

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.

AUGUST 31, 2025

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SILENT MEDITATION: "Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions. Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust." Proverbs 4:25-27 (The Message)

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Kyrie"

Robert I. Blanchard

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 433 "All Who Love and Serve Your City"

CHARLESTOWN

All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless:

In your day of loss and sorrow, in your day of helpless strife,
honor, peace, and love retreating, seek the Lord, who is your life.

In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus, "Work ye yet while it is day."

For all days are days of judgment, and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near to all who spurn him, offering peace from Calvary's hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, celebrate God's gift of salvation.

All: We come without fear.

One: Come, hear God's promises.

All: We come trusting God.

One: Come, let us worship and praise God.

All: In God, we are strengthened for whatever may lie ahead.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of hope and God of peace, we confess that we accept the reality that others suggest to us rather than the reality that is your best vision for all your people. Our lives are driven by fears rather than guided by Christ's teaching and call. Forgive our misplaced trust and our hesitation to act in a way that brings your realm on earth as it is in heaven. May our resolve to do what is right be greater than that of those who are intent on oppression. 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 "Broken for You" Arr. David T. Clydesdale

SCRIPTURE 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

SERMON “WWCD? What Would Cicadas Do?”

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 688 “God, That Madest Earth and Heaven” AR HYD Y NOS

God, that madest earth and heaven, darkness and light,
 who the day for toil hast given, for rest the night:
 may thine angel guards defend us, slumber sweet thy mercy send us;
 holy dreams and hopes attend us, this livelong night.

When the constant sun returning unseals our eyes,
may we, born anew like morning, to labor rise.
Gird us for the task that calls us, let not ease and self enthrall us,
strong through thee whate'er befall us, O God most wise!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Many Gifts, One Spirit” Mary Lynn Lightfoot

***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 untiring love, and our resources to make known your presence among us. We offer you our very lives that we may be agents of kindness and compassion in our world. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 438 "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" DUKE STREET

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.

For thee delightfully employ what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

The Liturgist today is Jodie Puhr.
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns

ANNOUNCEMENTS
HVAC FUND

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.

RALLY SUNDAY

Join us September 7, as we kick off another fun filled year of Sunday school with our annual Rally Sunday celebration. "Into the Depths of Love" is the Sunday School theme for the year. Sunday School begins at 9:30 AM and is both in person and hybrid for the adult classes. Let us know if you would like the link to join online. This is a great time to connect and celebrate our community as we embark on another year of growth and learning together! A "tailgating" themed meal will follow Worship. We hope to see you there!

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.

SAVE THE DATES

September 28th—Palm Burning Service

Watch for more details as we get closer to the date.

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.