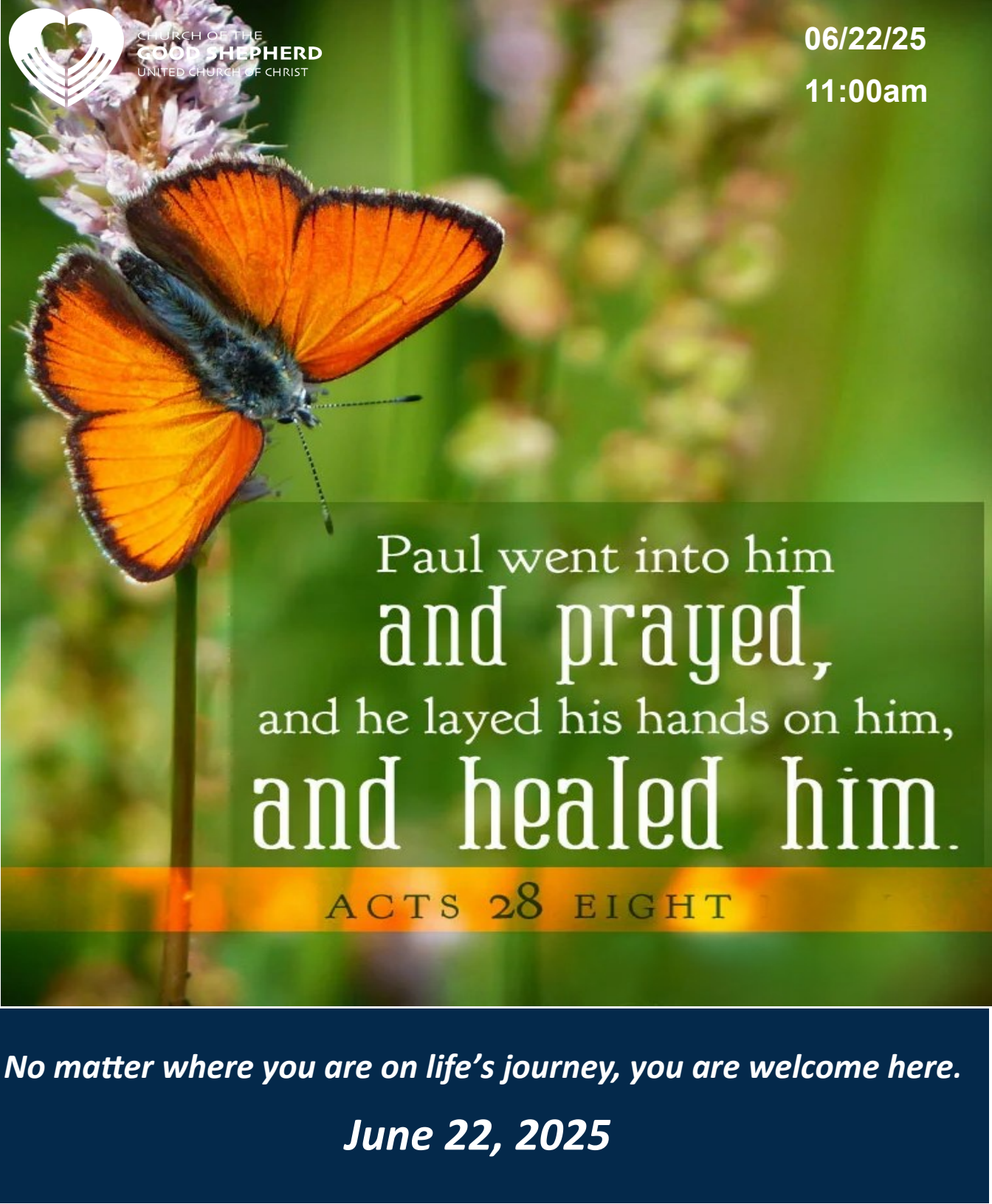




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

06/22/25

11:00am



Paul went into him
and prayed,
and he layed his hands on him,
and healed him.

ACTS 28 EIGHT

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

June 22, 2025

Worship Leader: Axel Catterall

PRELUDE.....

Dorenda Morse, piano

WELCOME.....

HYMN “Gather Us In”

1 Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

4 Not just in buildings, small and confining,
Not in some heaven light years away,
Here in this place, the new light is shining;
Now is God present and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;

Gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in all peoples together

Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” RESIGNATION arr. Mark Hayes
Linda Gilmour and Dorenda Morse, piano

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Axel Catterall

Acts 28:1-11 (a paraphrase of the New Revised Standard Version)

When the prisoner Paul's ship was shipwrecked on Malta, he and the other 275 passengers aboard were a cold, shivering, mess.

They dragged themselves out of the sea and got onto the island, where the local people were unusually kind and welcoming to the shipwrecked survivors. They immediately built a huge bonfire to warm them up from the cold and rain.

Paul, always one to lend a hand, gathered some sticks for the fire. As he was putting them on, a poisonous snake, woken up by the heat, suddenly lunged out and latched onto his hand! The islanders, seeing this, whispered amongst themselves, "Aha! This man must be a murderer! He escaped the sea, but justice won't let him live!" They expected him to swell up and drop dead any second.

But Paul just calmly shook the snake off into the fire, totally unfazed. The islanders stared, amazed, and then changed their tune: "He's not a murderer! He must be a god! He was bitten by a poisonous snake and lived."

The chief official of the island, a generous man named Publius, welcomed them into his home for three days. Publius's father was sick with a fever and dysentery, so Paul went to him, prayed, laid his hands on him, and the man was healed.

Word spread across the island. Soon, everyone who was sick came to Paul, and he healed them all. The shipwrecked survivors stayed on Malta for 3 months. When winter was over, and it was finally time for Paul and his companions to leave, the islanders loaded them up with everything they could possibly need for their journey. They left on an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux.

Paul was finally ready to continue his voyage to Rome, leaving behind the ruins of his old ship along with an entire island of healed people. What an incredible adventure!

Hechos 28:1-11 (una paráfrasis de la Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada)

Cuando el barco del prisionero Pablo naufragó en Malta, él y los otros 275 pasajeros a bordo eran un desastre frío y tembloroso.

Se arrastraron fuera del mar y llegaron a la isla, donde la gente local fue inusualmente amable y acogedora con los náufragos supervivientes. Enseguida encendieron una gran hoguera para calentarlos del frío y la lluvia.

Paul, siempre dispuesto a echar una mano, recogió algunos palos para el fuego. Mientras las colocaba, una serpiente venenosa, despertada por el calor, se abalanzó sobre él y le agarró la mano. Los isleños, al ver esto, murmuraron entre sí: "¡Ajá, este hombre debe de ser un asesino! Escapó del mar, ¡pero la justicia no le dejará vivir!". Esperaban que se

hinchara y cayera muerto en cualquier momento.

Pero Pablo se limitó a sacudir tranquilamente la serpiente hacia el fuego, totalmente imperturbable. Los isleños se quedaron mirando, asombrados, y luego cambiaron de tono: "¡No es un asesino! ¡Debe de ser un dios! Le mordió una serpiente venenosa y vivió".

El jefe de la isla, un hombre generoso llamado Publio, los acogió en su casa durante tres días. El padre de Publio estaba enfermo de fiebre y disentería, así que Pablo fue a verle, rezó, le impuso las manos y el hombre sanó.

Se corrió la voz por toda la isla. Pronto, todos los enfermos acudieron a Pablo, que los curó a todos. Los náufragos permanecieron en Malta durante tres meses. Cuando llegó el invierno y Pablo y sus compañeros tuvieron que partir, los isleños los cargaron con todo lo necesario para el viaje. Partieron en un barco alejandrino con el mascarón de proa de los dioses gemelos Cástor y Pólux.

Pablo estaba finalmente listo para continuar su viaje a Roma, dejando atrás las ruinas de su viejo barco junto con toda una isla de gente curada. ¡Qué aventura tan increíble!

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #498 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love 1-4

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,

silently washes their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them. **[Refrain]**

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away. **[Refrain]**

3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. **[Refrain]**

4 Loving puts us on our knees,
showing our faith by our deeds,
serving the neighbors we have from you. **[Refrain]**

SERMON.....Rev Dr Sarah TevisTownes

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Father, Our Mother,
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,
Your Kin(g)dom come, Your 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 do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For yours is the Kin(g)dom and the
Power and the glory,
Now and forever, Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS.....

OFFERTORY.....

“Stand By Me” by Charles Albert Tindley
Axel Catterall, solo

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts.

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....

CLOSING HYMN #395 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

1 In Christ there is no East or West,

in Christ no South or North;

But one community of love

throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere

their high communion find;

God's service is the golden cord

close-binding humankind.

3 In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,

and neither slave nor free;

For men and women live in God,

and all are kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both East and West,

in Christ meet South and North;

One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

**"Wonderful Words of Life," by Philip P. Bliss, arr. By Lloyd Larson
Dorenda Morse, piano**

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Thank you for joining us in worship today

We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today!



Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC is a dynamic congregation with a rich history and vibrant ministry in the community. Our church is a part of a blend of five major Protestant denominations that united together in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ: Congregational, Christian, Afro-Christian, German Evangelical and Reformed. We celebrate the words of Pastor John Robinson, who in his farewell remarks to the Pilgrims as they were leaving for the "new world," said, "There is still more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word." We say at our church that "God is still speaking!" "There is still more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word."

- We are a church that:
 - Centers our faith and practice in the life and ministry Jesus Christ.
 - Takes the Bible seriously, not literally.
 - Builds community partnerships across differences.
 - Worships God with joyful hearts and open minds.
 - Includes children in the life and ministry of the church.
 - Celebrates creativity and the arts.
 - Encounters Christ in Creation, community, sacraments, music, scripture, and service.
 - Listens and responds to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
 - Celebrates an open table and seeks to be inclusive of ALL people.
 - Seeks to live out our faith in the world as we build God's reign of love and justice on earth.
 - Believes that growth in wisdom and understanding happens at all stages of life.
 - Embraces solidarity, not just charity.
 - Is committed to work for justice for all people and for the environment.
 - Cares for one another, laughs easily, and rests in God's love.

Vision Statement

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an inclusive community that shares Divine love as a path to peace and justice in the world.

Mission Statement

The mission of Church of the Good Shepherd is to build a just world through community one life at a time.

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.