

Pastor Laura Thompson: PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org
Pastor Elias Ballev: PastorElias@swansboroumc.org
Worship Leader: Lindsay Williams: Music@swansboroumc.org
Piano & Organ: Terri Boykin



“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”



By Rev. Dr. Hedy Hall-Collver

September 6, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:25 a.m. Worship



A Stephen Minister provides confidential support, encouragement, listening, and prayer to those going through a difficult time. Contact: SUMC office, website, or Laurie NardoKunst: 910-934-5457.

665 W Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910 326-4822
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8:30 Worship

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

*Call to Worship

We know what time it is.

It is time to wake from our sleep!

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

The night is far gone, the day is near!

Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name,

God is here among us.

Let us worship God together.

*Opening Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" UMH #62

*Opening Prayer

God of freedom and abundant life, You have called Your people together and made us Your own. Awaken us to Your presence among us. Teach us to love one another, to seek peace when relationships are strained, and to practice the grace we proclaim. Free us from all that keeps us from loving You and our neighbors well. Form us into a people who are attentive, courageous, and ready—ready to follow where You lead, ready to leave behind what cannot give life, ready to join You in the work of love. Gather us now in worship, and make us more fully Your people. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

*Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:15-20 Bobbi Edge

SwanKids Worship

All kids are welcome to follow our staff to the Ministry Center (Bldg.3) for SwanKids Worship during the sermon. They will return for communion with their families.

Congregational Sharing: Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Anthem "If You Search With All Your Heart" Choir

OT Lesson Exodus 12:1-14

Sermon "Rehearsing Freedom:" Rev. Laura Thompson
"Rejecting Egypt, Practicing Another Way"



RESPONSE

Invitation to the Table

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will; we have broken Your law; we have rebelled against Your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen

*Passing the Peace

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory Song "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*Doxology UMH #95

*The Great Thanksgiving TFWS #2257

Giving of the Bread and Cup

All are invited to the table of the Lord. We serve by intinction or by using prepackaged gluten-free elements. Those unable to come forward may raise their hand, and a pastor will bring communion to you.

After receiving, you may kneel for prayer and/or go to one of our prayer stations to receive anointing and prayer from one of our lay Stephen ministers. Offerings left at the altar rail go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, used to assist those in need.

Communion Song "Behold the Lamb" Choir

Prayer after the Meal

SENDING

*Hymn "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence" FWS #2234

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude "Guide My Feet" FWS #2208

"Guide my feet while I run this race. (Yes, my Lord!) Guide my feet while I run this race. (Yes, my Lord!) Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain)

**Please stand as you are able.*

