

Christ Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation



Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff

Musician: Sue Cribb

Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Doris Mayeshiba

August 3, 2025

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Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer", a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you. **Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

I Know Whom I Have Believed - Wilson

Words of Welcome

***Song of Welcome** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Hymn #481

***Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 107)

One: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

Many: For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

Many: For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Many: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

Morning Prayer

**Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us.
We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works.
We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you
are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us.
Speak, O God, for we attune our attention for your guidance.
Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*

1 Sing praise to God, our highest good,
profound respect expressing.

God give us health, life, livelihood,
with every needed blessing.

To God, who wondrous works performs,
creating life and calming storms,
to God give praise and glory!

2 Creation thanks you, Holy One:
you made us and renew us.

Delighted at what you have done,
you show your greatness through us.
So may all living things proclaim
the wonders of their Maker's name:
to God give praise and glory!

3 What God has made, God will preserve,
with righteousness unailing.
Regardless what we may deserve,

we see this good prevailing.
To God who governs evermore
with justice serving rich and poor,
to God give praise and glory!

4 I cry to God, in pain and grief,
"Please, God of mercy, hear me!"
My certain help provides relief,
faith, hope, and love to cheer me.
So let me sing, joyful and free:
ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:
to God give praise and glory!

5 Forever with us, God is here,
Nor ever will desert us.
So dearly loved, we shall not fear;
there's nothing that can hurt us.
We place our trust in God's command,
who leads us with a mother's hand:
to God give praise and glory!

6 Dear Christian friends, we bear the name
of Christ, our sure salvation.
Let us recall Christ Jesus came,
most holy incarnation,
Came from the one God we adore,
came with new life forevermore:
to God give praise and glory!

Story on the Steps

Belonging—Beloved—Delightful
from *The Book of Belonging*

First Reading: Hosea 11:1-11 (CEB)

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the further they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and they burned incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them
with bands of human kindness,
with cords of love.

I treated them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks;
I bent down to them and fed them.

They will return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria will be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.

The sword will strike wildly in their cities;
it will consume the bars of their gates
and will take everything because of their schemes.

My people are bent on turning away from me;
and though they cry out to the Most High,
he will not raise them up.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart winces within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.

I won't act on the heat of my anger;
I won't return to destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a human being,
the holy one in your midst;
I won't come in harsh judgment.

They will walk after the Lord,
who roars like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.
They will come trembling like a bird,
and like a dove from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

Second Reading: Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (CEB)

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!"
That's what those who are redeemed by the Lord say,
the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies,
the ones God gathered from various countries,
from east and west, north and south.

Some of the redeemed had wandered into the desert,
into the wasteland.

They couldn't find their way to a city or town.
They were hungry and thirsty;
their lives were slipping away.
So they cried out to the Lord in their distress,
and God delivered them from their desperate circumstances.
God led them straight to human habitation.
Let them thank the Lord for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people,
because God satisfied the one who was parched with thirst,
and he filled up the hungry with good things!
Whoever is wise will pay attention to these things,
carefully considering the Lord's faithful love.

Sermon

"Faithful Love"

Rev. Tara

Hymn of Response *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Hymn #61

Communion Liturgy *(See Handout 1A. Following worship, please leave the communion handout in your pew for the ushers to collect.)*

Invitation to Generosity

The many gifts that we hold in our hands and souls
have the power and potential to strengthen the lives
of God's children everywhere. As we seek ways to
celebrate our gifts, let us utilize our gifts, not only for
ourselves, but to build the fullness of God's realm
here on earth.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

I Love To Tell The Story - Ashford

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication** (written by Gil Lefreve)

God of Goodness, thank you for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Today we stand in front of you with our riches in hand: our treasures, time, and talents. May our giving reflect the faithfulness of our spirits. And may our offering be clothed with your visions and dreams. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Now Thank We All Our God

Hymn #14

Announcements

* Benediction

***Benediction Song** *Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing* (vs 1) **Hymn #748**

Postlude *The Road To Victory* - Nicholson

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press

Prayers of the People *(see Weekly Newsletter for details)*

- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
Bart, Nichola, Matt, Tom, Dulce, Laurel D, Bill D, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Karl

NOTES

MISSION MINUTES | Soul Investment | Luke 12:13-21 | There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach \$44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how “stuff” can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn’t realize was that worth and security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn—this has become today’s obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn’t want our “antiques.” This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known a “death cleaning”—where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can’t take our stuff with us.

My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?.

Monthly Activity	June	YTD
Income	\$14,053	\$87,116
Expenses	\$15,855	\$99,238
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$89,200

Christ Church UCC
915 E Oklahoma Ave | Milwaukee, WI 53207
Website: uccmke.org
Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchbayview
Livestream: youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI
If you should need pastoral support, please contact
Pastor Tara at **413-429-4252** or revtaratetzlaff@gmail.com
or the **Church Office** at **414-481-3530** or office@uccmke.org

