



FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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August 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM – Contemporary Service
Worship Series: Sacred Earth, Sacred Work
Message: Healing Relationships

Contemporary Order of Worship
August 9, 2026
Worship Series: Sacred Earth, Sacred Work

Gathering

Open Up the Heavens
Walk By Faith

Praise Band

Welcome/Announcements

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Centering Moment

Pastor: God is good!

People: All the time!

Pastor: And all the time!

People: God is good!

Pastor: Today we gather, remembering that we do not live alone. God has woven us into a sacred web of relationships with one another, with the earth, and with every living thing. The food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the communities we cherish are gifts sustained through this holy interconnectedness. Yet we also know that creation hangs in the balance when we forget our connection to one another. Too often, fear, indifference, and self-interest have caused harm to God's earth and to our neighbors. But God's love calls us to another way: In the words of 1 John, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." When we love, we reflect the very nature of God. When we care for one another and for creation, we participate in God's work of healing and renewal. (acolyte comes in) Now, as the Light of Christ comes among us, I invite you to turn toward the center and welcome the light. As we turn, may we remember that God's perfect love binds us together with all creation and calls us into lives in relationship with one another. Christ our Light, shine within us and through us, that we may love as you have loved us, care for the earth entrusted to our keeping, and work for the healing and flourishing of all creation. Amen.

Centering Song

God of Wonders

Praise Band

Pastor: Let us pray

People: Creator God,

You are the source of all life and the love that binds us to one another and to all creation. Where relationships are broken, bring healing. Where trust has been lost, plant seeds of reconciliation. Where fear and division have taken root, help us choose compassion, understanding, and love. As we worship today, renew our hearts and strengthen our commitment to care for one another and for the earth You have entrusted to us. May Your healing love flow through us, so that all creation may flourish. In the name of Christ, who teaches us to love because You first loved us. AMEN

Children's Moment

Kim Cimino

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.**

Offering Song

Unity Hymn

Praise Band

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Gospel Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Lisa Dickinson

(Please read the bolded parts as they appear.)

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and **knows God**. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because **God is love**. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent God's only Son into the world so that **we can live through him**. In this is love, not that we

loved God but that **God loved us and sent his Son** to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us. This is how we know **we remain in God, and God remains in us**, because God has given us a measure of the Spirit. We have seen and testify that God has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, **God remains in us, and we remain in God**. We have known and have **believed the love that God has for us**.

God is love, and those who remain in love **remain in God, and God remains in them**. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, **but perfect love drives out fear**, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates a sibling, they are a liar, because the person who doesn't love a sibling who can be seen can't love God, who can't be seen. This commandment we have from him: **Those who claim to love God ought to love their siblings also**.

Message

Healing Relationships

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Breakthrough Prayer

God, guide Franconia United Methodist Church to become a community of Christ's love, where Your grace abounds and all people know that they are loved, respected for their diversity, grow in faith, and reflect Jesus by actively sharing their God-given gifts. AMEN.

*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Closing Song

Brother

Praise Band

*Franconia United Methodist Church believes that everyone is a child of God.
We welcome all people to worship, join in membership, serve in lay leadership,
and actively participate in the life of the church.*

*We welcome and affirm all persons without regard to gender, gender identity, race,
sexual orientation, faith tradition, age, marital status, family structure,
economic background, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or life experience.*

We commit to extend Christ's hospitality, creating a place of safety and sanctuary for all people.

*We recognize there are differences among us and although we may not think or look alike,
we commit to respect and love one another as we are all the family of God.*

*We further commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and community,
providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception,
fostering a sense of belonging where people are respected and valued as beloved children of God.*

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