

# The Word

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THE LORD IS MY  
STRENGTH  
AND MY  
SONG;  
HE HAS BECOME  
MY SALVATION.  
PSALM 118:14, ESV

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## An Introduction from Our New Pastor

Dear Beloved Members of the United Ministry of Delhi,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As I prepare to begin my ministry among you on July 1st, my heart is filled with profound gratitude, joy, and hopeful anticipation. I consider it a great blessing and privilege to serve as your new local pastor and to be invited into the sacred life of this wonderful church community.

Although I had long known that there was a place called Delhi in the United States — a name that echoes the capital city of my home country, India — I never imagined that I would one day be appointed to serve here. And now, as I prepare to move to this beautiful part of the world, I find myself affectionately learning to call it "Delhai," adapting myself joyfully to its culture and life. My learning begins here, and I am excited to grow alongside each of you.

My journey to this appointment has been both humbling and deeply enriching. In 2022, I came to the United States to pursue my theological studies at the Boston University School of Theology. These past three years have been transformative, as I completed my academic work and received my licensing as a local pastor. Leaving behind familiar surroundings, stepping into a new culture, and forming relationships with people of diverse backgrounds and stories—all of this has been an extraordinary gift from God, for which I am deeply grateful. I never cease to marvel at how God's providence leads us to places and people beyond our imagination.

My call to ministry was a long-pending and unrealized task before I joined the Boston University School of Theology. Although I came from a family of pastors and my mother wanted me to pursue ministry, I was unable to fulfill my personal ambitions or familial legacy due to the hardships I faced in my younger days, both economically and otherwise. Before answering God's call to ministry, I served for 35 years as an Associate Professor of Philosophy at The American College in Madurai, India, where I specialized in epistemology and completed my doctoral research. I believe the knowledge, insights, and experiences gained during those years will find new meaning and application in my ministry among you, as we study God's Word, seek wisdom, and grow in faith together.

God has graciously blessed me with a loving family that has stood by me throughout this journey. My wife, Sujatha, who recently joined me here after resigning from her job in India, will be with me in Delhi, NY. Our daughter lives with her family in San Jose, California, and has blessed us with a precious granddaughter, Gia, who is now 18 months old. Adding to my joy is the presence of my son, Varun Immanuel, who is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in quantum physics at SUNY Albany. He will live with us in Delhi this year and commute to Albany twice weekly.



*Pastor Prem with his daughter, Mona (L), his wife, Sujatha holding granddaughter Gia, and son Varun.*

As we prepare for our move, I am deeply touched by the incredible outpouring of support and generosity from the United Ministry of Delhi. A dedicated team, led by Barbara Jones and Pastor Catherine Schuyler, Susan Ackerly, Fran Ackerly, Deb Kearney, the SPRC members, and many others, has worked tirelessly to make our transition smooth and welcoming. I am sincerely grateful to all who have donated furniture, kitchenware, and countless other items to prepare the parsonage for our arrival. Your kindness has already made us feel at home even before we set foot in Delhi.

I am especially looking forward to meeting each of you during our first worship service—a gathering around the Lord’s Table, where we will celebrate Holy Communion. There could be no better way to begin our journey together than at Christ’s table, where all are welcome, and where grace, love, and unity abound. I am

eager to build relationships that transcend all barriers, share in the church's life, and participate in its various ministries and activities with joy and humility.

As I join this congregation, I come not as one who has arrived but as one who desires to grow with you, share the love of Christ joyfully, and work together toward building a beloved community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued. I am humbled by this church's rich legacy, and I pledge to honor and uphold it while trusting that God will continue to lead us into a fruitful future for the sake of God's Kingdom.

I step into this role with a sense of awe and reverence, confident that God, who has called me, will equip me for this sacred work. It is my prayer that, together, we may grow in faith, love, and service, and that our ministry will bear witness to the goodness of our Lord.

I look forward to seeing you all in the first week of July. Until then, may the grace and peace of Christ be with each of you.

With joy and gratitude,

**Premkumar Immanuel Clement**



*Sujatha holding  
granddaughter Gia,  
Pastor Prem Mona , and  
son-in-law Jaiwant*

## Summary of Parish Council's June 2025 Meeting

The June meeting of Parish Council opened with Pastor Cathy sharing a text from Leviticus 19. She very much appreciated the welcome and love that this church shared with her and Rick during their time here in Delhi

For the Topic of the Month, we received an update about saying goodbye to Pastor Cathy and welcoming Pastor Prem. Barb said that SPR and many others are hard at work. There will be a celebration after church on Sunday 6/22 to say farewell to Cathy and Rick. Many have been helping them with their packing. Karen Monk has been very helpful answering questions as we prepare for Pastor Prem. She will be going on leave in a week for a couple of months. A workday is scheduled at the parsonage for June 25<sup>th</sup> to move furniture etc. to the house. Trustees will also be there working on things Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Prem and family will arrive on Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> and his first Sunday preaching will be July 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have a welcoming coffee hour.

Susan Frisbee reviewed the May treasurer's report and said everything is tracking normally except pledged giving which is a little behind.

Finance committee reported that the Treasurer's report will have additional lines to track under the Pastor's compensation report to keep things track able and separate for the new pastor. Carol recapped the payroll situation that occurred with Play School in May and the discussion that took place at Finance Committee. It was reported that there is enough money for the June and July payroll. There was significant discussion about what is needed for a budget for playschool to make payroll through the upcoming year ahead. Finance suggests that if the church must cover playschool payroll for more than a month due to insufficient funds available, then Playschool will need to close for the rest of the year. The motion was approved by the council. Barb Jones shared a solar company that we may be able to use to get cheaper electric through NYSEG. Trustees will investigate this.

Gideon reported that Trustees met and are continuing to work on issues at the parsonage and the work that needs to be done during the transition period. This includes master bedroom floor replacement, appliance repairs/replacement and screen door repair. There will be multiple walkthroughs of the parsonage prior to

Cathy moving out. The lapel mic is now working in the sanctuary. The Bell Tower clock has been repaired by Robert Dee for \$200. Trustees are moving \$15,000 from the New Covenant Investments to the Money Market account for future budget use.

Pastor Cathy shared that Janine Ware preached on May 25<sup>th</sup> and Greg Garis preached on June 8<sup>th</sup> while Cathy was away at Annual Conference. Bible study will meet one last time this Thursday. Cathy reported she hosted a picnic for the Women's Open Circle and it was great. Ann is our commissioner for the Presbytery. We will worship in Walton at the Presbyterian Church on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The local Presbyterian cluster hosted a nice farewell party for Cathy. 50-60 people were present for Shannon and Corrine's love celebration and it was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Food Pantry continues to be busy. At the moment food continues to be received from Delaware Opportunities. There was a food giveaway on June 7<sup>th</sup> and that was successful. There is concern about the loss of funding for local food banks and how it will affect our food pantry. Carol circulated an article via email about cuts in federal funding. We are already seeing the impact of this with the lack of fresh produce that they usually can acquire. Food pantry already has had 19 families come in during the month of June. This may necessitate the need to adjust how we do our food giveaways in the future to make sure we can financially keep our shelves full.

#### Other Business:

Carol shared a thank you note the church received for allowing the hosting of a recent baby shower. They were very complimentary of Deb, her communications, and the facility.

Cathy shared a card sent by the First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego.

Greg Garis is looking into getting us easier (cheaper) access for us to use the Presbyterian hymnal in our live stream online worship.

Cathy also shared that we will need to figure out a way to do kids club differently next year as there are only 2 kids slated to be in it

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact me or any member of the council.

Carol Greene

## 50th Anniversary Steering Committee Update

Thanks to everyone who has already submitted a 50th Anniversary contact sheet. If you have not done so there's still time to help the committee to develop a database of family, friends and community members who might like to celebrate our anniversary with us. Be sure to get your papers back to either the office or Chelsea. Lost your paper? There are lots more on the table by the bulletins.

On July 4th, the United Ministry would like to be present at Fair on the Square and reach out to community members and people who are home visiting Delhi that might have been involved in the United Ministry or impacted by our church. So far a couple of us on the committee are signed up but we'd love to have others join us. We could use some cookies to hand out to people passing by. Anyone willing to bake please sign up. We might even be able to introduce our new Pastor Prem to our community.



Pastor Prem's first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 6th. Come out and meet him and welcome him to United Ministry. There will be a Coffee Hour in his honor right after the service.

**WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!**

## Food Mission

I am beginning to feel like Old Mother Hubbard from the nursery rhyme! For example this month I wanted to get peas and corn but Hamden didn't have any so I am getting green beans and collards. I did go in the \$ store and basically wiped them out of peas and corn as they never have many of anything on their shelves. I do have vegetable and also tomato soup with Chicken noodle coming from Hamden on Monday but I also picked up cream of chicken, cream of mushroom and broccoli cheese soup at the \$ store where it is only \$1 a can. I also got some white rice and instant mashed potatoes. Gone are the days of only shopping for perishables.

Twice a month the regional food bank has a shop the lot where pantries can come and get produce. Pattie and I went over the 1st Friday of June and all we could get was 2 cases of very green bananas (luckily they appear to be ripening slowly). We went on Thursday and they didn't have any produce for us. Since I had been in contact with a woman from Chobani we were able to get a case of shelf stable milk and 3 cases of yogurt. The last 2 years we were able to get some items from CSA 607 Wholesale but this year I haven't heard anything about them having items we can purchase.

We continue to do what we can but anything and everything is greatly appreciated. I realize everyone is dealing with higher food prices but I wanted to let you know what is happening at the pantry. Please keep us in mind when you are shopping and take advantage of sales and BOGO items.

Wishing everyone a good summer - together with God's help we will get through this!

Edie

## Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle held their annual picnic on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. It was again held at the Parsonage and was well attended! Rick manned the grill and cooked up some tasty sausage and brats. The weather was great and we were able to be comfortably outside. Cathy and Rick provided rolls, condiments, drinks, along with the brats and everything else was pot-luck. We had everything from broccoli salad to cookies & cake for desserts. Somewhere between 15 and 20 women

attended this popular annual event, but we really missed Charlotte Hill, who was unable to be with us that day.

The Women's Open Circle generally meets on the second Thursday of each month, September through June, (weather permitting in winter months). Watch for announcements in the end of August and the September issue of *The Word* for our next meeting in September.

## Play School Update June 2025

Happy Summer Everyone!

Play School will be busy this summer with the two Fair on the Square Events planned! Our first event is Friday, July 11th from 5-8 pm. Summer Reading for Kids. Come check out our variety of new and slightly used book selections. Take home a book or books and let the adventures begin! Our second event is Friday, July 18th from 5-8 pm. Raffle Baskets are back! Come check out our selection of Raffle Baskets and enter to win. Many to choose from! We'll also have a Mystery Quilt being raffled off. All baskets will be raffled off at the Fair on the Square event with the quilt raffle at the Harvest Fest. Don't miss a chance to own one of these beautiful quilts crafted by Eloise Henault! Hope to see you there! Play School: Growing Strong Together.

Update: there was an error with the banner going up in mid-June. Keep watching, it should be up across Main Street soon!!

I'm still working on student registrations for the new 2025-26 school year. Right now there are 9 verbal confirmations, just waiting on the paperwork.

For August our plan is to be gearing up for the new School Year and plans to host additional events throughout the remainder of this year.

Many Blessings!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam

**Pamela Savage, Program Director**

[Play School](#) | [United Ministry of Delhi](#)



*Mystery Quilt crafted by Eloise Henault. Buy your raffle tickets on 7/11 & 18<sup>th</sup> and at the Harvest Fest in September!*



**NOW ACCEPTING 2025-2026 REGISTRATIONS!**

# **PLAY SCHOOL**

**GROWING STRONG TOGETHER SINCE 1968**

**AGES 2 - 6 YEARS**



Play School was amazing for my son! They did **everything you could imagine** in just three hours a day; field trips, playtime, snack, amongst all of the educational activities that took place. **I could not recommend Play School enough.**

Isabella M. as seen on Facebook

**Contact Us**

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## Farewell

On Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrated our last worship service with Pastor Cathy. It was a beautiful bittersweet service. We've always enjoyed the joyful services that Cathy put together, but knowing that this was the last was sad. Chair of Council, Carol Greene, and Chair of Trustees offered some final words to Cathy and presented her with gifts from the congregation.

Eloise Henault created one of her message quilts for Cathy and presented it to her during the service. The message was a line from the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story". Then the congregation sang verses 2 and 4 of that hymn.



At the end of the service Cathy returned symbols of ministry to the congregation and the Litany to Say Good-bye released the congregation from turning to her and depending upon her so that we might now turn to our new Pastor.

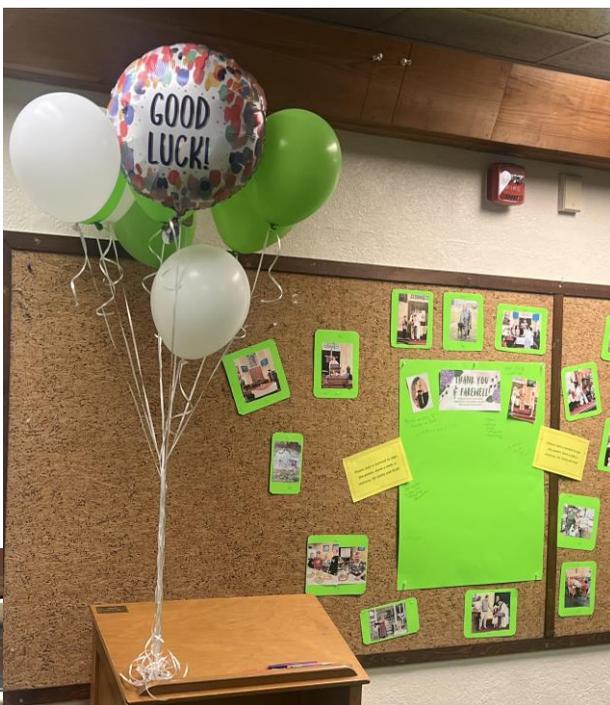
At the Postlude, the Chancel Choir sang *Wherever You May Go* to Pastor Cathy and Rick.

The service was followed by a luncheon reception in McIntosh Hall where we were able to sign a poster with good wishes for Cathy and Rick as they move on to Cathy's next position and their next shared adventure.



*Carol Greene and Gideon Frisbee hold up the quilt while Eloise Henault explains how to decipher the message in the quilt.*

*Right: A poster surrounded by pictures of Pastor Cathy's time in Delhi was placed on the bulletin board for people to leave farewell notes and wishes for Cathy & Rick.*



*Below: Lunch and Fellowship one last time with Pastor Cathy & Rick.*





## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF/PASTOR/ PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It has been a very busy few weeks as our congregation has bid farewell to Pastor Cathy and Rick, and has prepared to welcome Pastor Prem, Sujatha and their son Varun.

First, we'd like to thank all who helped Cathy and Rick move out by helping to pack up the office. (Susan Ackerly), packing up the house (Ann Peet, Sandy Reynolds, Ruth Kazmierski, Carol Greene, Jim and Cindie Smart and other friends) making deliveries to the Kirk Thrift Shop (Ruth Kazmierski), repairing furniture before the move (Jeff Ackerly), making trips to the storage unit (Jeff Ackerly) and for providing a trailer for storage (Jeff and Susan Ackerly).

Cathy's final worship service was meaningful for all who attended thanks to the thoughtful presentations and the beautiful quilt created so lovingly by Eloise Henault. The choir's farewell music was beautiful thanks to Pat Nabinger's leadership and each of the choir members. It was a joyous and bittersweet celebration- it was wonderful to see such great attendance from members and friends. We are truly grateful to all of the members who generously donated to Cathy's farewell gift. The gift included a Delhi mug and local coffee for our "Pastor with Coffee" as well as a generous cash gift to help Cathy and Rick as they embark on their next adventure.

The farewell reception was very successful thanks to all who pitched in! Carol Greene and Charl Cash were the "hostesses with the mostest" yet again who took great care to make the event a very special one. Thank you to each of you who prepared salads and baked delicious cookies and desserts. There were many complements! And finally, we would like to especially thank Will Frisbee for his generous support of the festivities.

With Cathy and Rick's departure, we entered a new phase as we prepared for Pastor Prem and his family's arrival. Our SPPR team

of Susan Ackerly, Ron Frisbee, Katie Palm, Ann Peet and Sandy Russell have truly risen to this challenge!

We would like to offer a hearty thanks to all of the individuals who kindly took a housewarming tag created by Katie and her daughters Madison and Olivia Vredenburg. These starter items will help Prem and Sujatha and their son Varun

settle in to their new home. We are sure they will appreciate the beautiful dishes generously provided by Don Haight. Beth Hildreth provided important financial support for this endeavor which enabled Carol Greene to shop for some much needed new items to fill in the gaps. As a daughter of missionaries, Beth is very empathetic to Prem and his family's situation after moving here from India.

We are extremely grateful for the very generous furniture donations that United Ministry received from Elaine Burt, Ron and Susan Frisbee, Joe Greenfield and Ruth Kazmierski and to the team that moved all of the furniture: Jeff Ackerly, Ron Frisbee, Marcus Johnson, and John Sandman. Our movers were supported at the house by Susan Ackerly, Gideon Frisbee, Carol Greene, Sandy Russell and Ruth Vredenburg.

We never could have gotten everything ready without the above and beyond efforts from our church staff members Kendra Cardillo and Fran Ackerly. What work ethics these two possess! They are the absolute best as is Deb Kearney who has assisted in countless ways and will continue to do so throughout this transition period.

Our trusty Trustees Jeff Ackerly, Gideon Frisbee and Chris Savage held a work day and tackled many projects inside and outside the parsonage. They did a fantastic job painting, power washing, plumbing, pruning, mowing and trimming!

As they say, it truly takes a Village at times like these, and our United Ministry Village has truly stepped up in countless ways- large and small.

Thank you! \*

Barb Jones, SPPR Chair

\*There is always a risk of leaving someone out when thanking people individually. But I felt it was very important to try to do so. Please forgive me if I overlooked you- and if I did- please let me know.

## It Takes a Village



*Jeff Ackerly is a Trustee jack of all trades who worked all week preparing the parsonage for Pastor Prem and family!*



*Right: Ron Frisbee and John Sandman unloading a trailer of furniture at the parsonage*

*Susan Ackerly helping with one of the many tasks she undertook to prepare the parsonage for Pastor Prem and family*



*Below: Sandy Russell, Ruth Vredenburg and Ann Peet cleaning windows at the parsonage with a smile!*





*Marcus Johnson and Ron Frisbee hard at work moving donated furniture into the parsonage*



*Gideon Frisbee painting - one of the many tasks he completed at the parsonage over the week!*



*Chris Savage sprucing up the parsonage grounds!*

*Carol Greene washing windows and taking care of many last finishing touches at the parsonage.*



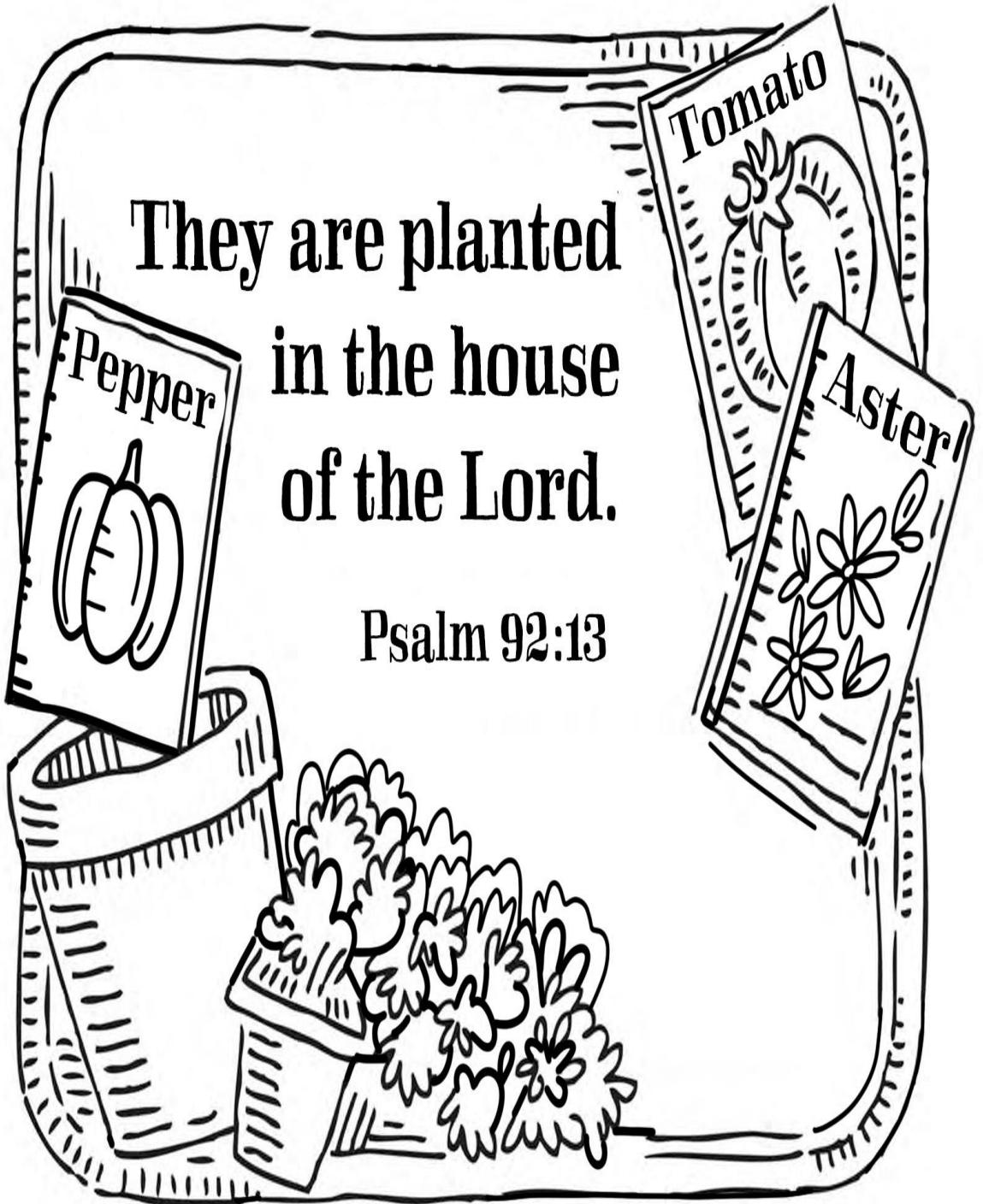


*Ruth Kazmierski doing some dusting in the Pastor's church office!*



They are planted  
in the house  
of the Lord.

Psalm 92:13





Meredith McCann	7/01	Kurt Apthorpe	7/19
Martha Fisher	7/03	Barb Sturdevant	7/22
Sarah Ackerly	7/05	Dan Teitelbaum	7/23
Amber Gardner	7/06	Rowan Walsh	7/25
Catherine Gardner	7/08	Chelsea Johnson	7/27
Don Trelease	7/09	Diane Oles	7/27
Margaret Small	7/11	Barb Jones	7/28
Lane Ackerly	7/12	John Haight	7/30
Anna Tessier	7/15	Darlene Dutko	7/31



Kiera Moyse	8/6	Chris Hillis	8/20
Christina Gardner	8/13	Edie Campbell	8/27
Dru Chatterton	8/16	Ann Peet	8/27
Stephanie McCann	8/17	Ed Nichols	8/28
Jim Jacksto	8/19		

## Coffee Hour Hosts/Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.



Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

### Coffee Hour

- July 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 20 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 27 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 31 \_\_\_\_\_

### Flowers

- July 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 20 \_\_\_\_\_
- July 27 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 31 \_\_\_\_\_

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

## Lectors

- July 6 *Fred Onasch*
- July 13 *Ann Peet*
- July 20 *Evelyn Jacksto*
- July 27 \_\_\_\_\_

- Aug 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Aug 31 \_\_\_\_\_

## Word and Worship

Sunday, July 6

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30

Galatians 6:1-16;

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 13

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14;

Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 20

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28;

Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 27

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, August 3

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm

107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11;

Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 10

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20;

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;

Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2;

Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke

13:10-17

Sunday, August 31

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13;

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16;

Luke 14:1, 7-14

### **Summer Worship, Summer Joy**

Even in the relaxed pace of summer, God is at work! Our Sunday services continue to be a source of joy and encouragement—join us each week for inspiring worship and meaningful community.

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