



Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

**Our Church at Worship on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
With the Sacrament of Baptism and the Reception of New Members
September 22, 2024 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

Pastor Hope Molozai

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Obara

One: Come with what you have.
For you who grieve this day
know that you are invited to bring
the broken pieces of your heart.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you who come with gladness
know that your melody will find harmony.

**All: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you weighed down by your 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs'
know that here you may lay down your burdens.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you who have the answers,
know that new questions await you.

**All: Accepting God's love for us,
we are called to love one another.**

One: Come with what you have.
For you who come seeking,
know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

**All: Loved by one another,
we discover God's love for us.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UCC Statement of Faith

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us
in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:
God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the
divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of
righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
God has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation
to its Creator.
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues,
and races.
God calls us into the church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be servants in the service of the whole human family,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the
powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
God promises to all who trust in the gospel:
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORD FOR ALL AGES

*The children are invited to the front of the church for the baptisms.
Afterward, they are dismissed to Sunday School for the remainder of
worship. They will return upstairs at the end of worship.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Candidates for Baptism:

Adam LeeDent Tedder
Georgia Claire Tedder
Arthur Aaron Tedder
Grant Farrel Tedder

Welcome and Address

Pastor: We remember that loving parents were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the realm of God.

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

We remember also that Jesus came to John to be baptized.

But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “yet you have come to me!”

People: Jesus said, “Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.

Pastor: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Pastor: At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. In baptism, God works in us and our children, the power of faithfulness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God’s people always.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

Questions of Baptism

Congregational Promise

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Response of Praise “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.

Prayer for the Baptized

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for these your children, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and in Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the household of your love.

Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend these new members in the body of Christ.

Give to the newly baptized:

strength for life’s journey,

courage in times of suffering,

the joy of faith, the freedom of love,

and the hope of new life,

through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Katie Anderson-Tedder and Adam Tedder

Question About Participation

Welcome and Reception into Membership

**All: We welcome you with joy
in the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers
as we share the hopes and labors of Christ's church.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
may we continue to grow together
in God's knowledge and love,
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

HYMN

"Jesus Loves Me"

#327

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Gospel according to Matthew 5:43-44

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

The First Letter of John 4:7-12, 16-19

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another...

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

MESSAGE

Spiritual Stretches for Faithful Fitness:
Face Your Fears with Love

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

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.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**O God, bless these offerings of our lives.
Let us humbly serve as Christ has served,
and compassionately welcome as Christ welcomes us.
Empty us, so we may be filled with your generous spirit.
Amen.**

*HYMN

“Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

#393

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Amen”

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

Call by Katherine Hawker, and posted on <http://liturgyoutside.net/>; dedication, [Chalice Worship](#), #539. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

Over the next couple of weeks, Pastor Hope will share some “spiritual stretches for faithful fitness.” The coming weeks will focus on meeting your fears with love and practicing prophetic grief. She is drawing heavily on the book [Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times](#) by UCC pastor, The Rev. Otis Moss III, published by Simon & Schuster, copyright 2023 by Reverend Otis Moss III. The book is widely available through booksellers if you would like to read it yourself.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>September 29</u>
Liturgist	Ron Obara	Kathy Karch
Video Director	Nicki Carter	
Greeter/Usher	Dick Strahs	
Fellowship Hosts	The Tedders	The Kamans
Sunday School	Gail Crutcher	Gail Crutcher

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY OPPORTUNITY!

Fellowship and Bible study are ways we can fan the flame of our faith. Join Katie Anderson-Tedder for ONE MORE Tuesday of fellowship and bible study. The group continues to gather in the Lounge at 6:30p.m. thru September 24th. It's not too late to join! All are welcome.

OUTING TO RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM

TODAY! Sunday, September 22, 2024, 3 p.m.

Rob and Carol Richardson have graciously donated a campfire/picnic site and corn maze entrance for our church family to hang out and explore! We are asking for a \$10/per person donation that will go to church. Also, we'll share an early dinner, roasting hot dogs. We will supply paper goods, etc. Please, sign up to bring something to share. The sign-up sheet is in the lounge.

Please remember that while the Adventure Farm is fun for all, this event is only for the Community Church, not extended family or friends. Thanks.

Golf cart rides to the campfire site are available to those who are uncomfortable walking.

Please let us know if you will be attending: sign up in the lounge or call or text Dawn Conley: 815-236-5982.

At the event, Mike or Dawn will be at the farm entrance to give you your wrist bands.

FOR SERVICE

MEN'S SING is next Sunday, September 29! ALL the men of the church are joyfully encouraged to arrive at church by 9:20 that day and rehearse with Kim to offer a fun, familiar musical piece in worship that day. Never sung in a choir before? Don't worry, Kim's a professional music trainer, and the Holy Spirit does great things!

HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED The attendees of the Women's Retreat are collecting items for hygiene kits for The Harbour, an agency that serves homeless women and children in Park Ridge. Through **September 29**, we are collecting small/trial size hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, nail clipper, bar soap, deodorant, etc. As always, thank you for your generosity!

RICHMOND & SPRING GROVE FOOD PANTRY

During the summer months, the food pantry experiences a decline in giving. We are collecting food items now to help them keep the shelves stocked. Please drop off food items in the basket in the sanctuary.



DO YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL SUMMER/FALL FLOWERS? Please consider sharing them with the congregation. Let Jonathan Kaman know when you would like to bring them in to put on the altar. If you would like to order flowers, please contact Jonathan at 815-347-5035

GIFT CARD ORDERING: Contact Penny Kraft to order gift cards for your regular shopping, dining out, gas stations, or, of course, for gifts! You can see a full list of vendors and the % we receive at www.raiseright.com/brands . 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 upper hallway.

Gift Card App We can also support this fundraiser through the RaiseRight app with your smartphone. Gift cards for many places are available digitally for you to purchase and then use right away at the store you’re shopping in or the restaurant you’re eating at! Using the app cuts down on our shipping costs and gets funds delivered back to the church account quickly. Penny Kraft, Ronnie Obara, and Kathy Speaker are all very familiar with using the app and can help you get started if you’re interested.

WIDER CHURCH GATHERINGS

FOX VALLEY ASSOCIATION MEETING,

October 12, at First Congregational Church in Batavia, from 9AM – 1PM. Pastor Hope will be attending.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

November 1 & 2 (Friday and Saturday) at First Congregational Church in Western Springs. There will be workshops, celebrations and worship. Pastor Hope will be attending on Friday.

SAVE THE DATE!
Trivia Night is
Saturday, November 9, 2024

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF September 22, 2024

JOYS: Birthdays: Mike Karch (9/27); Olivia Runnfeldt (9/27); and Adam Tedder (9/28).

We are grateful for our community, for family celebrations and for new life!

The Causevic Family welcomed a daughter, Caroline, on September 15, and Mike Kennedy and family welcomed a granddaughter, Oaklynn, on September 16.

Sympathies to Lydia Blanton on the passing of her friend, Natalie Giannini Meierdirk.

PRAYERS FOR:

Penny & Jim Kraft's friend, Jeff
Mike Kennedy's cousin, Jen Baker
MaryAnn Keil's son-in-law, Nick Ciko
Joshua Canady, son of Jennifer Canady who cleans our building
George Zimmermann's sister, Cheryl Shepherd
Phyllis Kazimier's nephew, Bill Haacker
Aidan Zimmermann's neighbors
Peace in the Middle East
Pastor Hope's friend, Timoth
Theresa Kaman's friend, Cheryl
Robert Richardson

Ongoing Prayers:

Rev. Ruth Costello
Mike Karch
Bill Haase
Henry Eickelberg
Melissa Jones
Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Carol Sligting.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Geneva and their Pastor, the Rev. Mike Daly.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

Prayer for Enemies

Almighty and tender Lord Jesus Christ,
Just as I have asked you to love my friends,
so I ask the same for my enemies.

You alone, Lord, are mighty.

You alone are merciful.

Whatever you make me desire for my enemies,
give it to them and give the same back to me.

If I ever ask for them anything which is outside your perfect rule of
love,

whether through ignorance, weakness or malice,

good Lord, do not give it to them

and do not give it back to me.

You who are the true light, lighten their darkness.

You who are the whole truth, correct their errors.

You who are the incarnate word, give life to their souls.

Tender Lord Jesus,

let me not be a stumbling block to them,

nor a rock of offense.

My sin is sufficient to me, without harming others.

I, a slave to sin, beg your mercy on my fellow slaves.

Let them be reconciled with you,

and through you reconciled to me.

~ written by Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109).

I've Got Peace Like a River

Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 John 4:7-12

African-American spiritual

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.

Congregations or individuals may wish to add additional verses of their own making.

Most of the spirituals that drew from biblical stories and images used the Hebrew scriptures, rather than the New Testament, as their inspiration. The imagery of "peace like a river" derives from the book of Isaiah.

Tune: PEACE LIKE A RIVER 7.7.10.D.
 African-American spiritual

Jesus Loves Me

*St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860
St. 2-3, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971*

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3 Je - sus loves me! Still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
 Tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 Want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845