



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

06/21/26

11:00am

*Happy Father's Day*



*Telling Our Story*

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

***June 21, 2026***

**WELCOME**.....

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

One: God heard the cry of a child in the wilderness.

**Many: God hears the cries of all who are vulnerable and afraid.**

One: God opened Hagar's eyes to a well of life-giving water.

**Many: God provides hope and sustains us on the journey.**

One: On this day, we give thanks for fathers, caregivers, mentors, and all who nurture others.

**Many: Let us celebrate God as we honor those who have shown us love, wisdom, and courage.**

**HYMN #451 Be Now My Vision 1,2,3**

**1** Be now my vision O God of my heart;

Nothing surpasses the love you impart—

You my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

**2** Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;

Ever within me, my soul is assured;

Mother and Father, you are both to me,

Now and forever your child I will be.

**3** Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,

You, my inheritance, now and always;

You and you only are first in my heart,

Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

**OPENING REFLECTION**.....

*"The Journey" from "Symphony in E minor by Dvorak and the Shake hymn, SIMPLE GIFTS arr. Joseph M. Martin Tenor/Bass Chorale, Maria Stefanova, violin*

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

**PRAYER**.....

## PRAYER.....

## SCRIPTURE.....

### **Genesis 21:8-21, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

8 The baby grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." 11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

## Génesis 21:8-21, Nueva Versión Internacional

8 El niño Isaac creció y fue destetado. Ese mismo día, Abraham hizo un gran banquete. 9 Pero Sara se dio cuenta de que el hijo que Agar, la egipcia, había dado a Abraham, se burlaba de su hijo Isaac. 10 Por eso dijo a Abraham:

—¡Echa de aquí a esa esclava y a su hijo! El hijo de esa esclava jamás tendrá parte en la herencia con mi hijo Isaac.

11 Esto angustió mucho a Abraham porque se trataba de su propio hijo. 12 Pero Dios dijo a Abraham: «No te angusties por el muchacho ni por tu esclava. Hazle caso a Sara, pues tu descendencia se establecerá por medio de Isaac. 13 Pero también del hijo de la esclava haré una gran nación, porque es descendiente tuyo».

14 Al día siguiente, Abraham se levantó de madrugada, tomó un pan y un recipiente de cuero para agua y se los dio a Agar, poniéndoselos sobre el hombro. Luego le entregó al muchacho y la despidió. Agar partió y anduvo errante por el desierto de Berseba.

15 Cuando se acabó el agua del recipiente, puso al muchacho debajo de un arbusto 16 y fue a sentarse sola a distancia de un tiro de flecha, pues pensaba: «No quiero ver morir al muchacho». En cuanto ella se sentó, comenzó a llorar desconsoladamente.

17 Cuando Dios oyó al muchacho sollozar, el ángel de Dios llamó a Agar desde el cielo y le dijo: «¿Qué te pasa, Agar? No temas, pues Dios ha escuchado los sollozos del muchacho ahí donde está. 18 Levántate y tómallo de la mano, que yo haré de él una gran nación».

19 En ese momento, Dios abrió los ojos de Agar y ella vio un pozo de agua. Enseguida fue a llenar el recipiente de cuero y dio de beber al muchacho.

20 Dios acompañó al muchacho y este fue creciendo. Vivió en el desierto y se convirtió en un tirador de arco; 21 habitó en el desierto de Parán y su madre lo casó con una egipcia.

# A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

## HYMN #475 I Love to Tell the Story 1,2,4

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus'; radiant glory,  
of Jesus'; endless love.

I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

### **Refrain:**

I love to tell the story;  
and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story  
of Jesus'; endless love.

2 I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden visions  
of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story,  
I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it,  
because I know it's true. **[Refrain]**

4 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.



*All are welcome.  
All are beloved.  
All are called  
by God.*



And when I sing in glory,  
I know the new, new song  
will be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. **[Refrain]**

**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.

*All are welcome.  
All are beloved.  
All are called  
by God.*

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**.....

**OFFERTORY**.....

*“Three Little Pieces” by Bela Bartok. 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 #497 Guide My Feet**

**1** Guide my feet while I run this race,  
guide my feet while I run this race,  
guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

**2** Hold my hand while I run this race,  
hold my hand while I run this race,  
hold my hand while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

**3** I'm your child while I run this race,  
I'm your child while I run this race,  
I'm your child while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

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

**CLOSING REFLECTION**.....

*"Always Look On the Bright Side of Life" Words and Music by Eric Idle. Tenor/Bass Chorale*

**BENEDICTION**.....

"Permissions:

"Be Now My Vision"

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"The Journey" Contributors: Joseph M Martin

Text: © 1997, Shawnee Press

"Guide My Feet" Contributors: Joyce Finch Johnson

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# 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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