

SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Rev. Karen Sorden
Sunday, July 21, 2024**

**Prelude
Greeting**

***Call to Worship (congregation in bold)**

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the good news of God's forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the unrelenting grace of God.

Amen!

***Opening Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" pg. 384**

***Unison Opening Prayer**

God of unrelenting grace, the love you have shown us in Jesus is more than we deserve. Your arms are open wide, like a waiting father for his prodigal children, ready to welcome and restore. We come to you thirsting for your living water. Guide us to the streams of your wonder and glory, your justice and righteousness, your grace and mercy, that we may drink and be satisfied, renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst. Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace,

help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

A Moment For Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (congregation in bold)

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace. **God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon "Unrelenting Grace – God's Gift to Us" – Luke 15:11-32

***Hymn Of Response "Amazing Grace" pg. 378**

Ministry of Prayer

Offering our Tithes and Gifts to God

***Doxology "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" pg. 95**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

May we not be like the older brother, O God, grumbling and resentful of your generosity. Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our tithes and gifts this morning that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms. Amen.

***Closing Hymn "Grace Greater than Our Sin" pg. 365**

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

***Please stand as you are able.**

Accompanist: Megan Schihl

Announcements:

Please check the bulletin board for more announcements

If you have events or announcements that need to be added to the bulletin or newsletter, please submit the information to Megan Schihl's mailbox.

South Community

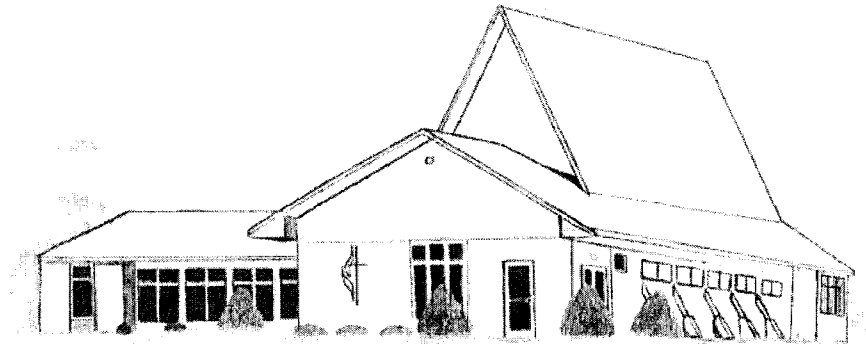


PLATE '04

United Methodist Church

**11800 S 47 Rd.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-3067**

www.scommunityumc.org

Worship: 9:00 a.m.

**Pastor Karen Sorden
Email: ksorden@sbcglobal.net
Cell Phone: (231) 282-0433
Office Phone: (231) 775-5362**

**Office Hours at Cadillac UMC: Monday-Thursday, 9:30a.m.- 1:00p.m.
Sabbath Day: Friday**