

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 27, 2024



REFORMATION
SUNDAY

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Jeffrey Whitman

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Organist: Sarah A. Myers
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Greeters: Corky Short, Joan Moyer, Candy LaRue
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Darryl and Winnie Wentz
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time: Parish Ministries

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

*Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading,
to help as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.
We're grateful for your generosity.*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 27, 2024

The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.

**Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.*

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "I Will Lift Up My Eyes"

Gary Davidson

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 24 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

As the Protestant Reformers drew courage from their Faith, Holy God, help us to do the same. May our deep love for You push us to continue to shape and reform our Faith, so it represents more and more of how You would have us live. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Protestant Reformers had no desire to destroy the Church but rather to change those practices and beliefs that were pushing people away from God rather than drawing them closer. They perceived a Christianity that mirrored Jesus' Words and Ways more closely. What exactly that looked like, varied among the Reformers. As people embraced the changes, and advocated for more, many Reformers dug in their heels and declared that only their particular vision was correct, and others were wrong. We tend to have little patience for people who think differently than we do. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to speak to us, attempting to guide us toward faith practices and beliefs that are more aligned with what God desires of us.

ALL: Let us be open to change. Along with our admiration for the Reformers, may we also understand they engaged in a process that is not yet finished. We too have been called to ask questions and institute needed changes. Amen.

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with signs of Peace.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI (#759 is the tune, but not all the same words)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Children are invited to the front at this time.
Everyone who comes forward will be on camera.*

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world
Shy and Joyful, Bold and Bright
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Job 42:1-6

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 34:1-10

*THE HYMN “Our God, We Are a Church Reformed”

(to the tune of no. 547, “Amazing Grace”)

**Our God, we are a church reformed, A church reforming still:
We long to grow in your true Word, And follow more your will.**

**In love, you bring your people here And call your church to you,
That we may know salvation's joy And serve in all we do.**

**You call us to community; By faith our hearts are stirred.
In church, we seek an ordered life, According to your Word.**

***As faithful stewards we find joy; We need no rich display.
Lord, teach us all to use with care The gifts you give each day.***

***The world makes gods of lesser things, And wrongly uses power;
So by your Spirit may we work For justice every hour.***

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No. 885 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH IN THE FORM OF A DOXOLOGY (unison)**

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 10:46-52

“Our Faith Empowers Us”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

The musical score is written for a choral response in unison. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus."

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Lord, We Cry to Thee”

Ulrich Zwingli*

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

***From all who dwell beneath the skies,
Let the Creator’s praise arise!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung.
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen.***

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. May the sympathy and comfort we share with people in need serve to draw them closer to You. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the wickedness of our times. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 439 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

*THE BENEDICTION

* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

*The livestream ends after the Postlude. You’re welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God”

J.S. Bach

References:

***Ulrich Zwingli** (January 1, 1484 – October 11, 1531) was a Swiss Christian theologian, musician, and leader of the Reformation in Switzerland. According to Zwingli, the cornerstone of theology is the Bible. Zwingli appealed to scripture constantly in his writings. He placed its authority above other sources, such as the ecumenical councils or the Church Fathers. Zwingli, who enjoyed music and could play several instruments, espoused congregational

singing at a time when that was not popular among church leaders. Today's anthem was written in 1529, two years before he died in Zurich during a battle of the Kappel Wars. Although his name is not widely recognized, Zwingli's legacy lives on in the legacy of the Reformed churches of today, from which the UCC is derived. He is often called, after Martin Luther and John Calvin, the "Third Man of the Reformation".

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

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The white rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Michael "Mike" Gray, our sexton and member who died last week. Please keep all his family and friends in prayer.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Betsy Rushong, "In honor of Russel and Mandy's October birthday."
Kathy and Mike Aumiller, "In honor of Zarya Lee Chandler's 2nd birthday."

HARVEST DINNER

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for the Harvest Dinner on November 10th, following the worship service. Parish Ministries will serve roast turkey, a side-dish of roasted vegetables and beverages. There will be no charge for this dinner. Instead, please bring a non-perishable food item or two which in turn will be given to New Hope Ministries. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Common.

UCC HOMES

As the summer comes to a close and we start to experience cooler days, UCC Homes is starting to think about the time of year when people bake cookies, deck the halls, spend cherished time with loved ones and most importantly, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This time of year, people tend to be kinder, warmer, and friendlier, exhibiting Jesus' example of giving and helping those in need. UCC Homes does all it can to bring festive joy to residents within the communities throughout the year but especially during the holidays. They take pride in the quality of care and service provided, as acts of love and compassion. To provide each resident of Thornwald and Sarah Todd Homes with a meaningful gift this coming Christmas, St. Paul's has been asked to consider donating a monetary donation or gift cards/certificates to be used towards purchasing desired gifts for the residents, making Christmas a little more special. **Please make checks out to UCC Homes**

Thornwald Home: Giant Food Stores, Michael's, CVS, Papa John's, Wal Mart, Amazon, Dollar Tree, VISA/MC

Sarah Todd Home: Giant Food Stores, Dollar Tree, Michaels, CVS, Wal Mart, Amazon, Visa/MC, Dunkin

The church will plan for these to be delivered to the UCC Homes' communities at Sarah Todd and Thornwald Homes. Please mark your donations as either Sarah Todd, or Thornwald and have them into the church office by December 1st.



Imagine Together:

What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: “We all do theology. Theology is God-talk.” A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithing in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Imagine Together