

August 20, 2023 at 9:00 AM  
Worship Series: Road Trip  
Message: Headed Home  
UMH – United Methodist Hymnal  
TFWS – The Faith We Sing  
\*Stand in body or in spirit

Cantor: Karen Ingle

Prelude *Wayfaring Stranger* Henry McCarthy

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Music Ministry Moment Amy McCarthy

\*Call to Worship Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: God's love is lavished upon us forever.**

Pastor: For once we were lost,

**People: we felt so far away;**

Pastor: now we have been found.

**People: We are welcomed home.**

\*Hymn *We Gather Together* UMH 131

\*Opening Prayer Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of the lost, the least,  
and all who long for home,  
when we wander from Your ways  
and waste the gifts You have given us,  
welcome us back, we pray,  
so that we may celebrate and rejoice  
in Your presence forever;  
through Jesus Christ Your beloved Son. AMEN.**

Blessing of the Backpacks Linda Biscardo and Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Loving God,  
we offer our backpacks  
as a sign of our thanks  
for all You will do  
with us and for us  
this school year!

Bless these backpacks  
as they go with us  
as we learn and grow  
Let them be a reminder  
that You are as close to us  
as the backpacks on our backs  
always and forever.  
AMEN.

#### Praying for our Teachers and School Staff

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Gracious God,  
We pray teachers, school staff, and administrators in our schools.  
Sustain them through this school year,  
equip them with all the resources and tools that they need.  
With Your Spirit, equip and energize them to serve.  
Protect them and give them good health throughout the year.  
Help us to support their call to teaching and learning  
and surround them with love and care.  
We pray for our schools and classrooms  
that they may be safe places for children and youth to learn and grow.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, who we seek to follow day by day. AMEN.

#### Prayers of People

Sarah Chambers

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.

#### Offering

*Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord*

Treble Group

#### \*Doxology

UMH 95

#### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Peggy Brown

#### \*Hymn

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

UMH 348

**Message**

*Headed Home*

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**\*Hymn**

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

UMH 344

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Postlude**

*Peace Like a River*

Henry McCarthy