Merging Waters United Church

Third After Pentecost

“Hospitality & Hope”

Sunday Morning Worship June 14, 2026

WELCOME / BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.	Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l’âge, l’identité ou les conditions de vie.
Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.	Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensembles.
Wherever we are, we’re close in one another’s hearts.	Notre amour n’est jamais limité par la distance.

Please join in the responses in **bold text.** Veuillez-vous joindre aux réponses en **texte gras.**

Keep our worship scent-free! To help fellow worshippers with chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products (lotion, hair spray) if attending in person.

Veillez à ce que notre culte soit exempt d'odeurs ! Pour aider les fidèles souffrant de sensibilités chimiques, nous vous demandons de ne pas porter de parfum ou de produits parfumés (lotion, laque) si vous assistez au culte en personne.

To protect personal privacy, please do not take photos or videos without authorization.

Pour protéger la vie privée, ne prenez pas de photos ou de vidéos sans autorisation.

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We gather on the traditional and unceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk),
Huron-Wendat and Anishhnaabeg Nations,
a place of meeting and exchange among many peoples.
As Abraham and Sarah welcomed strangers beneath the oaks of Mamre,
we too are called to open our hearts and homes in holy hospitality.
In this land that has long offered shelter and sustenance,
we give thanks for the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples
and for the Creator's promise that life and hope will flourish anew.
May our welcome be generous, our hope steadfast,
and our relationships rooted in truth, reconciliation, and grace.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

As we gather in the spirit of welcome and promise,
We light this candle in the name of Christ, whose presence turns strangers into guests and waiting into wonder.
As Abraham welcomed the holy in unexpected visitors, so we welcome the light of Christ among us.

This flame reminds us that hope is never too late, and laughter still rises where God's promise is born.
May this light kindle warmth in our hearts, open our doors to grace, and shine with the joy of God's surprising love.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

GATHERING SONG: Alone But Not Alone

Introduction by Jim Fyles

Written by Tony Dekker,Recorded by Great Lake Swimmers

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Come into this sacred space where welcome is wide and promise is alive.
Here, the God who visited Abraham and Sarah meets us again—
in the laughter that surprises,
in the vision that renews,
in the hope that refuses to fade.

We gather as people of faith and imagination,
ready to dream with God of a future shaped by grace.
In our hospitality, may we glimpse the holy;
in our hope, may we hear the whisper of new beginnings.

Let us worship the One who turns waiting into wonder
and calls us to build a world where all are welcomed,
and joy is born anew.

Amen.

"Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever"

GATHERING PRAYER "All We Need is Here"

GATHERING HYMN MV # 106 I Am the Dream

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD Genesis 18:1–15; (21:1–7) NRSVUE

A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham[a] by the oaks[b] of Mamre, as he sat at the
entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing
near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed
down to the ground. 3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your
servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under
the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that
you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you
have said." 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready
quickly three measures[c] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." 7 Abraham ran to
the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to
prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it
before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." 10
Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall
have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. 11 Now Abraham
and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner
of women. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my
husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" 13 The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh
and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too wonderful
for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a
son." 15 But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes,
you did laugh."

The Birth of Isaac

21 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had
promised. 2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of
which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah
bore him. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as
God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was
born to him. 6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who
hears will laugh with me." 7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham
that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG Land of Dreams

Introduced by Carylle Doherty

Written by Roseanne Cash and John Leventhal, Recorded by Roseanne Cash

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SONG The Dream Never Dies

Introduced by Eric Norris

Written by Richard Cooper, Recorded by The Cooper Brothers

OFFERING INVITATION

As Abraham and Sarah opened their tent to welcome the holy,
we open our hearts and hands to God's unfolding vision.
In this moment of giving, we join the laughter of promise—
trusting that through our gifts, God's hope will take shape among us.
May what we offer today help build a future where hospitality becomes healing,
and hope becomes the light that leads us forward.

OFFERING HYMN Kumbaya

Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya
Oh Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's singing my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's singing my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's singing my Lord, Kumbaya
Oh Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's praying my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's praying my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's praying my Lord, Kumbaya
Oh Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's dancing my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's dancing my Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's dancing my Lord, Kumbaya
Oh Lord, Kumbaya

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God,
You meet us at the doorway of promise,
inviting us to share in Your vision of welcome and renewal.
As Abraham opened his tent to strangers,
we open our hearts to Your Spirit's leading.
Bless these gifts and the lives they represent.
May they become signs of hope for those who wait,
and seeds of hospitality for the world You are still shaping.
Through our giving, may laughter return to weary places
and Your promise find new life among us.
In faith and gratitude, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings
to the work of Your love—
today and for the future You imagine.
Amen.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of promise and possibility,
You meet us in the ordinary moments—
at the doorway, around the table, beneath the trees—
and remind us that every act of welcome
can become a doorway to grace.
We give thanks for the hospitality that builds community:
for homes that open, meals that are shared,
and hearts that make room for others.
Bless all who offer kindness to strangers,
and all who long to be received with dignity and care.

Sacred Delight of laughter and renewal,
You turn waiting into wonder and despair into delight.
We pray for those who struggle to hope—

(sharing names out loud or in the silence of our hearts)

for the weary, the anxious, the grieving,
for those whose dreams feel too distant to believe.
Let Your Spirit breathe courage and joy into their lives,
and remind us that nothing is too wonderful for You.

God of vision and future,
You call us to imagine what love can build.
Guide our congregation as we discern Your way forward—
that our plans may be shaped by compassion,
our decisions rooted in justice,
and our vision alive with Your transforming grace.

Gather us into Your promise, O Holy One,
that we may be a people of welcome and hope,
laughing with You at the wonder of new beginnings.
Through Christ, who makes all things new, we pray.
Amen.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother, Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
Your kin-dom come, Your 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 Yours is the Kin-dom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever,
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN MV # 165 — There Is a Time

BLESSING & SENDING

Go out into the world with hearts open to welcome the stranger,
with eyes ready to see God's promise unfolding in unexpected places,
and with spirits alive to the laughter of new beginnings.

Strengthened by the love of the Sacred,
go forth to build communities of hospitality and hope—
serving God's people and caring for all creation
as partners in the vision of renewal and grace.
Amen.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

SENDING SONG — I Can See Clearly Now

Introduced by Mark Weber
Written and recorded by Johnny Nash

Thank you for joining in worship today ♥

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

June 21	Ecumenical service outside! **10:00 am** at Briarwood Presbyterian, 70 Beaconsfield Blvd
June 28	Worship on the lawn at Merging Waters with fun and games
July 5	Cluster summer worship starts

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

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