

# Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

## United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 2026

10:00 A.M.

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

Welcome, visitors!

Join us after worship for coffee and conversation in the lounge, the room right next to the sanctuary.

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Moloza iy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG “Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)”

Verse 1: **Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging;  
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.  
Your love is a myst'ry, how You gently lift me;  
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.**

Chorus: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
Your love makes me sing.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
Your love makes me sing.**

Verse 2: **Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising;  
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.  
Ev'ry time I see You, all Your goodness shines through.  
I can feel this God song rising up in me.**

Chorus twice through

Tag: **Your love makes me sing  
Your love makes me sing**

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Henry Molozaiy

One: There is mystery at the heart of things;  
it is alive and sings its song into all that is dull and dreary.  
It's born out of a wonder that only increases:  
for in exploring, the wonder grows,  
and in understanding, a greater puzzle is revealed.

So we gather around the greatest mystery,  
where faith can offer belief and wonder enough  
to transfigure the whole universe in resurrection truth.  
Come, let us wonder into the mystery of God.

One: Let us pray:

**All: Lord, we come to you today ready to worship;  
ready to seek your light and your love;  
ready to face whatever keeps us from seeing you  
and seeking your will.  
Open our hearts and minds. Amen.**

HYMN

“O Worship the King”

RED Hymnal #17

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer (we say together)

**Merciful God, we know that you love us  
and that you call us to fullness of life,  
but around us and within us  
we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways.  
Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy.  
Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing.  
Forgive our willful neglect of your word,  
our insensitivity to the needs of others,  
and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us;  
we pray through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Quiet Moment*

Assurance of Pardon

**WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD**

THE CHANCEL STEPS

*The children are invited to the front of the church at this time. Afterward, they are dismissed to Sunday school downstairs. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

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.**

Song Response "Halle, Halle, Halle"

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to John 9:1-38

MESSAGE I Know what I Know

**WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD**

HYMN "I Heard My Mother Say" #409

TIME OF PRAYER

THE OFFERING

*Rather than pass the offering plates, they are available at the front and back of the sanctuary before and after worship for you to place your gifts in. You may also give online at [www.richmonducc.org/donate-now](http://www.richmonducc.org/donate-now)*

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Generous God, faithful and wise,  
giver of life and healing,  
bless what we give back to you today.  
Take these offerings and use them  
for the healing of nations and the healing of broken hearts.  
We pray in Jesus' name, amen.**

\*HYMN "Amazing Grace" #547

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song "Something Beautiful for God"

**Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Do something small, but do it with great love.  
Do what we can where we are with what we've got.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.  
Today let us do something beautiful for God.**

Call to Worship, adp. from Spill the Beans, issue 25, p. 98; opening prayer from Cross+Gen resource, lesson 4-23, p. 7, Spirit & Truth Publishing;; confession, UCC Book of worship, service for word and sacrament II; dedication, Spill the Beans, Is. 25, p. 81. Music shared under CCLI license #1908882

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**TODAY**

**February 22**

<b>Liturgist</b>	Henry Moloza iy	Cheryl Kazimier
<b>Video Director</b>	Nicki Carter	
<b>Greeter</b>	Dawn & Mike	Elise Livingston
<b>Usher</b>	George/ Mike K.	George/ Mike K.
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	The Kamans	Karen Wootton
<b>Sunday School</b>	Gail C./Lydia B.	Gail C./Lydia B.

Altar flowers today are given by Charles Kemp  
in memory of Yvonne.

**AT CHURCH THIS WEEK**

Today, 11:15am	Worship & Spiritual Growth Mtg
Wednesday, 6pm	Ash Wednesday Supper
7pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	Choir practice follows
Next Sunday, 11:30am	Youth lunch w/ Pastor

## CHURCH NEWS

### **CABINET UPDATES**

Church Cabinet met last Monday. It was a full meeting looking forward to many upcoming events and projects. Here are a few details:

- We ended January with roughly \$47,000 in our operating fund and a little over \$115,000 in our combined, non-endowment accounts. Worship attendance in January was rather light due to sicknesses and frigid weather; lower attendance often means lower financial income and it did in January.

- We are looking for a few more folks to fill in some of our leadership rolls, including:

**Memorials committee** is looking for one more person. This group meets as needed to disperse memorial funds for meaningful projects and gifts to the church.

**Pastor-Parish Relations committee** is looking for two more people. This group would meet about 3 times a year for supportive conversation with the pastor about overall relationship and vision in our shared ministry.

**Evangelism Ministry** is currently entirely vacant. If you're interested in this type of work, which could include coordinating some of our projects with the wider community (fall fest, trunk or treat, etc.) as well as greeting and following up with visitors, talk to George or Pastor Hope.

**Reminder:** Kathy Speaker is finishing her service as **Treasurer** after 2026. She is spending more and more time in Florida and elsewhere, and it's time to look for someone who is around town more, so that things don't fall through the cracks and keep running smoothly. Kathy has put together a little job description for this position, so if you are curious about what it takes to be treasurer, talk to Pastor Hope or reach out to Kathy (who's in Florida now but very accessible by phone and email).

We have many great events coming up that you should **SAVE THE DATES** for, including:

March 29, after worship, Palm Sunday Egg Dying for All Ages

April 5, Easter Sunday

April 12, Annual Spring Tea Fundraiser at Richardson Event Room

April 18, Spring Cleaning Day

May 9, Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser

June 16-19, Vacation Bible School

## **FOR CONNECTION**

### **LENTEN GATHERINGS**

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday, on February 18. We'll gather that night for a soup supper at 6:00 followed by a simple worship service, which will start at 7:00. You're welcome to attend one or both parts of that evening. **Help us get a count of how many will be at dinner this week by signing up in the lounge.** Talk to Elise Livingston if you want to contribute to the meal.

Throughout Lent, we'll meet on Wednesday evenings for more soup suppers and conversations about faith. This year we're thinking about "Jesus Revealed" – how Jesus' own words about himself can help us understand him and ourselves.

We'll start those meals at 6:00 and finish at 7:00. New this year: We will have some of our middle school kids available on Wednesdays to watch our youngest friends!

Also, the UCC church in Genoa City hosts community Lenten lunches. Every Wednesday, February 18 through March 1, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in their basement Fellowship Hall, NO COST. Pastor Hope likes to go, so if you plan to attend, see if she can join you!

## **FOR SERVICE**

### **BABY CARE PACK COLLECTION**

Our Wider Mission Ministry is working with Exodus World Service to collect items for a Baby Care Pack for a Burmese refugee family. The Nurul Salam family has five children (3 boys and 2 girls), and their fourth son is expected in April. They have been in the United States since December 2024.

When preparing for a new baby, many refugees miss their familiar community. Please offer comfort and blessing to their family by collecting much-needed items.

Our Sign-up will be from Feb 8-Feb 22. You

may access the registry at

<https://signup.com/go/bppOQuJ> or scan the

QR code to the right. Karen Wootton or Carol

Richardson will be happy to answer any questions.

*Please sign up!*



## **FOR LEARNING**

**THE PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY** is OFF this week. We will re-gather next Tuesday.

## **BACKGROUND ON JOHN'S GOSPEL**

- This healing is one of the 'signs' John's gospel tells about, which means that the giving of sight is important, but it's not the main point. That's made clear in the discussion after this man is healed until he finds himself naming himself as disciple of Jesus. (And, if you keep reading, all of chapter 10 is Jesus explaining how we can think about him in light of this healing event, that is, as the "Good Shepherd" and the Gate for his sheep.)

- John wrote to a community of Jewish people who had become followers of Jesus, and who had been shunned by their own synagogues because of their faith in Jesus. They were cast out of their communities, and most likely their families as well, in order to live their new faith. They probably sometimes wondered whether faith in Jesus was worth all that they had sacrificed. It's important to remember that this group was the original audience for this gospel when we hear stories like today's that talks about this man being thrown out of his faith community and disowned by his parents for his continued faith in Jesus. (The historical evidence indicates that while groups of Jesus-following Jews were pushed out of their synagogues, that did not happen during the life of Jesus, but several decades after.)

- Healing stories in the Bible often sound simple – along the lines of "Ask and you shall receive" – and they sometimes leave us feeling that our own healing should be that simple too – if we just have faith in Jesus, if we just pray right or wash in the right pool. These stories, though, are meant to reveal the power of God more than they are about how to get healed.

- These stories can also fall under the category of "ableism," that's the idea, simply put, that people with certain characteristics are 'normal', and therefore 'good' and 'complete' and people with different characteristics are 'abnormal', and therefore 'bad' or 'lacking'. So, that would read today's story as being someone with sight is good and someone with blindness is bad. Many people who live today with a variety of characteristics and conditions, abilities and disabilities, will argue against these broad judgments, and might at times even argue that their 'conditions' are gifts from God. Part of the beauty of stories like this one from John is that Jesus sees this man who was born blind as a mighty work of God, whole and worthy, from the very beginning.

## **PRAYERS for the WEEK OF February 15, 2026**

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

**JOYS:** Birthdays: Linda Swenson (2/19)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Linda Swenson

Deann Workmon

Cheryl K's friend, Kevin Myers

Mike Anderson

Kim's daughter, Olivia

All who are impacted by the death of Alex Pretti

George's brother, Kurt

Jonathan Kaman's relative, Terri

Karen's son, Jason

Church friend, Tom Harris

Kim's friend, Darin

Jessica's friend, Deanna

Our country, especially Minneapolis, Portland and other places of high disturbance

### **Ongoing Prayers**

All people living with increased anxiety

Pastor Ruth Costello

Valsa family's young friend, Levi Johnson

Louise Strahs

For peace around the world

Penny Kraft's friend, Gail

Louise Strah's niece, Amy

### **Please hold in prayer: this week's Congregational Prayer**

**Partners**, Phyllis Kazimier;

**this week's Wider Church Prayer Partners**, our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational UCC in Minneapolis and their pastor, The Rev. Jane McBride.

## I Heard My Mother Say

*African-American traditional*

1 I heard my moth-er say, I heard my moth-er say,  
 2 At mid-night was my cry, at mid-night was my cry,  
 3 Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,  
 4 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,

I heard my moth-er say, "Give me Je - sus."  
 at mid - night was my cry, "Give me Je - sus."  
 oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
 in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus, you may

have all this world, give me Je - sus.

*This spiritual is better known as "Give Me Jesus." The musical arrangement was created for The New Century Hymnal by Joyce Finch Johnson, organist and professor of music at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Tune: GIVE ME JESUS 6.6.10. with refrain  
*African-American traditional*  
 Harm. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992



## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
 (NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900