

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

**Our Church at Worship on the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 10, 2021 10:00 A.M.**

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

We are NOT able to livestream this Sunday's service. We apologize to those of you who depend on that service. By the next time Pastor Hope goes away on vacation, we should be able to livestream without her. Until then, you can read and pray through this printed service, revisit an older service among the videos on the church Facebook page, or attend a virtual service with a friend.

This morning's worship is led by The Rev. Kathy Karch. Pastor Kathy, as she is known, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a member of our congregation.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pr. Kathy Karch

GATHERING SONG "My Life Is In You" Kim May and Penny Kraft

Chorus

My life is in You Lord, my strength is in You Lord;
My hope is in You Lord, in You it's in You.
My life is in You Lord, my strength is in You Lord;
My hope is in You Lord, in You it's in You

Verse

I will praise You with all of my life;
I will praise You with all of my strength.
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.

Repeat Chorus and verse

TAG
Is in You, it's in You. In You.

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER George Zimmermann

One: God is calling. Do you hear?

You are being called by name, for a purpose.

All: God, you have searched us and known us.

You see our strengths and weaknesses from far away.

One: Don't confuse the callings of this world for the call of God.

Don't confuse the values of this world for the values of God.

All: God, you have searched us and known us.

You see our strengths and weaknesses from far away.

One: God knows when we sit and when we stand.

God knows when we rest and when we rise.

God knows our words and our deeds.

God knows where we go and when we hide.

All: God, you have searched us and known us.

You see our strengths and weaknesses from far away.

One: Let us pray: O God, we've come together because somewhere along the way we heard you calling. Speak to us in ways we can understand. Open our ears and make your message plain. Create in us a true desire to change, to listen, and to live your will in our lives. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-6

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

I Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

Kim May

MESSAGE

Call Waiting

SONG

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Kim May

I'm gonna *live* so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna *live* so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime.

Words and music: traditional

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

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.

HYMN

“Take My Life, God”

#448

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give: We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates at the front or back of the sanctuary.

Prayer of Dedication

For bringing us safely to this hour, we thank you, God. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your calling on us. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we've received. May our prayers unite us with other and with Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again” (#81)

**God be with you ‘til we meet again:
By good counsel, guide, uphold you;
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you ‘til we meet again.
‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet, ‘til we meet at Jesus' feet.
‘Til we meet, ‘til we meet,
God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

Call to Worship, Lavon Baylor, Led by Love: Resources for Year B, Second Sunday after Epiphany; Opening prayer, Hope Molozaiy; Dedication, Baylor, Gathered by Love: Resources for Year C, First Sunday after Epiphany.

Please head OUTSIDE to have your after-worship conversations.

NEW NEWS

BIBLE STUDY will NOT meet this week, since Pastor Hope will still be on vacation.

CHURCH CABINET will meet this TUESDAY evening, October 12, at 7 PM on Zoom. Watch for Zoom information from Judy Jooss.

CHURCH NEWS

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant communities. One-third of Neighbors in Need funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities. We’ll receive this annual special offering throughout the month of October.

CHURCH FALL FUN

Sunday, October 24, 1-5 pm at Richardson’s Adventure Farm! Rob and Carol are donating a picnic area for us again this year for a church gathering! We will be “bringing our own everything” for picnicking together. More details to come soon. Also, in lieu of an entry fee, you may make a good-will offering to go to the church.

PUMPKIN CARVING

Thursday, October 28th, 6:00-7:30PM. Come enjoy pumpkin carving with your church friends! Masks will be necessary and so are RSVPs. Let Pastor Hope or Jean Valsa know by Sunday, October 24th, how many from your family plan to attend. We won’t be providing a meal this year – families can either eat ahead of time or bring their own dinner to eat at safely distanced table in the fellowship hall. We’ll still have plenty of fall fun being together again!

TRIVIA NIGHT (UPDATED)

The Church Cabinet has decided that we will not hold Trivia Night at this time out of caution for public health. We consider this to be just a DELAY. Trivia Night WILL be back, and when it is, we’ll enjoy all the food and fun and laughter that we’ve enjoyed together in years past.

What to Expect at Indoor Worship

Expect to...

1. Wear your mask the whole time you are in the church building.
2. Pick up a bulletin from near the doorways when you come in.
3. Sit only with members of your household or 'pod' (people you regularly interact with outside of church).
3. Respect the social distancing marked in the pews, leaving space between the people around you. This might even mean sitting in a place you're not used to in the sanctuary.
4. Let Kim and Penny do most of the singing. The congregation will sing a song after the sermon and the closing response.
5. Leave your offerings in the offering plates that will be at the front of the sanctuary and also near the bulletins.
6. Go outside after the closing response for fellowship and conversation. Please don't do your mingling inside.
7. Stay home if you have a new cough, fever, or any other new COVID-like symptoms, or if you know you've recently spent time with someone who was COVID-positive.
8. Finally, expect to delight in worshipping our God together in a place that has brought joy and comfort to many people over many years!

We take these precautions out of love and care for each other, most especially for our church children and others who are still particularly vulnerable at this time. We continue to look forward to the time when these precautions won't be necessary. Until then, let us be caring, be patient, and help protect one another.

We are following the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health, but also the instruction of our faith which tells us to show love for our neighbor, to protect the vulnerable, and to humbly consider others more important than ourselves.

Prayers for the Week of October 10, 2021

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS! *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

JOYS

Birthdays: Yvonne Kemp (Oct 13), Dave Heber (Oct 14)

PRAYERS FOR:

Marti Swanson's long-time friend, Judy Coomes Wenzel
Sheryl Vezina
Linda and Lee's granddaughter, Bethany
Ina Obara's father
Mercedes Ahlgrim
Deann Workmon
Betty Waspi

Ongoing Prayers:

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family
Julie Leighninger
Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin
Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), Bob Krueger

Betty Waspi would love to hear from you.

Betty Waspi, Room 30, Lake Geneva Golden Years
611 Harmony Dr, Lake Geneva WI 53147.
Direct phone: 262-203-9092



Illinois Conference 2021 Medical Debt Relief Campaign

We have an exciting challenge that we can only possibly achieve if we work together. After all, we are **STRONGER TOGETHER**.

We have a challenge set to relieve **\$10M of medical debt** that is burdening our neighbors right here in Illinois. If we can raise **\$100,000** by the end of November, we have the opportunity to purchase debt through RIP Medical Debt in partnership with the national setting of the UCC. This amount of money **can relieve \$10,000,000 of debt** off the backs of our neighbors most in need. I know no better way to express our faith in practice!

I invite you each to give what you can – but better yet, motivate your congregation to give! If your congregation could raise \$10,000 – that would be \$1M of debt! If your missions committee could allocate \$1,000 – that would be \$100,000! If your Sunday School class could scrape together \$100 – that would be \$10,000 that another family will be freed from.

The United Church of Christ is committed to creating a **just world for all** – and how better to put this concept into practice than to lift the burden of medical debt, especially during this season of pandemic.

A great way to **give THANKS**. A great way to **celebrate the HOLIDAYS**. A great way to **live out our FAITH**.

*Blessings,
Rev. Molly Carlson
Conference Minister*



P.S. Consider making a donation in the name of that family member that is hard to buy for – what a great gift!