



"But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Amos 5,24

Watchword for July 2026

**United Methodist Church
Flensburg Congregation**

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We hope you can join us at our next Sunday services

We meet at 11 a.m. in St. Jürgen parish hall, Jürgensgaarder Str. 1 in Flensburg
- with coffee fellowship after the service -

26. Juli	"Miracles do happen" / John's Gospel 9, 1-12 Worship led by Karl-Heinz Tuttlies und Edgar Nordmann	
9. August	"Let us walk with you, for we have heard that God is with you." Worship with the celebration of Holy Communion / Led by Gillian Horton-Krüger & Peter Nordmann	
30. August	"If love is not just a word, how can small voices get heard?" / Acts 6, 1-7 Worship led by Gillian Horton-Krüger & Karl-Heinz Tuttlies	
13. September	Sunday worship / Gillian Horton-Krüger & Edgar Nordmann	
27. September	Sunday worship / Guest preacher: Revd. May-Britt Johannsen (ev. Nordkirche) / Uwe Lembcke	
11. Oktober Erntedank	Worship with the celebration of Holy Communion / Gillian Horton-Krüger & Peter Nordmann	

Dear members and friends!

In a change to our original plans, next Sunday's service will be led by Karl-Heinz Tuttlies and Edgar Nordmann. (Pastor Rainer Prüßmann will join us in Jürgensby at a later date.) We are delighted that Karl-Heinz is taking this opportunity to prepare the service in a new role for him. The district conference has long since encouraged and endorsed the proposal that Karl-Heinz should try out this expanded role to enrich our services, as he has for quite some time been making use of the resources the Methodist Church in Germany has to offer for developing knowledge and skills in this area. God bless you for this, Karl-Heinz, and you, too, Edgar. We wish you inspiration and discernment, creativity and wisdom for your preparation. May God's good Spirit move and work with you and through you!



Photo: Klaus Ulrich Ruof

Prayer for the month - for South Africa

My colleague, Pastor Olav Schmidt, Head of the United Methodist Church's Office for Mission and International Church Cooperation in Wuppertal, reminds us month by month that, particularly in times of growing nationalism, we should keep in mind that the United Methodist Church is a global church. To support this, Olav sends us a monthly prayer for one of our partner countries. I am attaching the current prayer for July to this newsletter. This month's subject is South Africa. You will see from the wording that it is intended for use in church services, but I think we can also make good use of it at home.



Treasure-hunting in our hymnbook

“Open my ears, Holy Spirit” (441)

Sometimes even Methodists simply have to admit defeat! Twice now we have tried – and failed – to get a handle on number 441 in our German Methodist hymnal. “Open my ears, Holy Spirit” is by no means an easy song to pick up and sing, and it would need at least one person who is trained and well practised to lead us. Unfortunately, we do not have such a person in our midst just now. But the words of the song do resonate with us, and I can well understand why the suggestion has come a couple of times that we should sing it.

“Open my ears, Holy Spirit” seems to have come to us through the World Day of Prayer movement. The tune and arrangement are by Wolfgang Furlinger (1933–2019), a musician, teacher and composer from Austria, who spent much of his life in Linz. Furlinger breathed new life into forgotten works from the Baroque period, particularly for use in church. His obituary mentions that he was regarded as something of a “truffle hunter” in this respect. Elsewhere he is described as a “true musician of God”. If you are interested in listening to the tune, there are various audio and video files featuring the vocals online, which a simple search should yield.

It's not known who first wrote down the text which Furlinger set to music. We cannot sing it as a hymn for the foreseeable future, but it is evidently a prayer, so even without music we can let the words reach out to us, perhaps become part of our own prayers, as we ask the Holy Spirit to open our senses to the goodness and presence of God.

Open my ears, Holy Spirit,
that I may hear your message.
Open my eyes, Holy Spirit,
that I may see the beauty of creation.
Open my mind, Holy Spirit,
that I may believe your message.
Open my mouth, Holy Spirit,
that I may bear witness to your glory.
Open my hands, Holy Spirit,
that I may receive your help.
Open my mood, Holy Spirit,
that I may love your presence.
Open my heart, open my heart, Holy Spirit,
that I may feel your love.



Text source: German UMC Hymnal (2002) / Photo source: kirchenjahr-evangelisch.de

I will close with one of my favourite verses, which is the “Monatsspruch”, the verse chosen to accompany us through the month of August. The next newsletter is planned for early September.

Words of Jesus in John's Gospel:

I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10,10

Wishing you a blessed high summer!
Sincerely,

Gillian Horton-Krüger