# Golden Hill United Methodist Church
## Worship, Meditation & Praise
## Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
## October 11, 2026

*We welcome you to our in-person worship in our sanctuary. Thanks to technology, the full sanctuary is now included in the filming and broadcasting of our service! We are thankful that you have chosen to be part of our visible gathered faith family on this day.*

**Online or in the Sanctuary, We are the Body of Christ.**
**Let us Worship God together beginning with the Gathering Music at 10:25 a.m.**

***The mission of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church,***
***a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community,***
***is to serve Christ in the city and the world***
***through members who are ambassadors for Christ.***

***You are invited to rise in body or spirit**
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Blue Book)
FWS = Faith We Sing (Black Book) W&S = Worship and Song (Green Book)

**CCLI # 2254377**

**Prelude**

**Welcome** Sonya Green

**Announcements & Acknowledgement of Visitors** Daniel Mpoyo

**Mission Minute** Geri Floyd & Daniel Mpoyo

**Opening Prayer-** Sonya Green

God, we come into Your presence
with praise and thanksgiving for Your faithful love.
Your love never fails—not even when we turn away from You:
when we ignore Your invitation,
or desert You for gods of our own making.
Even then, You do not abandon us,
but reach out—again and again—
inviting us back into relationship once more.

As You welcome us, so You welcome our prayers.
We bring them to You with confidence,
knowing that You will hear and answer.

We pray for the world You created and the people who share it with us:
- for countries caught up in war or violent conflict,
- for those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disaster;
For these and all the other areas in our world where there is need and despair,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country and for its people:
- for our government leaders, federal and local,
- for our judicial system, police forces, and military,
- for our cities, towns, and rural communities,
- for employers and employees, for young and old,
For all who are part of this great country,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our local community—the people of this city/town,
- for those who are unemployed,
- for those in prison
- for those who are hungry,
- for those who are alone and afraid,
For all our neighbors, both known and unknown to us,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation—our siblings in Christ,
- for those who are ill or whose loved ones are ill,
- for those who are anxious about the future,
- for those struggling with their faith,
- for those who minister among us,
For all Your people in this place,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pour out Your Spirit on us!
Fix our hearts and minds on what is true and honorable and right.
Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing Your will.
Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord,
extending Your loving invitation to the world around us.
In Jesus' name. **Amen**.

**Moment of Centering** "I Surrender All"

***Call to Worship-** Daniel Mpoyo & Robin McLaughlin
Leader: Beloved, God's never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.
**People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!**
Leader: God's always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.
**People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!**

Leader: God's persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God's mercy and justice wherever we go.
**People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!**
Leader: May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.
**People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!**

***Opening Hymn UMH #61** "Come, Thou Almighty King"

**Prayer of Confession-** Robin McLaughlin
God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way.
God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all.
Therefore,
I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another.
Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire
or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession*.
When we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice,
or failed to extend the invitation to others,

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*
When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy
or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Praise be to God, our sins are forgiven.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
**Praise God!**

**Moments of Grace**

**Pastoral Prayer** Sonya Green

**Lord's Prayer**

**Passing of Peace**

**Offering** Daniel Mpoyo

*Four ways you can give:*

1) *Place your offering into one of the offering plates*
2) *Mail your offering to Golden Hill UMC – 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604*
3) *Drop your offering off Tues-Thursday between the hours of 9:30am-12:00pm*
4) *Online: Golden Hill E-Giving Link*

**Offertory** "Are Ye Able"

***Doxology UMH #95**

***Offertory Prayer-** Sonya Green

Steadfast Joy, when "always" feels larger than our capacity, you remain near. In gratitude, we bring these gifts, signs of love learned from you. Quiet our anxious hearts and turn our attention toward what is true, honorable, and worthy of praise. Shape us into a people whose generosity is gentleness made visible, whose offerings declare we are on the side of our neighbors. Receive what we place in your hands and let it become courage, welcome, and hope. Guard us with your peace as we press on in Christ. Amen.

## Scripture Lessons

**Old Testament Reading** Exodus 32: 1-14 Robin McLaughlin

***Gospel Lesson** Matthew 22: 1-14 Daniel Mpoyo

**Ministry Music** "Love Lifted Me"

**Sermon** Sonya Green

***Closing Hymn UMH #374** "Standing on the Promises"

***Benediction** Sonya Green

Beloved, as you go from this place, may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding surround you, centering your minds on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise and empowering you to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

**Postlude** "My Lord, What a Morning" Reginald Roberts

**The Worship Has Ended: Our Service Begins**

## THIS WEEK AT GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Worship, Meditation & Praise**
**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**
**October 11, 2026**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**
**Our Vision Statement:**
**"We are called to connect all people with Jesus in loving, faithful, and authentic relationships"**

**Online Worship Information**

**Zoom Webinar Link and Log-In Information**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87318253668?pwd=ZElIS1lhTnVIaUg3NDJ6cGJhUUxZdz09

**Webinar ID: 873 1825 3668**
**Passcode: 210**
**Phone Dial In: (646) 931-3860**

**YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenHillWorship/streams.

# ~Grace Notes~

**Worship Attendance for last Sunday's Service, October 4th: 67**

October 3rd: Covenant Group 10:30: 7
October 4th: Adult Bible Study: 6
October 4th: In-Person Attendance: 62
October 4th: Online Attendance: 5
October 6th: Prayer Meeting: 2
October 7th: Community Supper: 81

## Worship Resource for October 11th - Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost:

***Opening Prayer -*** *Adapted from Christine Longhurst, posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayers-of-people-october-9-2011.html.*

***Call to Worship -*** *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.*

***Prayer of Confession*** *- From Standing in the Gap, written by Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, pastor at Lake Avenue United Church of Christ, Elyria, OH, and posted on the United Church of Christ website. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/confession-of-sin-proper-23a.html.*

***Benediction -*** *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.*

## Lectionary Scriptures for the Week of 10/11/26:

*Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9 ; *Matthew 22:1-14

***Used in Order of Worship**

## This Sunday at Golden Hill

**10:30 A.M.** Worship Experience ~ Sanctuary

**Hospitality Team:** Becki Anderson, Phil Philbrick, Joe Sokolovic

**Fellowship Time Host:**

**Sanctuary Liturgists:** Daniel Mpoyo & Robin McLaughlin

**Interim Musician**: Reginald Roberts

**Tech Team:** Tyrone Lewis, Diana Moore, Ariana Morales, Melissa Paul

**Drummer**: Ryan Sands

**Pastor's Office Hours** - Rev. Jeremiah Paul will be available for meetings:
• Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
• Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please note: These are designated hours of availability, but appointments must be scheduled in advance.

**Church Conference** –Our Joint Church Conference will be held at Fairfield Grace UMC on **October 17 at 10:00 AM.** This annual Parish gathering is an important time for us to celebrate our ministries, report on our work, and look ahead to the coming year.

This is the season when our committees complete the annual forms and reports required for our ministry review. It is an opportunity to celebrate our best practices and highlight the faithful ministry your committee has carried out throughout the year. **All annual reports are due by October 10.** Email as a PDF to pastorj@goldenhill.org and the church office at office@goldenhill.org.

Please urge your committee members to be present and to represent Golden Hill UMC at the joint Church Conference. Your leadership and participation help strengthen our shared mission and ensure that our voice is fully present in the life of the Cooperative Parish and the wider Conference.

Thank you for your commitment and faithful service.
Blessings,
Rev. Jeremiah Paul
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**Weekenders**

Thanks so much for your help in providing 24 bags of food each weekend for students who are food insecure. While the school year has finished, we will be starting up the distributions again in the fall. If you would like to purchase items for fall, please make sure the expiration dates are at least good through October. The items we could use to replenish the cabinets for fall are the following: juice boxes, canned pasta, individual cold cereal, cereal bars, condensed soup, individual pasta, individual applesauce, individual fruit cups canned chicken, full size peanut butter, tuna foil packages, ramen noodles and Vienna sausages.

**Community Supper – Coffee & Volunteers**

Looking for a way to volunteer for the soup kitchen at Golden Hill? There is an opening for a captain on the first Wednesday of the month. Being a captain means being at the soup kitchen from 2pm until service is completed and the kitchen is cleaned up, generally this means staying until 6:30-7. You would be in charge of cooking the meal for generally around 50-75 people, supervising the volunteers who come to help with the meal preparation, making sure the meal is in "to go" containers by 5 pm and that there is someone in charge of handing out the meals at the door, and making sure any leftover food is properly stored and the kitchen is cleaned before leaving. If you are interested or have further questions, please contact either Phyllis Machledt at 203-526-6449 or pmachledt@gmail.com or Becki Anderson at 203-506-8885 or andersongregorio@aol.com.

Do you have any new or used but clean tea towels Community Suppers volunteers could use for cleanup and drying dishes? We don't care about the color! Please leave donations in the kitchen. Also, we need a volunteer to sharpen our knives and have an electric knife sharpener. This can be done any time the church is open. If you can help, please contact Phyllis Machledt at pmachledt@gmail.com.
Thank you for your support.

**Coffee Hour Host**

A host is needed for coffee hour the 2nd Sunday each month. If you are available, please notify Pam Hoffman. pambhoffman@yahoo.com

## THIS WEEK's HAPPENINGS

**Tuesday, 10/13 – 6:00 PM Weekly Prayer Meeting - ZOOM**
**Saturday, 10/17 – 10:00 AM Charge Conference – Fairfield Grace**

## Meetings that happen weekly at Golden Hill UMC

**Every Sun.** 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday Bible Study is held in the Parlor (Unless in Summer Hours)

**Every Monday thru Friday – Daily Inspiration**
***You are invited to join us daily at 7:30 a.m. and 12 noon to listen to a brief devotional message, scripture reading and prayer from the Upper Room series.***
Call from any phone (605) 475-4756; listen for the instructions to enter the Access Code: 899169 and then the pound # sign. To ensure a clear audio experience for everyone, please put your phone on mute. If you do not have a mute feature, please call from a quiet location with no background noise like pets, TV or people talking.

**Every Tues.** 6:00 p.m. Virtual Prayer Meeting

**Every Wed**. 5:00 p.m. Community Supper (Take Out)
6-9 p.m. Boy Scouts & Girls Troop 38 in Locke Hall & Library

**Covenant Group:** Continues to meet regularly; please consider joining the group to explore and develop your spirituality. We realize that no one can attend a session every week, but if you can commit to 2 or 3 sessions per month, you and the other members of the group will benefit from your participation.

Saturdays 10:30 a.m. (Church Library) Leader Pam Hoffman

**Last Week's Service can be found in date order at :**
https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenHillWorship/pastlivestreams.

**GOLDEN HILL PARISH STAFF E-Mail:**
**The Reverend Jeremiah J. Paul, Senior Pastor – PastorJ@goldenhill.org**
**Administrative Assistant – Office@goldenhill.org**
**Lawrence Sistrunk, Sexton Sexton@goldenhill.org**

**Office hours: Tuesday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm**
**Wednesday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm**
**Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm**

**Office Phone: (203) 336-0152**