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

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

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch
*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SILENT MEDITATION: "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

GATHERING MUSIC GREETING

PRELUDE "Fuga" Johann Pachelbel

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When differences and division separate us,

All: God's love binds us together.

One: When past quarrels estrange us from one another,

All: God's love binds us together.
One: When we feel excluded and left out,
All: God's love binds us together.

One: The God of love has knit us together in unity.

All: As one people in Christ, let us worship our God.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of mercy, we feel the pain others might have caused us. Help us also be aware of the pain that we might have inflicted upon others. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent rather than building community. We have more of a taste for revenge than unity. Forgive us and bind us together in your love. 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 Mariah Moseley

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 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Arr. Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE Psalm 37:1-11 & Luke 6:27-38

SERMON "Love Your Enemies" Rev. Ui Seanoa

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 175 "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Your Love is Finer than Life"

Marty Haugen

*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)

Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us in mutual love and support for one another and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

WORLD PEACE

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

The Liturgist today is Tiffany Alger Trussell.

Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 5th, 7:00 PM. This service will be in person and livestreamed on Facebook

LENTEN STUDY

"Lenten Rivers"

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. If you would like to receive reminders about the study as well as the zoom link, text the word Rivers to 816-312-5053

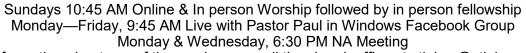
CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT

If you are worshiping 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 worshiping 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



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.