

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.

MARCH 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all." --Emily Dickinson

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Softly, as a Dove"

Douglas E. Wagner

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 327 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

DIADEMATA

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.

His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Trust in God!

All: **God is our shelter.**

One: **We are safe in God's shadow.**

All: **God is our refuge.**

One: **In God's love we are safe, no matter what.**

All: **God is with us all the way; our guard and our guide.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Hear our prayer and the confession of our sin. Let not our anxiety and fear cut us off from communion with you or from concern for one another. We turn to you, seeking shelter and hope. We long to be renewed in spirit and strengthened in our faith. Breathe your forgiveness and peace over 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

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 "Antiphonal Hosanna" G. Alan Smith
SCRIPTURE Psalm 91
SERMON "Sing A Happy Song?"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 269 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (vs 1,3,4,5) **LAND OF REST**

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "You are Mine" David Haas

*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)

Lift us up, O God, from the low places of defeat and doubt. Let us rise above our fear
and self-concern. Bless by your Holy Spirit, the gifts that are shared. May the offering
we bring and the lives we live extend the sanctuary of your peace in our frightened
world. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 277 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" **STORIES OF JESUS**

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

Arr. John Carter

The Liturgist today is Julie Sehart.
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 11th “Flowing from the Throne of God”
March 18th “Separating the Waters”
March 25th “Let Justice Roll Down Like the Waters”
April 1st “Step Into the Waters”
April 8th “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.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Men’s Fellowship will meet on Monday, March 10th, noon.
Soup and dessert will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Franciskato.

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.