

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 20, 2023 10:00 A.M.

*Our Mission:* **To be an inviting, caring faith community  
connecting with Christ.**

Welcome, visitors! Our greeters have welcome bags to share with you, so please make sure they know you are visiting.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Ruth Costello  
*Sharing of joys and concerns*

GATHERING SONG “Everlasting God”

Verse: **Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.**

Bridge: **Our God, You reign forever. Our hope, our strong  
Deliv'rer.**

Chorus: **You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God,  
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in  
need;  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.**

Repeat

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CALL TO WORSHIP Ron Obara

Leader: This is a Sabbath dedicated to our God.  
Let this gathering place be a home for all people.

**People: May God be gracious to us and bless us.  
May God's face shine over all the earth's people.**

Leader: Let all the people praise the God of all nations.  
Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

**People: May God grant us understanding and courage.  
May faith grow beyond our doubts.**

Leader: The earth has yielded us blessing.  
Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.

**People: God brings us together in unity of purpose.  
May our circle grow as we welcome newcomers.**

OPENING PRAYER

Ron Obara

Leader: God of many blessings, whose gifts are more numerous than we can count, show us how to use these benefits according to your will and purpose, that opportunities may be opened for all your children and unity may become a reality among us.

**People: May we know a taste of eternal life in the quality of our mutual caring and our sharing with a needy world.  
Amen.**

HYMN “This is the Day”

#84

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time. Afterwards, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

SONG RESPONSE      “Wherever Love Is”

**Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is in me, ‘cause I love you  
Wherever love is, God is there too  
God is wherever love is.**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 133

Ron Obara

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the

mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood before him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that our have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

SERMON “On the Other Hand”

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory”

#436

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers  
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERING  
Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)  
**As you have blessed us, O God, we are eager to share. May we offer more than crumbs from your table. May none be sent away from the blessings you intend for all. We want our offerings to preserve and extend life to your children, here in this place and wherever our influence can reach. What is in the offering plates is only a part of what we dedicate ourselves to do and be that your reign of unity and peace may come. Amen.**

HYMN                    “Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”                    #77

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING  
Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song                    “Amen”  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.**

Call to worship, opening prayer and prayer of dedication: “Taught By Love: Worship Resources for Year A, Lavon Bayler. 5/20/18; Music shared under CCLI #1908882.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

	<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	<b><u>August 27th</u></b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Ron Obara	Elise Livingston
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	Dick Strahs	
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>		

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **FOR SERVICE**

**GIFT CARD ORDERING:** Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at [www.raiseright.com/brands](http://www.raiseright.com/brands) . If you give Penny a gift card order on Sunday, your cards are usually here by midweek. Contact Penny at 815-236-6172 or [mriapk@gmail.com](mailto:mriapk@gmail.com) or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

### **FOOD DRIVE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**

Dear Member and Friends,

Our local Richmond/Spring Grove Community Food Pantry is in great need of donations. During the summer months donations drop, but the need is still there. The pantry is seeking donations of canned goods, boxed food, snack foods, personal items, paper goods, cleaning supplies and/or a monetary donation. Our church is hosting a food drive from Sunday, August 13 through Sunday, August 27. We have prepared brown bags\* with an attached list of suggested items from the food pantry. Please take a bag today to fill if you would like to help. Just drop the bag back here at church over the next two weeks (please call the church to see when someone will be in the office). If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Community Church of Richmond and mark in the memo line Food Pantry Food Drive. It takes courage and strength to ask for help when you need it. Let us show those in need in our community we are there to support them!

-Karen Wootton and the Mission Committee

\*A big thank you to Angelo Food Store, Richmond for the donation of brown bags!

**HOST FELLOWSHIP SNACKS:** A simple snack is all that's needed, and coffee-making tutorials are available. The sign-up sheet is available in the lounge.

**FOR CONNECTION**

**SUMMER BINGO:**

ONLY 1 WEEK LEFT TO PLAY! The big Bingo board in the lounge presents the many opportunities we have for fellowship and worship and service this summer. Take a look, keep an eye on the announcements, stay connected to the church, and see how many ways you can hit Bingo before Pastor Hope is back from Sabbatical!

**PASTOR RUTH'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Ruth Costello cell 815-354-0121

Email: [seekingboaz@aol.com](mailto:seekingboaz@aol.com)

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF AUGUST 20, 2023**

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Ruth [seekingboaz@aol.com](mailto:seekingboaz@aol.com) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana ([office@richmonducc.org](mailto:office@richmonducc.org)). THANKS!

*We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

**JOYS:** Birthdays: Pastor Hope (8/20), Sam Jones (8/20), Ryder Blanton (8/25), Shawn Runnfeldt (8/25).

Thanks for a successful Beef Roast!

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Maui

Henry Eickelberg

Cheryl Heber's friends' mother's death

Barb Howe's nephew

Lydia Blanton's father in law

John Kaman's family (Uncle's passing)

Aidan Zimmermann's friend's death (Shawn)

George Zimmermann's friend, Rich

### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Betty Waspi

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

**Our Congregational Prayer Partners** this week are Dawn Conley and Mike Kennedy.

**In the Wider Church:** We pray for our neighbors in Christ at St. John's UCC in Union as they seek their next pastor.

**Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:** Betty Waspi

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This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.  
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison  
E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
Les Garrett, 1967



## God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight be set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 John Hughes, c. 1907

## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

*Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Walsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He*

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7,  
 Sicilian melody, 18th century  
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792

