

**SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Rev. Karen Sorden  
Sunday, July 28, 2024**

**Prelude**

**Greeting**

**\*Call to Worship (congregation in bold)**

As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor and say to each other, "Welcome! I am glad you are here!"

**Welcome! I am glad you are here!**

Now, turn to another neighbor and say to each other, "You are loved by God and by me!"

**You are loved by God and by me!**

Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

**By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.**

Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

**By practicing our love for one another and God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

Let us worship God together today!

**We come to worship God by living our love for God and neighbor face-to-face. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn      "Maker, in Whom We Live"      pg. 88**

**\*Unison Opening Prayer**

**Holy God, we come together to worship, a people who would like to think that we love you with all our hearts and souls, with all our mind, but there are so many other things in our lives that clamor for our attention that we often relegate you to Sundays and times when we want you to rescue us. Most of us really do want you to be the one in whom we live and move and have our being. We really do want to hear your voice above all of the other voices in our lives. But we get bogged down in the daily routine. We forget who we are. We forget who you are. We forget what the church is supposed to be. So here we are, standing before you today, with our human foibles and our short attention spans, asking that you**

**would make yourself known to us, that you would help us to recognize the presence of the Holy, that you would continue to challenge us, inspire us, and make us into the people you want us to be. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (congregation in bold)**

Jesus told us to love God with all our heart,

**But we often love our jobs, our homes, and our own possessions more than we love God.**

Jesus told us to love God with all our soul,

**But we often put more soul into our hobbies than into expressing our love of God.**

Jesus told us to love God with all our mind,

**But we seldom study the Bible as much as we study our bankbooks.**

Jesus also told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves,  
**But we spend hours meeting our wants and needs and minutes finding excuses for not taking care of others. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to remember and obey your commands. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**A Moment For Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness (congregation in bold)**

Jesus gave us commands so that we would know how to live. But Jesus also died so that we could be forgiven when we fail to live up to those commands. We are commanded and forgiven because we are loved.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon    "Unrelenting Grace – Our Connection to Each Other"  
Matthew 22:34-40 and Acts 2:42-47**

**\*Hymn Of Response    "Jesus, United by Thy Grace"    pg. 561**

## Ministry of Prayer

### Offering our Tithes and Gifts to God

\*Doxology "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" pg. 95

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

With what you see before us, God, we demonstrate our deepest love. Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before you. May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us.  
**Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn                      "Jesu, Jesu"                      pg. 432

\*Benediction (congregation in bold)

Go to celebrate the God who is our home forever.

**God's love goes with us!**

Go to follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor.

**God's love goes with us!**

Go with the Holy Spirit to change the world with love.

**God's love goes with us!**

\*Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

Accompanist: Megan Schihl

### Announcements

**Please check the bulletin board for more announcements**

*Ladies monthly lunch gathering is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Every Month in Fellowship Hall at noon. Bring your own lunch and a friend for good fellowship! **Next Gathering on Tuesday August 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon.***

Pastor Karen Sorden

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Office Hours at Cadillac UMC: Monday-Thursday, 9:30am - 1:00 pm.

Sabbath Day: Friday