

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

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.

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

AUGUST 17, 2025

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SILENT MEDITATION: "The deeper your love, the higher it goes; every cloud is a flag to your faithfulness."
--Psalm 57:10, The Message

GATHERING MUSIC
GREETING
PRELUDE

"Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

Arr. Mosie Lister

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 719 "My Lord, What a Morning"

BRULEIGH

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

You'll hear the sinner moan, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.

All: We lift our eyes to look beyond this present moment.

One: We are drawn by stories of faith and courage.

All: We look to those who lived by faith.

One: We are drawn together as one body in Christ, united by Spirit and mission.

All: We are a community of spiritual nurture and support.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Ever Present God, we confess sluggishness of spirit and heart. We need you to awaken our spirits. Let us become aware of your presence in the struggles of life as well as in the good days. Let us become aware of the needs of others as well as our own. Lift our eyes from our fears to see your promises. Let us know and make known the assurance of your presence, the shelter of your protection and grace of your forgiveness. 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 Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Arr. Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

SERMON

"In Defense of Clouds"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 644 "Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring" JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING

Jesus, joy of our desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round thy throne.
Through the way where hope is guiding, hark, what peaceful music rings;
where the flock, in thee confiding, drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure; theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own in the love of joys unknown.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Helen H. Lemmel

***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, your word leads us to cultivate the dimensions of our lives that give meaning and purpose to all we do. You set us together in community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and with all your children. Receive our offering as an expression of our thankfulness as we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, as our model in giving of ourselves for the good of others. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 600 "Wonderful Words of Life"

WORDS OF LIFE

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life; words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life; sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life; all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. (Refrain)

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life; Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Thanksgiving and Praise"

Marilynn Ham

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special Congregational Meeting TODAY, 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.

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

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.