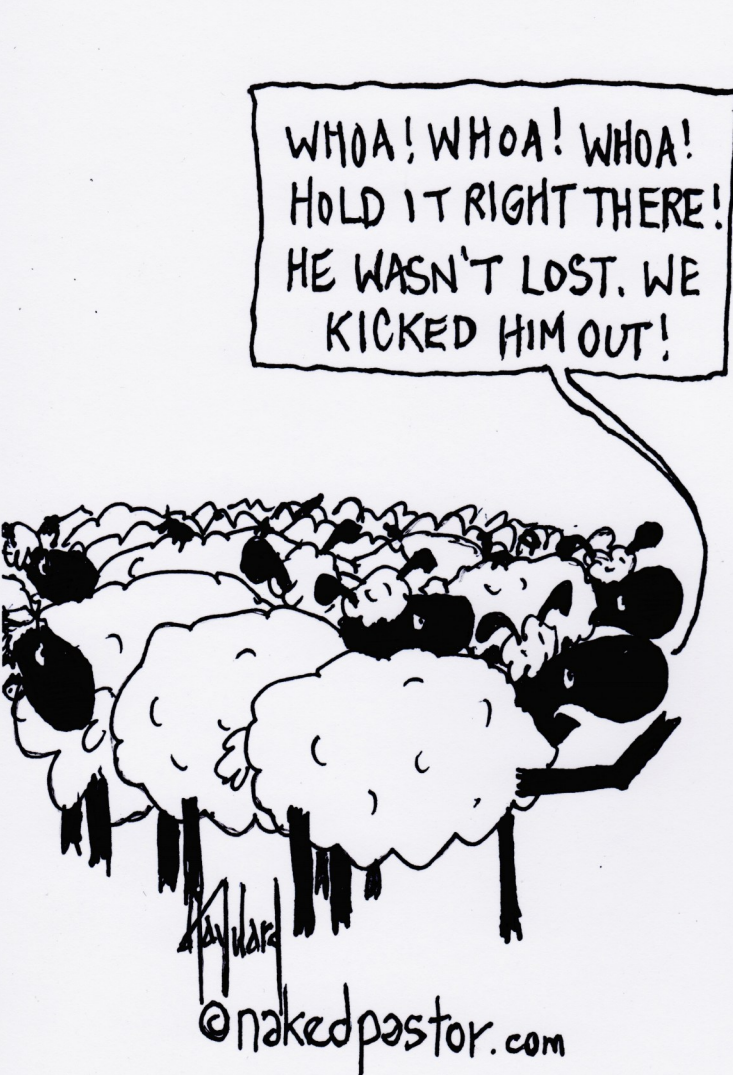




CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/06/26

11:00am



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

September 06, 2026

WELCOME.....

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome, all who seek love, hope, and a place to belong.

Many: We give thanks to God, who brings us together in beloved community.

One: Jesus reminds us that no one is forgotten and no one is beyond the reach of love.

Many: We give thanks to Jesus, who reassures us he is with us wherever two or three are gathered in his name.

One: God sends the Holy Spirit among us, giving us the power to hear beyond words and the courage to tell the truth in love.

Many: We give thanks to the Holy Spirit, who invites us to listen deeply and learn from one another.

One: Let us celebrate God, who seeks us, gathers us, forgives us, and calls us home.

Many: May our worship overflow with God's grace, and may our lives become a doorway to healing.

HYMN #70 "God Is Here!"

1 God is here! As we your people,

meet to offer praise and prayer,

May we find in fuller measure

what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,

all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit

into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us

of our lifelong need of grace;

Here are table, font, and pulpit,

here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

OPENING REFLECTION.....

“Pavane pour une infante défunte,” (abridged), by Maurice Ravel. Dorenda Morse, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS.....

PRAYER.....

SCRIPTURE.....

Matthew 18:12-22, adapted from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition
12 What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of God in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.
15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses

to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

21 Then Peter came and said to him, “Sir, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Mateo 18:12-22, adapted from the Nueva Versión Internacional

12 »¿Qué les parece? Si un hombre tiene cien ovejas y se extravía una de ellas, ¿no dejará las noventa y nueve en las colinas para ir en busca de la extraviada? 13 Y si llega a encontrarla, les aseguro que se pondrá más feliz por esa sola oveja que por las noventa y nueve que no se extraviaron. 14 Así también, el Padre de ustedes que está en el cielo no quiere que se pierda ninguno de estos pequeños.

15 »Si tu hermano o hermana peca contra ti, ve a solas con él y hazle ver su falta. Si te hace caso, has ganado a tu hermano. 16 Pero si no, lleva contigo a uno o dos más, para que “todo asunto se resuelva mediante el testimonio de dos o tres testigos”. 17 Si se niega a hacerles caso a ellos, díselo a la iglesia; y si incluso a la iglesia no le hace caso, trátalo como si fuera un incrédulo o un cobrador de impuestos.

18 »Les aseguro que todo lo que ustedes aten en la tierra quedará atado en el cielo y todo lo que desaten en la tierra quedará desatado en el cielo.

19 »Además les digo que, si dos de ustedes en la tierra se ponen de acuerdo sobre cualquier cosa que pidan, les será concedida por mi Padre que está en el cielo. 20 Porque donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre, allí estoy yo en medio de ellos».

21 Pedro se acercó a Jesús y preguntó:

—Señor, ¿cuántas veces tengo que perdonar a mi hermano que peca contra mí? ¿Hasta

siete veces?
22 —No te digo que hasta siete veces, sino hasta setenta veces siete[d] —contestó
Jesús—.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES.....

HYMN #396 Where Charity and Love Prevail 1,2,3

Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love,
By love are we thus bound.
With grateful joy and holy fear
True charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults
As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER.....

PRAYER OF JESUS

Life Giver,
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.....

*“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee,” based on ST. AGNUS, by John B. Dykes and GORDON, by
Adoniram J. Gordon arr. Lloyd Larson. 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.....

COMMUNION HYMN #330 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,

with my face to the rising sun,

My God, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;

let us drink wine together on our knees. **[Refrain]**

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. **[Refrain]**

COMMUNION.....
“Jesus Is Tenderly Calling,” by George C. Stebbins, arr. By Todd
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LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.....

CLOSING REFLECTION.....
Dorenda Morse, piano

BENEDICTION.....

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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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www.ucccogs.org

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