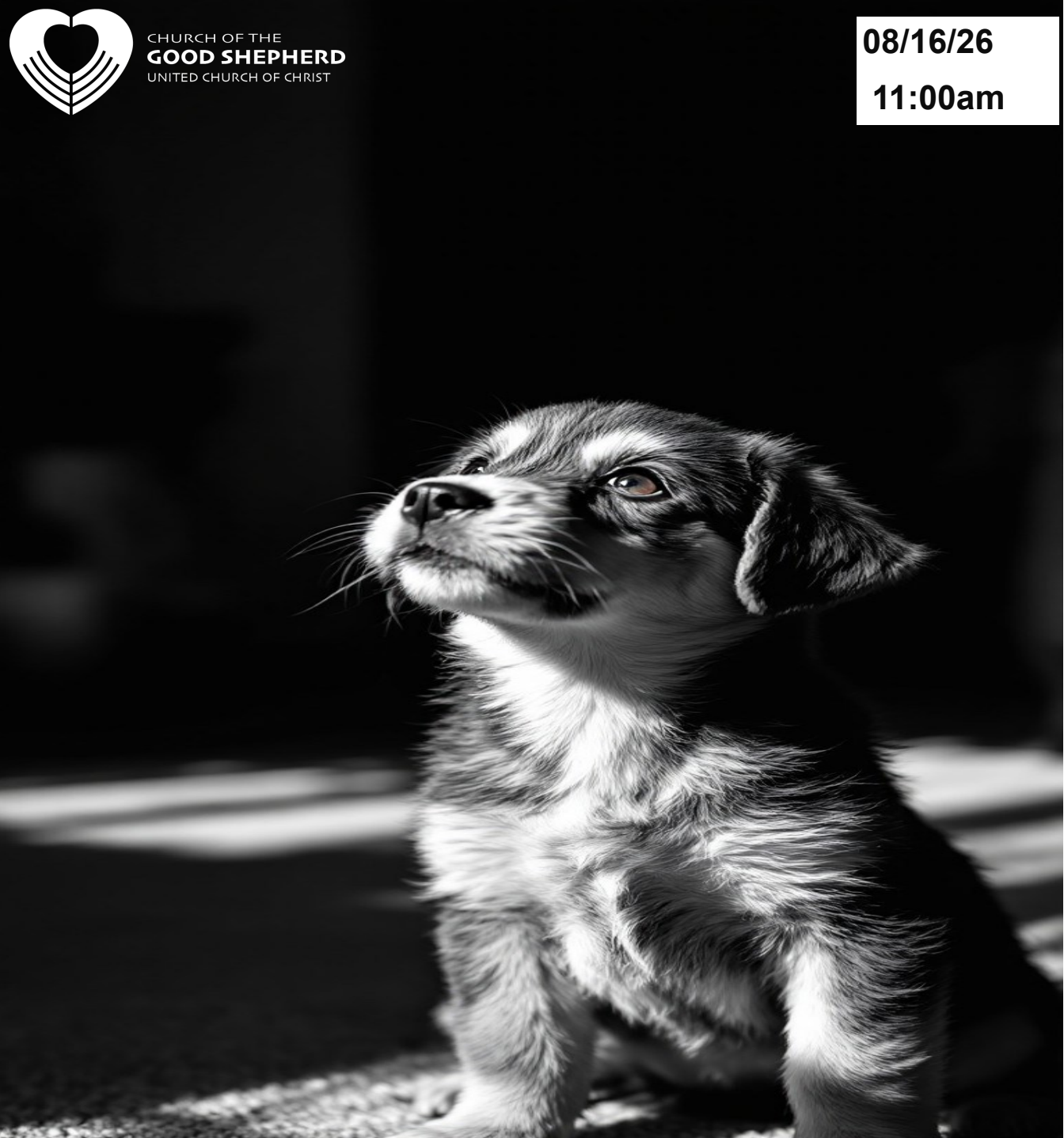




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

08/16/26

11:00am



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

August 16, 2026

Worship Leader: **Ann Gilmore**

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather today in God's wide and welcoming embrace.

Many: Here, no one is an outsider and no one is turned away.

One: We come with our varied histories and persistent hopes.

Many: We seek to listen with open hearts, and to witness the expansive reach of divine love.

One: God breaks down the divisions between us and calls us into a larger community.

Many: Let us celebrate God, who brings us together.

HYMN "Gather Us In" 1,2,4

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.....

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” by Stuart Townsend, arr. James Koerts. Carol Red, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Matthew 15:10-28, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” 13 He answered, “Every plant that our heavenly God has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16 Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” 21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Sir, please help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Sir, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Mateo 15:10-28, Nueva Versión Internacional

10 Jesús llamó a la multitud y dijo:

—Escuchen y entiendan. 11 Lo que contamina a una persona no es lo que entra en la boca, sino lo que sale de ella.

12 Entonces se le acercaron los discípulos y dijeron:

—¿Sabes que los fariseos se escandalizaron al oír eso?

13 —Toda planta que mi Padre celestial no haya plantado será arrancada de raíz —respondió—. 14 Déjenlos; son guías ciegos.[a] Y si un ciego guía a otro ciego, ambos caerán en un hoyo.

15 —Explicanos la comparación —pidió Pedro.

16 —¿Tampoco ustedes pueden todavía entenderlo? —dijo Jesús—. 17 ¿No se dan cuenta de que todo lo que entra en la boca va al estómago y después se echa en la letrina? 18 Pero lo que sale de la boca viene del corazón y contamina a la persona. 19 Porque del corazón salen los malos pensamientos, los homicidios, los adulterios, la inmoralidad sexual, los robos, los falsos testimonios y las calumnias. 20 Estas son las cosas que contaminan a la persona y no el comer sin lavarse las manos.

21 Partiendo de allí, Jesús se retiró a la región de Tiro y Sidón. 22 De esa región salió a su encuentro una mujer cananea gritando:

—¡Señor, Hijo de David, ten compasión de mí! Mi hija sufre terriblemente por estar endemoniada.

23 Jesús no respondió ni una palabra. Así que sus discípulos se acercaron a él y le rogaron:

—Despídela, porque viene detrás de nosotros gritando.

24 —No fui enviado sino a las ovejas perdidas del pueblo de Israel —contestó Jesús.

25 La mujer se acercó y arrodillándose delante de él, suplicó:

—¡Señor, ayúdame!

26 Él respondió:

—No está bien quitarles el pan a los hijos y echárselo a los perros.

27 —Sí, Señor —respondió la mujer—, pero hasta los perros comen las migajas que caen de la mesa de sus amos.

28 —¡Mujer, qué grande es tu fe! —contestó Jesús—. Que se cumpla lo que quieres. Y desde ese mismo momento quedó sana su hija.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

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.

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.....
“How Firm A Foundation” Early American arr. Lee Burswold. Beth Purvis, cello; Linda Gilmour, 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 #547 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” 1,2,4

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!

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.

LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....

“The Hudson” by Ola Gjeilo. Beth Purvis, cello; Linda Gilmour, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Contributors: Townsend, Koerts @1995 Thank You Music

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In Christ There is No East or West/Stanza 3

Contributors: Laurence Hull Stookey

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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

Mission Statement

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.