

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Independence, Missouri 64050
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

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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 13, 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SILENT MEDITATION: "Eternal Source of my existence, your heart is my home, from you I have come and to you I return." Edward Hays

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 451 "Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble.

All: God is our guide and hope through the chaos of our lives.

One: God gives light to those who live in the shadows.

All: God offers stillness amid the turbulence of our times.

One: Be still and know that God is God!

All: We have come seeking to know the power of God's presence.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Many times you have rescued us, O God. Yet we continue to wander away from refuge we have found in you. We fail to enter the stillness and peace to which you call us. Our words and deeds deny the faith we proclaim. Forgive our misplaced loyalties and unacknowledged sin. Forgive our wavering faith. 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

"Lament for the Wild Geese"

Phil Coulter

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

SERMON

"Returning to the Heart of God"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 472 "Near to the Heart of God"**

McAFEE

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God;
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. [Refrain]

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. [Refrain]

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Tolomeo"

George Frederick Handel

***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)**

**We dedicate this offering to the work of your realm, Blessed God. May it provide keys to open the way
of your generosity and compassion to all in the world. Teach us the joy found in making sacrifices of
ourselves and that which is entrusted to us. Bless the ministry in which we share as a congregation. May our
work be done with diligence and with an enthusiasm which is found in serving together in the power of the
Holy Spirit. Amen**

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 314 "In the Garden"**

GARDEN

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Refrain: Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief,
kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief. (Refrain)

Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face;
heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace. (Refrain)

Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,
whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heaven but thee? (Refrain)

The Liturgist is Marita Ray.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday School began today with classes for all ages. The adult classes are hybrid.
If you would like the link to join online, please notify the church office.
After worship there will be a freewill offering lunch followed by a light spirited,
fun movie to kick off the Sunday School year.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship will meet on Monday, September 14th, at Noon
Soup and dessert will be served. It is a time for men and their friends
to gather for a time of fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Dan O'Neill.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR NEPAL

The United Church of Christ has issued an appeal for disaster relief for Nepal after devastating flooding. If you would like to donate, you can put it in the offering on Sunday with a notation for Nepal or you can donate online using the Disaster Relief tab.

SAVE THE DATE

PALM BURNING AND FISHING DERBY

Palm Burning and Fishing Derby—October 11th at James A Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit
More details will be shared closer to the date.
This is a very spiritual service with music and a devotion.

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

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.