

The UMC of New City Hybrid Worship

July 5, 2026

6th Sunday after Pentecost; Celebration of Independence Day; Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome

Pastor Amanda

Prelude

Dr. Diana Hughes

Call to Worship: *(with 2nd Corinthians 3:17)*

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom--

People: Freedom from want, freedom to worship, freedom of speech, freedom from fear,

Leader: Freedom from tyranny. Lord, meet us here this day

People: As we lift our nation in prayer.

**Hymn #696 (UMH)

America the Beautiful

1. **O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**
2. **O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**
3. **O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

Unison Prayer *(from the UM Book of Worship)*

Look graciously, O Lord, upon this land. Where it is in pride, subdue it. Where it is in need, supply it. Where it is in error, rectify it. Where it is in default, restore it. And where it holds to that which is just and compassionate, support it. Amen.

Children's Message

Stars and Stripes and Human Rights!

Introduction

The Right to Hope

Scripture: John 15:11

Reflection: Norma Christian

Hymn #697 (UMH)

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

verse 1

1. **My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring!**

The Right to Justice

Scripture: John 8:3-11

Reflection: Rita Negrón Maslanek

Prayer *(written by Kat Armas, Cuban-American author, speaker, and theologian)*

God of the cosmos, in this moment of remembering, we refuse easy triumph and come instead with truth on our lips. We confess how deeply we have been formed by empire, how its logic has shaped our desires, our silences, and our sense of what is normal. There are times we have sought comfort at the expense of others' dignity and chosen safety over solidarity. Still, you call us back. So, we lay down the ways we have mirrored what harms this world and release our grip on control, on fear, and on scarcity. Ground us in your mystery, a presence not contained by nation or border, but alive in what the world calls weak. Remind us that we belong to you, to the land, and to one another. Hold us in your mercy, both those who have upheld injustice and those crushed by it. Give us clarity and humble courage. Teach us to walk in wholeness and liberation, to choose love that frees, justice that restores, and a peace rooted in truth, so that we might honor your image in this fragile, beloved world. Amen.

The Right to Healing

Scripture: Luke 18:35-43

Reflection: Chuck Delo

Hymn #697 (UMH)

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

verse 2

2. My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.

The Right to Rescue

Scripture: Mark 4:37-39

Reflection: Beverly Abercrombie

A Declaration of Interdependence *(written by Rabbi and author Danya Ruttenberg)*

May we meet the next days of this country with accountability for--and all possible repairs toward--each of its previous chapters. May we dissolve all the harmful structures upon which it was built. May we create a more whole future in which every person and community here --and all interconnected systems on Earth--may thrive. May we serve the Holy through our care for one another, through work for collective liberation: through love made real. Amen.

The Right to Happiness

Scripture: John 15:9-11

Reflection: Jeannine Alexandro

Hymn #697 (UMH)

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

verse 3

3. Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song; let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake; let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

The Right to Inclusion

Scripture: Luke 19:1-7

Reflection: Maureen Gallagher

A Prayer for Unity *(by Daisy Khan, founder of Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality)*

God of all nations, you made us into many so we might become one. On this 250th anniversary of America, fulfill your own design in us: Out of many, one. Not by erasing our differences, but by honoring them in mutual respect. Bless this land to be a true home for every tribe and tongue, and guide us always to know one another in peace. Amen.

The Right to Personal Peace

Scripture: Matthew 6:28b-34

Reflection: Bill Hughes

Hymn #697 (UMH)

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

verse 4

4. Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Dr. Amanda Hemenetz

Prayer Requests and Praises

Pastoral Prayer

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 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.

Announcements

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Dr. Diana Hughes

**Doxology #95 (UMH)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, Lord of this nation and of all others, bless these gifts and use them to your glory. As we lift our country before you today, both the joys it has given to many, and the areas in which it is wanting, we thank you that you have met us here, and will continue with us, now and forevermore. Amen.

**Hymn #698 (UMH)

God of the Ages

- 1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.**
- 2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.**

3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

**Blessing

** Choral Benediction

Amazing Grace Amen

Postlude

Dr. Diana Hughes

THANK YOU to our speakers today for their reflections!

Fellowship hour is on hold for the summer months. Thank you to all who baked, bought, and organized during our 2025-2026 season.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are always welcome here! To be added to our email list, ask questions, request pastoral care, or explore the possibility of membership, contact the church office at umcofnewcity@gmail.com or call (845) 634-1758.

Our youngest worshippers (Pre-K through 6th grade) are invited to our "Children's Church Table" after the Children's Message.

Our thrift shop, Angel's Attic, is open Saturdays 9am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm.

We are a Reconciling Church; we fully love and accept ALL, including LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Our Mission Statement is "Serving God through Serving the Community."

**Indicates to please stand, if you are comfortable doing so. 'UMH' = The United Methodist Hymnal (red); 'TFWS' = The Faith We Sing (black). Both are available from the ushers.

QR Code for



online giving

May you go in Christ's peace, assured of God's love.

