

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond

United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29, 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 Molozaizy

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

GATHERING SONG "Everlasting God"

Verse: **Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.**

Bridge: **Our God, You reign forever.
Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer.**

Chorus: **You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God,
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need;
You lift us up on wings like eagles.**

Repeat

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CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Kathy Karch

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

**All: who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the
power of grace.**

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**All: who chooses even you and me,
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.
All glory to God!**

One: Let us pray:
Living God,
we come to you now in wonder.
We have heard of your works -
as Creator, Upholder, In-dweller,
Lover of all -
and we have known you
in our own times,
in our own lives,
in the lives of our neighbors.

**All: Before the mystery
of your presence all around and within,
it is right for us to be silent,
and to offer thanks and praise.**

Quiet pause

One: But, living God,
we also come to you in anger and despair.
We look outward

All: and see children dying of hunger,

One: nations torn apart by war,

All: corruption damaging the lives of millions.

One: We look within

All: and see that we've let these things happen;

One: see our compromised lives;

All: see our broken hearts and broken promises.

One: Before the mystery of rampant evil
and unpunished injustice, we ask,
"Where were you, God, when all this went so wrong?"

**All: Hear us as lift our voices to you and cry
"O God, why have you abandoned us?"**

One: Before the mystery both of how we feel your presence
and of how we see your absence,

**All: we wait upon you now.
Amen.**

HYMN "Lead on Eternal Sovereign"

#573

SPECIAL MUSIC

Men's Chorus

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

WORD FOR ALL AGES

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

SONG RESPONSE “Thank God”

**Thank God, thank God,
thanks in the morning, thanks in the noontime;
Thank God, thank God,
thanks when the sun goes down.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 10

Old Testament, p. 498

The Prophet Jeremiah 8:18-9:3

Old Testament, p. 727

MESSAGE Spiritual Stretches for Faithful Fitness:
Practicing Prophetic Grief

WE RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

SONG

“Leaning In”

see insert

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)

**We offer ourselves along with our treasure
to God who has given us life.**

**We offer ourselves to be God messengers:
to save people from despair and give them hope;
to save them from fear and give them faith;
to save them from death and give them life
in the name of Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN

“Lead us from Death to Life”

#581

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Amen”

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

call, adapted from a post on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways Archive <http://www.ucc.org/>; opening prayer, by Rev. John Harvey, posted on the Church of Scotland’s Starters for Sunday <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>; education, from Chalice Worship, # 532. Music shared under CCLI License #1908882

This is the third and final week of our “spiritual stretches for faithful fitness.” The previous weeks focused on consecrating your chaos by practicing a holy pause and facing your fears with love. Pastor Hope has drawn 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

TODAY

October 6

Liturgist

Rev. Kathy Karch

Cheryl Kazimier

Video Director

Nicki Carter

Usher

Dick Strahs

Greeter

Dawn C. & Mike K.

Fellowship Hosts

The Kamans

Needed

Sunday School

Gail Crutcher

N/A

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

OUTING TO RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM

TODAY! Sunday, September 29, 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

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.

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.



Trivia Night Returns!

Saturday, November 9, Doors open at 6PM,
at the **Richardson Adventure Farm Event Room**

What is it?

We and other people from the community form teams, and as teams, we answer 4 rounds of trivia questions, over the course of 2-3 hours. Points are awarded for correct answers and the winning team wins trophies, their name on the large trophy kept here at church, and endless glory. Teams are encouraged to bring their own snacks; beverages of many types are available for purchase.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW A LOT OF TRIVIA to enjoy Trivia Night! While Trivia is the main event, there are other fun games during the evening, as well as the eating, drinking, the silent auction, and general merriment!



How can you help?

Spread the word!! The best way to get people to come to an event for the first time is to invite them.

Plan to come! There is no embarrassment at this event. Even teams that know very little trivia have a great time, and all our team answers for the questions are written down and turned in at the end of the round, so no one knows what you don't know.

Donate something for the silent auction. See below for details

How do we sign up?

Registration forms will be available soon. If you have questions ask Dawn Conley, Kathy Speaker, or Pastor Hope.



Silent Auction

Dawn Conley puts together baskets for the Trivia Night Silent Auction. If you have empty baskets from previous years, we would appreciate if we could repurpose those again. Or, if you happen to see one at a store or thrift store, it would be lovely if you could donate it to this cause.

If you plan to put together a basket as a donation, let her know. Also, if you want to donate a single new item or a gift card, Dawn will put a basket together with your item. Or, if you see something you think someone would like to bid on, you could buy it, and we can auction that off. Anything helps! You can call, text, or email her at 815-236-5982 or conley8405@gmail.com with your idea or donation. Thank you!

The deadline for baskets is Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024.

Trivia Night has been one of our biggest fundraisers and the silent auction is a big part of that, so we encourage you to bring plenty of cash or your checkbooks, and a generous spirit!

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF September 29, 2024

JOYS: Birthdays: Anna Brossart (10/4).
Happy Anniversary to Adam and Katie Tedder!

We are thankful for the many blessings in our lives: festivals, musicals, safe travel, school sports and baby's homecoming.

Congratulations to Phyllis Kazimier on the birth of her great grandson, Otis Jerome Bean.

PRAYERS FOR:

Those who are grieving

Jan Revelle

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

Ongoing Prayers:

Robert Richardson

Rev. Ruth Costello

Mike Karch

Bill Haase

Henry Eickelberg

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Melissa Jones

Our Congregational Prayer Partners this week are Jim and Kathy Speaker.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Glen Ellyn and their Senior Pastor, the Rev. Seth Carey and their Associate Pastor, the Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day;
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear;
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
 Henry T. Smart, 1836

“Leaning In” a sung prayer of intention

Christopher Grundy, 2018, Used with Permission

1. We pray for the lonely ones,
knowing that some of us are lonely
And we pray for the heartbroken ones,
knowing that some of us are heartbroken.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear
intention
joining in your way of love in the world.**
2. We pray for the wounded ones,
knowing that some of us are wounded
And we pray for the regretful ones,
knowing that some of us are regretful.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear
intention
joining in your way of healing in the world.**
3. We pray for the starving ones,
knowing that some of us are starving
And we pray for the imprisoned ones,
knowing that some of us are imprisoned.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear
intention
joining in your way of justice in the world.**
4. We pray for the dying ones
knowing that some of us are dying
And we pray for the newly born ones
knowing that some of us are arriving.
**A--ll our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear
intention
joining in your way of love in the world.**
Amen.

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain

C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
 12.11.9.10, with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1985