

Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 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

Nicki Carter

One: Come and see the works of God,

All: God's awesome deeds among us.

One: Come and hear, all who love God,

All: God's still speaking voice in our weary world.

One: Come and touch the sacred, extraordinary in the ordinary,

All: God's presence in seed, bread and cup.

One: Let us pray.
God of harvest,
gardener supreme,
you place us at the center.
You feed us, equip us and then,
having provided for us,
you look to a different harvest—
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you and others.

**All: God of harvest,
feed us,
prune us,
harvest us,
that our lives might bring glory to you. Amen.**

HYMN

“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”

#379

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

Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-10

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

Each tray of bread also holds gluten free crackers; we serve grape juice rather than wine so that all people may share in this meal. Please hold the bread and the juice until all are served so we all may partake together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (we say together)

**Almighty God,
we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.
Unite us with all who are fed by Christ
that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love
and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope
in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*HYMN

“We Praise You, O God”

#420

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Amen”

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

TODAY

September 15

Liturgist

Nicki Carter

George Zimmermann

Video Director

Dick Strahs

Greeter/Usher

George and Elise

Aiden Zimmermann

Fellowship Hosts

Gail Crutcher

Gail Crutcher

Sunday School

AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

Monday, 6:30pm, Cabinet Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday, 11am Wider Missions meeting

Next Sunday, 11:15am, Worship Leaders meeting – Calling all liturgists and others who help lead worship in various ways.

CHURCH NEWS

FOR CONNECTION

FELLOWSHIP & STUDY OPPORTUNITY!

Fanning a flame makes it brighter, stronger and hotter. Fellowship and Bible study are ways we can fan the flame of our faith.

Join Katie Anderson-Tedder for four cozy Tuesdays of fellowship and bible study throughout September.

Each week the group will gather in the Lounge at 6:30 p.m. and meet for about an hour around a "fire." We'll spend time examining the many ways the concept of fire is used in the Bible and talk about how these ideas manifest in our lives. Join us for all four sessions or just the ones you can make. All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Katie at 815-347-0378



THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT is October 4th and 5th at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center in Princeton, IL. Pastor Hope will attend and has attended many years in the past as well as several other church members. This year we'll explore the theme of **Enough** as mentioned in the Bible and how it affects our lives – Enough already! Am I Enough? What is Enough? and much more. There will be Enough time to unwind, study the Bible in experiential ways, get to know one another, work on a service project, take a walk around the beautiful grounds of Pilgrim Park, and even take a nap.

If you're curious about attending, talk to Pastor Hope. It is also possible to attend on Saturday only if that works better for your schedule. Pilgrim Park is about 2.25 hours from Richmond. Financial assistance is available.

OUTING TO RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM
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.



FOR SERVICE

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.

WORSHIP LEADER'S MEETING

Next Sunday, after worship, Pastor Hope asks for a meeting of the current liturgists as well as anybody who would like to be a liturgist and anyone who would be willing to join in as a greeter or usher in the coming months. This meeting should only last about 20 minutes while we share some important information.

MEN'S SING 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!

PRAYERS for the WEEK OF September 8, 2024

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Kathy Smietana (office@richmonducc.org). THANKS!
We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.

JOYS: Birthdays: Bill Vezina (9/9); Cheryl Kazimier (9/12)

OUR SYMPATHIES to Jim and Penny Kraft on the passing of their friend, Brian Linhard.

PRAYERS FOR:

Appalachian High School shooting
Phyllis Kazimier's nephew, Bill Haacker
Aiden Zimmermann's neighbors
Peace in the Middle East
Pastor Hope's friend, Timoth
Theresa Kaman's friend, Cheryl
Mike Anderson
George and Elise's neighbor, Michaela
Robert Richardson

Ongoing Prayers:

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

Our Congregational Prayer Partner this week is Rob Rummel.

In the Wider Church: We pray for our neighbors in Christ at First Congregational U.C.C. in Elgin, and their Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jesse Tanner.

Members and Friends who are Homebound: Betty Waspi

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Come, We Who Love God's Name

Ps. 48:1-2; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 4:2-11

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

1 Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo - ry sown;
 4 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 5 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;

To - geth - er God's great love pro - claim, and thus sur - round the throne.
 But we our thanks and praise will bring for love so deep and broad.
 Ce - les - tial fruits on earth - ly ground from faith and hope have grown.
 Be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.
 We're trav - eling through Em - man - uel's ground, to great - er worlds on high.

A story concerning this hymn holds that the pastor of a New England church once asked the choir to lead the singing of the second stanza on a Sunday when it threatened to "refuse to sing" because of a disagreement in the congregation. Needless to say, the choir acquiesced.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
 Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770
 Alternate setting: MARCHING TO ZION

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

We Praise You, O God

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
 Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenkclanck*, 1626