



September 27, 2026 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Dean Kothrade

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*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIFT OF MUSIC *For the Beauty of the Earth* Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: River of life, flowing through all Creation,

All: river of mercy, flowing through our hearts,

One: river of love, flowing out into Milwaukee,

All: we rejoice in awe and gratitude.

One: Spirit of life, breath of God, river of love,

**All: fill us to overflowing with your grace,
and flow through us out into all the world. Alleluia!**

*WE ALL SING *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* **#501**

*OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray together.

**All: Abundant One, in the dry lands of our daily lives we
come, thirsty for your grace, to drink from the springs
of your Word. Fill us with wisdom, compassion and
trust. Amen.**

*THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: I invite you to pass the peace of Christ to those
near you, in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*RESPONSE *God Welcomes All* John Bell

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin, the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

SERMON

"Give Us or Use Us?"

Pastor Bob

*WE ALL SING

Spirit of the Living God

#492

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

Gracious God, maker of all, fountain of life, we trust you. We drink deeply from the river of your grace.

Crucified and risen Christ, from whom flows the water of healing for all Creation, for the love that flows from you we thank you, and we follow you.

Holy Spirit, love of God flowing through us, we open our hearts to you. Bear us onward, carry us by your mercy, and fill us with your grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

- Please pray for **Nancy K** who is experiencing severe back pain
- Pray for **Kathy B of Mary of Magdala** as she navigates her health
- Please pray for **Michael K's sister Susan**
- Prayers for LaRee's friend **Debbie & family as her husband** just went into Hopsice
- Continued prayers for **Joan A's grandson, Blair**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CALLING FOR OUR BEST

One: Let us show our gratitude for our heritage by investing in our future. Let us give generously to support the ongoing work of God in this place.

SCAN TO DONATE



OFFERTORY

Lord of the Dance

Carter

*WE ALL SING

Doxology

tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above you heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray.

**All: God of abundance, take these gifts and use them to
keep this church a beacon of hope, a sanctuary for the
weary, and a home for all who seek You. Amen.**

*WE ALL SING

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#496

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

The Trees of the Field

#710

*POSTLUDE

He Lives/To God be the Glory

arr. Smith

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour – Cristal & Castin

Monday, Sept 28

Book Study, 1pm

Wednesday, Sept 30

Choir, 7pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Neighbors in Need Mission Offering

Greeters: Jill Unglaub

Counters: Peggy Carew, Jill Unglaub

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unbinding the Gospel Book Study | Beginning on **Monday, Sept 28**, we will gather in the parlor at **1pm**. Our sessions will last about 60 minutes. Books will be available in early September. They cost the church \$15, if you would like to reimburse the church for the cost of your book. Please sign up on the list at the Lenox Street door. When you have your book, please read chapters 1 & 2 before the first meeting.

Neighbors In Need Mission Offering is October 4 | Neighbors in Need supports justice and compassion ministries. This offering is tasked to help the church advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you make sure the United Church of Christ continues to be a leader for justice. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice projects across the church, and one-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries.

This offering is transformative because it calls us to collective justice—not isolated programs and pitches, but a genuine ecosystem of people who work collaboratively across issues and geographies to bring about social change. Our gifts also represent our faith in God's ability to multiply what we have. Jesus' ministry was full of abundance, but not because he started with overwhelming resources. Rather, what was offered in community became enough to meet the needs of the day.

October 4 is this year's Neighbors In Need Sunday. We hope you will give to this worthy mission.

Pam Kothrade, Stewardship

Laundry Ministry | There has been an amazing response to the laundry ministry. There are bins of hygiene products that have been donated as well as quarters and laundry supplies. Through the project it is apparent there is a continuing need for the laundry ministry. (The bagged lunches will not be continued at this time.) **Sept 1–Nov 22 (every other Sunday)** there will be a need for two Soap Hosts. Please sign up to volunteer for one or more Sundays using the SignUp Genius link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAEAB2CA2FAC25-65588418-dilaundry#/>

Want To Have Some Fun? | One of the most fun events our church participated in last year was joining our neighborhood in distributing candy during the annual Halloween trick or treating. It was so much fun seeing all the kids in their costumes. We will be doing this again in conjunction with the neighborhood trick or treat on **Saturday, October 31 from 5–8pm**. We're looking for folks to help distribute candy and if we have enough people, we can take turns going inside to warm up. It was rather cool last year!

So, please see the sign-up sheet on the Lenox bulletin board and let us know if you can help...and of course you being in costume would be all the better!

Last year we decided to do this almost at the last minute, but you all responded to our call for candy in overwhelming fashion! We had so much candy left over, it was part of our Sunday coffee hour for weeks to come. This year, while we're still asking for your help with donating candy, we're stressing moderation! One bag from each person who wants to donate will be more than enough. This is another great opportunity to be visible to our neighbors outside of our building. Any questions, see *Julie Oren*. Hope you can join us!



Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$7,124	\$127,013
Expenses	\$17,859	\$158,874
Budgeted Amount	\$18,051	\$144,413
<i>Last week's offering: \$1,584</i>		

Christ Church UCC

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact

Pastor Bob at 440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

