

Pastors:
Rev. Phil Richards: (518) 791-1123 pastorphils@gmail.com
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey: (518) 247-8886 fivechurchesumc@gmail.com

Musicians:
Steve Woodruff: Virtual Organist
Patsy Yang: Choir Director

Announcements for the Week of 9/13 – 9/19

- 9/13: Worship Service 9 am in the Sanctuary & on Zoom
Coffee Hour after Worship
Open Table Family Worship 5:30 pm
- 9/14: Men’s Breakfast at Rulfs Orchard 7:30 am
AA 7:30 pm
- 9/15: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Visiting & Crafting at Valehaven Home for Adults 2 pm
- 9/16: Knit Wits 1:30 pm
Common Ground Gathering 5:30 pm
- 9/17: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Ruining Lunch 11:45 am at Plattsburgh United Methodist Church
- 9/18 & 9/19: Plattsburgh UMC Book Sale (Fri. & Sat.) and Chicken BBQ (Saturday)
- 9/19: Applefest Parade begins at 11 am

Granny’s Attic Drop-Off	Granny’s Attic Sale
Sunday – Thursday: 10 am – 12:30 pm	Saturday, 9/26: 9am – 4pm
Friday & Saturday: 9 am – 3 pm	
Sunday 9/20: 10 am – 12:30 pm & Monday 9/21: 9 am – 3 pm (final drop-off day)	

Peru Community Church
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey
Worship Asst. – Cindi LaFountain

CENTERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

(If you have prayer concerns, please place them in the BLESSED basket in the rear of the Sanctuary, to be read during Joys and Concerns. If you are new or have changed your information recently, please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate.)

PASTOR’S GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: Come, all who are heavy-laden, all who carry the exhausting weight of expectations, anxiety, and shame.
People: We come to the Source of Life, ready to layout our burdens and catch our breath.
Leader: The Divine Presence greets us right here, untangling the knots of our past and breaking the invisible chains that hold us back.
People: We are being set free—free from the need to be perfect, and free from the fear of not being enough.
Leader: This is a sanctuary of liberation, where our true selves are welcomed, affirmed, and celebrated.
People: God undoes our shackles, unseals our lips, and opens our hearts to joy.
Leader: No longer bound by the scripts of the world, we step forward into our sacred wholeness.
All: We are released, we are redeemed, and we are set free to love. Let us worship God with open hearts!

***HYMN** “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” (v. 1&3) #334

OPENING PRAYER
God of the Open Road,
You do not leave us to wander the wilderness alone. Just as you went before the ancient seekers as an Angel of Presence and a Pillar of Cloud, you go before us today as a protective, living shadow.

When the heat of life burns too hot, be our cool shade. When the path ahead is obscured by uncertainty or systemic injustice, let your cloud of mystery guide our next faithful steps. Deliver us from the temptation to turn back to familiar captivities. Give us the courage to follow your moving spirit into the uncharted spaces of freedom and collective healing.
In the name of the One who un-tethers us, Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME AND SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 14:19-30 (The Message)
(Watch and listen!)

The angel of God that had been leading the camp of Israel now shifted and got behind them. And the Pillar of Cloud that had been in front also shifted to the rear. The Cloud was now between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. The Cloud enshrouded one camp in darkness and flooded the other with light. The two camps didn’t come near each other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God, with a terrific east wind all night long, made the sea go back. He made the sea dry ground. The seawaters split.

The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with the waters a wall to the right and to the left. The Egyptians came after them in full pursuit, every horse and chariot and driver of Pharaoh racing into the middle of the sea. It was now the morning watch. God looked down from the Pillar of Fire and Cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic. He clogged the wheels of their chariots; they were stuck in the mud.

The Egyptians said, “Run from Israel! God is fighting on their side and against Egypt!” God said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots, over their horsemen.” Moses stretched his hand out over the sea: As the day broke and the Egyptians were running, the sea returned to its place as before. God dumped the Egyptians in the middle of the sea.

The waters returned, drowning the chariots and riders of Pharaoh’s army that had chased after Israel into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the Egyptians.

RESPONSE
One: May God grant us wisdom and courage for interpretation.
All: Thanks be to God.

MORNING MESSAGE “Finding Angels When We Need Them” Pastor Leigh

JOYS AND CONCERNS, 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 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.

A REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #592

*HYMN “God is Here!” (v. 1&4) #461

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Indicates to stand if you are able CCLI #309370

PRAYER LIST
Shirley Arnold; Abbie Breen; Rob Butts; Carol; Sarah Connelly; Eric Duquette; Denise; Nancy Fegan; Jerry; Susanne & Eucky Jones; Bonnie Mahnk; Howard Newton; Patricia; Roy Perry; Evelyn Rinella; Sherrie & Julia; Bonnie St. Clair; Anne Stevensen; Jane Way; Katie Williams
(over)