



# CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 17, 2025

9:30 AM



# Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

*"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."*

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

📺 Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

🌐 [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

📘 [facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

**We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship**—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

## 👶 CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

🚻 **Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

🚻 **Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

💧 **Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

🌿 **Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

## 🌍 OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

### 💻 Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at

👉 [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

## OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a “church of firsts” and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision “...that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

## ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** and **WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



**UCC Mental Health Network**

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work



## 🌿 OUR MISSION

“Share God’s teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need.”

*"Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,  
and we will call on your name." - Psalm 80:18*

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

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.*

## PRELUDE

\*\*\*\*\* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES \*\*\*\*\*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Long ago, a vineyard was planted. The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.

All: **But the vines grew wild, and the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.**

Leader: What happened in that place of promise?

All: **People forgot the One who planted the vineyard. They chose their own ways and failed.**

Leader: Let us again turn to the Lord, who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.

All: **Let us open our hearts to God, trusting in God's ways and God's word. AMEN.**

\*\*\*\*\* **BELL** \*\*\*\*\*

## OPENING PRAYER

## SILENT PRAYER

## HYMN

*"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"*

*(see music insert)*

### **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION** *(unison)*

God of healing mercies, we come to you this day as imperfect people. We know that you desire for us hope, happiness, and love, yet we have found so many ways in which to block your gifts, or to grab hold of them as if we were entitled to them. We have been given the pathway to peace in the witness of Jesus Christ. He taught us to live as people of compassion and service. But our service has been primarily for ourselves, for our own gratification. We have failed to be your church, your witnesses on earth. We have neglected the needs of others in our rush for our own comfort. Forgive us, O merciful God. Heal our wounded spirits. Turn us again to you, that we may again learn of your love and mercy. Help us to become partners in peace and hope for others, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Turn again, O people, to the Lord who always loves you. Remember God's loving mercies and faithfulness. AMEN.

## WAVING OF PEACE

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

### **READINGS** *(NRSVUE)*

Isaiah 5:1-7

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

\*Luke 12:49-56





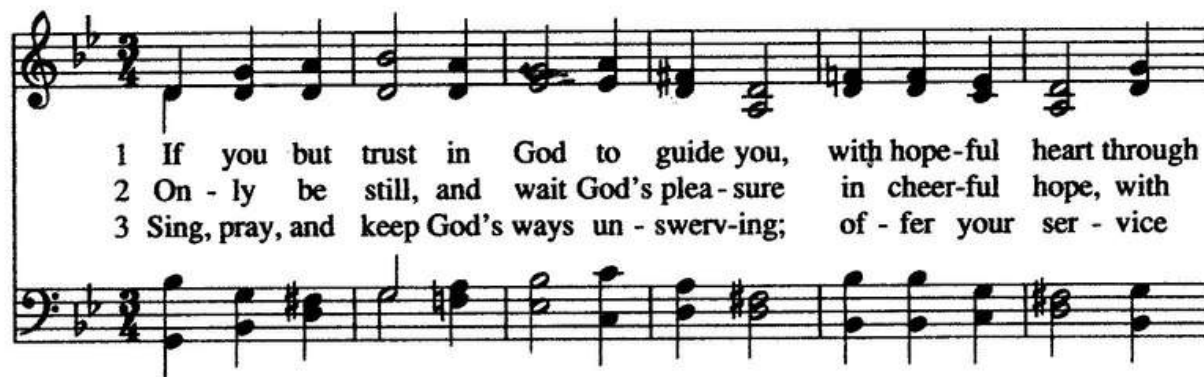
# If You But Trust in God to Guide You

410

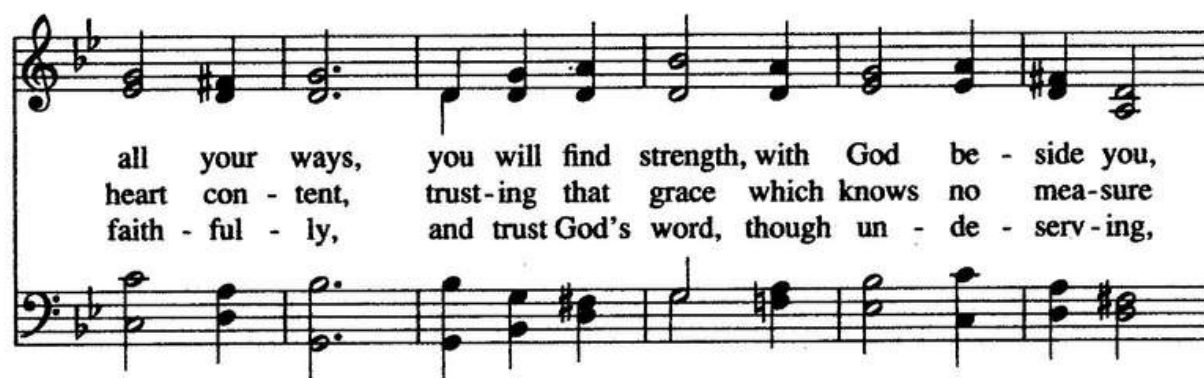
Georg Neumark, 1641

Ps. 55:22


Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.



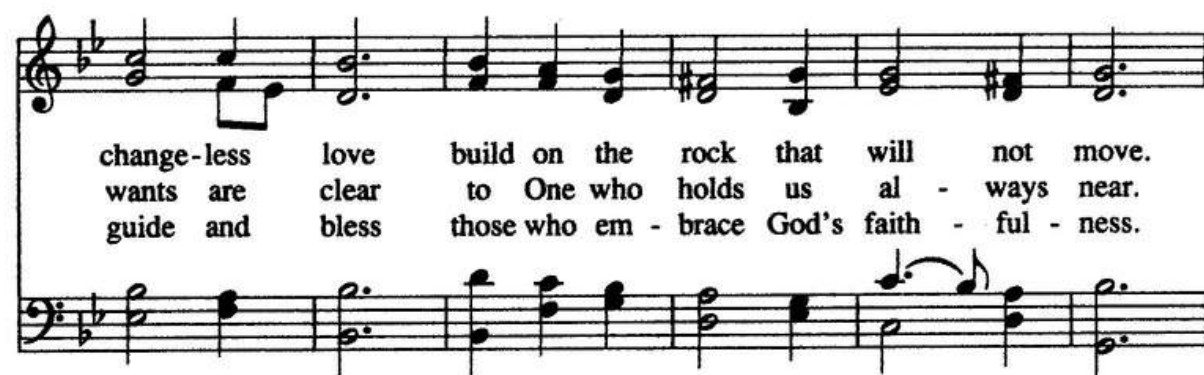
1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through  
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with  
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice



all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,  
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure  
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv - ing,



to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's  
 will - by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to



change-less love build on the rock that will not move.  
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.  
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music. Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the Thirty Years' War.

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.  
 Georg Neumark, 1657

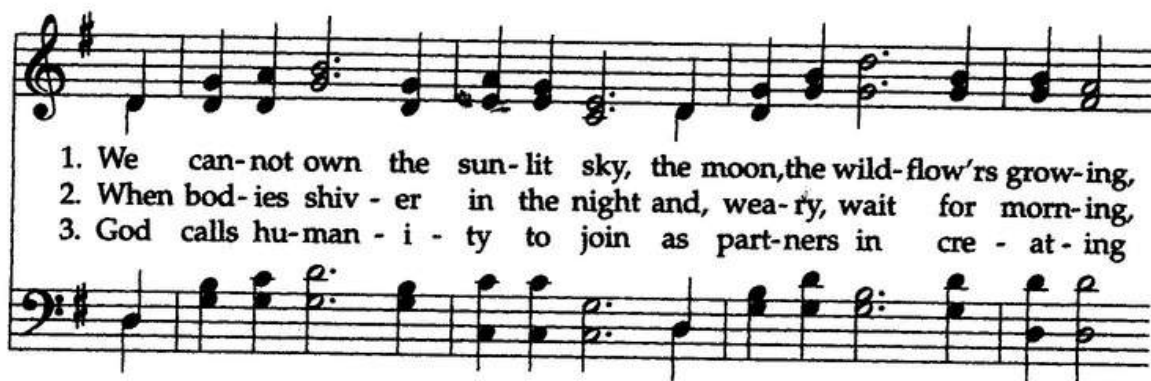
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# OFFERING HYMN

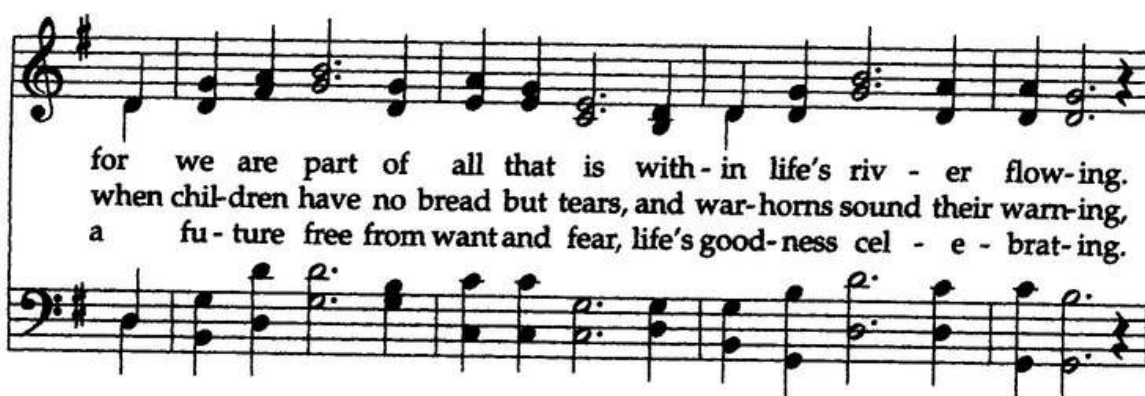
DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

## We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

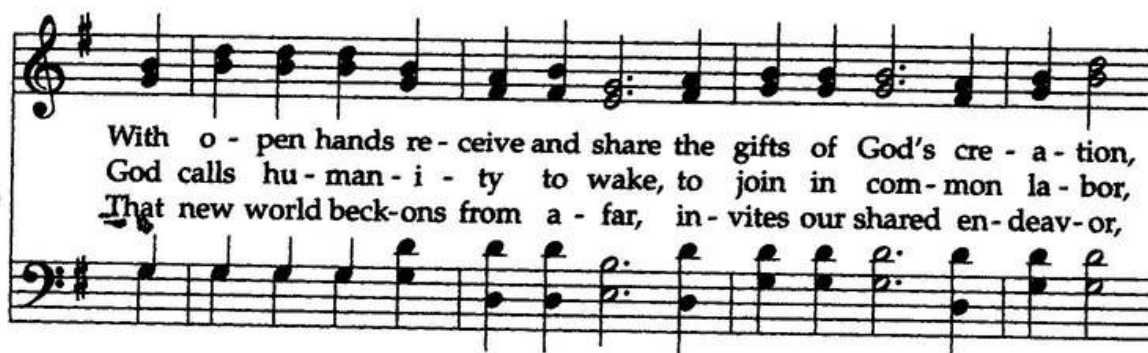
684



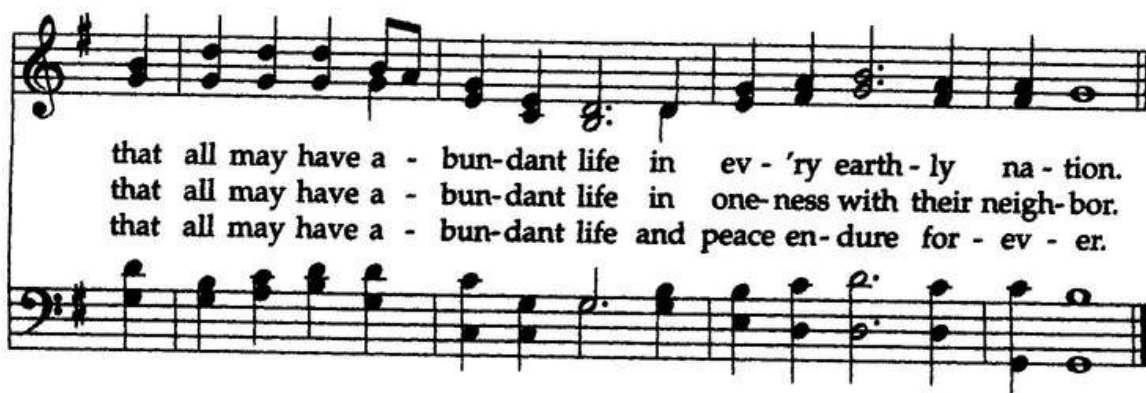
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flow'rs grow-ing,  
2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,  
3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-at-ing



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing.  
when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,  
a fu-ture free from want and fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.



With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,  
God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,  
That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-'ry earth-ly na-tion.  
that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1984, 1989  
MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING  
87.87D

Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

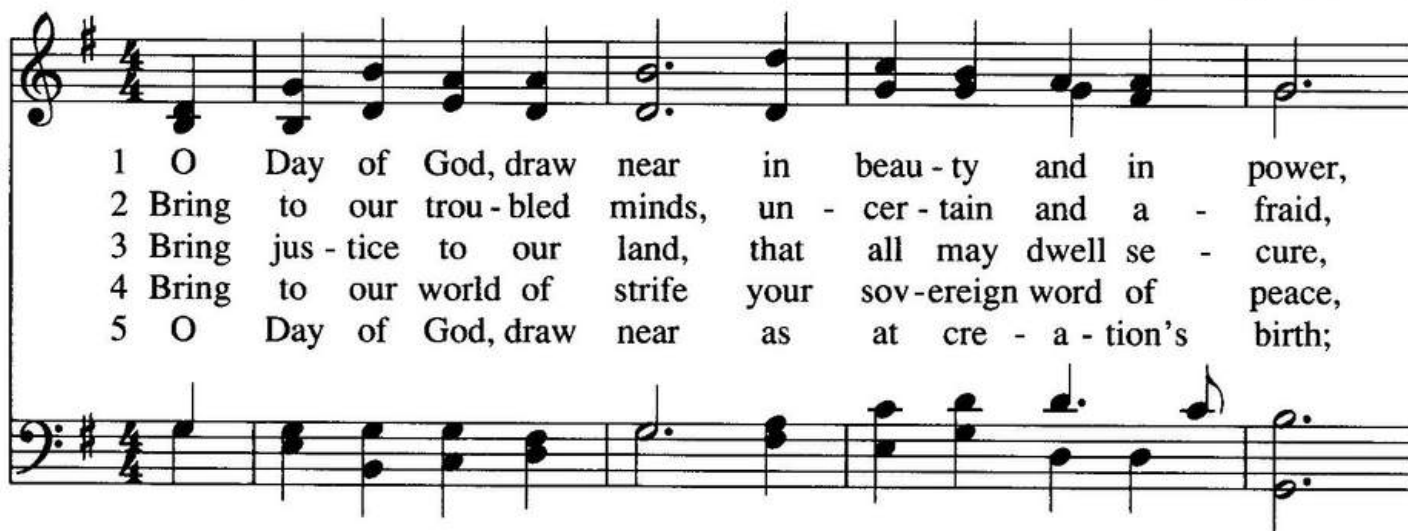
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# O Day of God, Draw Near

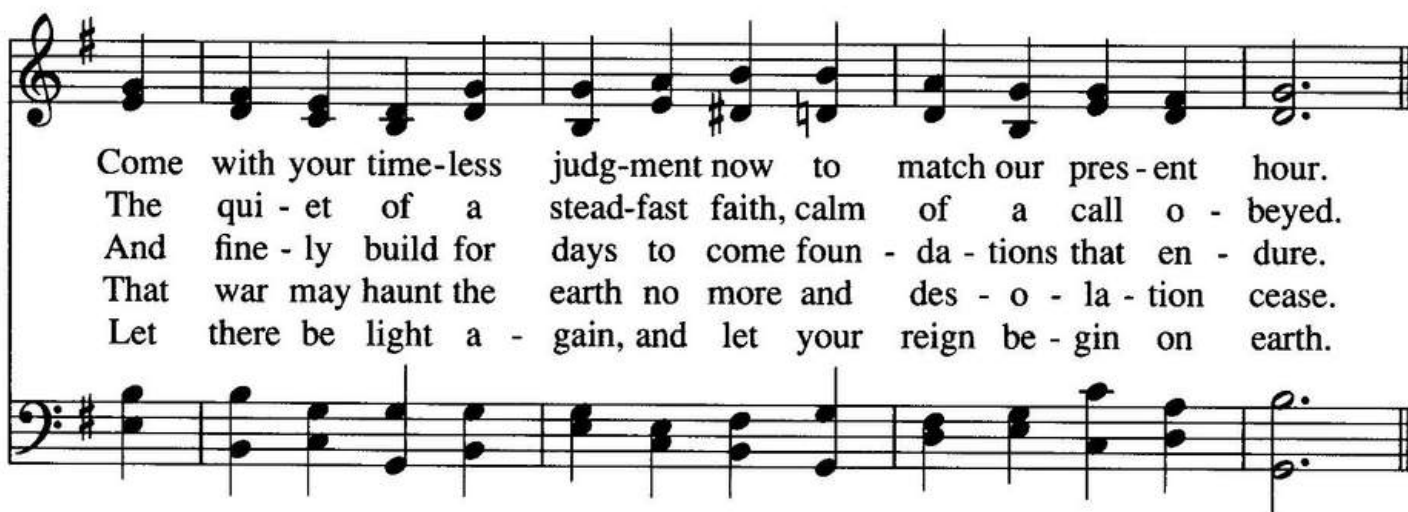
611

*R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.*

*Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8–15*



1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,  
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,  
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,  
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,  
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;



Come with your time-less judg-ment now to match our pres - ent hour.  
The qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.  
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.  
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.  
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

*R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of Canada, he wrote this text in 1937 for the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.*

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.  
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551  
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836

CCLI 1718955

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>



## Download Our New Church App!

Stay connected with our church family anytime, anywhere. Access sermons, events, updates, and so much more—all right at your fingertips. Don't miss out on this convenient way to stay in the loop! Download it today!

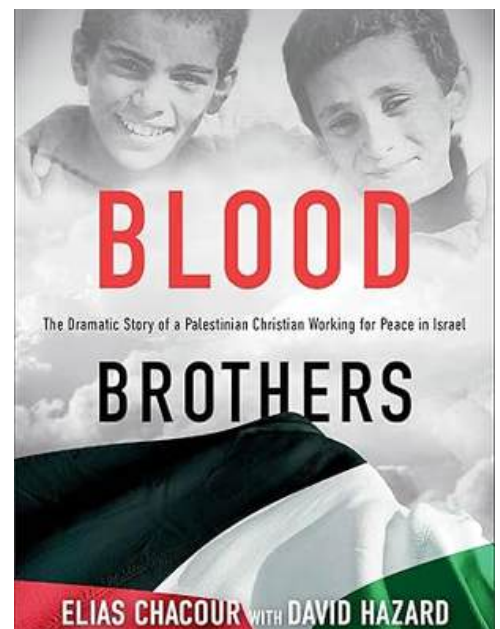
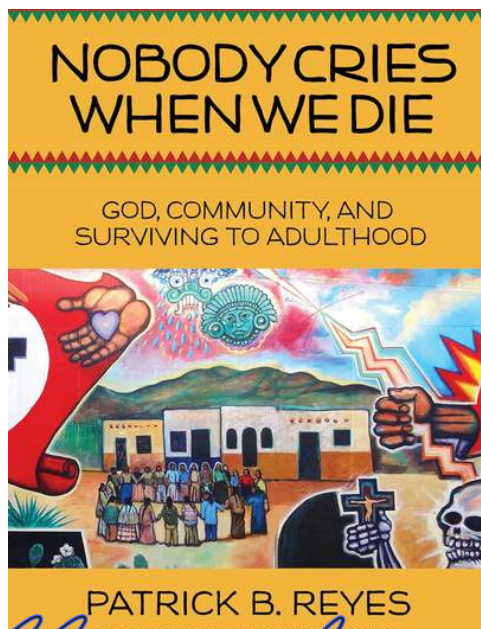
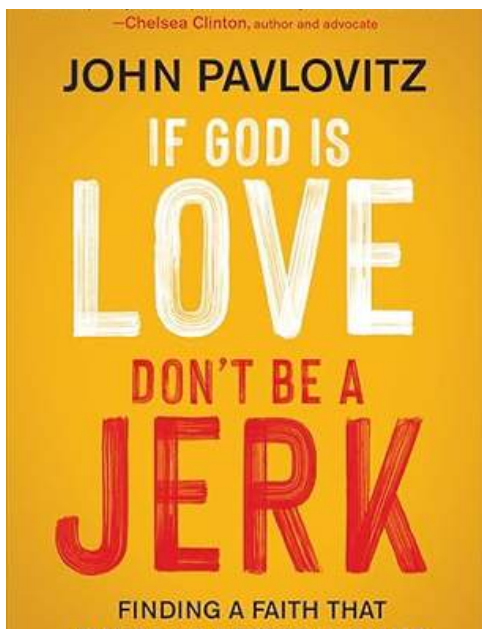
Scan to download  
the app



OR







## *Fall Book Series*

### **Join Us for Our August–October Book Series: Stories of Faith, Justice, and Resilience**

**Dates & Time: Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Lounge**

- **August 16:** *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk* by John Pavlovitz
- **September 20:** *Nobody Cries When We Die* by Patrick Reyes
- **October 18:** *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour

Come for one discussion or all three—this is a space for honest conversation, shared learning, and spiritual growth.

### **Here are the links to be able to purchase the books:**

*If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans*

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/bKH9wCE>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/MakesUsBetter>

*Blood Brothers: The Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel*

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/g6y6cGe>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/Chacour2025>

*Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/fDLKSq9>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/NobodyCrie>





**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

# SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES



growing in  
faith together

Get ready for a summer of fun! Faith Forward Commission invites all youth to join us for special activities that spark creativity, connection, and community. (During 9:30-10:30 AM worship service unless noted otherwise)

## ACTIVITIES:

### **June 29 – Movie Day**

Join us in Wobbe Hall for a fun, family-friendly movie and snacks

### **July 27 – Intergenerational Bowling (after service)**

All are welcome for an intergenerational game. Meet us at River Rand Bowling for some strikes, spares, and summertime fun. RSVP: <https://bit.ly/July27Bowling> or sign-up sheet available in the office.

### **August 3 – Worship in the Park & Picnic (9:30am)**

Enjoy a joyful outdoor service and a picnic—plus lawn games for the kids. There will be a splash pad!

### **August 24 – Board Games**

Wrap up the summer with classic games, laughter, and connection



OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# **PRAISE & HARMONY: A SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**

**Sunday, August 31st at 9:30am**



**Charles Payette**

Charles studied horn with Philip Farkas at Indiana University and has been an active performer in the Chicago area for many years. He has extensive experience in brass and chamber ensembles and performs regularly with groups including the Northbrook Symphony, Cinque Venti Wind Quintet, Festival City Symphony, and Chicago Metropolitan Brass Ensemble. A sought-after freelance musician, Charles recently soloed with the Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale and spends summers with the Lakeside Symphony in Ohio.

A colorful poster for a 'Rally Day!' event. At the top, a banner reads 'CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' with a small icon of a church and the tagline 'An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.' Below this, a large green banner says 'JOIN US FOR OUR RALLY DAY!'. The date 'SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7' is in a yellow cloud, with the text 'Bring a friend or neighbor!' next to it. At the bottom, it says 'MORE INFORMATION TO COME'. The poster is decorated with festive elements: colorful bunting at the top, 'FUN ACTIVITIES' with an illustration of children playing hopscotch, 'FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY' with an illustration of a group of people cheering, 'FESTIVE MUSIC' with an illustration of a drum and guitar, and 'DELICIOUS FREE FOOD' with an illustration of a food cart.

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

**JOIN US FOR OUR  
RALLY DAY!**

**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7**

Bring a friend or neighbor!

**FUN ACTIVITIES**

**FESTIVE MUSIC**

**DELICIOUS FREE FOOD**

**FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY**

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

CELEBRATION OF UNITY

COMMUNITY

TALENT



Show!

IN CELEBRATION OF  
DES PLAINES THEATRE'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21 | 1PM



FREE ADMISSION!  
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

On Sunday September 21 at 1pm First United Methodist Church, in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Des Plaines Theatre, will be hosting a "Celebration of Unity Community Talent Show." Enjoy a variety of performances that showcase different talents and the beautiful diversity of the Des Plaines community. Last year's talent show included Mexican folkloric dancing, musical performances, and local bands! Admission is free, so come and celebrate everything that the Des Plaines community has to offer. This event is being held at the Des Plaines Theatre. Entry is free, but a ticket reservation is required. Link to reserve: <https://bit.ly/celebrationofunity2025>



## IN MEMORY / HONOR

### ALTAR FLOWERS



#### May we continue special prayers for...

Marion Meseth\*  
Dawn Mashek  
Linda Steckel  
Jack Storm  
Marilyn Hoover\*  
Sue Prunty

Marilyn McCown  
Dorothy Zemke\*  
Kelly Roberts  
Hope & Bruce Tschappat\*  
Helen Harney  
George Bielat

Rev. Marcia Urban  
Jack Branding  
**Homebound\***  
Documented &  
Undocumented  
Immigrants

Our Country  
Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian,  
and Israeli citizens

#### Special prayers for:

Those living with mental illness, illness, without a home or food, our church community, service people, veterans, our nation, and our leaders.

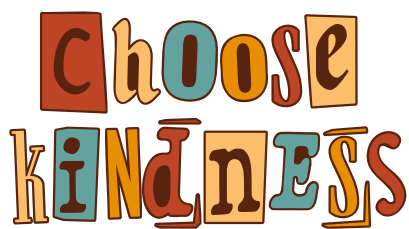
# Happy Birthday!

18 - Monica Kulaga  
18 - Marilyn McCown  
23 - John LaMarche  
23 - Debbie Barnhart

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

#### Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Jessica Busse
Church Pianist.....	Karen Wilberg
Council Greeter.....	Mandy O'Donnell
Ushers.....	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 52±**  
*Our attendance is calculated using our  
LIVE Facebook viewers and those in person.*

**GET IT TOGETHER:** Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on August 20th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

**MEN'S LUNCH:** Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:** Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

**SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY:** They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

**COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT:** If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins.

**COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP:** Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

**FAITH FORWARD COMMISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING:** The meeting will be on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm in the lounge.



### PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGE

We're off to a fantastic start in our plastic recycling challenge, a joint effort between Trinity Lutheran ELCA, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and First Church United Methodist Church. A total of 475 pounds have been collected as of August 5, 2025. To reach our goal of **1,000 pounds by June 30, 2026**, we need 525 pounds! Please continue bringing in your recyclable plastics to help us earn a bench for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines!



**Watch our worship services live on Facebook.** Can't join us live? Catch the replay later in the week on YouTube via our website at [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org). Worship from the comfort of your home!



**Christ Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016**  
**847-297-4230**



**Tuesday - Friday**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

**Tues. & Wed. 10 am - 3 pm;**

***Days off:* Friday & Saturday**



***For after-hour pastoral care emergencies,***  
***please call Rev. Gilbert on his cell phone at 224-250-9898.***

**Website:** [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor**  
[gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant & Digital Outreach Coordinator**  
[jezzle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:jezzle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Kyle Speer, Finance Manager & Music Coordinator**  
[kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Tommie Jordan, Custodian**  
**Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician**

**Lay Ministry: All Members**

**Judy Rosedale, Council President; Holly Schmidt, Council Vice-President**  
Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns  
& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.