

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
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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.

MARCH 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "To crave and to have are as (a)like as a thing and its shadow. For when does a berry break upon the tongue as sweetly as when one longs to taste it?"
Marilynne Robinson

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Lamb of Promise"

Arr. Mark Hayes

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 454 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (From Isaiah 55 and **Psalm 63**)

One: All who are thirsty, come to the water!

All: Our whole being thirsts for God.

One: Let us eat what is good, feasting upon the riches of God.

All: Our souls are satisfied in the abundance of God's blessings.

One: Pay attention and come close. Listen to God's life-giving words.

All: We will bless God as long as we live, lifting our hands in praise.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Faithful and Loving God, our ways plans are not your plans. Our ways are not your ways. Even when our souls are weary and thirsty, we fail to turn to you for your living water that would refresh and sustain us. In your generous love, forgive us and fill us with your joy, that your praise might flow like fountains from our lips. 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

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 Love You, Lord" Setting: Douglas E. Wagnerells
Handbell Duet: Marita Ray and Julie Sehrt

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 63:1-8

SERMON

"What Do You Want?"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 432 "Jesu, Jesu"**

CHEREPONI

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. (Refrain)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS

"Erinnerung"

Robert Schumann

***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)**

**God of All Blessing, in gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our thanks and
our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping that our lives may be found ever
faithful to you and our praise for you will continually flow like a fountain. May these
gifts be blessed by your Spirit for your honor and glory. Amen**

In the bulb, there is a flower, In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise, Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter, There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence, Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness, Bringing hope to you and me
From the past will come the future, What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning, In our time, infinity
In our doubt, there is believing, In our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection, At the last, a victory
Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see.

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Arr. Robert Williams

The Liturgist today is Dan O'Neill
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN STUDY

7:00 PM on the following Tuesday evenings. 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

"Lenten Rivers"

March 25th "Separating the Waters"
April 1st "Let Justice Roll Down Like the Waters"
April 8th "Step Into the Waters"
April 15th "Think Like a River"

SHARING TABLE

By popular demand the Sharing Table is back to provide relief for stretched budgets. You are invited to contribute what you might be able to and receive what is offered. Suggestions for contributions are shelf stable meal type items such as soups, spaghetti o's, fruit cups, etc.

THANK YOU

The Dreamers class would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Blessing Bag Supply drive. Due to your generous donations, we are able to provide hygiene kits to over 20 people in need. The donations far surpassed our initial goal and will be a much appreciated resource for those in the community. Thank you for joining us as we share God's generous love with those in need!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken Sunday, March 30th. There are envelopes in the back by the offering box. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION SPRING GATHERING

April 5th, 9:30 AM—2:00 PM

Blue Springs Terrace, Blue Springs, MO

Gather for a day of outside work, worship, fellowship & food. Lunch will be provided at noon. Make sure to bring work gloves. Registration is \$10/person which includes lunch. If you have questions or would like to attend, contact the church office.

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.