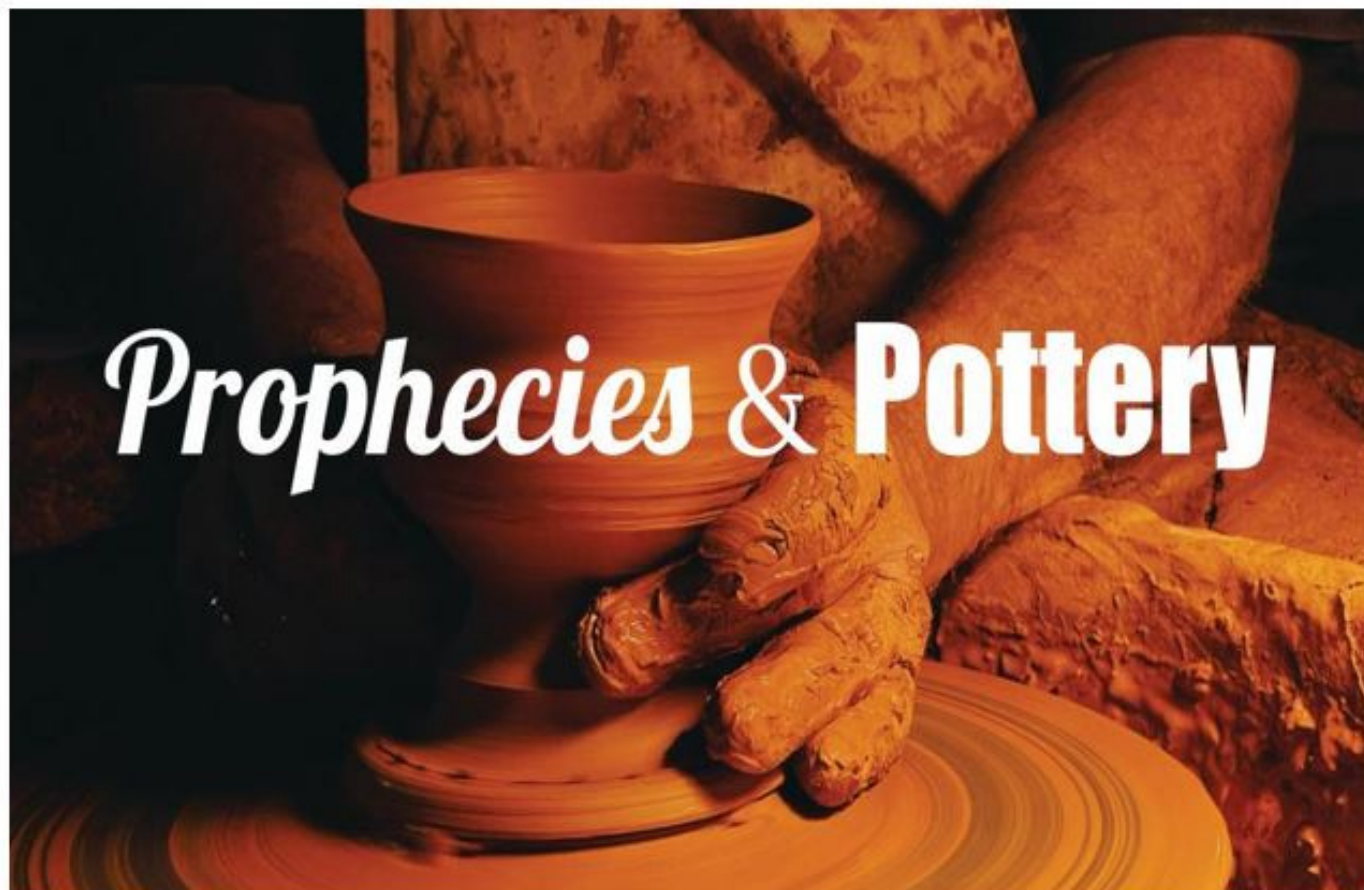




FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6037 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310 | 703-971-5151 | www.franconiaumc.org



Prophecies & **Pottery**

September 13, 2026 9:00 AM – Traditional Service

Worship Series: Prophecies and Pottery

Suicide Prevention Sunday

Message: Shards: Still My People

Traditional Order of Worship
September 13, 2026
Worship Series: Prophecies and Pottery

Prelude	<i>I Surrender All</i>	June Shuffett
Welcome/Announcements		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
Mission Moment		Sarah Chambers

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: Sometimes life leaves us feeling shattered, like pottery broken into a thousand pieces.

People: We bring our broken pieces here.

Pastor: Sometimes the darkness feels so complete that we cannot see a way forward.

People: We come trusting that God is still with us.

Pastor: Even in the wasteland, God does not abandon us.

People: We are still God's people.

Pastor: And we do not have to carry our brokenness alone.

People We belong to one another.

Pastor: So, let us make room for grief, for hope, for questions, and for healing.

People: Let us listen. Let us stay. Let us remind one another that no one is alone.

*Hymn	<i>My Hope is Built</i>	UMH #368
*Opening Prayer		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of the broken places,
 We come to You with all our scattered pieces.
 When life feels like a wasteland,
 When the darkness feels endless,
 remind us that we are not alone.
 You are still with us.
 You still call us Your people.
 And we still belong to one another.
 Teach us to sit with those who are hurting,
 not trying to fix their brokenness,
 but willing to sit among the shards with them.
 Help us share the comfort we have received from Youth.
 so that those who are struggling may know
 they do not have to carry their pain alone.
 God of all comfort, hold us in our brokenness
 and make us a place of hope for one another. AMEN.

Children's Moment

Kim Cimino

Prayer Song

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me,
fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

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:

You Do Not Walk Alone

Ensemble

*Doxology

UMH #95

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow!
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! AMEN**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 4:22-28

Virginia Newman

"My people are fools; they do not know me.
 They are senseless children; they have no understanding.
 They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."
 I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty;
 and at the heavens, and their light was gone.
 I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying.
 I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away.
 I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins
 before the Lord, before his fierce anger.
 This is what the Lord says: "The whole land will be ruined,
 though I will not destroy it completely. Therefore, the earth will mourn
 and the heavens above grow dark, Because I have spoken and will not relent,
 I have decided and will not turn back."

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Virginia Newman

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies
 and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we
 may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation
 with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

*Hymn

Abide With Me (Verses 1,3,4)

UMH #700

Message

Shards: Still My People

Sarah Chambers

Prayer Litany

See Screen

Pastor: God of all comfort, we come before you carrying things we do not always know how to |
 name.

Leader: Some of us are grieving. Some are exhausted. Some are hurting in ways no one else can see.

Pastor: Some have wondered whether anyone would notice if they disappeared.

Leader: Some have wondered whether there is enough hope left to keep going.

Pastor: And some of us know this pain because we have loved someone who could no longer bear it.

Congregation:
We are still your people.
We belong to one another.
And you are still with us.

Leader: God, when our lives feel shattered like pottery scattered across the floor, meet us among the shards.

Pastor: When the darkness feels complete, remind us that darkness is not the same as abandonment.

Leader: When we cannot see a way forward, give us courage for the next breath, the next moment, the next step.

Pastor: And when we cannot find that courage for ourselves, help us lean on one another.

Congregation:
We are still your people.
We belong to one another.
And you are still with us.

Pastor: God, make us people who listen without judgment.

Leader: Give us courage to ask the difficult questions and compassion to stay when the answers are difficult to hear.

Pastor: Teach us not to rush to fix another person's brokenness.

Leader: Teach us instead to sit among the shards with them, reminding them that they do not have to face the darkness alone.

Congregation:
We are still your people.
We belong to one another.
And you are still with us.

Leader: God of all comfort, we remember those whose lives have been lost.

Pastor: Hold their loved ones in the ache of grief, the questions without answers, and the moments when absence feels unbearable.

Leader: Remind us that their grief does not have to be carried in silence.

Pastor: And remind us that every life is worthy of being remembered, every story worthy of being heard, and every person worthy of love.

Congregation:

We are still your people.

We belong to one another.

And you are still with us.

Pastor: God, help us become people who notice.

Leader: People who reach out.

Pastor: People who listen.

Leader: People who stay.

Pastor: When someone is hurting, make us willing to sit beside them in the brokenness.

Leader: And when we are the ones who are hurting, give us the courage to let someone sit beside us.

Congregation:

We are still your people.

We belong to one another.

And you are still with us.

Pastor: God of all comfort, gather our scattered pieces.

Leader: Hold us when we are fragile.

Pastor: Stay with us when the road is dark.

Leader: And teach us to be your presence for one another.

All:

We are still your people.

We belong to one another.

And you are still with us. AMEN.

*Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH #140

*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

God Will Take Care of You

June Shuffett



*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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