

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
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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 Celebration Hymnal.

APRIL 6, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "To be true and alive, a river must be wild..." From the Documentary: "River" 2023.
Directed by Jennifer Peedom and produced by
Greenwich Entertainment, Australia.

GATHERING MUSIC
GREETING
PRELUDE

"And No Bird Sang"

Douglas E. Wagner

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 686 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or Earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In our worship, let us rejoice in God's unfailing love.

All: Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

One: God's love overflows the heavens and the earth.

All: God's love sets us in community with one another.

One: How shall we give expression to God's love?

All: God's love is heard in our encouraging words and seen in our loving actions toward others.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

O God, your love springs up as a fountain within us, compelling us to be more loving. Yet we hesitate. Sometimes we are not willing to make the sacrifice love would demand. Forgive our sin and let your gracious love flow over us. Grant us courage and strength to pour your love out more freely in each opportunity that is before 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	"Calvary"	Arr. Michael Larkin
SCRIPTURE	John 12:1-8	
SERMON	"Uncork Love"	

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 430 "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing" SHOWERS OF BLESSING**

There shall be showers of blessing: This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above.

Refrain: Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead.

There shall be showers of blessing, Precious reviving again;
Over the hills and the valleys, Sound of abundance of rain. [Refrain]

There shall be showers of blessing: Send them upon us, O Lord;
Grant to us now a refreshing, Come and now honor Thy Word. [Refrain]

There shall be showers of blessing: Oh, that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing, Now as on Jesus we call! [Refrain]

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "That We Might Live"

Sandra Achterberg

***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)**

Gracious God, our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to express your love through our gifts. May your Spirit bless these gifts and use them to build relationships, extend your kingdom and make your love known through our shared ministry. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Affirmation of Faith (United Church of Canada Statement of Faith)

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

God of Blessing and God of Grace, you have done great things for us. At this table, you have once again turned sacrifice into joy. Your praise will continually be our song. By the power of your Spirit, send us forth, giving expression to your love in all the places we go. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 670 "Make Me a Blessing"

Schuler

Out in the highways and byways of life, Many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, Making the sorrowing glad.

Refrain: Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing. Out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and his love, Tell of his pow'r to forgive;
Others will trust him if only you prove True, ev'ry moment you live. [Refrain]

Give as 'twas given to you in your need, Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper indeed, Unto your mission be true. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

"Sing Alleluia"

Arr. Joseph Linn

The Liturgist today is Paula McKinney
Thank you to Carol Lyon for playing accompanying the hymns today.

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"

April 8th "Step Into the Waters"
April 15th "Think Like a River"

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be on sale TODAY before and after worship. The cost is \$10 each if paying by cash or check and \$11 each if paying online. See Carol Lyon for ordering

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.

TEN COMMANDMENTS MOVIE

The Ten Commandments Movie will air on Channel 9 one week earlier than normal. It will be shown on Saturday, April 12th beginning at 6:00 PM.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday, April 13th, 9:30 AM

We will parade around the building with our Palms and have donuts in the parking lot (weather permitting)

Good Friday, April 18th

7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service,
a service of shadows, both in person and livestreamed on Facebook

EASTER SERVICES, SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

Son Rise Service

9:00 AM, On the south driveway (weather permitting)

Easter Breakfast

9:30 AM, Breakfast
(Freewill Offering)

Stations of the Eggs

10:00 AM, Youth, children and any adults that want to follow, will join Pastor Paul as he travels throughout the church while telling the story of Holy Week using Resurrection Eggs.

Easter Worship Service

10:45 AM both in person and livestreamed on Facebook

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

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.