

# 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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Mariah Moseley, Church Program Coordinator  
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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.**

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**JANUARY 25, 2026**  
**SILENT MEDITATION**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

"Holy ground is the place of life-giving rootedness in something larger than our own lives, Something deep enough and enduring enough to keep us anchored and oriented in the storm." -- John Mogabgab

**GATHERING MUSIC**  
**GREETING**  
**PRELUDE**

"Thy Word"

Michael W. Smith

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 175 "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast;  
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come! The Spirit invites us into this time of worship.

**All: This is a place where we all belong.**

One: The Spirit seeks our common good.

**All: This is a place where our lives and our living can be empowered.**

One: The Spirit calls us into fellowship with one another and with Christ.

**All: This is a place of enduring community. A place of fullest joy.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

God of All Mercy, it is easy for us to abandon responsibility for our own actions; to blame others for our failures. We are hesitant to step up to help others who are struggling. It is easier to pass judgement than offer support. Forgive us and unite us as your faithful community.  
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 Praise, We Worship Thee"

Sandra Achterberg

### **SCRIPTURE**

Acts 2:42-47

### **SERMON**

"Standing Together"

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 404 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"**

PENTECOST

Refrain: Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so shine, ask my Lord if all was mine. (Refrain)

Jordan river runs right cold, chills the body, not the soul.  
Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back. (Refrain)

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

#### **CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

**THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS** "Bring Forth the Kingdom"

Marty Haugen

#### **\*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)**

Loving God, we seek your blessing on this offering. We return to you a portion of what you  
have given to us. We dedicate all these gifts to your loving purposes: bringing in those who  
have been cast out; standing strong on behalf of those who are weak; speaking your Word of  
joy and justice for all people. May your loving realm increase! Amen

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 547 "O Church of God, United"**

ELLACOMBE

O Church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message,  
with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; We follow day by day  
with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.

From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear; to serve one valiant leader  
they come from far and near. They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,  
and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.

Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee; and in thy loving spirit,  
we shall one people be. Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim  
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.

May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united  
in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,  
that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

**\*BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

“Then Will the Very Rocks Cry Out”

McSpadden/George/Thompson/Scruggs

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

January 25th, immediately following worship.

This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and on zoom. You will be able to join the zoom meeting as soon as worship ends and the meeting will begin when technology is in place. A link to the zoom meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting.

**ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS**

If you need an annual giving statement/tax statement, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway or email the church office at [stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org](mailto:stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org) Your statement can be given to you the following Sunday, emailed or mailed to you. Please indicate your preference when making your request.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICE**

Boyd Ahrens, former Music Director at St. Luke's UCC, will be playing the organ at the Community of Christ Temple, 1001 W Walnut, Independence for their weekly Prayer for Peace Service, on Wednesday, February 11th, at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. The service is also available on the Temple's Facebook page & YouTube Channels.

**SHARING TABLE**

Take time on Sundays, or anytime during normal office hours, to **SHOP** at the sharing table. There are Bibles and some old hymnals available if you would like to take one or even more.

**WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If in person worship is canceled due to winter weather conditions, the announcement will be put on the website, in the Facebook group Windows Into St. Luke's, and on Channel 9. When looking on Channel 9, look for St. Luke's UCC, Independence. There are other churches with the same name. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook no matter what the weather is.



**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.

**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**

For Giving options click on the QR code to the left.

**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.