Order of Service August 3, 2025 8th Sunday after Pentecost "Nehemiah's Mission: Rebuilding God's Kingdom Together"

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Rick Music Team: Erica's Regular Team

Welcome to Worship!

We're so glad you're here! If you're visiting today, stop by the **Welcome Table** in the narthex to pick up a gift bag and learn more about our programs. After the service, grab a coffee and enjoy some conversation.

If your child needs a quieter spot during the service, feel free to use the **narthex near the fireplace**, where quiet toys are available.

If you are **baptized in a Christian church**, you are welcome to come forward for **communion**. Children who have completed communion instruction are also welcome to participate. If your child is not receiving communion, you're encouraged to bring them forward for a **blessing**. Please have them **cross their arms over their chest** to indicate they would like a blessing.

If you would like **personal prayer**, our prayer team is available in the narthex either **before or after communion**. Individual prayer is also available **following the service**.

Please note: Today's service, including **Children's Time**, is being **live streamed and recorded** for St. Peter's YouTube channel. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, seating is available toward the back of the sanctuary.

PRELUDE HYMN: As for Me and My House

Choose you this day whom you will serve: The kingdom of heaven or the powers of earth. Has He not spoken? Have you not heard? There is but one true God.

The God of our fathers set us free. His Son paid the price for our covenant peace. Through generations His mercy speaks. We trust in one true God.

Chorus

As for me and my house, we will serve, serve the Lord. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God.

This house is the Lord's and all within. May it be pleasing and holy to Him. Joined by His Spirit, His people sing: "Great is the one true God. Oh, great is the living God!"

Chorus

Praise the Father! Praise the Son! Praise the Spirit now in us! Let every heart and every tongue praise the one true God *Chorus (2x)*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

OPENING HYMN: The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **Chorus**

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Chorus*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O, may I then in Him be found; Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *Chorus*

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WELCOMING

OPENING PRAYER

All: Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we welcome Your presence among us today. We set apart this time for You alone. May You be honored in every word spoken, every song sung, every prayer lifted, and every truth received from Your Word. Draw our hearts near and renew our spirits as we worship. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus, to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open All desires known, from You no secrets are hid Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the power of your Spirit That we love and magnify your name

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P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection]

P: Most merciful God...

All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: and also with you.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x) Christe eleison, Christ have mercy (2x) Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x) Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

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GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! We praise you! We bless you! We worship you! We glorify you! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY: 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ALL: Lord God, You call us to listen as Nehemiah did, to hear Your heart for Your people. Give us wisdom to discern Your vision and courage to mobilize others in faithful service. Strengthen us to rebuild what is broken, and lead us by Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHILDREN'S STORY - Pastor Rick

CHILDREN'S SONG: The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock

The wise man built his house upon the Rock (3x)
And the rains came tumbling down
The rains came down and the floods came up (3x)
And the house on the rock stood firm

The foolish man built his house upon the sand (3x) And the rains came tumbling down
The rains came down and the floods came up (3x)
And the house on the sand went splat

So, build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ (3x)
And His blessings will come down
His blessings will come down as the prayers go up (3x)
So, build your life on the Lord

CCLI Song # 7076462 | Megan Hamilton | Shelly Hamilton | © 2015 Majesty Music, Inc.

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 1:1-11 NIV

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." 4When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

PSALM: 56 NIV

- ¹Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot pursuit; all day long they press their attack.
- ² My adversaries pursue me all day long; in their pride many are attacking me.
- ³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
- ⁴ In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?
- ⁵ All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin.
- ⁶ They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life.
- ⁷Because of their wickedness do not^[C] let them escape; in your anger, God, bring the nations down.
- ⁸ Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record?
- ⁹ Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me.
- ¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise—
- ¹¹ in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?
- ¹² I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you.
- ¹³ For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-22 NIV

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. ¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." ²¹ So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go, shall we go? (2x) You have the words of eternal life, O Lord (2x) Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go Shall we go, shall we go?

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GOSPEL: Matthew 7:24-27 NIV

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

PRE-SERMON HYMN: O Church Arise

O Church, arise, and put your armour on; Hear the call of Christ our Captain. For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the strength that God has given. With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies. An army bold, whose battle cry is Love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor; And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valour. When faced with trials on every side, we know the outcome is secure. And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen. And as the stone is rolled away and Christ emerges from the grave, This victory march continues till the day every eye and heart shall see Him.

So, Spirit come, put strength in every stride, give grace for every hurdle; That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful. As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace, We hear their calls and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in glory.

CCLI Song # 4611992 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend | © 2005 Thankyou Music Ltd

SERMON: Pastor Rick - NEHEMIAH

OFFERTORY HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a stronghold never failing Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing For still our ancient foe conspires to work us woe His craft and power are great and armed with bitter hate On earth is not his equal

If we in our own strength confide, our striving will be losing Unless God's Man is on our side, the Man of God's own choosing You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He! The Lord of Hosts His name, from age to age the same And He must win the battle

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us We will not fear for God has willed His truth to triumph through us The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him His rage we can endure for, lo, his doom is sure God's Word shall overthrow him

That Word above all earthly powers is evermore abiding
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Jesus with us siding
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill, God's truth is with us still
His kingdom is forever

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you.

All: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your Goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: It is right to give him thanks and praise

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of you glory (repeat)
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of you glory

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION (LBW p. 110)

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world (3x)
Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us and grant us, grant us peace.

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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONGS MEDLEY:

HYMN: Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest. And without You, I fall apart; You're the one that guides my heart.

Chorus

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; ev'ry hour I need You. My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me
Chorus

CCLI Song # 5925687 | Christy Nockels | Daniel Carson | Jesse Reeves | Kristian Stanfill | Matt Maher © 2011 sixsteps Music; Sweater Weather Music; Thankyou Music Ltd; Valley Of Songs Music; worshiptogether.com songs

HYMN: Just as I Am

Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy Blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot To Thee Whose Blood can cleanse each spot O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am though tossed about with many a conflict many a doubt Fightings and fears within without O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

CCLI Song # 23206 | Charlotte Elliott | William Batchelder Bradbury | © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

HYMN: Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today! Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

[To Thee Whose Blood can cleanse each spot O Lamb of God I come, I come]

HYMN: Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us; how high the mountain I could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your name into the night. Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness tore through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken; I am forgiven; the King of kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ my living hope.

Chorus

Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me! You have broken every chain! There's salvation in Your name! Jesus Christ my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise: Your buried body began to breathe. Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion declared, "The grave has no claim on me!" (REPEAT)

Jesus Yours is the victory **Chorus**

CCLI Song # 7106807 | Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham | @ 2017 Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs; Sing My Songs; Bethel Music Publishing

BLESSING

COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS - SEE BELOW

CLOSING HYMN: Facing a Task Unfinished (Tune: Aurelia)

Facing a task unfinished, that drives us to our knees.
A need that, undiminished rebukes, our slothful ease.
We, who rejoice to know Thee renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee to go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway; Where forces that defied Thee, defy Thee still today. With none to heed their crying for life, and love and light. Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night.

Chorus

We go to all the world, with (His) kingdom hope unfurled. No other name has power to save but Jesus Christ, The Lord. We bear the torch that, flaming, fell from the hands of those Who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose. Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours; Fired by the same ambition, to Thee we yield our powers.

Chorus

We go to all the world, with (His) kingdom hope unfurled. No other name has power to save but Jesus Christ, The Lord.

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired, Saviour, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired. From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake! Forth on Thine errands send us to labour for Thy sake. *Chorus (2x)*

CCLI Song # 7002026
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THE SENDING

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. All: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT ST. PETER'S

Summer is here, and as many Worship Servants take holidays, we'll use printed bulletins and serve "simplified coffee" hosted by our Church Council — a relaxed way to connect.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY – HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ST. PETER'S!

As we prepare to call our next senior pastor, we invite everyone actively involved in our faith community to take a short, anonymous survey. Your input will help us reflect on who we are and where God is leading us. The survey will be open **August 3–24**.

How to Take the Survey: SEE – Your Care & Info Email for Details

In Person Help: Available in The Gateway after worship on August 10, 17, and 24.

Who Should Participate?

Everyone actively involved in our faith community - please complete one survey per person.

Survey Results Reveal: Sunday, September 7 – Join us downstairs after worship to hear what we've learned and celebrate the next steps!

If you would like to speak with any of our committee members feel free to reach out to them for further conversations: Fred, Mel, Elaine, George, Gary, and Fred.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT — NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALKS ARE UNDERWAY!

Our Summer Prayer Walks kicked off July 1, and God is already on the move! Stories of hope, connection, and answered prayer are beginning to unfold — and we want YOU to be a part of it.

Grab a few friends, pick a time that works this week, and take a quiet walk through your neighborhood — eyes open, hearts lifted. Prayer cards are waiting for you at the Welcoming Table to help guide your time.

Don't forget to check your inbox for Monday's devotional email — it's packed with encouragement and prayer prompts to fuel your walk.

And here's a challenge: Ask God to highlight just *one person* nearby — a neighbor, a coworker, someone at the park. Maybe He's already nudging your heart. What if all He's waiting for is *you* to take the first step?

Let's walk. Let's pray. Let's see what God will do.

DIVINE DESIGNS — HEARING GOD'S CALL TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM

This summer we have been exploring what it means to say "yes" to God's call and build something meaningful. In previous sermons we explored **Noah** and **Abram** and today we take a deep dive into **Nehemiah**.

August 10 – **Peter Steps Out: Faith on the Edge**. Will you step out? Or stay in the boat?

August 17– **Paul's Turnaround: From Wreckage to Revival.** What if your worst moment became your launchpad?

If you're interested in receiving a copy of any of Pastor Rick's Sunday sermons, please reach out. While he typically doesn't write out his sermons, he has started doing so in response to requests. Just for this sermon series. He's also including follow-up questions to help you explore the sermon and scripture more deeply in your devotional life.

ANNUAL CHURCH SUMMER BBQ

Join us for our **Annual Summer Church BBQ** at the Schickedanz Ranch on **Thursday, August 28** at 6:00 PM! This is one of the best nights of the summer — a chance to enjoy delicious food, warm fellowship, and meaningful connection with others in our church family. Whether you've been here for years or are just getting to know us, this evening is all about building relationships and having fun together. **Cost is \$10 per individual or \$30 per family**, and it includes everything you need for a great BBQ meal. Just **bring a lawn chair** and your appetite for good food and even better company. **Don't miss it — it's way too much fun!**

FALL PROGRAM & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES – WE'RE PLANNING AHEAD!

As we prepare our fall schedule and calendar, we're excited to hear about the programs and serving opportunities you may be planning for the upcoming season. If you're organizing something this fall, we'd love to include it!

Please send us a brief description of your opportunity, along with your proposed start and end dates, and the specific date(s) and time(s) you're hoping to reserve.

Kindly email the details to Tim in the office at your earliest convenience so we can make sure it fits into the fall calendar. We would like all the information to us by August 15. Looking forward to a full and meaningful season together!

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF BAPTISM THIS FALL

This September, we celebrate the gift of Holy Baptism — where God acts first, claiming us as His own, forgiving our sin, and giving us new life in Christ. Baptism isn't something we do for God — it's something God does for us. Through water and the Word, He welcomes us into His family and begins a lifelong journey of grace.

If you've been baptized, we invite you to share your baptism date with Tim in the office so we can mark these spiritual birthdays in worship and in community throughout the year. It's a chance to remember that your identity is rooted not in what you've done, but in what God has done for you.

If you haven't been baptized — or want to learn more about what baptism means — this is a wonderful time to explore. In baptism, God gives the promise of hope, forgiveness, and a new beginning, grounded not in our feelings or efforts, but in His unchanging Word.

This fall let's rejoice in this means of grace and invite others to discover the comfort, assurance, and joy of baptismal life.

GOOD VIBES MEMORY CHOIR - NOW WELCOMING STUDENTS

One of the *Good Vibes Memory Choirs* will continue this fall at St. Peter's, conducted by Erica Phare-Bergh. Exciting news: the choir is expanding to include an **intergenerational component**!

Do you know any children or teens who might enjoy and benefit from this unique experience? We believe **homeschool students** may find it easiest to participate, as our rehearsals typically take place in the **morning or afternoon** at various locations. If you know students or families who might be interested in this opportunity, please connect Erica at: **goodvibesmemorychoir@gmail.com**

CONFIRMATION THIS FALL

Do you have a son or daughter in 7th grade or older who is ready to go deeper in their faith? This fall, we are excited to launch a Confirmation program and invite families to join this meaningful journey. We are especially looking for a co-teaching team so that a few dedicated individuals can spend time with our teenagers, engage them from their perspective, and build strong relationships as part of the Confirmation program. Cindy Tester and Pastor Rick are partnering to shape this ministry and would love to hear from you.