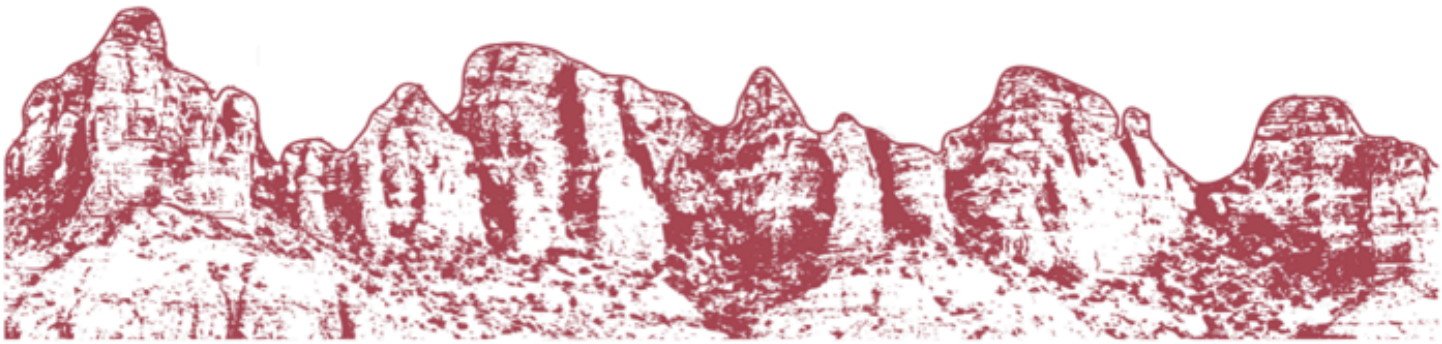

Church of the Red Rocks

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Hope Lives Here

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF SERVICE

Nothing is softer or more flexible than water,
yet nothing can resist it.
~ Lao Tzu

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 *"Redeeming Love"* arr. William Bradsbury
Alec Wilkes, piano
Please refrain from applause

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the beginning, before the mountains rose, your Spirit, O God, moved over the face of the waters.

People: Water was God's first gift to this planet— life cycling through earth, sky, and sea.

Leader: God created a water cycle and a life cycle that are one and the same.

People: We give thanks for the gift of water.

Leader: Moses broke a rock, and a wellspring of water gushed through.

People: We give thanks for the spring that replenishes Oak Creek, a life-giving stream.

Leader: For the many animals, birds and creatures that gather by the flowing stream…

People: We are grateful. It is a blessing full of beauty. Thanks be to God!

* **OPENING HYMN** *"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"*
No.307 (vs. 1-2,4)

* **PASSING OF PEACE**

Peace is a core value of our faith and the outcome of loving our neighbor. As a community of faith, we seek to live in peace with our loved ones, neighbors and other communities. Please turn to those nearest you and extend a gesture of peace by saying,

"The peace of Christ be with you."

GIFT OF MUSIC *"Rock of Ages"* arr. Chris Rice

Nolan Beyersdorf, soloist

Please refrain from applause

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 17:1-16

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION

SERMON Keeping Faith

ANTHEM *"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"*

arr. Mary McDonald

CRR Chancel Choir

RECOGNITION OF INTERNS Betty Morgan

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** *"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

No. 18 (vs. 1-3)

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *"Go Down Moses (with Wade in the Water)"*

arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome Dr. Peter Makari, Ph. D.

For the last 26 years Dr. Makari has served as the Global Relations Minister for the Middle East and Europe with the United Church of Christ Global Ministries Board. He serves on the National Council of Churches' Interreligious Convening Table and has been an active participant in national interfaith dialogue initiatives.

He has earned an M.A. in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo (1993) and a Ph.D. in Politics and Middle East Studies from New York University (2003) and is the author of *Conflict and Cooperation: Christian-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Egypt* (Syracuse University Press, 2007).

Leading today's worship service

Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling	Pastor
Dr. Ryan Holder	Choir Director
Rev. Dr. Sandra Byland	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.

Church of the Red Rocks
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 ~
Fall of 2026

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

Learning Opportunities

- **Bible Study:** Lay-led and interactive – (on hold)
  Every Thursday at 1:00 pm
- **Bible Study at Sedona Winds Independent Living:** Lay-led and interactive
  Every Tuesday at 11:00 pm
- **Palestine 101: Led by Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling**
  Thursdays at 1:00pm: 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**
  Today, September 27 at 9:30am
- **Building Bridges - Israel/Palestine – An Interfaith Dialogue**
  Dr. Peter Makari and Rabbi Wayne – special guests
  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

- **Book Club every first Friday of the month**
  "The Future is Peace" - October 2 at 10:30am
- **What's in Your Hands These Days?**
  Bring your craft projects every Friday of the month BUT not on the first

Phone: (928) 282-7963
www.churchoftheredrocks.com

Church of the Red Rocks

Weekly Schedule

Week of September 27 - October 4

Sunday
September 27

9:30 am - Worship Service

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Peter Makari

Monday
September 28

11:00am - AA - Lower Level

11:30am - Peace Team Meeting

Tuesday
September 29

9:00am - Building Bridges Interfaith Dialogue

11:00am - Bible Study at SW

2:00pm - Election Protection Training

Wednesday
September 30

11:00am - AA - Lower Level

12:00pm - AJAX Cleaning

4:00pm - acappella sedona Rehearsal

Thursday
October 1

1:00pm - Palestine 101

3:30pm - Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday
October 2

10:30am -Historian Committee

10:30am - Book Club

3:00pm - PEO Party

4:30pm - Private Memorial

Saturday
October 3

10:30am - Picasso Club Lower Level

4:00pm - AJAX Cleaning

Sunday
October 4

9:30 am - Worship Service

World Communion Sunday

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