

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME | PROPER 12
JULY 26, 2026

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**All those able, please stand*

Preparing for Worship: The Lord reminds us that God's kingdom often begins in small, hidden ways yet grows into a treasure beyond measure, while God's faithful love remains steadfast through every joy, struggle, and uncertainty. May our hearts be open to recognize God's presence, trust in God's promises, receive God's power, and joyfully respond to the priceless gift of life in Christ.

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist

Welcome and Greetings in Jesus' Name

***Opening Hymn # 440** "Here I Am, Lord" *HERE I AM, LORD*

***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith #5 "How Great Is Our God" *REEVES / TOMLIN*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Fran Seymour Hunter

The First Reading **Genesis 29:15-28**

The Second Reading **Romans 8:26-39**

Gospel Reader: Deacon Sonia Roling

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** **Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

***Responsorial # 529** "Change My Heart O God" *CHANGE MY HEART*

***Greeting our Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

The Children's Sermon (No Children's Church – Summer Recess)

Mission Moment Partnership **The Gideons International**

Announcements, Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).

Offertory

A Prayer of Illumination & Message

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Hymn (Stand) # 356** "We've a Story to Tell" *MESSAGE*

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist

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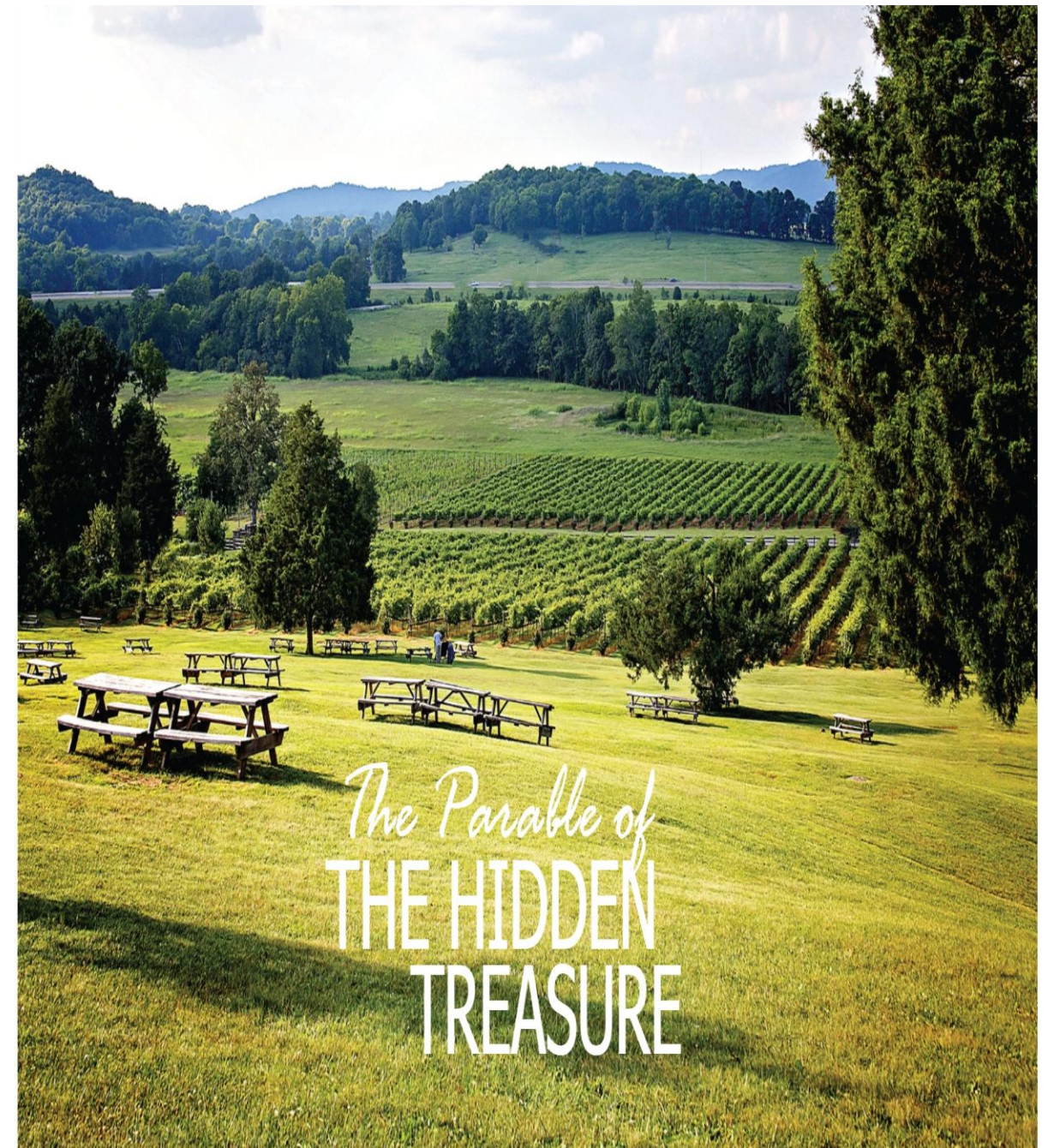
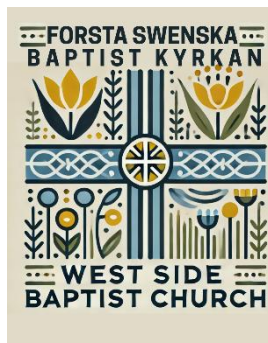
HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

OUR MISSION – We love God, and we love People, by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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