

WATSEKA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 5, 2025**

Thought for our gathering: We gather as people who know what it means to be hungry—for hope, for healing, for love that lasts. The good news is this: in Christ, God has reconciled us, healed our brokenness, and made us new. His love doesn't stop with us—it compels us to shine, to carry His light into places still shadowed by despair. Today, as we worship, may we not only receive God's healing love but also be lit up with it, so that a starving world may taste and see the goodness of God.

Prelude

**Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry
Introit**

***Hymn** "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" #2151
TFWS

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, beloved of God—Christ's love compels us, for He died and was raised to bring us life.

People: We were once far from God, but through Christ we have been reconciled. Now we shine with His healing love.

Leader: In Christ, we are made new—the old has gone, the new has come!

People: The world is starving for hope, but we are lit up with love, called to be Christ's ambassadors of healing and peace.

All: Let us worship the God who saves, who makes us whole, and who sends us out to shine His love into the world.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You lit up with Your love, grateful that while we were still broken and far away, Christ died and rose to bring us near. You have reconciled us, healed us, and made us new creations. Now send Your Spirit among us in this time of worship. Satisfy our hunger for Your presence, heal the wounds we carry, and set our hearts ablaze with Your love, so we may go into the world as ambassadors of hope and peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Children's Message "Jesus Loves Me" #191 vs. 1

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Special Music during Offertory Chancel Choir

***Offering** "Doxology" #95

***Offertory Prayer: God of reconciliation and new creation, You have healed us through the love of Christ and called us to be ambassadors**

of hope. As we bring these gifts, we pray they would shine Your light into a world starving for healing. Use our offerings, our lives, and our love to build bridges, mend what is broken, and draw others into the joy of being made new in You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***Hymn** "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" #2158

Scripture Romans 5:9-11 NLT &
2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17-20 NIV

Message "Lit Up With Love: Healing"
-Pastor Ashley Clifton

***Preparation** "One Bread, One Body" 620
Refrain Only

Sacrament of Holy Communion UMH pg. 13

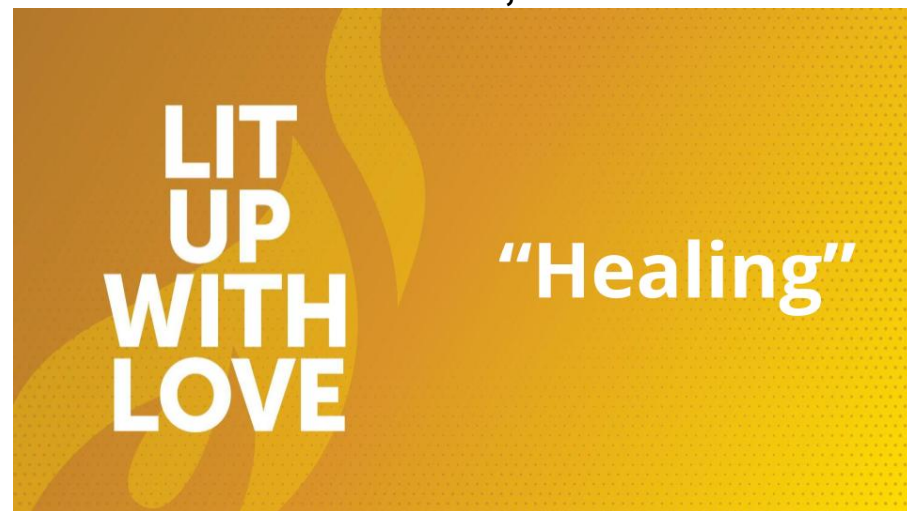
Prayer after Receiving: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Hymn** "My Hope Is Built" #368

***Sending Forth/Benediction**
Postlude

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Contact us:

Facebook @ Cissna Park United Methodist Church

YouTube: "Cissna Park United Methodist Church"

Facebook @ First United Methodist Church Watseka

YouTube: "First UMC Watseka"

Office Hours by appointment

Ashley's cell: 708.204.4238

Ashley's Sabbath Day is Friday

Romans 5:9-11 NLT

9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

2 Corinthians 5:15-15, 17-20 NIV

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

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Opportunities for Ministry

Watseka UMC:

- Bells Rehearsal: October 8 & 15 @ 6:00 pm
- Charge Conference: today @ 2:00 pm at Rantoul UMC. Please let Pastor Ashley know if you're coming
- Thanksgiving Bags are coming! October 9 @ 6:00 pm we will set up the basement and we will pack following worship on October 12! Please mark your calendars to help make this happen :) If you'd like to sponsor a bag, they are \$11.00.
- Holy Stitchers meeting: October 21 @ 7:00 pm

-Be sure to "Like", "Subscribe" and "Ring the notification bell" on our **Youtube channel "First UMC Watseka"**. That way when we post something you will be notified as soon as it happens. Follow us on **Facebook @ "First United Methodist Church Watseka"**

-You can make online donations through our church website:

Online Giving: <https://www.watsekaumc.org/online-giving>

Cissna Park UMC:

- 1st & 3rd Fridays: Craft Night at CPUMC-6:30 pm
- 2nd and 4th Fridays: Euchre Night at CPUMC-6:30 pm
- Halloween is coming next month! If you'd like to donate candy for the Halloween event, please bring it to the church between now and October 26.

THANK YOU

The fall rummage sale was a success thanks to the people who helped, those who brought items, and the shoppers who came! The benefits of a sale are several: it helps church and community members recycle items; it is an opportunity for people to find clothing and household good at reasonable prices; it helps with funding UWF and church mission projects; and it is a church outreach opportunity to enjoy working together on a project that benefits others.

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