



CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/14/25

11:00am



“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.” -John 3:17

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

September 14, 2025

WELCOME.....

HYMN #605 As Moses Raised the Serpent Up”

1 As Moses raised the serpent up,
God’s Child is lifted high;
And all who in that Child believe
shall never, never die.

2 For God so loved the world that God,
All human life to free,
Gave to the world God’s Child that all
Might live eternally.

3 That Child was sent into the world
Not to condemn but save;
Now through Christ’s name all are redeemed
What wondrous love God gave.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Deo Dicamus Gratias” by Victor C. Johnson. Chancel Choir

Translation: To God let us say thanks. Let us give praise to God.

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....Patricia LoCicero

Numbers 21:4–9, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Sea of Reeds, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. **5** The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” **6** Then God sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. **8** And God said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” **9** So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:13-17, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1 Corinthians 1:18-24, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Números 21:4-9, Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada, Edición Actualizada

4 Partieron del monte Hor camino del Mar de Juncos, para rodear la tierra de Edom, pero el pueblo se desanimó en el camino. 5 El pueblo habló contra Dios y contra Moisés: «¿Por qué nos sacaron de Egipto para morir en el desierto? Porque no hay pan ni agua, y aborrecemos esta comida miserable». 6 Entonces Dios envió serpientes venenosas entre el pueblo, que los mordieron, y muchos israelitas murieron. 7 El pueblo vino a Moisés y dijo: «Hemos pecado al hablar contra el Señor y contra ti; ruega al Señor que quite de nosotros las serpientes». Entonces Moisés oró por el pueblo. 8 Y Dios le dijo a Moisés: «Haz una serpiente venenosa y colócala sobre un asta, y todo el que sea mordido la mire y vivirá». 9 Entonces Moisés hizo una serpiente de bronce y la puso sobre un asta, y cuando una serpiente mordía a alguien, esa persona miraba la serpiente de bronce y vivía.

Order that the world might be saved
through him.” -John 3:17

Juan 3:13-17, Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada, Edición Actualizada

13 Nadie subió al cielo sino el que descendió del cielo, el Hijo del Hombre. 14 Y como Moisés levantó la serpiente en el desierto, así es necesario que el Hijo del Hombre sea levantado, 15 para que todo aquel que cree en él tenga vida eterna.

16 Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna.

17 En verdad, Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para condenar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por él.

1 Corintios 1:18-24, Nueva Versión Estándar Revisada, Edición Actualizada

18 Porque el mensaje de la cruz es locura para los que se pierden, pero para nosotros, los que nos salvamos, es poder de Dios. 19 Porque escrito está:

“Destruiré la sabiduría de los sabios,
y frustraré el discernimiento de los entendidos”.

20 ¿Dónde está el sabio? ¿Dónde está el erudito? ¿Dónde está el polemista de este siglo? ¿Acaso Dios no ha enloquecido la sabiduría del mundo? 21 Porque, ya que en la sabiduría de Dios, el mundo no conoció a Dios mediante la sabiduría, Dios decidió, mediante la locura de la predicación, salvar a los creyentes. 22 Porque los judíos piden señales y los griegos desean sabiduría; 23 pero nosotros predicamos a Cristo crucificado, piedra de tropiezo para los judíos y locura para los gentiles; 24 pero para los llamados, tanto judíos como griegos, Cristo es poder de Dios y sabiduría de Dios.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #547 Amazing Grace 1-4

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

SERMON.....Rev Dr Sarah Tevis Townes

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.....

“Holy Ground with “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” by Geron Davis, arr.
Cindy Berry. Dorenda Morse, piano

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 #49 “Ask Me What Great Thing I Know” 1-4

1 Ask me what great thing I know
that delights and stirs me so,
What the high reward I win,
whose the name I glory in:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

2 Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart,
healing all that grief imparts?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

3 Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who holds all my days secure,
in God's heart where love is sure?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

4 This is that great thing I know;
this delights and stirs me so:
Faith in Christ who died to save,
Christ who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

BENEDICTION.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“We’re Marching to Zion” by Robert Lowry arr. Cindy Berry. Dorenda Morse, piano

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“Holy Ground with “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

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“Deo Dicamus Gratias”

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“We’re Marching to Zion”

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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.