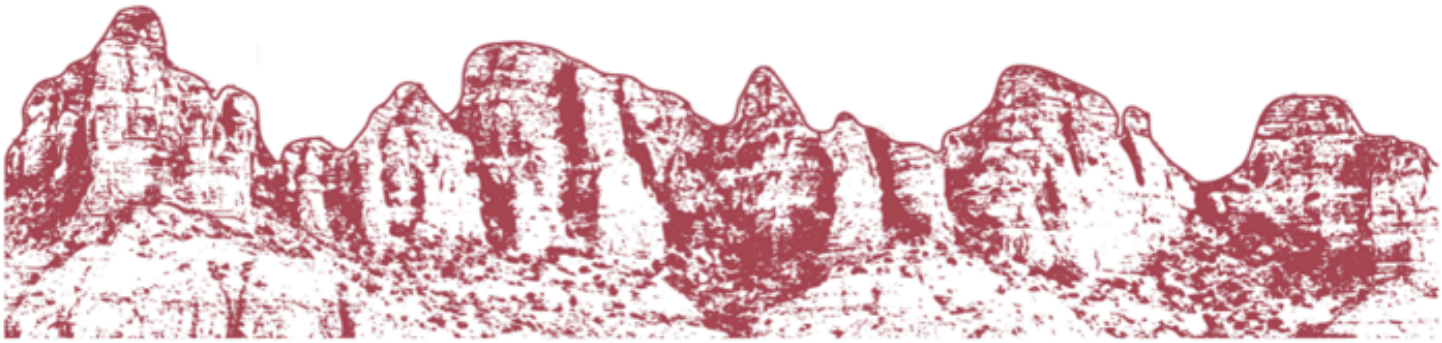

Church of the Red Rocks

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Hope Lives Here

September 6, 2026

Communion Sunday

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF SERVICE

"True hospitality is marked by an open response
to the dignity of each person."
- *Kathleen Norris*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whoever you are or wherever you
might be on life's journey.
You are welcome here.

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *"Jesus Loves Me / Clair de Lune"* arr. Fred Bock
Alec Wilkes, piano

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Divine Love is moving among us, calling us beyond the boundaries that divide.

People: May we open our hearts to one another.

Leader: God invites us to see every person as beloved, every voice as worthy, every life as sacred.

People: May we reach toward one another in love.

Leader: The Living Water flows through us and beyond us, carrying compassion, justice, and hope into the world.

People: May Love move through us. Come and see!

*** OPENING HYMN** *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*
No. 489 (vs. 1-4)

*OPENING PRAYER

Beloved, gracious God of boundless and ever-moving Love, open our hearts to recognize your presence in every life we encounter. Let your Living Water flow through us in compassion, courage, justice, and grace, that we may become vessels of your Love wherever you call us. Amen.

ANTHEM *"Living Water"* arr. Mary McDonald
Grace Mason, soloist

SCRIPTURE READING John 4:7–15, 28–30, & 39

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God"*
No. 287 (vs. 1)

SERMON LOVE MOVES

GIFT OF MUSIC *"Love Like This"* Lauren Daigle
Tristen Bara, soloist

INVITATION TO THE WELCOMING TABLE
Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt

One: Friends, this welcoming table stands for a place of redemption and refreshment.

Many: We recognize the Samaritan community well was a place for relief and renewal. It was there, at noon, that a vulnerable woman came to draw water for her family's daily needs.

One: Jesus asked her for a drink, and in that asking, crossed every boundary that was supposed to keep them apart—

Many: boundary of nation, of history, of gender, of who belongs and who does not.

One: In Jesus's request Love moved toward her before she had a chance to say anything or explain anything.

Many: Jesus' thirst was more than just a desire for water from the community well, it was his desire to acquaint her with soul quenching Love.

One: So, at this welcoming table, Come with your thirsting and needs. Come not because you have arrived, but because Love has already moved toward you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One:

On the night before the crucifixion, Jesus took bread, and giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, Jesus lifts the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE

One:

One: Holy One, Wellspring of Living Water, we remember a woman at a well who came expecting nothing more than to draw a day's worth of water, yet she left carrying news too large to keep to herself.

We remember that Love recognized her worth—her story, her Samaritan beliefs, her voice—even before anything was asked of her.

Teach us this same movement: not only to ask what we can do for our neighbor, but to reach toward them, to listen for their story, to receive what they have to give us.

Let this bread and this cup be as Living Water to us—crossing our own boundaries of comfort, prejudice, and fear—so that compassion, justice, advocacy, and inclusion flow out from this welcoming table into every landscape we walk.

Many:

Let it be said of us, as it was said of Christ: Love passed through here.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

One: The bread which we break,
Many: is a sharing in the body of Christ.

One: The cup which we bless,
Many: is a sharing in the life poured out for all.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our communion table is open to all.
Prayerfully approach, as you are able.
Gluten-free bread is available.
If you wish to remain seated,
an usher will take the elements to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Send us now from this welcoming table the way the woman went from the well—
Many: unafraid to speak, unwilling to stay silent about what Love has done.

One: May our homes, our streets, our advocacy, our very lives become the ground where people can say:

Many: Love passed through here. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Laura Ridley, organ

MOMENT OF GIVING

Consider your generous giving as an expression of your faith, and your belief in the importance of the church in today's world. There are baskets in the rear of the church for you to place your offering. You can also make a donation via our QR code below.

* CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"
No. 546 (vs. 1 & 3)

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joyful Recessional" Gary Norian
Alec Wilkes, piano

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LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling	Pastor
Rev. Dr. Sandra Byland	Guest Preacher
Dr. Ryan Holder	Choir Director
Rev. Dr. David Stabenfeldt	Liturgist

To give in a way that is not only simple and safe, but also efficient and cost-effective for the church, please scan the QR code.

To learn more about our church, visit our website at www.churchoftheredrocks.com

To speak with the pastor or lay leader, call the church office at (928) 282 -7963
receptionist@churchoftheredrocks.com

54 Bowstring Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

The Church of the Red Rocks
~ Always know what is happening ~
Summer & Fall of 2026

For more information, visit our website or contact the church office.

Learning Opportunities

- **Bible Study:** Lay-led and interactive. Currently on the Letters of Paul
  Every Thursday at 1:00 pm
- **Let's Get Acquainted Sunday**
  Sunday, September 13 at 10:45am
- **New Member Sunday**
  Sunday, September 20 during service
- **Palestine 101: Led by Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling**
  Thursdays at 1:00pm: September 10, 17, 24
  October 1
- **Women Who Walk with Jesus: Led by Rev. Dr. Sandra Byland**
  Tuesdays at 10:30am: October 6, 13, 20, and 27
- **Near Death Experiences: Led by Mr. Eldon Byland**
  Tuesdays at 10:30am: Nov. 3, 10, and 17

Special Presentations

- **Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Makari**
  Sunday, September 27 at 9:30am
- **Building Bridges - Israel/Palestine Conversation with Dr. Peter Makari and Rabbi Wayne**
  Tuesday, September 29 at 9:00am
  Refreshments at 8:30am

Music and Art Development

- **"The Art of Watercolor Pencils" led by Rev. Dr. Sandra Byland**
  Fridays at 12:00pm: October 9, 16, 23, 30
  November 6, 13

Fun and Meaningful

- **On the Road with CRR…**

  Ice Cream Fellowship
  Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30pm at Dairy Queen in Cottonwood

  Sunday Potluck Lunch
  Sunday, September 13 at 10:45am

Church of the Red Rocks

Weekly Schedule

Week of September 6 - September 13

Sunday
September 6

9:30 am - Worship Service

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Sandra Byland

Monday
September 7

11:00am - AA - Lower Level

Office Closed

Tuesday
September 8

11:00am - Bible Study at SW

1:00pm - Trivia Party
Meeting

Wednesday
September 9

11:00am - AA - Lower Level

12:00pm - AJAX Cleaning

4:00pm - acappella sedona
Rehearsal

6:30pm - Ice Cream
Fellowship

Thursday
September 10

1:00pm - Palestine 101

Friday
September 11

10:30am - Hist. Committee

Saturday
September 12

10:30am - Picasso Club
Lower Level

4:00pm - AJAX Cleaning

Sunday
September 13

9:30 am - Worship Service

10:45am - Potluck Lunch

10:45am - Let's Get
Acquainted

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