

SUNDAY WORSHIP
August 23, 2026
TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST , YEAR A

Ringling of Outdoor Bell @ 10:00 AM **Liturgist: Martha Gentry**

Welcome **Pastor Laura Perez**

Gathering Hymns “This is the Day” UMH #657

Call to Worship

L: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

P: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

L: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?

P: God shows us through the midwives’ daring, Peter’s truth-telling, and Jesus’ humility.

L: In a world where power is held over people’s heads, how does God exercise power?

P: God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

L: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?

All: We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

All: Prayer of Confession

It’s not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ’s gift, which transforms us into God’s children. **It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Liturgist: Passing the Peace: May the peace of Christ be with you

People: **And, with you!** (Please be brief as you pass the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

Children’s Message

Susan Johnson

Liturgist: Prayer before the Offering

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving,

others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen. ([Exodus 1:8-2:10](#), [Matthew 16:13-20](#))

Offertory

Song / Music

Joy Asenas

Doxology:

UMH # 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayers, Concerns and Celebrations of the week

Pastor: The Lord’s Prayer

UMH # 895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Preparation Hymn “Here I am, Lord” UMH # 593

Scripture Readings

Liturgist

Old Testament Isaiah 6 : 1-8

Pastor Laura Perez

New Testament Matthew 28:16-20

Message “Go as He sent Us” **Pastor** Laura Perez

Hymn of Commitment “O Zion, Haste ” UMH # 573

Prayer for Going Forth Liturgist and People: Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. In Jesus' name. Amen. (J. Wesley, England, 18th Century).

Announcements:

August 30th Presentation on Immigrants and Ventura County Agriculture with Potluck following; No Food Share in August.

Blessings to the people

Closing song

May the God of Peace be with you, holding you in strong fingered hands, and may you be an instrument of God's peace, to those whose hands you hold, and may the blessings of peace, be with you, be with you, be with you. ***Please stand as you are able in body or spirit**

Pastor
Liturgist
Greeters
Pianist
Children's Sermon
Adult Education Director
Lay Leader
Videographer
Office Admin
Communion Steward

APPRECIATION TO:

Laura Perez
Martha Gentry
You
Joy Asenas
Susan Johnson
Laura Shaw
Susan Johnson
Eric Nelson
Cristina Mendez
Carolyn Diaz

Upcoming Events

Bible and Book Studies

“Disciple Bible Study”

Will resume in the Fall.

Monday's 10:00 – 12:00 Noon

Laura Shaw Facilitating through ZOOM

“Mere Christianity”

By C.S Lewis

Beginning July 28th

Tuesday's 1:00 – 3:00pm

Laura Shaw Facilitating through ZOOM

Volunteer Spotlight

Today, we shine the spotlight on **Judi Hartshorn**, whose service is a blessing to us, whether it's a greeting with a smile, lending a helping hand or quietly going the extra mile. We thank **Susan Johnson** for her faithfulness in shaping young hearts, the way you continuously show up with a heart ready to serve and make a difference, your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Our Vision

With God's help we will
Foster personal growth,
Promote participation by all ages,
Embrace new ideas, and
Be more visible and engaged in our community.

August Birthdays

19th Heather Nielsen

28th Susan Johnson

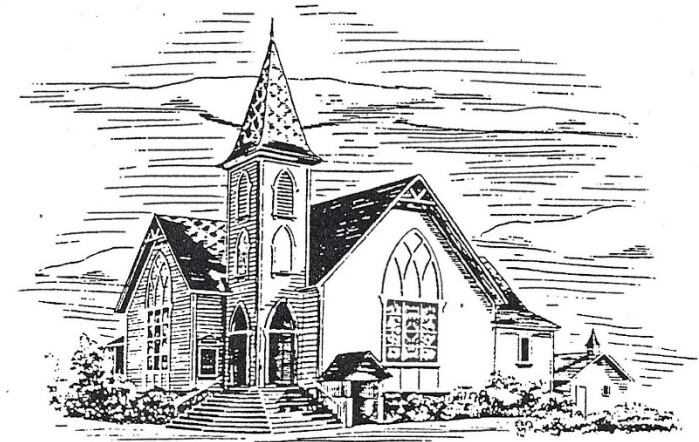
BARDSDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, YEAR A

August 23, 2026

Pastor Laura Perez ~ phone: (562) 257-7816



OPEN HEARTS *OPEN MINDS * OPEN DOORS

Church office Hours

M-F 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

1498 Bardsdale Ave., Fillmore, CA 93015

Office Phone (805) 524-2070

Website: bardsdaleumc.org

Email: office@bardsdaleumc.org

This worship explores the complex theme of power by highlighting unconventional biblical leaders who bravely used their influence to defy oppression and champion truth. Recognizing that power itself is simply a tool, the service will challenge us to examine how we wield our own influence and confess where we fall short. Through focused prayers, hymns, and storytelling, we will come together to seek wisdom and humility to use our power faithfully for God's purposes.

Bishop – Rev. Dr. *Dottie
Gilliam*

Escobedo-Frank

North District DS – Rev. *Garth*