



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 7, 2025

9:30 AM



Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

📺 Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

🌐 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

📺 facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

👶 CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

🚻 **Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

🚻 **Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

💧 **Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

🌿 **Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

🌍 OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

💻 Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at

👉 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a “church of firsts” and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision “...that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** and **WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work



🌿 OUR MISSION

“Share God’s teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need.”

"You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways." - Psalm 139:3

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.

PRELUDE

***** LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *****

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, all who seek God's guidance and love.

People: We come with hearts open, ready to be shaped by God's hands.

Leader: Come, all who follow Christ's way, even when the path is steep or uncertain.

People: We come to learn, to serve, and to grow together in faith.

Leader: Come, all generations—young and old, teachers and learners, seekers and believers.

People: We worship the God who knows us intimately and calls us to discipleship.

***** **BELL** *****

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

(see music insert)

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION *(unison)*

God of mercy, we confess that we do not always follow You faithfully. We cling to comfort, hesitate to serve, and forget Your call. Forgive us for the times we turn away from Your path. Shape us anew, O God, and teach us to follow Your way. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Christ's love is steadfast. God's mercy is abundant. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, restored, and called to follow. Rejoice and be glad, for God's love surrounds you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BLESSING

Pastor: Today...with patience, creativity, and love.

People: May God's light shine upon you, may God's Spirit guide your steps, and may you grow in faith, hope, and joy. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE 🙌

Leader: Christ calls us to peace. Turn to one another, let your hand rise like a sunbeam, and share this blessing:

People: Peace be with you.

Leader: May this peace ripple through our hearts, like light dancing across a morning meadow, guiding our steps in love and joy. I now invite you to share a sign of peace with each other.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (NRSVUE)

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Responsive Reading)

Leader: Lord, you have searched us and known us.

People: You know when we sit and when we rise; you perceive our thoughts from afar.

Leader: You discern our going out and our lying down; you are familiar with all our ways.

People: Before a word is on our tongue, you, Lord, know it completely.

Leader: We are fearfully and wonderfully made, crafted by Your hands.

People: Guide us in Your ways, O God, that we may live as Your faithful children.

*Luke 14:25-33

SERMON

"Shaped by Love, Called to Follow"

Rev. Gilbert Martinez

RESPONSE to scripture(*twice*)

 b Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show b
 b us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. b

A NEW CREED (*unison*)

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true Man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

* HYMN

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

(see music insert)

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We thank you...song of heaven and earth:

People: Holy, holy, holy God, God of justice and Mercy, Heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed is Jesus...we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen.

People: Christ will come again.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF PETITION

LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*). *please recite the version closest to your heart*

(*Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: <https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving>



HYMN "We Pray for Peace" (during collection, see music insert)

*** BENEDICTION**

***** **BELL & EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES** *****

*** HYMN** "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (see music insert)

POSTLUDE

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Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



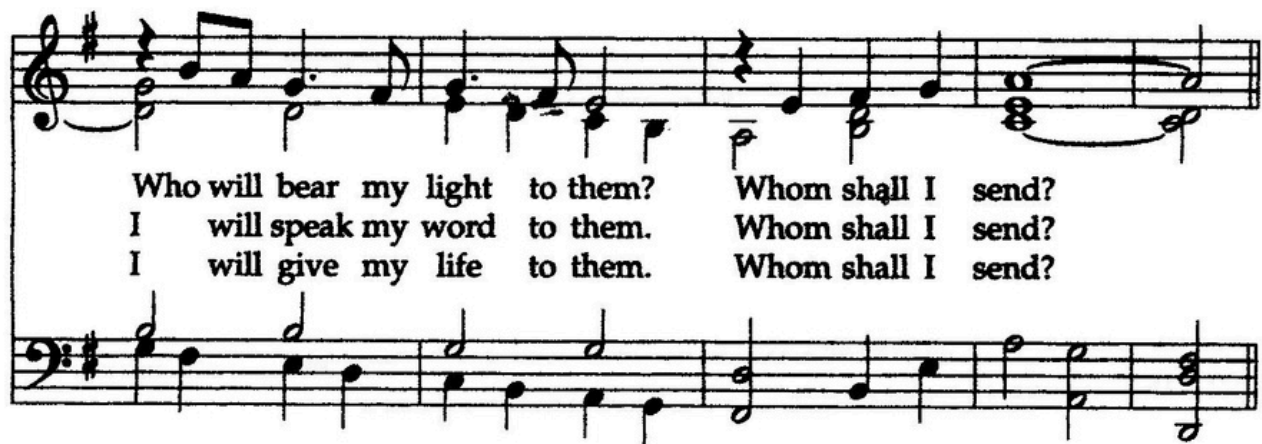
All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro- vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Here I Am, Lord Page 2



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the



night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will



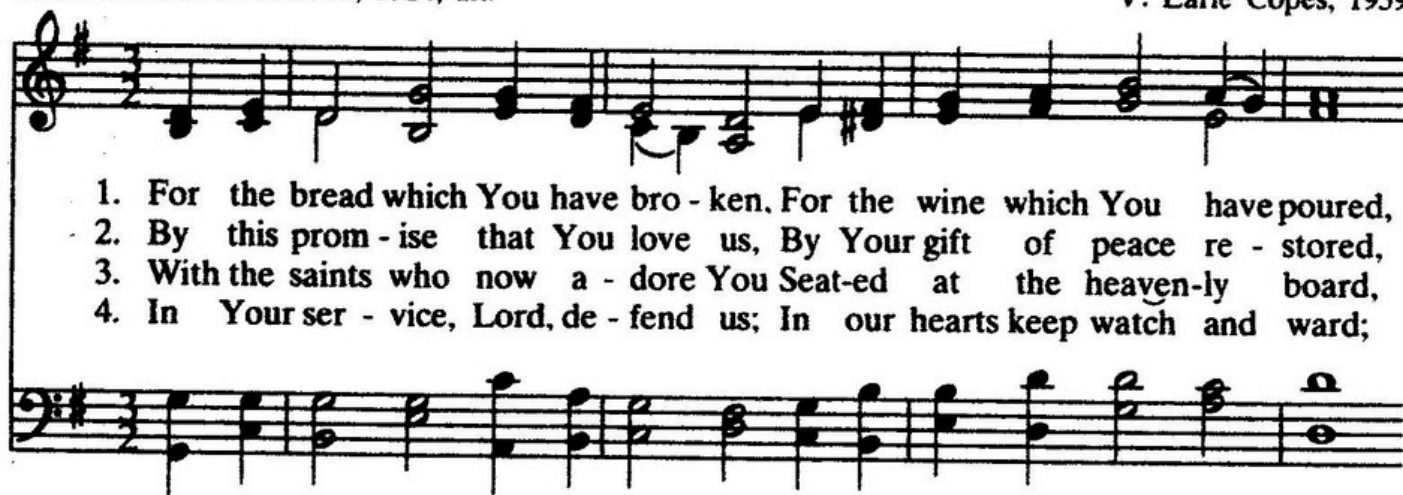
hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart, in my heart.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

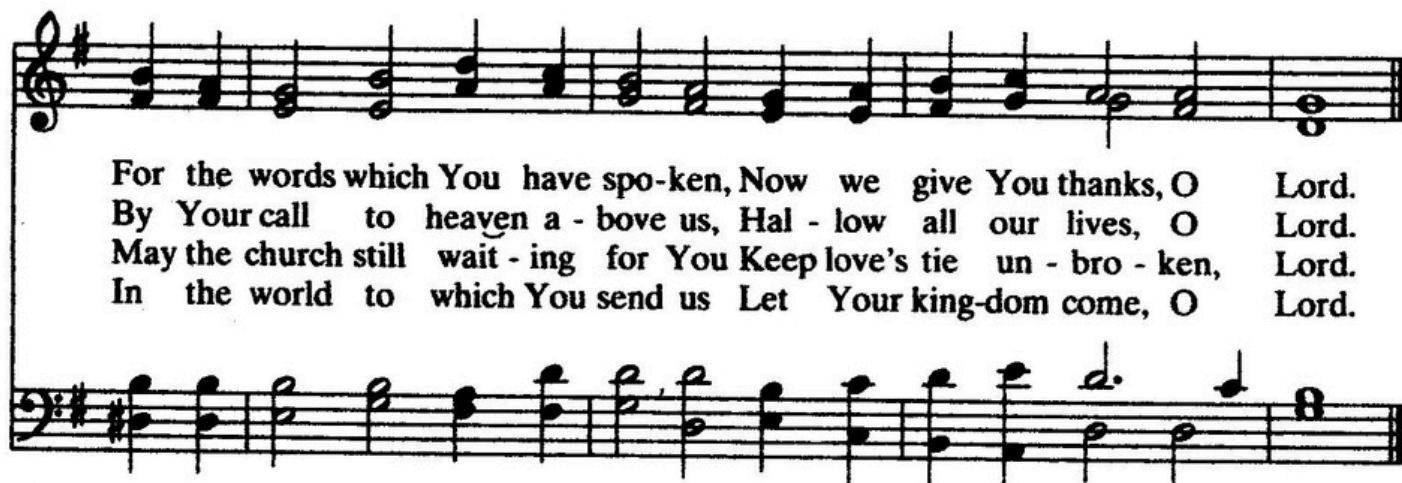
KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

V. Earle Copes, 1959



1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
 2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
 3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heav-en-ly board,
 4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;



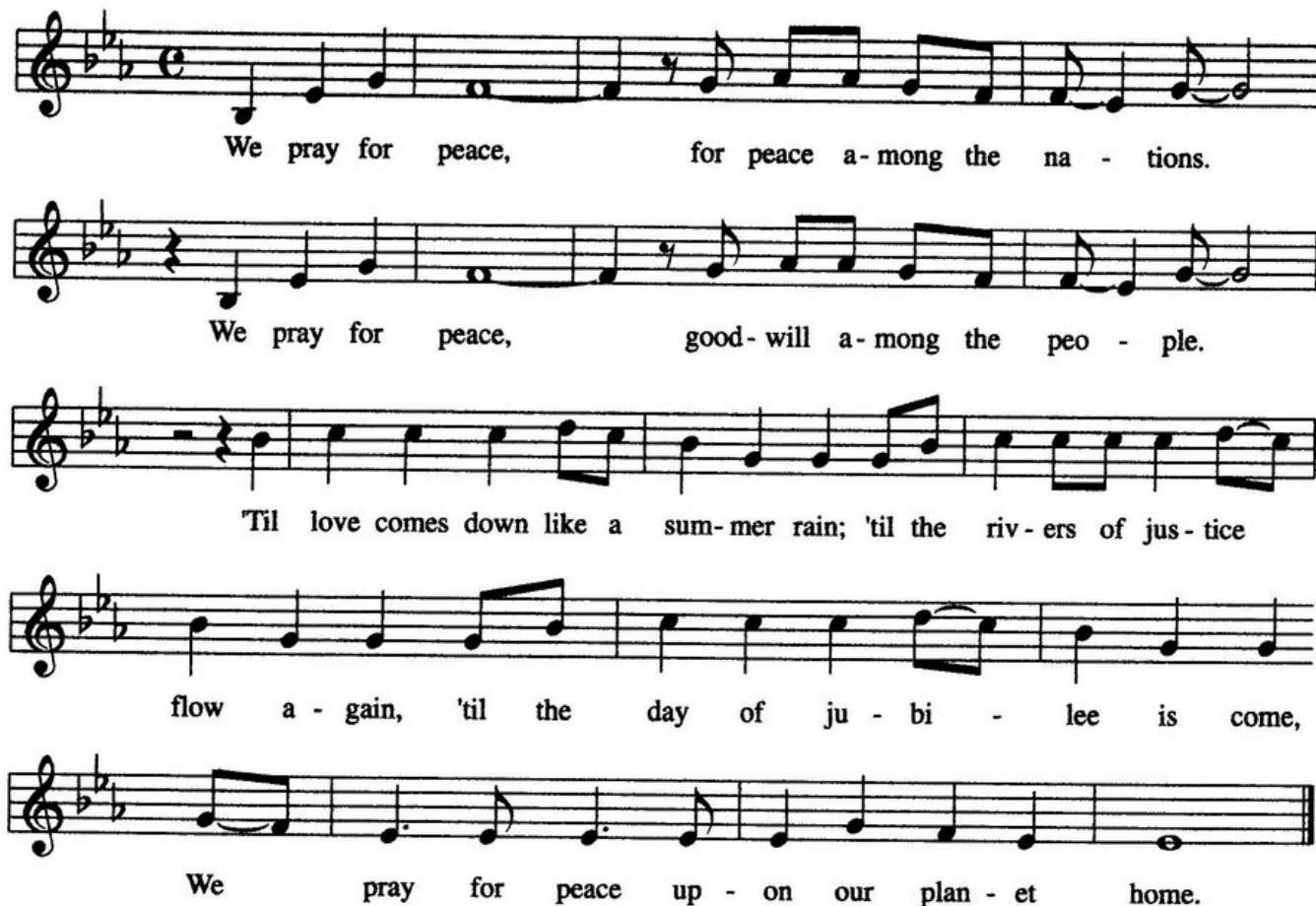
For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
 By Your call to heaven a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 In the world to which You send us Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.

CCLI 1718955

OFFERING HYMN We Pray for Peace

Ken Medema

Ken Medema



We pray for peace, for peace a-mong the na - tions.

We pray for peace, good- will a-mong the peo - ple.

'Til love comes down like a sum-mer rain; 'til the riv - ers of jus - tice

flow a - gain, 'til the day of ju - bi - lee is come,

We pray for peace up - on our plan - et home.

© 1993 Ken Medema Music/ASCAP/Brier Patch Music

Accompaniment for this song is found on page 138.

CCLI 1718955



Download Our New Church App!

Stay connected with our church family anytime, anywhere. Access sermons, events, updates, and so much more—all right at your fingertips. Don't miss out on this convenient way to stay in the loop! Download it today!

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>

Scan to download
the app



OR



Go, My Children, with My Blessing

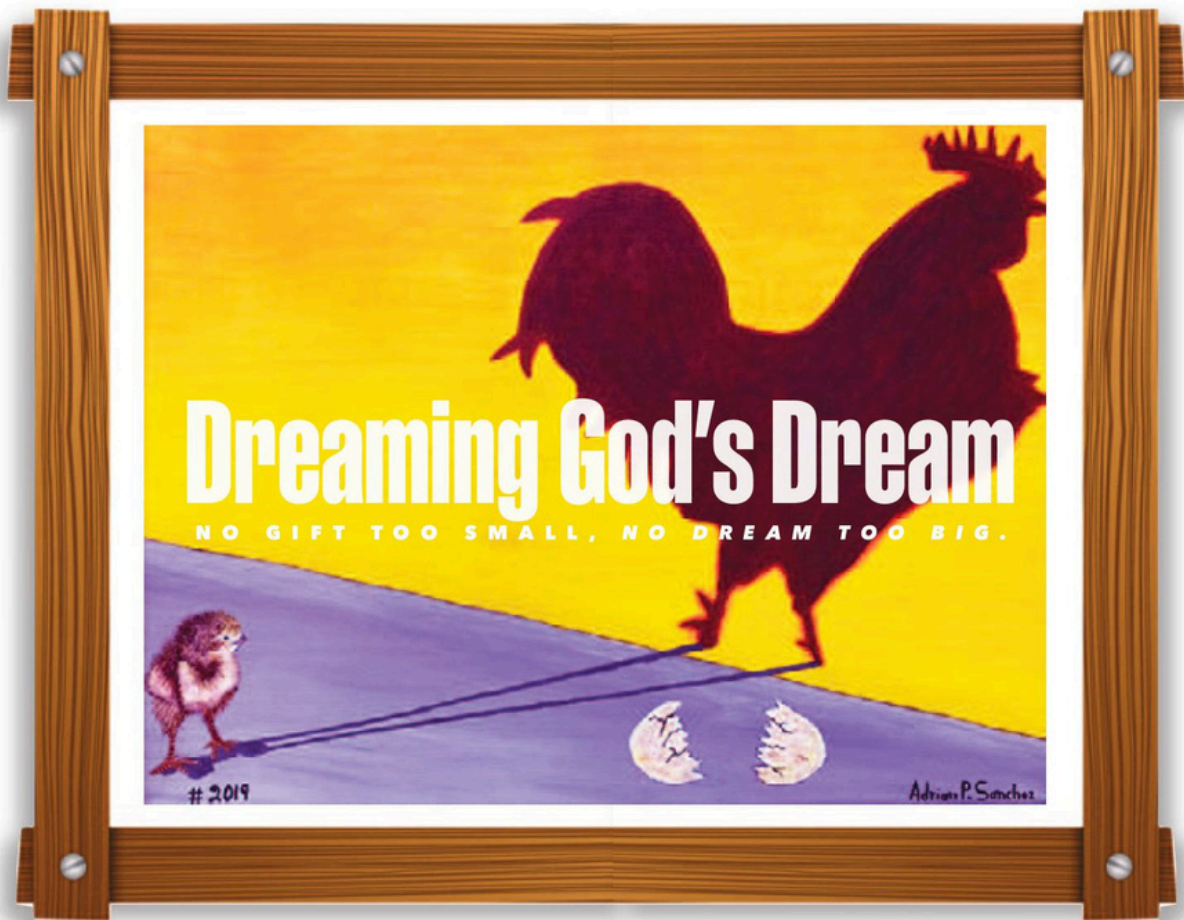
Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow-er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.



Feeding the 5000

CAN ONE SMALL GIFT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL?

All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people (John 6:1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade observes, "Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the

basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!"

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

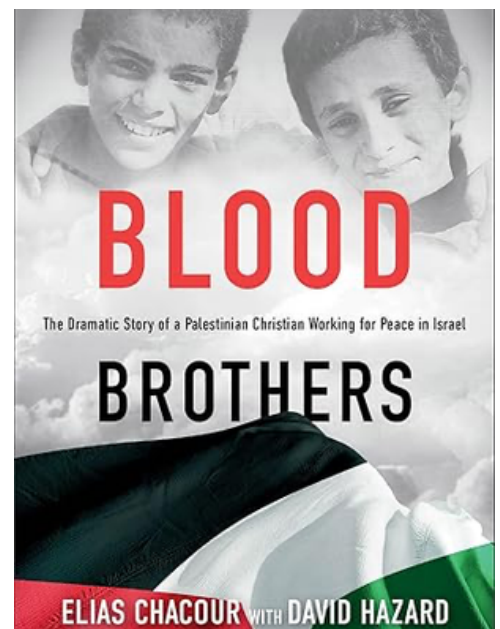
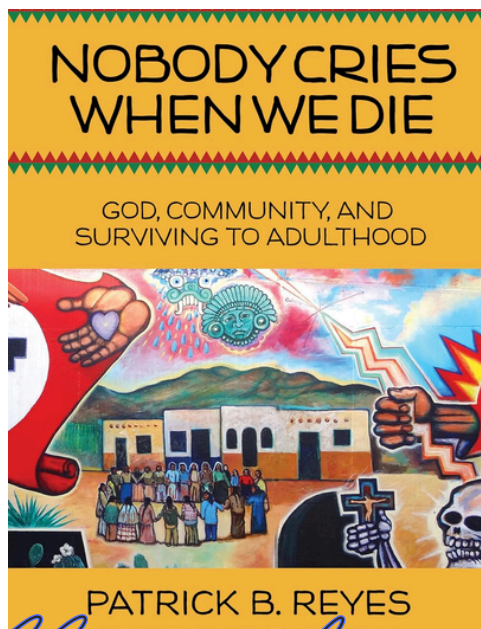
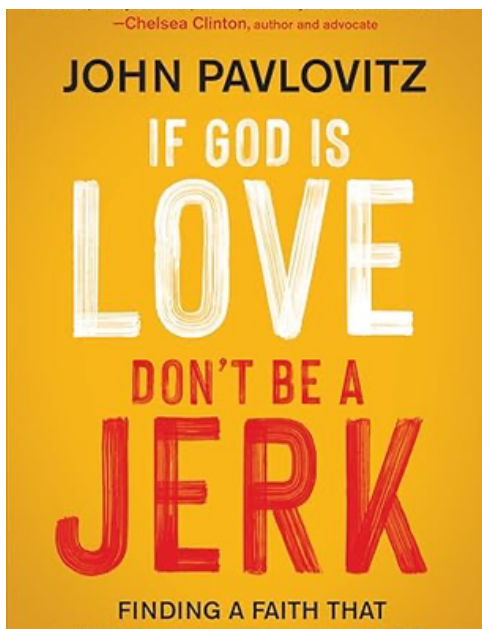
Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.



Fall Book Series

Join Us for Our August–October Book Series: Stories of Faith, Justice, and Resilience

Dates & Time: Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Lounge

- ~~August 16: If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz~~
- **September 20: Nobody Cries When We Die by Patrick Reyes**
- **October 18: Blood Brothers by Elias Chacour**

Come for one discussion or all three—this is a space for honest conversation, shared learning, and spiritual growth.

Here are the links to be able to purchase the books:

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/bKH9wCE>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/MakesUsBetter>

Blood Brothers: The Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/g6y6cGe>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/Chacour2025>

Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/fDLKSq9>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/NobodyCrie>

HOUSING STABILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING



*"Housing and health problems are intertwined.
So are their solutions."*

-Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

This year, Center of Concern is going beyond loneliness, expanding our conversation to explore how stable housing environments are essential for people throughout their lives.

You are invited to join us to learn how you can help while enjoying an evening of appetizers, cocktails, networking, panel discussion, and awards ceremony.

CENTEROFCONCERN.ORG/STABILITY

Monday, September 8, 2025
5:30pm Networking and Appetizers
6:30pm Program Start

Des Plaines
THEATRE

Des Plaines Theatre
1476 Miner Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016

COMMUNITY BUILDING PEACE CIRCLES

Coming Fall of 2025

**Experience deep connections and
conversations with others in the community
around topics impacting Des Plaines.**

Participants will receive a \$25 grocery card.

Saturdays: Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13

11:00am - 2:00pm

First Church Des Plaines

668 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL

www.FUMCDP.org



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS
CELEBRATION OF UNITY
COMMUNITY
TALENT



Show!

IN CELEBRATION OF
DES PLAINES THEATRE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21 | 1PM

100
DES PLAINES
THEATRE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

FREE ADMISSION!
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

BNT **BIG NOISE** 2025/26
T H E A T R E **SEASON**

Annie

©Tribune Content Agency, LLC

BOOK BY
THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC BY
CHARLES STROUSE

LYRICS BY
MARTIN CHARNIN

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY
MARTIN CHARNIN

MUSIC DIRECTED BY
AARON KAPLAN

DIRECTED &
CO-CHOREOGRAPHED BY
ANNIE SNOW

CO-CHOREOGRAPHED BY
ABBY BOEGH

*Based on "Little Orphan Annie" ® by permission of the Tribune Content Agency, LLC
Originally produced by The Goodspeed Opera House
Michael P. Price, Executive Director*

SEPTEMBER 26 THRU OCTOBER 12, 2025
PRAIRIE LAKES THEATER

515 E. Thacker Street • Des Plaines, IL 60016

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30pm • Sundays at 2pm
Additional Performance Saturday, October 11 at 2pm



 bignoise.org/annie • 847.220.7268

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

IN MEMORY / HONOR

In loving memory of Debbie Brunetti, *by Frank & Julie Staggs*

ALTAR FLOWERS



May we continue special prayers for...

Marion Meseth*
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel
Jack Storm
Marilyn Hoover*
Sue Prunty

Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Hope & Bruce Tschappat*
Helen Harney
George Bielat

Rev. Marcia Urban
Jack Branding
Frank Staggs
Homebound*
Documented &
Undocumented Immigrants

Our Country
Ukraine, Lebanon,
Palestinian, and Israeli
citizens



Special prayers for:

Those living with mental illness, illness, without a home or food, our church community, service people, veterans, our nation, and our leaders.

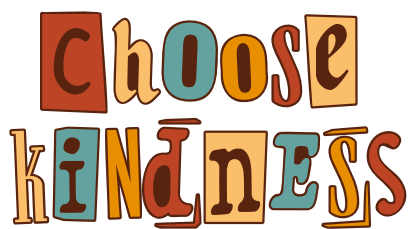
Happy Birthday!

8 - Wendy Ortiz 11 - Miles Skibbe
9 - Jessica Busse 12 - Rev. Carol Currier Frighetto
10 - Robert Neil
10 - Stephen Bay

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Holly Schmidt
Church Pianist.....	Karen Wilberg
Council Greeter.....	Bob Neil
Ushers.....	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Rahsaan Strode, Jr



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 37±
Our attendance is calculated using our
LIVE Facebook viewers and those in person.

GET IT TOGETHER: Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on September 17th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

MEN'S LUNCH: Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY: They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT: If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP: Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The meeting will be today at 12:30 pm in the church lounge.

POTLUCK: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10th. The theme is *Western Night*. Join us for fellowship.

COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th, at 7 pm in the church lounge.



PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGE

We're off to a fantastic start in our plastic recycling challenge, a joint effort between Trinity Lutheran ELCA, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and First Church United Methodist Church. A total of 847 pounds have been collected as of the month of August. To reach our goal of **1,000 pounds by June 30, 2026**, we need 153 pounds! Please continue bringing in your recyclable plastics to help us earn a bench for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines!



Watch our worship services live on Facebook. Can't join us live? Catch the replay later in the week on YouTube via our website at christchurchuccdesplaines.org. Worship from the comfort of your home!



Christ Church
United Church of Christ
1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230



Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS
Tues. & Wed. 10 am - 3 pm;
Days off: Friday & Saturday



For after-hour pastoral care emergencies,
please call Rev. Gilbert on his cell phone at 224-250-9898.

Website: christchurchuccdesplaines.org
Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines
Instagram: instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor
gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant & Digital Outreach Coordinator
jezzle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kyle Speer, Finance Manager & Music Coordinator
kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Tommie Jordan, Custodian
Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician

Lay Ministry: All Members

Judy Rosedale, *Council President*; Holly Schmidt, *Council Vice-President*
Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns
& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.