

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
September 19, 2021 10:00 A.M.

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

Tune into Facebook at 10:00 on Sunday to share this time of worship. If you can't join promptly at 10:00, the video will be available later as well.

You can access that video even if you don't have a Facebook account – just type in <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

GATHERING SONG

“Alive in You” Kim May and Penny Kraft

Music & Lyrics Jordan Frye, Kim Walker-Smith, and Sklyer Smith; 2015 Jesus Culture Music/Capitol CMG. CCLI License 1908882

From beginning to the end, all my life is in your hands.
This whole world may hold me down, but it can never drown You out.
I'm not merely flesh and bone. I was made for something more.
You are God; You're the Great I Am.
Breath of life, I breathe You in.
Even in the fire, I'm alive in You.
You are strong to my brokenness,
sovereign over every step.
Even in the fire, I'm alive, I'm alive in You.
....

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Robert Richardson

One: We are met in the presence of God

All: And we do not meet alone.

One: With the angels in the highest heaven,
with the saints of every age,
with the Church throughout the world,

All: we gather to worship the Lord.

One: By children and babies,
with drums, sitars, and trumpets,
in barrios and basilicas,
and here with our hearts and our voices,

All: God's holy name is praise.

One: We are met in the presence of God

All: And we do not meet alone.

One: Let us pray: Generous God, you gave us our voices,
no two the same. You gave us words and music with which to
wound or wonder, bore or bless.

All: For these we thank you.

One: In your Church you have gathered us.
In your community of common folk and complainers,
prophets and puzzled people, you have made a place for us.

All: For this we thank you.

One: So let what we say and do here,
what we ponder and decide here,
be real for us and honest to you,
as you prepare us for the world in which you are also
praised. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 47:1-2, 6-9

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the
earth....

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

The Gospel according to Luke 9:23-25

Then Jesus said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let
them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose
their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they
gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"

HYMN

"The God of Abram Praise" #24

Kim May

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your
kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will
make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name
great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you,
and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of
the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with
him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from
Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the
possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had
acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When

they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

MESSAGE Living into this God-given World: God Gives Guidance

SONG RESPONSE "The Whole World is in God's Hands" Kim May

The whole world is in God's hands

The whole world is in God's hands

The whole world is in God's hands

The world is in God's hands.

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

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

#18

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

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Amen

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

Call/opening prayer from A Wee Worship Book, 4th incarnation, p. 74-75, Evening Liturgy E.
Copyright 1999 Wild Goose Resource Group.

Please head OUTSIDE to have your after-worship conversations.

CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH PICNIC! Today, beginning at 1PM, at Lance Park in Twin Lakes. Bring your own everything and squeeze in some last summer fun with your church friends! Mike and Dawn will save us a space together. Bring your swim suits and beach gear, weather permitting, or just your lawn chair and sunscreen! (Lance Park is at 55 Lance Drive, on the beautiful shores of Lake Mary.) We know another church will be gathering at the park earlier in the day and will be getting toward the end of their time together as we get to the start of our time; we expect there will be plenty of room for all of us!

BLOOD DRIVE

This Tuesday, September 21, 3:30-7:30PM, in the church basement. Remember: Someone needs a blood donation every two seconds and three lives can be saved with every one pint of blood donated. For more information, check the church website <http://www.richmonducc.org/blood-drive.html>

BIBLE STUDY is back! We meet on Zoom each Tuesday at 1:30pm. Our Meeting ID is 896 5130 1635 and the passcode is 003204. No special knowledge is needed!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Hold the date of Saturday, November 13, for this year's Trivia Night fundraiser! More details will come as we get closer, but for now Dawn Conley invites you to help her get started on our auction baskets for that night. If you plan to put together a theme basket to donate, let Dawn know. If you want to contribute but don't know quite what to do, Dawn suggests you buy a gift card from Penny (which is also a FUNDRAISER!) in ANY denomination for ANY store or restaurant, and tell Penny it's for a Trivia Night donation. Penny will forward that gift card to Dawn, who will put together some type of basket with that card in mind. Thank you for anything you can do! Questions, contact Dawn at 815-236-5982 or conley8405@gmail.com .

NEW NEWS

CABINET UPDATES

+ We ended August with about \$39,000 available in our regular bank account. Our (non-endowment) investment assets total around \$160,000. While this is a fairly solid amount for our finances, we have consistently been spending more than we bring in during recent months. If you can make a special gift to the general fund, or if you know you've fallen behind on your pledged giving and you are able to catch up, it will be a help to the life of the church.

+ The Men's Club has cleared a lot of old materials out of their storage spaces in the basement. They will meet again on September 25 to continue clearing out.

+ Cabinet will meet next month on TUESDAY, October 12, on Zoom at 7PM.

CHURCH FALL FUN

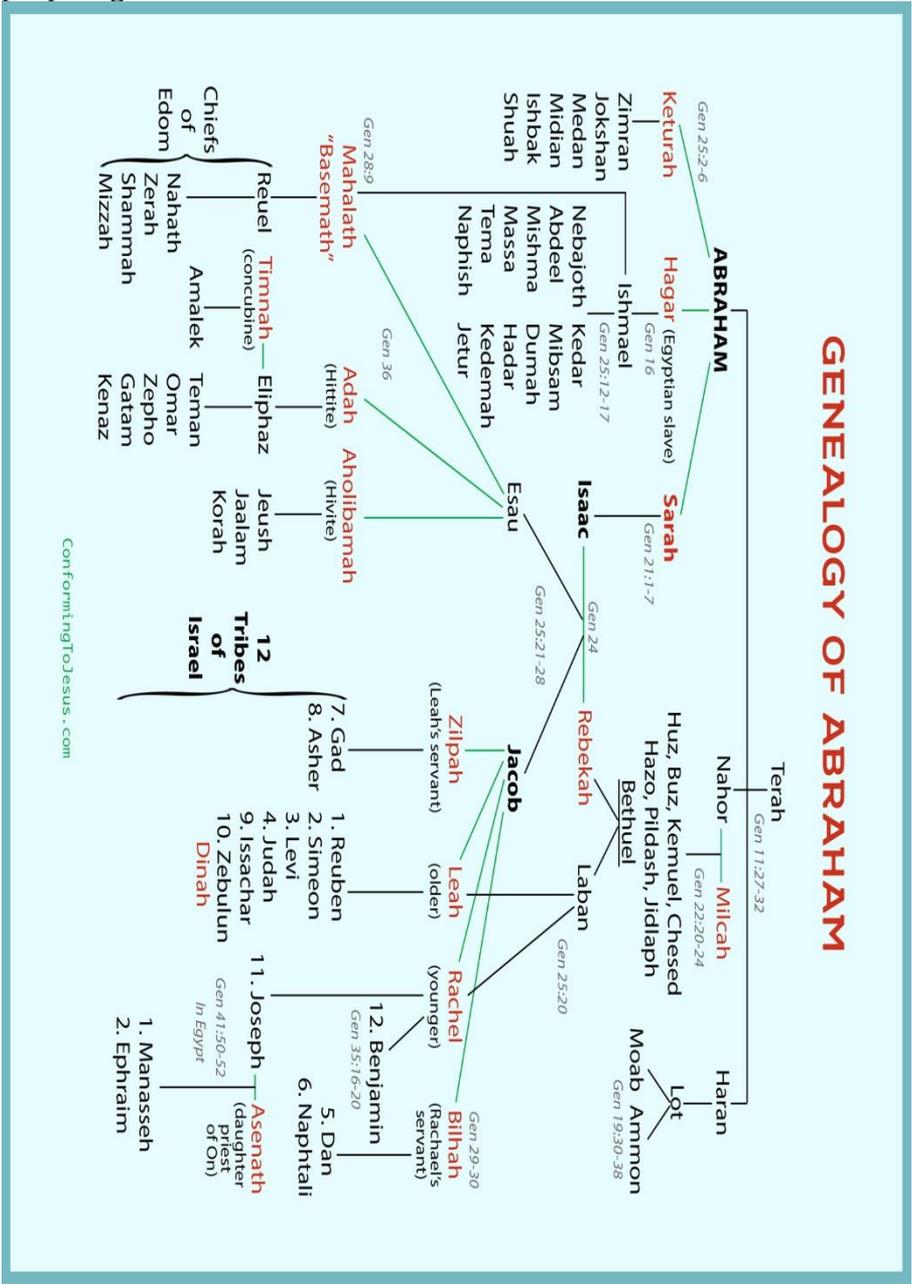
Sunday, October 24, 1-5 pm at Richardson's Adventure Farm! Rob and Carol are donating a picnic area for us again this year for a church gathering! We will be "bringing our own everything" for picnicking together. More details to come soon. Also, in lieu of an entry fee, you may make a good-will offering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

BIBLE TIDBITS

Each autumn, we begin toward the beginning of Genesis and make a story arc through the Old Testament. Each year, our journey through these stories is a little bit different. Of course, we never read all the stories, or even all the major stories, but we try to get a good sense of some of the major events and themes of the Hebrew Scriptures before we turn our attention to one of the gospels for the time from Christmas to Easter. This year, we'll spend several weeks with the stories of Abraham and Sarah, then a few weeks with King Solomon, and a few more weeks with the prophet Jeremiah. I hope that you encounter a combination of familiar stories and those you haven't heard as often. I hope that spending more than just a passing week with these ancestors of our faith helps center you in your own walk of faith. I hope you have questions left unanswered and ask me or open your Bible to see what you can find.

+ For fun this week, read what happens just after the passage we read in worship which you'll find in Genesis 12:10-20. (You can always look up Bible passages at www.biblegateway.com if you're not sure where your Bible is right now.) After today's worship reading gave us a great example of faithful obedience, the story in verses 10-20 gives an example of Abram being less trusting and more eager to try to control outcomes himself. That will be his great struggle through his life with God.

And, how does Abraham relate to the rest of those Old Testament people again?



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 all 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 September 19, 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: Mercedes Ahlgrim (Sept 25)

You can send her a note at Mercedes Ahlgrim, 186-C Arroyo Hondo Rd, Santa Fe NM 87508

CONCERNS

Our sympathies extend to the friends and family of June Whitney, long-time church member, who passed away earlier this month. June was 93-years old. A family memorial is being planned.

Prayers For:

Henry Molozaizy's friend, Jake

Ina Obara's father

Elise Livingston's friend Patti's infant granddaughter

Mercedes Algrim (New Mexico)

Deann Workmon

Bob Krueger

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

Several of our friends and members could use prayers and

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

Bob Krueger, Ignite Medical Resort, 550 Ridgeview Dr, McHenry IL 60050