

September 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM  
Worship Series: Power of Words  
Message: Words of Hope  
World Suicide Prevention Day  
UMH – United Methodist Hymnal  
TFWS – The Faith We Sing  
\*Stand in body or in spirit

Prelude *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* June Shuffett

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Mission Moment Rise Against Hunger Suzanne Ackley

\*Call to Worship Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: God our Creator, You give breath to each person You made.  
You treasure the gifts of each unique person.  
But when life becomes a burden rather than a gift,

**People: God of Life, Hold us.**

Pastor: When darkness strangles the will to live, when days become endless nights,

**People: God of Light, shine on us.**

Pastor: When no one seems to understand, when we walk and wait alone,

**People: God of love, embrace us with Your presence.**

**Where there is despair, bring hope;  
where there is shame, give value and worth;  
where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment;  
where there is suffering in mind and body, bring healing.  
God of hope, hear our prayers. AMEN.**

\*Hymn *My Hope is Built* UMH 368

\*Opening Prayer Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**People: Hope-Giving God,  
We gather in Your presence  
to offer You thanksgiving and praise  
for all You have done for us.  
May Your Holy Spirit inspire our  
praise and our prayers.  
Open our hearts and minds  
to Your presence among us and within us,  
and to the Word You have for us today. AMEN.**

Children's Moment Linda Biscardo

A Prayer for Suicide Prevention Zach Chambers & Jordan R. Biscardo

Leader: Holy God, we open our hearts to You this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

Leader: The fear that stifles us.

**People: Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: The prejudice that blinds us.

**People: Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: The ignorance that hobbles us.

**People: Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: The doubt that plagues us.

**People: Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Prayers of People**

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**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.**

<b>Offering</b>	<i>Bless This House</i>	Franconia Musica
<b>*Doxology</b>		UMH 95
<b>*Prayer of Thanksgiving</b>		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
<b>New Testament Reading</b>	Romans 8:1, 18, 35-39	Sandy Ross
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>O, God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	UMH 117
<b>Message</b>	<i>Words of Hope</i>	Sarah Chambers
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	UMH 384
<b>*Benediction</b>		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller & Sarah Chambers
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>My Jesus, I Love Thee</i>	June Shuffett