

August 30, 2026

PRELUDE AND BELL RINGING
ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS and CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from 1 Corinthians 13)

Leader: God's Word tells us that love is patient, love is kind.

People: It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Leader: Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered.

People: It keeps no record of wrongs.

Leader: It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

People: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Leader: God is love.

All: God's love never fails.

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN** *"They'll know We Are Christians by Our Love"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion and mercy, You sent us Your Son as the Savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as You loved us. Yet, we have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves. We often don't like those we think are dirty, hungry, lost or undesirable. It's written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we're afraid. Afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love the way You command us to love. Open our hearts so that they might receive Your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the good news is this: love is from God, and we are loved by God. God sent Christ into the world to atone for our sins, and in Him we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE** *"Gloria Patri"*

INVITATION TO CHILDREN (*Jesus Loves the Little Children*)
CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN** "Love Lifted Me" #221 SS

OFFERING OF OUR TIME, OUR TREASURES, OUR VERY SELVES

**We Give Thee But Thine Own* #351 UCC

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, as we offer these gifts, let them be an expression of our love and dedication to You. May the motives behind our giving be rooted in love for You and our fellow beings. AMEN.

PRAYER of INTERCESSION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Luke 7:36-50

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE "Now That's Love!"

***HYMN** "I Love To Tell the Story" #215 SS

***DISMISSAL**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Guest Speaker Darrell Thompson

Due to sidewalk construction, Women's Fellowship has canceled the carry-in, program, and meeting originally scheduled for this coming Wednesday, September 2.

The September-October Upper Rooms are now available in the entryway of the church.

Blessing Health, the Health Department, and the United Way of Adams County are conducting the 2027 Community Survey. They request all who live or work in Adams County take and share the survey to help gauge community needs. The survey is available at www.unitedwayadamsco.org/communitysurvey

The annual Friends of Unit 4 Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Adams County Fairgrounds. The event raises funds for activities in Unit 4 schools. See the bulletin strip for more information.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Sept. Women's Fellowship: CANCELED (was Wed., Sept. 2)
- Resume 9 a.m. Sunday School: Sunday, September 13, 9 a.m.
- Men's Event: Sunday, November 8, 6 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 9:30 a.m.

Randy Roskamp is greeter today, Marian Bland next week. Thanks to the greeter, Darrell, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

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