

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Church Phone: 816-461-0302
www.stlukesuccindep.org

Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

The hymns today come from The Celebration Hymnal.

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726
pastor@stlukesuccindep.org

Mariah Moseley, Church Program Coordinator
Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant
stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SILENT MEDITATION: "As we begin (each) new day, (let us) commit ourselves to the journey of ongoing conversion and holy surprise. Let our eyes be opened to see the divine face in fresh ways each day. Let us begin again." --Cristine Valters Paintner

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"When the Morning Comes"

Arr. Mary McDonald

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 692 "God Will Take Care of You"

GOD CARES

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain: God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Refrain]

All you may need He will provide; God will take care of you.
Nothing you ask will be denied; God will take care of you. [Refrain]

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. [Refrain]

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Happy are those who seek to follow God's path.

All: We take delight in meditating on God's guiding word.

One: Happy are those who are planted together in community with one another.

All: We take delight in the sustaining waters of faith.

One: Happy are those who serve God with joy.

All: We take delight in the garden of God's blessings.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of All Blessing, our hearts are filled with praise and gratitude for the blessings we have received from through your loving kindness. Forgive us for becoming complacent in our faith. Set before us the joy of discovery and vision of future possibilities. Fill our spirits with hope that we may anticipate tomorrow with trust in your goodness and steadfast mercy. Fill our hearts with faith that breaks forth in celebration of all that awaits us. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father and to the Son

**and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MOMENTS WITH MINNIE

RECOGNITION OF PASTOR PAUL'S 10 YEARS AT ST. LUKE'S UCC

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Dirait-on"
Lisa Jaberg, Violinist and Laura Williams, Soloist

Morten Lauridsen

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 1

SERMON

"Always We Begin Again"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 669 "Make Me a Servant" (Sing Twice)**

SERVANT

Make me a servant, humble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant, Make me a servant today.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Be Thou My Vision"
Handbell Choir

Arr. Hal Hopson

***CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP — DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Nurturing and Sustaining God, you have provided us with the blessings of life. May the offerings we bring be blessed by your Spirit and may they bear the fruit of your presence to those who are touched through our lives and by the ministry of this congregation. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 406 "Wonderful Words of Life"**

WORDS OF LIFE

Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life; Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life; Words of life and beauty Teach me faith and duty.

Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all Wonderful words of life; Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life; All so freely given, Wooing us to heaven. [Refrain]

Sweetly echo the gospel call, Wonderful words of life; Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life; Jesus, only Savior, Sanctify forever. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy in Serving Jesus”

Tracey Ann Collins

The Liturgist today is Mel Sehr.
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR PAUL'S 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please join us after worship for lunch followed by a program and a lot of fun surprises. **The program will be livestreamed on St. Luke's Facebook page (just like the worship service). The program will begin after lunch so start watching the Facebook page between 12:15-12:30.**

BLESSING BAG SUPPLY DRIVE



This February, the Dreamers Sunday School Class is asking for your help in gathering donations to restock our Blessing Bag Supply closet. We are in need of a number of items from basic hygiene items to socks, scarves and towels. Please scan the QR code to see a full list of needed items and sign up to bring one in or make a monetary donation by putting it in the offering box labeled Blessing Bag Drive or via the Miscellaneous tab in our online giving platform. We truly appreciate your support as we work to provide for those in need.

MARDI GRAS LUNCH

We will celebrate Mardi Gras with a lunch on March 2nd, immediately following worship.
After lunch, plan to stay for a Lenten Movie and discussion with Pastor Paul.
There will be a lot of fun, amazing food, wonderful fellowship and a great movie for all ages.

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

If in person worship is canceled due to winter weather conditions, the announcement will be put on the website, in the Facebook group Windows Into St. Luke's, and on Channel 9. When looking on Channel 9, look for St. Luke's UCC, Independence. There are other churches with the same name.
The service will be livestreamed on Facebook no matter what the weather is.

SAVE THE DATES

There are many things coming up that you want to add to your calendars.
More details will be put in the bulletin and Glimpse closer to time.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 PM.

This service will be in person and livestreamed on Facebook

LENTEN STUDY

7:00 PM on the following Tuesday evenings: March 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st & 8th.
It will be hybrid, both in person and on zoom. More information will be available closer to time.

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT



If you are worshipping in person, please “Check-in” on Facebook, then, share the service, comment on it and like it. You are encouraged to have your device out during the service. If the music inspires you, tell Matthew and Margie by commenting about how wonderful it was or say thank you. If the sermon speaks to you, comment with how it touched you. If there is a great story during Children's Moment or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was. If someone makes a comment, reply to them. We encourage you to connect with those online as well as in person. If you are worshipping online, share and comment on the service. Comment on the things listed above, reply to and/or like other people's comments. It is so important to stay connected & these are simple ways to do that.

INSTAGRAM

Use this QR code to follow St. Luke's UCC on Instagram!



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays 10:45 AM Online & In person Worship followed by in person fellowship

Monday—Friday, 9:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group

Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM NA Meeting

For more information about any of these, please email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

GIVING OPTIONS

If you wish to make a donation to St. Luke's, there are several options available:

1. Check mailed to church office at 727 N. Main, Independence, MO 64050
2. Internet donation – you may now donate from a secure site by clicking on the Give Now button on the website.
3. Electronic funds transfer – your offering can be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up, click [here](#). After completing the form, contact the church office stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org for instructions.

4. Vanco Mobile App - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St Lukes (without punctuation) as the church name Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Independence. From there you can create an account and use the app for donations.
5. Text the word GIVE to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.

CONNECT

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you.
Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053 or use the QR code to the right.



PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.
If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.