

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
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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.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SILENT MEDITATION: "The poor are connected with us already—we just fear inviting them into our literal and figurative homes." --S. Allan Ray, Former President, Elmhurst University

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"He Has Time"

Arr. Bill Ingram

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 454 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Matthew 5:3-10)**

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

All: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn,

All: For they will be comforted.

One: Blessed are the meek,

All: For they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

All: For they will be filled.

One: Blessed are the merciful,

All: For they will be shown mercy.

One: Blessed are the pure in heart,

All: For they will see God.

One: Blessed are the peacemakers,

All: For they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

All: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of Compassion, forgive our pride that thinks we are more deserving than others of your blessings. Forgive us for looking down on others or failing to see them at all. Forgive us for turning away from the plight of those who are in need. Have mercy on us and fill our hearts with compassion. May we see the dignity of all your children and reflect your love in a way that better follows the way of Christ. 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

“Deep, Deep Love”

Terry Butler

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16:19-31

SERMON

"What Shapes Your Story?"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 399 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”**

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Goin’ to Build My Life”

Dick Anthony

***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)**

God of Every Good and Perfect Gift, we bring this offering and dedicate it to the ministry of the church and our mission in our community. May your Spirit touch and bless these gifts and our lives as we respond to the needs of one another, those who come to our door and all who hunger for the bread of life. Amen

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage,
armed with heavenly grace, in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in the kingdom we see face to face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint,
give courage to the weak; help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies
the grace and power we seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome
all darkness with his light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

"Since Jesus Came Into my Heart"

Chas. H. Gabriel

The Liturgist today is Pete Jaberg.
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.

PALM BURNING AND FISHING DERBY

Palm Burning and Fishing Derby—September 28th at James A Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit

The fishing Derby begins at 4:00 PM. Each youth (15 & under only) must be accompanied by an adult.
Anyone helpers over 16 must have a license. Fishing Poles and bait will be provided.

Extra adults will be available to help.

5:30 PM is a picnic supper and fellowship.

Food and drinks will be provided. You might want to bring a lawn chair to sit in for comfort.

6:00 PM Palm Burning Service.

This is a very spiritual service with music and a devotion.

Special Notes: If you would like to carpool or follow someone, please contact the church office. Maps and basic directions are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

After the service the palms are burned. These ashes are then prepared and used for the Ash Wednesday Service on February 18. All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring friends and family

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken on Sunday, October 5th.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. The focus this year for the offering is for neighbors who are fighting for disability housing accommodations and to stop the gun violence epidemic.

In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Offering envelopes are available on the back table.

You can also donate online.

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.