

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



130th Anniversary Celebration!

September 14, 2025

Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Randene Wick

Choir Members:

Susan Cribb

Janet Key

Pam Kothrade

Doris Mayeshiba

Julie Oren

Nancy Schlaack

Michael Key

Dean Kothrade

Russ Nelson

Rich Tremarello

Clinton Verley

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*

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Prelude *We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light* **Hymn #76**
(Refrain – All | Verses 1 & 2 Choir | Refrain – All | Verses 3 & 4 Choir | Refrain – All)

Words of Welcome

***Song of Welcome** *All Are Welcome* (sheet music in back of bulletin)

Greetings from Wisconsin Conference UCC Rev. Jane Anderson

Call to Worship

ONE: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love...

MANY: neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—a community of kindred hearts.

ONE: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know...

MANY: strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

ONE: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here...

MANY: in me, in you, in each of us, God’s spirit shines for all to see.

ONE: People of God, come.

MANY: Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer Rev. Dale Stohre

***Opening Hymn** *There’s a Spirit in the Air* **Hymn #133**
(verses 1, 6, 3, 4, 5 sung to the tune of *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*)

There's a spirit in the air, Alleluia
Telling Christians everywhere, Alleluia
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Alleluia
Living working in our world, Alleluia

May the Spirit fill our praise, Alleluia
Guide our thoughts and change our ways, Alleluia
God in Christ has come to stay, Alleluia
Live tomorrow's life today, Alleluia

When believers break the bread, Alleluia
When a hungry child is fed, Alleluia
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Alleluia
Living working in our world, Alleluia

Still the Spirit gives us light, Alleluia
Seeing wrong and setting right, Alleluia
God in Christ has come to stay, Alleluia
Live tomorrow's life today, Alleluia

When a stranger's not alone, Alleluia
Where the homeless find a home, Alleluia
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Alleluia
Living working in our world, Alleluia

First Reading: Psalm 100 (*Inclusive Language Psalter: Anglican Church of Canada*)

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come into the divine presence with a song.
Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;
the One made us and to whom we belong;
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;
go into these courts with praise;
give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.
For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

Story on the Steps

Clap, Sing, Dance!

by Jennifer Hilton & Kristen McCurry, illustrated by Natasha Rimmington

Gift of Music

God Is Our Refuge - Pote

Sanctuary Singers and
Trumpet, Kevin Wood

Second Reading: Isaiah 56:3-8 (CEB)

Don't let the immigrant who has joined with the Lord say,
"The Lord will exclude me from the people."
And don't let the eunuch say,
"I'm just a dry tree."

The Lord says:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
choose what I desire,
and remain loyal to my covenant.
In my temple and courts, I will give them
a monument and a name better than sons and daughters.

I will give to them an enduring name that won't be removed.
The immigrants who have joined me,
serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure,
and those who hold fast to my covenant:
I will bring them to my holy mountain,
and bring them joy in my house of prayer.
I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.
My house will be known as a **house of prayer for all peoples**,
says the Lord God,
who gathers Israel's outcasts.
I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

Third Reading: Acts 2:42-47 (CEB)

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Fourth Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2 (CEB)

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Sermon

"What is a Church?"

Rev. Tara

***Hymn of Response**

Sing a New Church

Hymn #577

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For those who mourn: **Kathleen S, family of Karl**
- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
Bonnie & Jeff J, Jerry G, Gloria H, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce, Laurel, Bill, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity (from the Mission Statement of Christ Church UCC)

Through Christ, God loves us, embraces us, and draws us into friendship. God gives us our place of worship, our heritage, our abilities, and each other. All we have and are comes from God. Because we are blessed people, we who are Christ Church are challenged to share the gifts we have been given through words and actions shaped by following Jesus Christ. The ushers will now come forward to receive our gifts and offerings.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

Built on a Rock – Althouse

Sanctuary Singers

*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 (inspired by Christ Church Mission Statement)

Creator-God, what you freely give us, we freely offer to our community and our world: hope, friendship, and reconciliation that flow from Christ, through us, to others. May your Spirit work in and through our gifts of time, resources, and selves, for the well being and wholeness of all peoples. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Hymn #496

Announcements

*Benediction

*Benediction Song

Find Us Faithful, **Hymn #497** Pianist, Gloria Konkell

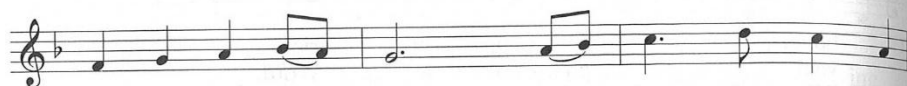
Postlude

O God Beyond All Praising - arr. Cherwien Trumpet, Kevin Wood

753 All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
3. Let us build a house where love is found In
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness And as
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, Is re -
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger Bear the
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Prayers of



faith and vault of grace; Here the
 sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 veiled - in time and space; As we
 im - age of God's face; Let us
 faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us:
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come



in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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MISSION MINUTES | Growing in God’s Love | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | In all my years in ministry, I only once lived in a parsonage. The church-provided house was one of those Sears Roebuck mail-order homes that were popular from 1908 through the 1940s. The house had pockets doors, a sunroom, and a cozy living room with a large stone fireplace. It also had a kitchen doorway that was marked with lines and dates, documenting the growth of a former pastor’s child. Judging by the years etched into the wood, it seemed no one had the heart to ever sand the frame and give it a much needed coat of fresh paint.

The markings always intrigued me, making me pause each time I walked into the kitchen. I would gently touch the grooves and marvel at the miracle of growing up, not just physically, but spiritually as well. I thought about how the growth lines on a doorframe are ultimately so finite. There comes the day when we reach our God-intended height. Our spiritual growth lines, though, are infinite. There is no stop point. God wants us to keep growing in knowledge of God’s love. The Spirit wants us all to reach new and glorious heights.

The Apostle Paul, our ancient, prolific letter writer is once again penning a note of wisdom and grace. This time to his young disciple Timothy. Paul wants to impart his honed leadership skills to Timothy, but before he does, he reflects on his own spiritual growth. He shares with Timothy how no one is beyond the reach of God’s forgiveness and, once received, that forgiveness leads to a spiritual growth spurt that Paul himself experienced. Once a persecutor of Jews, God’s grace led Paul to become a towering proponent of Christ’s love.

Paul’s letter to Timothy is one we all need to read this day because no matter how old we are, we need to remember that we should never stop growing spiritually. There is a divine doorframe with markings on it for each one of us, recording just how much we have matured in the knowledge of a great and redeeming God.

Wondering just how much you have grown? Here’s a spiritual exercise for you. Think back to who you were 5 years ago. Now 10 years. How about 20 years ago? What did you believe? What were the prejudices you clung to? What were the awakenings your soul experienced? Now mind you, spiritual growth does not always mean a notch higher up on the heavenly doorframe year after year. There might be years of no growth. There might even be years of backsliding. And that’s okay, because the wonderful truth is this: God always gives us another chance. There are limitless opportunities to keep growing in the Spirit.

God of wisdom, may we never stop growing in the Spirit. May we continue to master the lessons you have for us — lessons on how to love one another, how to trust your guidance, and how to forgive and show grace to others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen..

Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions	\$4,738	\$68,013
Other Income	\$103	\$41,732
Total Income	\$4,841	\$109,745
Expenses	\$13,302	\$31,580
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$118,936

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or the **Church Office** at **414-481-3530** or office@uccmke.org

