

Banning United Methodist Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

CENTERING WORDS

Jesus, open our hearts to receive your word this day, and then to live it out in the days ahead.
Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you.

If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myrle Petty

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Myrle Petty

L: Are you ready to worship?

P: We believe that we are.

L: Put away all those cares and worries that keep you from hearing God's word.

P: The world's cares and worries have been put aside so that we may be truly ready.

L: The Lord comes to you this day.

P: Thanks be to God for God's abiding presence and promise. AMEN.

†OPENING HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

UMH #127

OPENING PRAYER

Myrle Petty

Through the week of stress and demands, we come to You this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to Your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Please help us to be open to the many ways in which You have called to us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to You. AMEN.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Myrle Petty

Amos 5:18-24 NRSV

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NRSV

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Remain Firm"

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Pastor Doug

Children in Prayer

(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Myrle Petty

OFFERTORY

Cathy Mauge

†DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Myrle Petty

Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from Your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to You. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for You in this world that You have loaned to us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

†CLOSING HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

UMH #368

†BENEDICTION

Pastor Doug