

Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



September 6, 2026 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Andy Oren

Guest Pastor: Rev. Thomas Payden

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Healer of Our Every Ill

arr. Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

One: Let the people be glad in their Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their Sovereign.

All: Let them praise God's name with dancing, making melody to God with tambourine and lyre.

One: Praise the Lord

*WE ALL SING

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

#549

*OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray together:

All: Holy One, we bend a knee of contrition before you this day. If we have hardened our hearts to the cause of justice, if we have neglected to be teachers of our faith, if we have cast aside the power of love, in your mercy forgive us, Lord. Help us turn from such paths and follow more closely the Way of your Christ. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

*THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: I invite you to pass the peace of Christ to those near you, in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*Response

God Welcomes All

John Bell

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART Deborah Payden

GIFT OF MUSIC *Lord, You are Light* - Leavitt, Speary Sanctuary Singers

LABOR IN THE PULPIT

Rich Tremarello

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-14 (NRSVUE)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

SERMON

"In the Old Stories"

Rev. Thomas Payden

*WE ALL SING

As We Gather at Your Table

#695

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now. You are God. You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

• *Prayers for LaRee's friend **Debbie & family as her husband** just went into Hospice*

• *Continued prayers for **Joan Amich's grandson, Blair***

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALLING FOR OUR BEST

One: Christ has freely given us the gift of grace and salvation. Let us, therefore, freely bring our generous gifts of gratitude to God.

SCAN TO DONATE



OFFERTORY

Jesu, Jesu - Ghana Folk Song

*WE ALL SING

Doxology

tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above you heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

New Century Hymnal

All: All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be blessings to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

New Century Hymnal

All: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*WE ALL SING

The Gift of Love

#397

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#712

*POSTLUDE

Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1

Handel

Welcome and Thank You!

We welcome the **Reverends Thomas & Deborah Payden** as our guest ministers this morning and thank them for leading worship and for sharing an inspiring word with us.

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday

Special Congregational Meeting, 9am
Coffee Hour in the Chapel

Tuesday, Sept 8

Quilting, 9:30am

Thursday, Sept 10

Finance Meeting, noon

NEXT SUNDAY

Worship in the Park, Humboldt Picnic Site #5 at 10am

Greeters: Janet Dietert

Counters: Janet Dietert, Mark Pfeifer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS, CHUCK!! | The Milkmen game outing on Sunday was a HUGE success!! Not only did the team win, but those of our congregation who attended had a BLAST!! This was all due to Chuck Terlinden and his outstanding organizational skills!! From purchasing the tickets and making seating charts to being the Uber driver for some of the ladies at church. He was a rock star! The consensus is we should do this every year. Thank you, Chuck. We really appreciate all that you do!
Membership Committee

Worship in the Park & Potluck | Sunday, Sept 13 | Worship at 10am

Humboldt Park, Picnic Area #5 | On Sept 13, there will be no church service at Christ Church. The worship service will be at Humboldt Park at 10am. Potluck to follow. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service

Sunday School | Sunday School classes will start on **Sunday, Sept 13 at 9:30am at Christ Church** and will be held weekly. On choir Sundays, the classes will begin after the choir sings. Sunday School will meet in the game room in the southeast corner of the basement this year. For more information, contact *Michael Key*.

Hope House Tour & Lunch | Tuesday, Sept 15 at 11am

Hope House is a non-profit homeless shelter, rapid re-housing facility, and permanent supportive housing provider.

Hope House was originally created in 1987 by five local churches to address homelessness on Milwaukee's south side. Over the years, Hope House has evolved into a respected shelter known for providing support, services and a chance at a brighter future for families. Acting as a true community center, Hope House offers numerous programs and activities to assist men, women and children struggling with homelessness.

We will have a tour of the facilities and learn about the services they provide. Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch at a Bay View restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet posted at the Lenox Street entrance.

Membership Committee: *Peggy Carew, Mary Ann Mowery, Jan, Naefken, Andy Oren, Sue Pfiefer, Randene Wick*

Homecoming Sunday | Join us for a festive tailgate celebration following worship on **Sunday, Sept 20!** We'll gather for a block-party style tailgate on Lenox Street right after the service. Lunch will begin around 11:30am.

FOOD: BRATS AND HOT DOGS WILL BE PROVIDED. A sign-up sheet for items to share is posted at the Lenox Street bulletin board. We're requesting contributions of salads, fruit, vegetables, and desserts.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP: Interactive games and activities are planned for all ages.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT: Everyone is encouraged to wear apparel representing their favorite high school, college, or professional team.

Unbinding the Gospel Book Study | Beginning on **Sept 28**, we will gather in the parlor at **1pm**. Our sessions will last about 60 minutes. Books will be available in early September. They cost the church \$15, if you would like to reimburse the church for the cost of your book. Please sign up on the list at the Lenox Street door. When you have your book, please read chapters 1 & 2 before the first meeting.

Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism is a book for congregations who want to embrace evangelism for the 21st century. Based on a major, four-year study of superb evangelism, funded by the Lilly Endowment, *Unbinding the Gospel* sparkles with life, practicality, and spiritual depth. Selected by The Christian Century as a featured "Take and Read" book, *Unbinding the Gospel* is a book for Christians who want a hopeful, powerful, joy-filled way to learn to share their faith. Don't let the "E" word scare you away. This study will deepen your faith in God and your connection with others.

Communion Servers Needed | We are seeking a rotating team of volunteers to assist Pastor Bob in serving Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Because we would use a rotating schedule, your commitment would be just once every few months. Serving Communion is a meaningful way to share in the ministry of our church and help create a meaningful worship experience for our congregation. We value your dedication to Christ Church and invite you to prayerfully consider serving in this important role. If you are interested or would like more information, please see *Pam Kothrade*.



Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$7,124	\$127,013
Expenses	\$17,859	\$158,874
Budgeted Amount	\$18,051	\$144,413
<i>Last week's offering: \$1,922</i>		

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 If you should need pastoral support, please contact
Pastor Bob at 440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

