

# 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.**

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**AUGUST 3, 2025**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**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**

"Sometimes 'Alleluia'"

Arr. Fred Bock

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 578 "God of Love and God of Power"**

**UNSER HERRSCHER**

God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee;  
give us courage, let us hear heaven's trumpets ringing clear.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

All our lives belong to thee, thou our final loyalty;  
slaves are we whene'er we share that devotion anywhere.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;  
offering lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still.  
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God's light of hope breaks through the deepest darkness.

**All: In these moments we seek God's hope.**

One: We call on God to raise us up and renew our spirits.

**All: Our hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

One: God's presence is beside you, wherever you are.

**All: God is our hope and our strength.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**God of Hope and Peace, hear us if you can. Know that many times we feel forsaken and terrified more than supported and comforted. We cry out and hear no answer. We suffer and find no relief for ourselves or those around us. We struggle to see any ray of hope. Have mercy on us and let your loving kindness renew our spirits in our time of need. 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 Will Arise and Go to Jesus”                      Arr. William Ramsey

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 121

**SERMON** "A Lesson In Hope"

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 130 “God Will Take Care of You” MARTIN

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 every 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]

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

## CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

## THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide”

Robert J. Hughes

**\*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)**

**O God, we offer you what we have; our visions and dreams, our love, our resources, to make known your presence and realm among us. May the ministry we extend in these days be blessed by your Spirit and may we dwell always in the shelter of your protection and loving mercy. Amen**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Invitation*

*Affirmation and Renewal 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 all, we rejoice in your presence among us, uniting us in one hope. Through Christ and in the joy of this table we have renewed our souls. May our hearts rejoice in you, our hope and our strength. Amen**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 428 "For the Healing of the Nations"**

CWM RHONDDA

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all my come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

"We Are God's People"

Johannes Brahms

The Liturgist today is Jeff Ruoff.  
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 17th, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the replacement of the HVAC system and funding sources. This meeting will be hybrid and a link will be sent the morning of the meeting.  
The meeting will begin as soon as technology is in place.

## **COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE**

The August meeting for the Church Council has been change to August 7th.

Please let Julie or the church office know if you are unable to attend.

## **HVAC FUND**

We are gathered today, and will continue to gather, in the fellowship hall for in person worship until the weather is cooler or the HVAC system in the sanctuary has been replaced...whichever comes first!  
We are grateful to have this space which provides a comfortable and intimate worship experience.

There is an HVAC Fund established for the replacement of the HVAC system. Support for that fund is being accepted to soften the hit when contracts have been secured to replace the existing system. You may donate in person by marking your donation HVAC and placing in the offering box or by donating online or via the app.

## **SHARING TABLE**

Take time on Sundays, or anytime during normal office hours, to **SHOP** at the sharing table. You are invited to contribute something if you would like but most importantly, shop for and receive what is offered.

## **CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT ON FACEBOOK**



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 Moments with Minnie or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.