

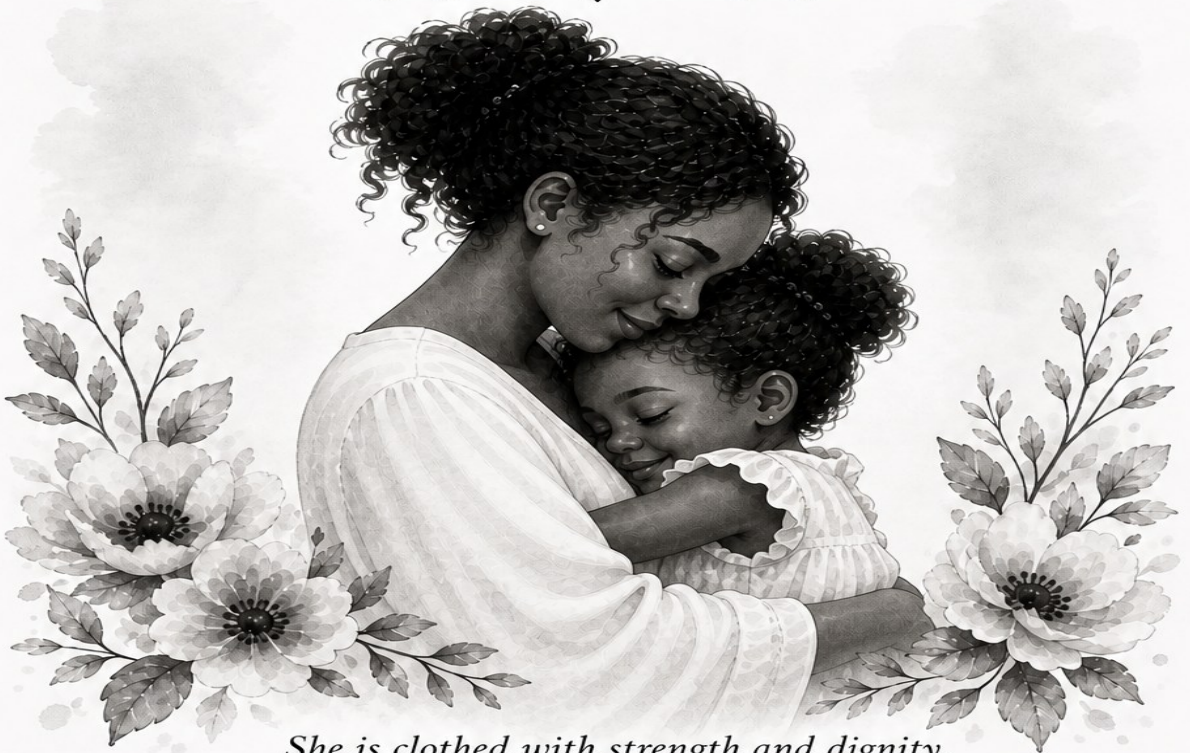


CHURCH OF THE  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

05/10/26

11:00am

*Celebrating*  
**mothers**  
*and* —  
**all who mother,**



*She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs without fear of the future.*

*When she speaks, her words are wise,  
and she gives instructions with kindness.*

— PROVERBS 31:25-26 —



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

**May 10, 2026**

**WELCOME**.....

**CALL TO WORSHIP**.....

One: Welcome, People of God!

**Many: We gather to celebrate God, who meets us right where we are.**

One: On this Mother's Day, we also give thanks for all who mother in love, and we honor the stories and emotions that come with this day.

**Many: We thank God for the love of mothers and turn our hearts to Mother God, who births creation, shelters us like a hen gathering her chicks, and calls us into courage and compassion.**

One: In God, we live and move and have our being.

**Many: Let us celebrate the Source of Love, right where we are.**

**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.

**OPENING REFLECTION**.....

*"The Skipping Stone" quotes from Hildegard von Bingen, Rumi, Kahlil Gibran, and anonymous;  
Music by Randall Stroope Chancel Choir*

*I alone cannot change the world,  
But I can cast a stone across the waters  
To create many ripples. (Anonymous)  
In one drop of water are the secrets of the world. (Kahlil Gibran)  
As the water reflects the stars and moon,  
We reflect the mind and soul. (Rumi)*

*I am the flame above the beauty in the fields;  
I shine in waters, and I burn in the sun,  
The moon, and all of the stars. (Hildegard von Bingen)*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**.....

**PRAYER**.....

**SCRIPTURE**.....

**Acts 17:16-34**

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jewish people and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this pretentious babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, the One who is the Sovereign of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is this god served by human hands, as though this god needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor, God made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for the Divine and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

29 “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because God has fixed a day on which God will have the world judged in

righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 At that point Paul left them. 34 But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

### **Hechos 17:16-34, Nueva Versión Internacional**

16 Mientras Pablo los esperaba en Atenas, le dolió en el alma ver que la ciudad estaba llena de ídolos. 17 Así que discutía en la sinagoga con los judíos y con los no judíos que adoraban a Dios, y a diario hablaba en la plaza con los que se encontraban por allí. 18 Algunos filósofos epicúreos y estoicos entablaron conversación con él. Unos decían: «¿Qué querrá decir este charlatán?». Otros comentaban: «Parece que es predicador de dioses extranjeros». Decían esto porque Pablo anunciaba las buenas noticias de Jesús y de la resurrección. 19 Entonces lo sujetaron y llevaron a una reunión del Areópago.

—¿Se puede saber qué nueva enseñanza es esta que usted presenta? —preguntaron—. 20 Porque nos presenta usted ideas que nos suenan extrañas, y queremos saber qué significan.

21 Es que todos los atenienses y los extranjeros que vivían allí se pasaban el tiempo sin hacer otra cosa más que escuchar y comentar las últimas novedades.

22 Pablo se puso en medio del Areópago y tomó la palabra:

—¡Ciudadanos atenienses! Observo que ustedes son sumamente religiosos en todo lo que hacen. 23 Al pasar y fijarme en sus lugares sagrados, encontré incluso un altar con esta inscripción:  
a un dios desconocido.

Pues bien, eso que ustedes adoran como algo desconocido es lo que yo les anuncio.

24 »El Dios que hizo el mundo y todo lo que hay en él es Señor del cielo y de la tierra. No vive en templos contruidos por hombres, 25 ni se deja servir por manos humanas, como si necesitara de algo. Por el contrario, él es quien da a todos la vida, el aliento y todas las cosas. 26 De un solo hombre hizo todas las naciones[a] para que habitaran toda la tierra; y determinó los períodos de su historia y las fronteras de sus territorios. 27 Esto lo hizo Dios para que todos lo busquen y, aunque sea a tientas, lo encuentren. En verdad, él no está lejos de ninguno de nosotros, 28 “puesto que en él vivimos, nos movemos y existimos”. Como algunos de sus propios poetas han dicho: “De él somos descendientes”.

29 »Por tanto, siendo descendientes de Dios, no debemos pensar que la divinidad sea como el oro, la plata o la piedra: escultura hecha como resultado del ingenio y de la destreza del ser humano. 30 Pues bien, Dios pasó por alto aquellos tiempos de tal ignorancia, pero ahora manda a todos, en todas partes, que se arrepientan. 31 Él ha fijado un día en que juzgará al mundo con justicia, por medio del hombre que ha designado. De ello ha dado pruebas a todos al levantarlo de entre los muertos.

32 Cuando oyeron de la resurrección, unos se burlaron, pero otros dijeron:

—Queremos que usted nos hable en otra ocasión sobre este tema.

33 En ese momento Pablo salió de la reunión. 34 Algunas personas se unieron a Pablo y creyeron. Entre ellos estaba Dionisio, miembro del Areópago, una mujer llamada Dámaris y otros más.

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**.....

**HYMN #309 “We Are Your People” 1,3,5,6**

**1** We are your people,  
Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us  
Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.

**3** Rich in diversity,  
help us to live  
closer than neighbors,  
open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.

**5** Give, as we venture,  
justice and care  
(peaceful, insisting,  
risking, resisting),  
wisdom to know when and where.

**6** Spirit, unite us,  
make us, by grace,  
willing and ready,  
Christ’s living body,  
loving the whole human race.

*She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs without fear of the future.*

*When she speaks, her words are wise,  
she gives instructions with kindness.*

— PROVERBS 31:25-26 —

**SERMON**.....**Rev. Dr. Sarah Townes**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**.....

## **PRAYER OF JESUS**

Our Father, Our Mother,  
Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name,  
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**.....

*“His Eye Is on the Sparrow, by Charles H. Gabriel, Tune: SPARROW, arr. By Pepper Choplin. 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 #561 “When In Our Music God Is Glorified”**

**1** When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia!

**2** How often, making music, we have found  
a new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!

**3** So has the church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,

Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:  
Alleluia!

4 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia!

**LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY**.....

**CLOSING REFLECTION**.....

*“Come Thou Almighty King, by Felice de Giardini, based on ITALIAN HYMN, arr. By Lloyd Larson . Dorenda Morse, piano*

**BENEDICTION**.....

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**ASCAP**

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and she laughs without fear of the future.*

*When she speaks, her words are wise,  
and she gives instructions with kindness.*

— PROVERBS 31:25-26 —

# Welcome!

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

Mission Statement

Church of the Good Shepherd desires to be an

The mission of Church of the Good

***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.***