

CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

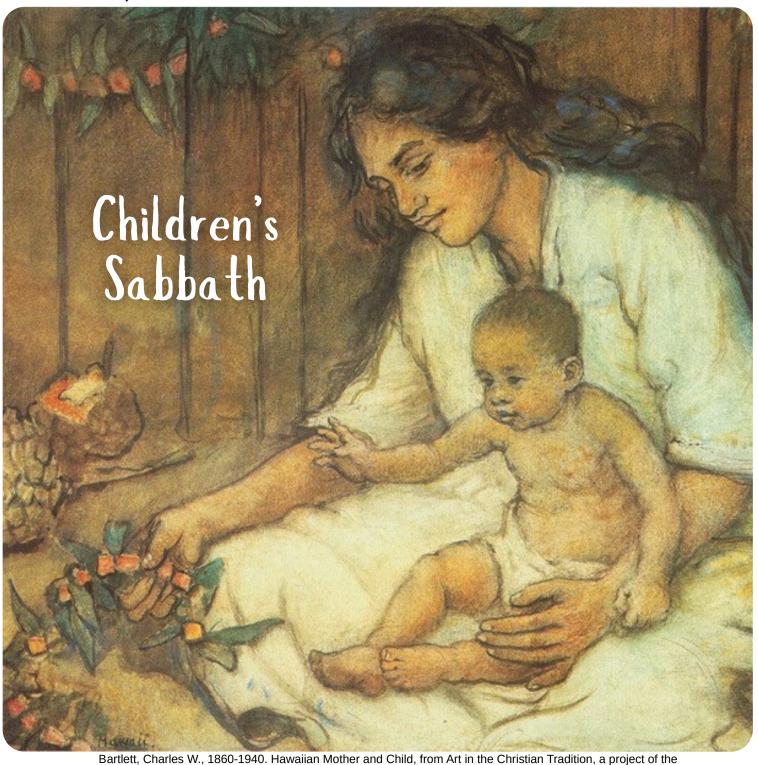
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



October 19, 2025

9:30 AM



Bartlett, Charles W., 1860-1940. Hawaiian Mother and Child, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57170 [retrieved October 14, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Charles_W._Bartlett_-_%27Hawaiian_Mother_and_Child%27,_watercolor_and_pastel_on_art_board,_c._1920.jpg

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.

1 Our worship services are livestreamed and available on:

<u>christchurchuccdesplaines.org</u>

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.

SECULIAR SECULIAR SE

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

<u> christchurchuccdesplaines.org</u>

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.



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."

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.

"The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night." - Psalm 121:6

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Oh, how I love your will, dear Lord. I meditate on your wisdom all day long.

People: Your teaching makes me wiser each day. Your instruction helps me become my truest self.

Leader: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

People: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light that shines on my path.

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN "Love Divine All Loves Excelling" (Red Hymnal 275)

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (unison)

You call us, Lord of Life, to a faith that stays in motion. You urge us to grow in wisdom and to be reconciled with all. Yet, we fail to understand that faith is not something fixed. It is not a goal to be achieved, a place where we arrive and then rest on our laurels. Call us anew, dear Christ, to seek you in neighbors who need us. Help us pursue peace with more persistence than those who pursue violence. Grant us an unyielding faith— a faith that transforms our own hearts and the world around us. This we pray in your name, which is Love. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"I will be your God, and you will be my people," says the Lord. God accepts us and calls us to accept all God's children. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Welcome & Invite

Pastor: Who made you? Children: God made me!

Pastor: What does God give us?

Children: Love!

Pastor: Where can we share God's love?

Children: Everywhere!

Pastor: How do we show it?

Children: With kindness!

Pastor: Who helps us?

Children: God helps us!



* Short Readings

Reader 1: "We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Reader 2: "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Art Presentation

Gentle Commissioning

Congregational Blessing

Pastor: Loving God...In Jesus' name, Amen.

All: Amen.

WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE



God of steadfast love, your word is written on our hearts, your mercy fills the world. As we share this peace, may it remind us to live in justice, to love with persistence, and to follow Christ faithfully. Let us now greet each other with a sign of peace.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (NRSVUE)

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104 (Responsive Reading)

Leader: Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. **People: Your words are sweeter than honey to my taste.**

Leader: Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are always with me.

People: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

Leader: I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

People: I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

Leader: I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

People: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Leader: Through your precepts, I gain understanding.

People: Therefore, I hate every false way.

*Luke 18:1-8

SERMON "When Justice Sleeps, Faith Keeps Knocking"

Rev. Gilbert Martinez

RESPONSE to scripture(*twice*) \flat Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show \flat us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. \flat

RECEPTION OF MEMBER

Invitation

Questions of the Candidate

Pastor: _____, do you desire to affirm your baptism/be baptized into the faith and family of

Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.



Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise...Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise...Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Affirmation of Faith

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator. God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

Address

Question about Affirmation

Pastor: Do you promise...the world?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of Christ Church United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm

our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our

friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge

and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Prayer

A NEW CREED (unison)

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true Man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN "More Precious Than Silver". (see music insert)

PRAYER OF PETITION

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) please recite the version closest to your heart

(Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kindom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving

HYMN "Peace is Flowing Like a River" (during collection, see music insert)

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (see music insert)

*********** BELL & EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES ***********

HYMN POSTLUDE "Lord You Give the Great Commission"

(see music insert)

Vanderbilt Divinity Library; MinistryMatters



2065

More Precious than Silver



WORDS: Lynn DeShazo (Ps. 16:2; 119:72; Prov. 3:13-15; 1 Pet. 2:7)

MUSIC: Lynn DeShazo © 1980 Integrity's Hosanna! Music DESHAZO Irregular



Original words: "With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony."

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955 MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE





Join First United Methodist Church Des Plaines and SPEAK Des Plaines for a series of Peace Circles—spaces to connect, share, and build community. Rooted in Indigenous traditions and guided by values of inclusion and democracy, circles help us strengthen relationships and practice restorative skills.

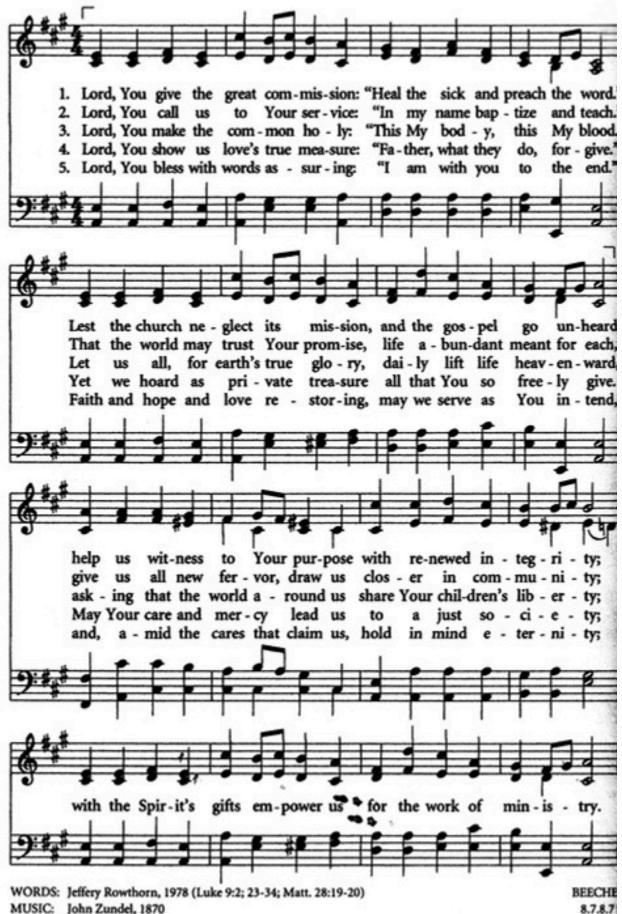
₹ 668 Graceland Saturdays, 11 AM – 2 PM

\$25 grocery gift card + refreshments provided

Register here: https://bit.ly/communitypeacecircles

Open to all community members—leaders, youth, seniors, teachers, parents, first responders, business owners, and neighbors. Space is limited; confirmations sent one week before each circle.

653 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



OFFERING HYMN





Support Families in Gaza Through LIFE Relief Efforts

<u>Life for Relief and Development (LIFE)</u>—a humanitarian organization with over 33 years of global service—continues to provide life-saving aid in Gaza, where over 2 million people are homeless and without access to food and clean water.

LIFE has remained on the ground when hundreds of other organizations could not, providing:

- Millions of gallons of clean water
- Over 10,000 family tents and \$2.2 million in medical supplies
- Food baskets, hygiene kits, and care packages for mothers and infants

You and your congregation can help:

- \$1,500 provides 15,000 liters of clean water for 500 families
- \$600 provides a family shelter tent for five people

To give or learn more, visit www.lifeusa.org or call 1-800-827-3543.

Every gift helps bring shelter, water, and hope to Gaza's families.

Donate:







A Faith-Based Conversation on Welcoming the Stranger

Sunday, November 9 | 12:00-1:30pm

Christ Church United Church of Christ 1942 Henry Ave, Des Plaines

Join us and you will:

- · Learn about the categories of U.S immigration.
- Look to Scripture and our shared Biblical calling to care for the stranger among us.
- Participate in breakouts to consider how we as Christians think about immigration.



Scan to register or visit exodusworldservice.org/faithbasedconversation

Questions? Contact Jody May jody.may@exodusworldservice.org | 847.514.9924





→ Faith Forward Adventures → Advent Celebration for Kids!

Christ Church invites all children to join us for Faith Forward Adventures, a special Advent celebration just for kids!

Each Sunday during Advent — **November 30 through December 21** — we'll gather during regular worship for fun activities, stories, and conversation about the hope, peace, joy, and love that lead us to Christmas.

When: Sundays, November 30 – December 21

Time: During regular service

Come celebrate the season, make new friends, and discover together what makes Advent so special!

We can't wait to see you at Faith Forward Adventures!

PRAYER ON THE NEWS OF A CEASEFIRE. The parent of a child

God of Life
We lift voices that are hoarse from screaming for justice
Eyes that are wet with tears
Or that can cry no more.

2 years, God. Do you hear our cries? Do you hear the cry of Gaza?

There is news of a ceasefire.
There is dancing in the streets.
There are children who have lost everything
Telling us the war is over, for good.

Preserve their hope, oh Lord. Stop the bombs. Release the prisoners. Feed the people.

You are a God that saves.

And yet, where has that salvation been, these past two years?

And so much longer before.

Over 67,000 dead, and likely so many more Hundreds of thousands wounded

Under the rubble

What shall we say to the

Woman who wakes to news of ceasefire

And then must ask,

"Where am I to go?

What do we do with our lives?

Where shall we live?"

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

What shall we say to

The parent of a child

Bloodied just hours after news of the ceasefire broke

As the world slept and then cried "Free Palestine"

And yet we still yell it
We refuse to accept 'peace'
Defined by those who profit from war.
You are a God that liberates.

Preserve the faith of Palestinians, God, And show your saving power. Let every tear of joy shed in these Days of anticipation Water the future.

May every laugh and song of children Lifted to the sky Defend against planes and drones From here on forward. You are a God that heals.

May there be quiet in Gaza, God.
And while there is quiet there, Lord,
Strengthen our cries across this globe for true
justice
A true peace

A true peace
For the kingdom coming
That we glimpse
And is not yet

Firm up our souls to keep marching
To keep singing
Keep going
Till liberation is won.

Amen

- REV. MARGARET ERNST CHRISTIANS FOR A FREE PALESTINE



The Community Backpack Project (CBP) is kicking off its annual Hat, Scarf, and Glove Drive for District 62 students (Pre-K–8th grade). Our goal is to outfit 250 students for the cold weather **ahead!**

You can help by:

- Donating \$5 enough to provide a hat, scarf, and gloves for one student (items can be found at Dollar Tree).
- Donations may be dropped off in the blue bins for delivery to the CBP.

Our goal is to distribute all items by the first week of November, before the winter chill sets in.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Because of your generosity, we never have to say "no" to a student in need.

Thanks,

Jana Haas, Coordinator, Community Backpack Project





Sunday, November 2nd

Don't forget to bring a loved one's picture for our All Saints' Day worship service. If you want to add them to our tribute printed list, please send an email to Rev. Gilbert or drop a note in his mailbox.





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!

https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP

Scan to download the app









May we continue special prayers for...

Marion Meseth*
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel
Jack Storm
Marilyn Hoover*

Marilyn Hoover* Sue Prunty John Prellberg Marilyn McCown Dorothy Zemke* Kelly Roberts

Hope & Bruce Tschappat*

Helen Harney George Bielat Rev. Marcia Urban Jack Branding Frank Staggs Documented &

Undocumented Immigrants

Our Country Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian, and Israeli

citizens

Homebound*



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!

19 - Marilyn Hoover

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

 Pastor
 Rev. Gilbert Martinez

 Liturgist/Lectors
 Jacob Guerra-Martinez

George Bielat



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 47±

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 November 19th, 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.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED: Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. *Ushers will have NIN envelopes available.*



2025 Annual Meeting SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH





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**. 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

Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines **Instagram:** instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, *Pastor* gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kat Chwalisz, Administrative Assistant kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kyle Speer, Finance Manager & Music Coordinator 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.