



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 14, 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 would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge."
- Psalm 14:6*

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: "There is no God!" people say.

People: "I can do what I like!" everyone thinks.

Leader: "Who cares about God?" questioners ask.

People: "I'm here for me; I don't answer to anyone!" the foolish think.

Leader: God looks for faith.

People: Will God find it?

Leader: God looks for care of the poor.

People: Will we provide it?

Leader: God looks for love.

People: Will God find it in us?

***** BELL *****

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN *"How Can I Say Thanks (My Tribute)"* (see music insert)

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (unison)

God of heaven and earth, be with us in our need. Though we often go astray, we seek your love and mercy. Though we often listen to fools who say, "There is no God," our hearts belong to you. Be our Shepherd and guide our ways, for we are lost and afraid and weary of wandering. We long to be welcomed home in your gracious mercy. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Thank you, King of the ages, for coming to us. Thank you for loving us with utmost patience and for fitting us in your glory. Amen.

WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE 🙌

Friends, God rejoices in you. For you were lost but now are found. Let us share the peace of Christ and rejoice that each and every one of us is highly treasured.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (NRSVUE)

Jeremiah 4:11-12;22-28

Psalm 14 (Responsive Reading)

Leader: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

People: They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

Leader: The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind,

People: To see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

Leader: They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt.

People: There is no one who does good, not even one.

Leader: Have they no knowledge, all these evildoers,

People: Who devour my people as though eating bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

Leader: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

People: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

Leader: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

People: When the Lord restores the fortunes of the people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

*Luke 15:1-10

SERMON

"Is One Enough?"

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

"Restless Weaver"

(see music insert)

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 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.

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

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (see music insert)

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

* HYMN "To God Be the Glory" (see music insert)

POSTLUDE

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



How Can I Say Thanks

Ps. 115:1

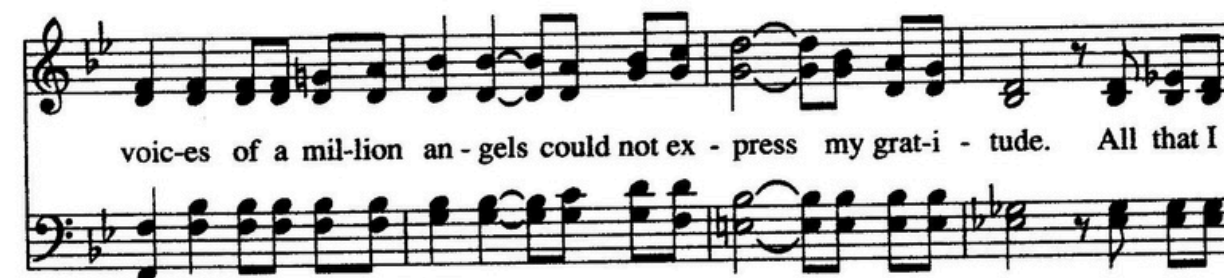
Andraé Crouch, 1971; alt.



How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?



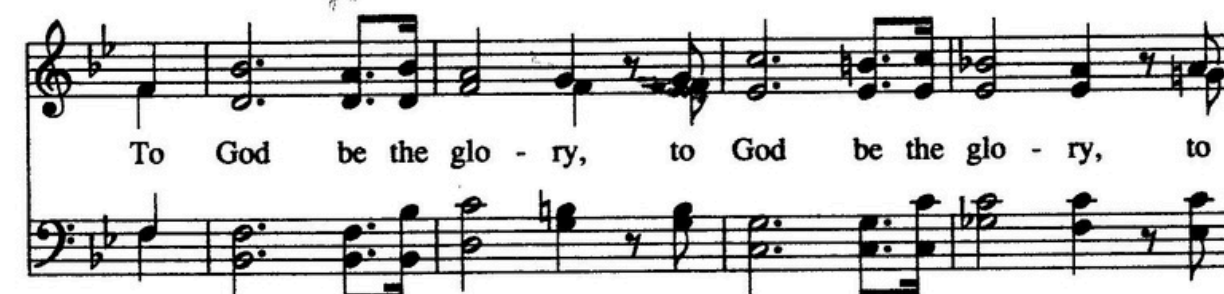
Things so un-de - served, yet you gave to prove your love for me; the



voic-es of a mil-lion an - gels could not ex - press my grat-i - tude. All that I



am, and ev - er hope to be; I owe it all to you.



To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry, to

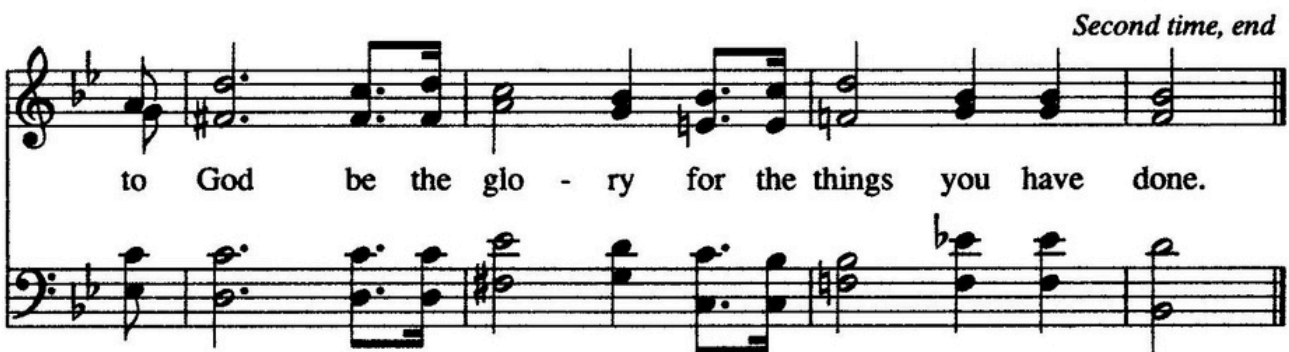
How Can I Say Thanks Page 2




God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.



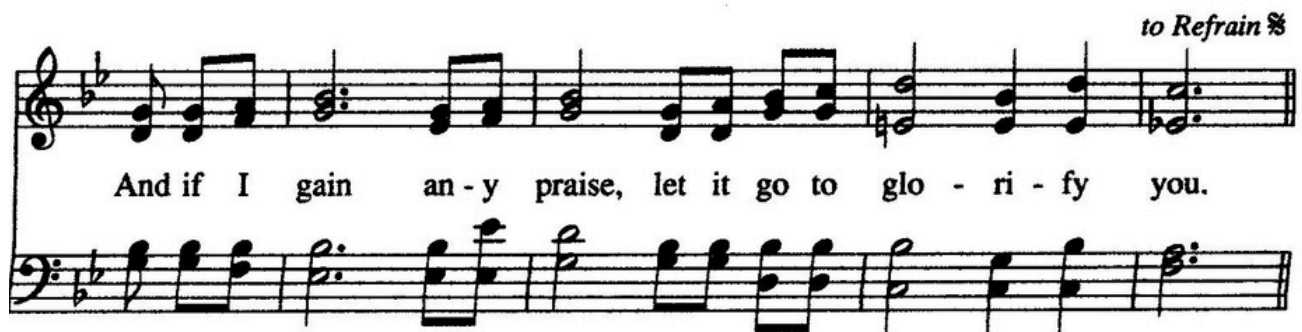
Refrain
With your blood you have saved me; with your power you have raised me;



Second time, end
to God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.

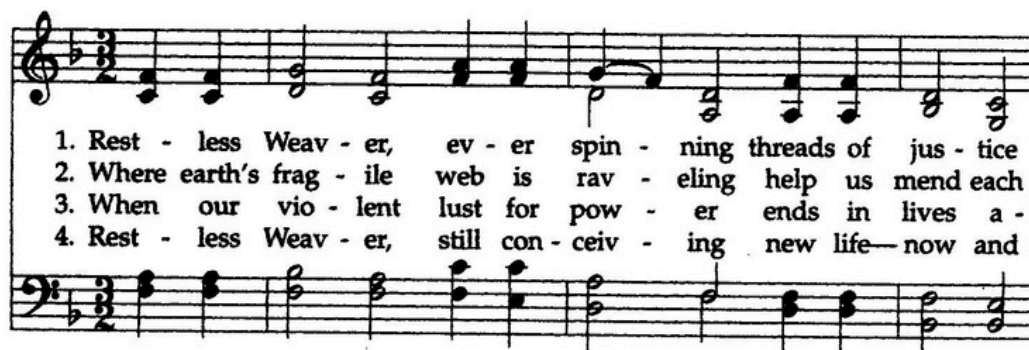


Just let me live my life— let it be pleas-ing un-to you;

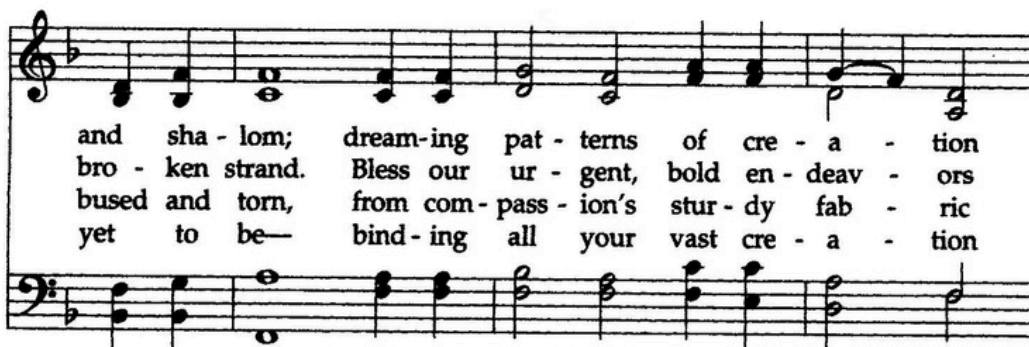


to Refrain
And if I gain an - y praise, let it go to glo - ri - fy you.

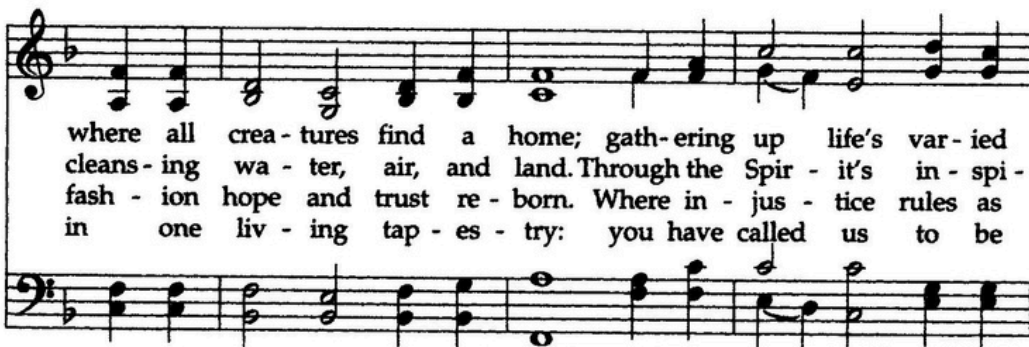
Restless Weaver



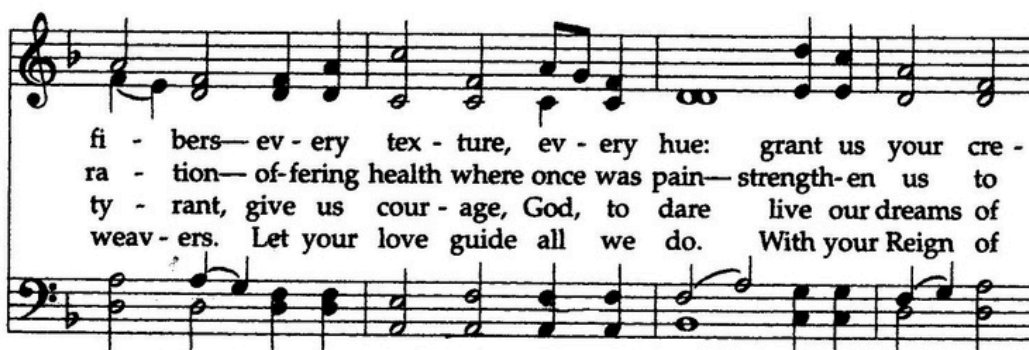
1. Rest - less Weav - er, ev - er spin - ning threads of jus - tice
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling help us mend each
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a -
 4. Rest - less Weav - er, still con - ceiv - ing new life—now and



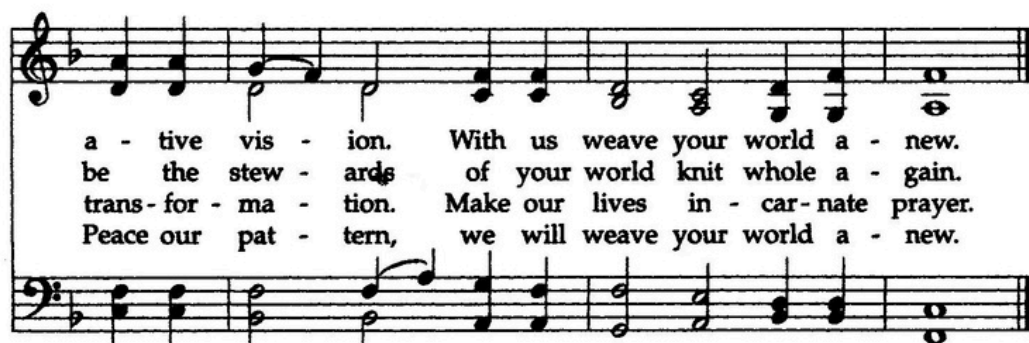
and sha - lom; dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion
 bro - ken strand. Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors
 bused and torn, from com - pass - ion's stur - dy fab - ric
 yet to be— bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion



where all crea - tures find a home; gath - ering up life's var - ied
 cleans - ing wa - ter, air, and land. Through the Spir - it's in - spi -
 fash - ion hope and trust re - born. Where in - jus - tice rules as
 in one liv - ing tap - es - try: you have called us to be



fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue: grant us your cre -
 ra - tion—of - fer - ing health where once was pain—strength - en us to
 ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare live our dreams of
 weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do. With your Reign of

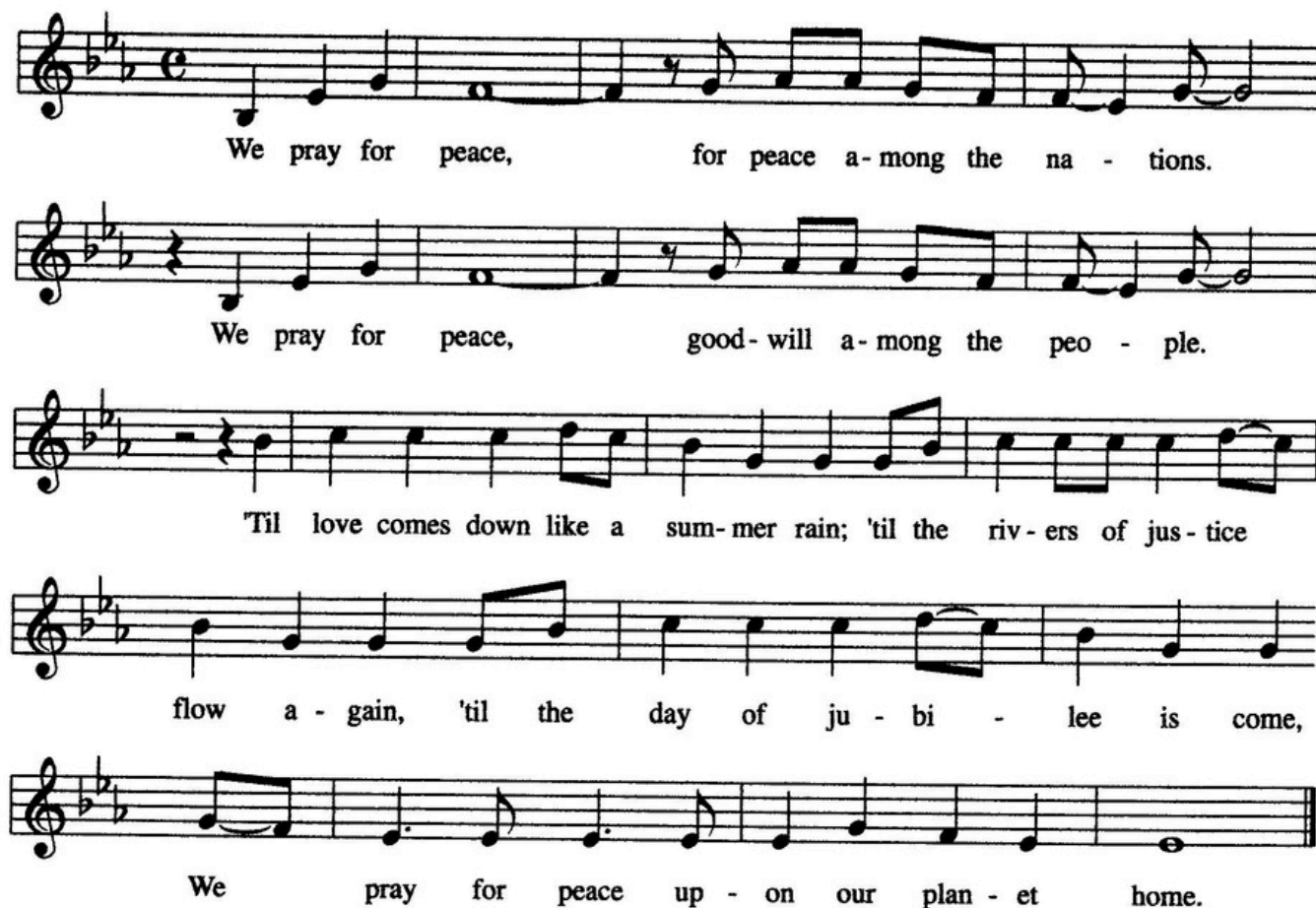


a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.
 Peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

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



PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGE

We are thrilled to share that our 4 partner churches have already surpassed the 1,000-pound goal to qualify the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines for a Trex bench!

Since July 1, 2025, a total of 1,044 pounds of plastic has been collected through the joint efforts of Trinity Lutheran ELCA, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, First Church United Methodist Church, and Christ Church UCC. Thank you to everyone who made this possible! *Please continue to bring in your recyclable plastics. Recycling continues as we help our earthy home.*

Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

G7sus G7 C B7 Em B7 Em

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

B G7 Am Em C7

meant to be. With God our crea - a - tor,

F Em G7 C Am7 D


chil - dren all are we. Let us walk with each

G Am7 D G G7



oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

634



To God Be the Glory





1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,




So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.



To God Be the Glory Page 2

ADORATION


Refrain




Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



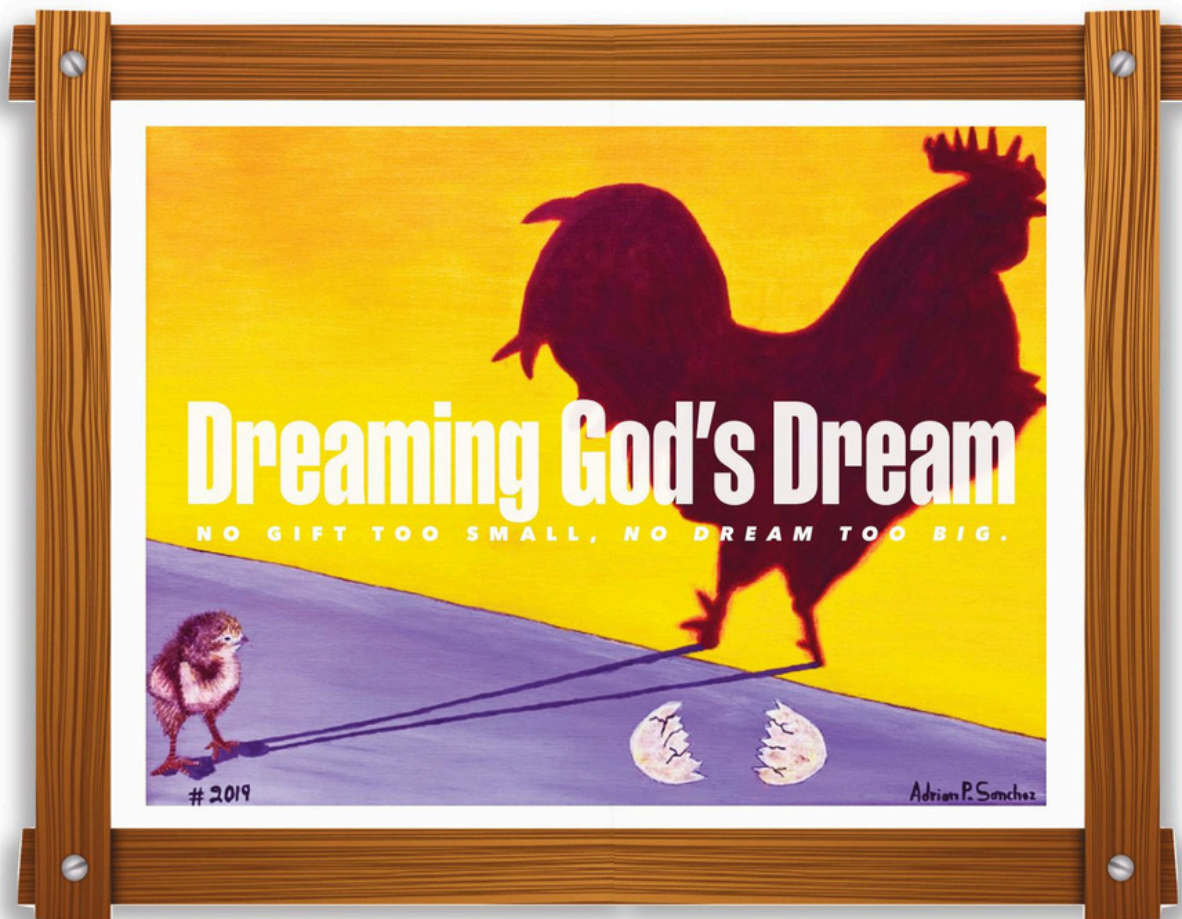
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!



The Church as Innkeeper

"All humanity are our neighbors."

St. Augustine of Hippo

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?

The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help – roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can *facilitate our mission*.

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an "inn" where Good Samaritan ministry can happen.

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

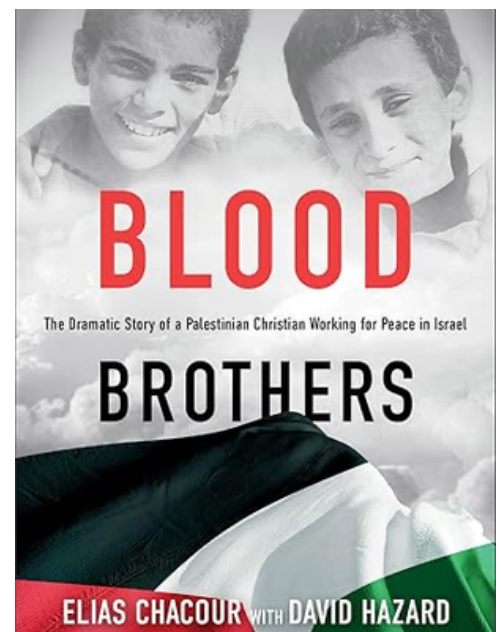
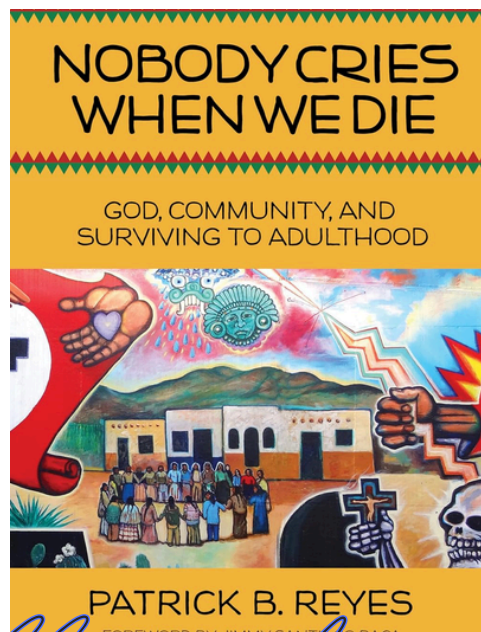
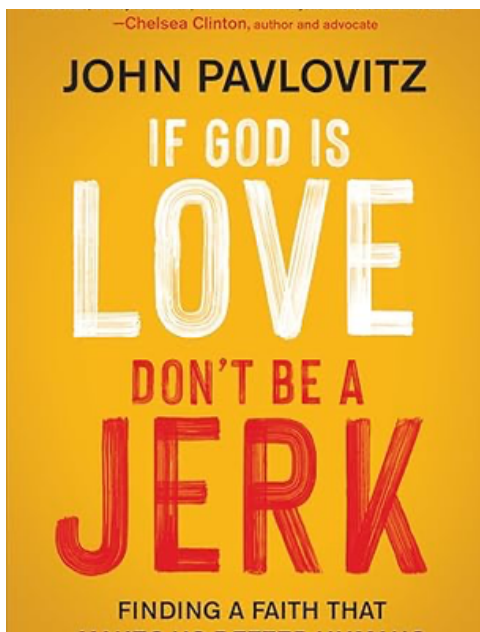
On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.

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>

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

IN MEMORY / HONOR

In loving memory of Ron Groll on his birthday and our 70th wedding anniversary, *by Kathie Groll*

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.

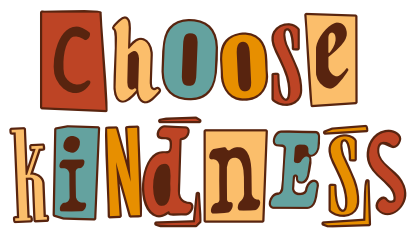
Happy Birthday!

14 - Jennifer & Alan Ventrella (12)
18 - Frank & Julie Staggs (31)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Laura Hallberg
Church Pianist.....	Hana Fujisaki
Council Greeter.....	George Bielat
Ushers.....	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 67±
*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. 

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: We kindly ask all committees to submit their annual reports to the office by **Friday, September 26th**. This will allow time to compile the full annual report in a timely and efficient manner.

VISION TASK FORCE MEETING: The meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16th at 1:30pm in the lounge.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED: Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. Ushers will have NIN envelopes available.



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.