal, and for - give;
 2. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er, I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

He lived and died to buy my par - don, an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 And then as death gives way to vic - t'ry, I'll see the lights of glo - ry, and I'll know He lives

Because He lives, I can face to - mor - row, Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the fu - ture, And life is worth the liv - ing just because He lives.

*BENEDICTION

**SIT. STAY.
SNAP.
PET PHOTO
CONTEST
IS BACK!
LAUNCHING
AUG. 23**

**WOOD
STOCK
FAIR!**

**TARPS
THRU
AUGUST**

*One
More
Thing*

**Rev. Jonathan's Final
Six Sundays at
Westfield
Starting Sunday,
September 13 at 10am**

OUR FAITHFULNESS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE 105
AUG AVG ATTENDANCE 105

BUDGET NEEDED WEEKLY \$6,340
OPERATING INCOME* LAST WEEK \$1,521

BUDGET NEEDED MONTHLY \$27,471
OPERATING INCOME* AUG \$16,380

BUDGET NEEDED (YTD) \$215,560
OPERATING INCOME* (YTD) \$189,551

*not including donations for the Major Needs
Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and
designated funds



THE ONE LINK
THAT RULES
THEM ALL!



LINKTR.EE/WESTFIELDUCC

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

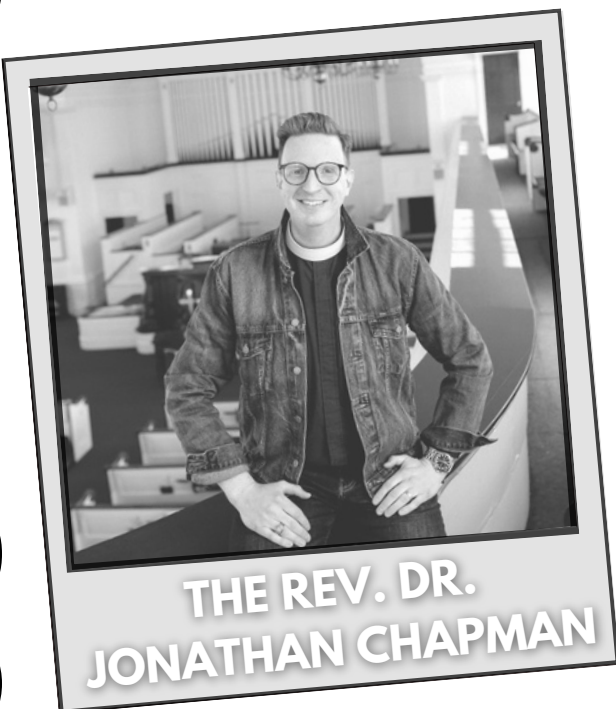
We LOVE kids at Westfield. Children are welcome to stay through the whole service. If your child is more active, relax! We believe God put the wiggles and giggles in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of worship. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.



The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman graduated from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in May 2019 with his Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Witness and Proclamation. His capstone work, *The Year of Mark*, received the People's Choice Award among his cohort. While at Candler for his Master of Divinity (May, 2010), he was active with the Office of Worship, and was awarded the Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship. Jonathan is a 2007 Congregational Fellow and 2006 Undergraduate Fellow with The Fund for Theological Education. He graduated from Elon University in 2007 with a degree in Religious Studies. At Elon, he was selected as a Leadership Fellow and was awarded the W. L. Monroe Christian Education and Personality Award in the 2007. While at Elon he joined Elon Community Church, United Church of Christ, the congregation in which he was ordained.

Jonathan joined Westfield in October of 2012 and was officially installed as Pastor and Teacher in May of 2013, presiding over its revitalization. In October of 2022, he celebrated a decade with Westfield.

He was selected to be a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, a program sponsored by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ that works with young clergy committed to parish ministry through a decade-long relationship. Dr. Chapman consults with congregations on a variety of topics ranging from revitalization to worship to marketing their churches. He married his husband, Greg (pastor of Enfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Enfield, CT), in December of 2014 at Westfield. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Westfield Cemetery and the Westcott-Wilcox Home, as well as on the Windham Association Council.

Rev. Jonathan's Onsite Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm. His additional work days are Sunday and Monday, when he is available by appointment. His days off are Friday and Saturday.

Find time with Rev. Jon by scanning the QR code or going to calendly.com/revjonchapman

Contact info for Rev. Jonathan:

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**Ministers
Pastor
Director of Welcome
Director of Music
Church Administrator
Director of Children
Facilities Caretaker**

**All of the Congregation
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman
Kevin Williams
Sue Theroux
Jess Payette
Donna Bartholomew
Michelle Plasse**