

# 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 Celebration Hymnal.**

---

**JULY 20, 2025**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** "I rejoice in this season of warmth and growth, so full of life. As plants and animals soak up the sun's life-energy, may I absorb your life this day in countless ways... As I worship on this summer day, may my heart dance in wonder at all that you have made and all you are bringing forth in this moment."  
--Edward Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim

## GATHERING MUSIC

### GREETING

### PRELUDE

"He Will Carry You"

Scott Wesley Brown

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 626 "The Lily of the Valley"

**SALVATIONIST**

I have found a friend in Jesus - He's everything to me,  
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;  
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see  
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.  
In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay;  
He tells me every care on Him to roll.

Refrain: He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star;  
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He all my griefs has taken and all my sorrows borne.  
In temptation He's my strong and mighty Tow'r;  
I have all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn  
From my heart, and now He keeps me by His pow'r.  
Though all the world forsake me and Satan tempt me sore,  
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal. [Refrain]

He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,  
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;  
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear.  
With His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.  
Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,  
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll. [Refrain]

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God spreads snow like a white fleece.

**All: Then God breathes on winter—suddenly it's spring.** (Psalm 147)

One: God breathes, and all creation springs to life...

**All: The whole countryside in bloom and blossom.** (Psalm 104)

One: Fearless now, we trust in God.

**All: Now we stroll at leisure with God in the sunlit fields of life.** (Psalm 56)

(Based on the translation of Psalms 147, 104 and 56 in The Message)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

God of all Creation, our bodies have grown soft and our spirits have grown sluggish. Let us set aside our pursuit of places and things of comfort and seek the renewal of our souls. Open our eyes and our hearts that we may encounter the refreshing winds of your Spirit. Let us see the power and glory of your great love and we will bless you as long as we live. 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**

"We Are One"

Arr. Gary Hallquist

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalms 63:1-8

**SERMON**

"A Dog Days' Psalm"

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** "Heavenly Sunlight"

SUNLIGHT

Walking in sunlight, all of my journey, over the mountains, through the deep vale;  
Jesus has said, "I'll never forsake thee," promise divine that never can fail.

Refrain: Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight, flooding my soul with glory divine:  
hallelujah, I am rejoicing, singing His praises, Jesus is mine.

Shadows around me, shadows above me, never conceal my Savior and Guide;  
He is the light, in Him is no darkness; ever I'm walking close to His side. [Refrain]

In the bright sunlight, ever rejoicing, pressing my way to mansions above;  
singing His praises gladly I'm walking, walking in sunlight, sunlight of love. [Refrain]

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

**CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

**THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS**      "Shalom"

Mark Friedman

**\*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 and Giving God, your great love has been our help and we have found joy in the protection of your wings. We dedicate our lives and the offerings we bring to the power of your Spirit. May your refreshing and sustaining presence be made known to those who search for you through our shared ministry. Amen

I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain: Lord, lift me up and let me stand By faith on heaven's tableland;  
A higher plane than I have found— Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My prayer, my aim, is higher ground. [Refrain]

I want to live above the world, Tho' Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of saints on higher ground. [Refrain]

I want to scale the utmost height And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me on to higher ground." [Refrain]

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

"We Shall Behold Him"

Dottie Rambo

The Liturgist today is Tiffany Alger-Trussell  
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HVAC FUND**

For those who are wondering, there is an HVAC Fund established for the inevitable 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. Immediate plans are underway to accommodate more comfortable in person worship until the unit is replaced. You may donate in person by marking your donation HVAC and placing in the offering box or by donating online or via the app.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

Sunday, July 27th, during worship, we will celebrate The Rite of Confirmation.  
We will celebrate the gifts of the Spirit to our congregation by receiving as members:  
Jackson Jaberg & MacKenzie McKinney.  
A reception will follow the service.

**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**



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](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.