

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ
Our Church at Worship on the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 25, 2022 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're visiting.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Hope Molozaiy
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER Nicki Carter

One: Here, in this place,
God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:
here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

**All: Here, in this time,
we can remember all the ways God has graced us:
here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is
with us, always!**

One: Here are gathered those daring enough
to step out of comfort into the unknown:
here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out,
'God, save us!' in every situation.

Let us pray.

Loving God, Like Joseph, we don't always understand
why things happen the way they do,
especially when our plans fail and dreams disappoint.

**All: And yet, like Joseph, we believe that you are at work in
our lives,**

One: Strengthen our faith to trust you through our challenges.

**All: Give us the courage to place our dreams in your hands,
and then follow where You lead.**

One: Let our worship remind us that Your loving presence goes
with us always.

All: Amen.

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. Parents can meet them after worship in the lounge.

ANTHEM

"Down to the River to Pray"

Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 103:1-5, 8-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

... The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Genesis 45:3-11, 13b-15, 50:15-21

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 you 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.’ ... 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. [Time passes...]

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

MESSAGE

Better than a Dream

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#23

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

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.

FOR SERVICE

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING is an annual special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Help support this valuable work by marking your check or offering envelope with the words "Neighbors in Need."

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS From Pakistan to Puerto Rico to Kentucky, many parts of the world have seen terrible natural disasters recently. The Disaster Ministries of the UCC are always ready to respond. You can support them by marking your check or offering envelope with "UCC Disaster Ministries."

HELPING THE CHURCH AT NO COST TO YOU: A note from your church treasurer! How can you help the church finances without costing you any money? You can buy gift cards of course! You buy the card, you use the card, and the church gets a percentage of that. Do you go to Jewel or Meijer every week? Do you have a Starbucks account that you can load the card onto the app? Do you order often from Amazon? What about those restaurants right down the road in McHenry? Jewel pays us 4% of every gift card purchased through this fundraiser; Meijer pays 3% and Starbucks pays 4.5%. Most of the McHenry restaurant chains pay us 8%! Home Depot, Ace, and Kohls are 4%. If you are spending the money at these places, why not pay up front, get a gift card, and help out the church. It just takes a little preplanning on your part, but no extra money!

For a challenge—Can you purchase at least \$100 of gift cards through the church in September? Think about gifts you might need to give or places where you shop regularly. See Penny's post below for details on how to order. You can see a full list of vendors and the % at www.raiseright.com/brands

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! 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 or leave an order form and payment in the mailbox labelled "GIFT CARDS" in the office hallway. Thanks!

FOR CONNECTION

BUNCO NIGHT is the next fellowship event, coming on Friday, October 7, from 7-10 PM in the church fellowship hall.

Bring your friends for an evening of energetic fun!

Bunco is an easy to learn dice game, and Nicki Carter will be on-hand to teach all newcomers.

The cost will be \$14/person and will be divided out for cash prizes to the winners. (And if anyone wants to donate some of their winnings to the church, that would be wonderful!)

Children who are comfortable moving away from their parents and keeping their score tally are welcome as well.

Bunco is a noisy game that brings people together with socializing, competition and celebrating in a spirit of fun and fellowship! Come and play!

Sign-up in the lounge today or reach out to Dawn Conley at 815-236-5982 or conley8405@gmail.com with any other questions.

COVID UPDATES: Masks are currently optional at worship and church gatherings. Stay home if you're feeling sick and maintain a healthy distance from other households during worship. We make decisions about our community's standards based on Jesus command to love each other and protect the most vulnerable among us.

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH:

According to the CDC, every individual who dies by suicide leaves behind an estimated six or more close family members, friends, and other loved ones. In 2020, for example, more than 46,000 Americans died by suicide. That means at least 276,000 people lost someone they cared deeply about in that year alone.

Surviving family and friends may experience shock, anger, guilt, symptoms of depression or anxiety.

Suicide affects all ages and in 2020 was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34.

998 is the new 3-digit dialing code that will connect you directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

You can also **TEXT to the number 741741** anytime to be connected to a crisis counselor.

WORSHIP LEADERS

TODAY

Liturgist	Nicki Carter
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs
Fellowship Hosts	Jan Revelle
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher

Oct 2

Liturgist	Jean Valsa
Video Director	
Communion Preparations	
Greeter/Usher	

Oct 9

Liturgist	Elise Livingston
Video Director	
Fellowship Hosts	
Greeter/Usher	
Sunday School	

Oct 16

Liturgist	Kathy Speaker
Video Director	
Greeter/Usher	
Sunday School	

Are you willing to help with any of these jobs? Let Pastor Hope know.

PRAYERS for the Week of September 25, 2022

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!

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

JOYS: Birthdays: Gail Crutcher (Sept 20), Mercedes Ahlgrim (Sept 25), Mike Karch (Sept 27), Olivia Runnfeldt (Sept 27)

- The Rummel family rejoices to share that Blair (Rummel) Navis and her husband, Matt, are expecting a baby boy in late January!

PRAYERS FOR:

Ode and Mary Ann's sister-in-law, Leslyn

The people of Puerto Rico and all others affected by hurricanes, flooding, fires, and drought

Church friends who can't be with us in-person

Nicki Carter's aunt, Joan Groenwald née Herzog

Ongoing Prayers:

Cheryl Heber's father, Russell Koca

Marti Swanson's brother, John

Lydia Blanton's friend, Natalie, and Natalie's family

Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother

Louise Strahs' niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Pastor Hope and Pastor Alex Molozaiy and Henry and Margaret.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ: First Congregational UCC in Naperville and their pastor, The Rev. Mark Winters.

Our Mission Partners at Exodus World Service ask us to pray for the 50 refugee kids in Chicago who are waiting for New Neighbor volunteers, and to rejoice with the Burmese refugee who passed his U.S. citizen test this week.

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities: Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Bob Krueger (Libertyville)

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

13

Ps. 103

Anon.

United Presbyterian Book of Psalms, 1871; alt.



1 O my soul, bless your Cre - a - tor; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all who suf - fer, gen - tly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis - tant, God has put a - way our sin;
4 As it was with - out be - gin-ning, so it lasts with - out an end;
5 Un - to all who keep God's cov-enant and are stead-fast in God's way;



Bless your Mak - er, and for-get not all God's mer - cies to pro-claim.
God re - deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
Like a moth - er and a fa - ther, God com - pas - sion - ate has been.
To their chil - dren's chil-dren ev - er shall God's righ - teous - ness ex - tend:
Un - to all who still re-mem-ber God's com - mand - ments and o - bey.



Psalm 103, a beautiful psalm of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness and steadfast love, is summed up in the lines of this hymn. The author of the paraphrase is unknown.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Dream God's Dream

Bryan Sirchio
www.sirchio.com

Chorus D Em^7 D/F\#

Dream God's Dream! Ho - ly Spir - it help us

G Bm^7

dream of a world where there is

F\#m^7 G Em^7 A A/G

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry - one is free to

D/F\# G Bm^7 A

build and grow and love and to sim - ply have e -

G D/F\# Em^7 Asus A^7

- nough the world will change when we dream God's

D C G D

Dream.

Dream God's Dream, p.2

C G D C

Verses
I'm dream - ing of a world where the
I'm dream - ing of the way God is
I'm dream - ing of the way that I

G D C G

col - or of one's skin will mean less than what's with -
of - fer - ing to me; how to use my ren - er -
want my life to go. I've got hopes and I've got

Em^7 D C G A

in the per - son's heart. A
gy and my best gifts to I'm
I'd like to meet.

D C G

world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to
do the work of Christ, to say God, please use my
reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the

D Em^7 D/F\#

breathe. And ev' - ry chi - ld born has e -
scars. To spread your life heal - ing love and to
of Christ who died to show that the

Em^7 G D A D C G D C G D

nough live your dream.
Dream's Truth. eat. Truth. for all.