

Roots of Belonging

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are invited to sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a Prayer Ground set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Hard Times Come Again No More

Stephen Foster

Welcome and Community Connections

***Call to Worship**

One: "Truly I tell you," says Jesus, "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Many: May we be bound with love.

One: In a world that binds us to competing demands and expectations; to achieve and accumulate, to distinguish ourselves and make sure we get our way.

Many: May we be bound with love.

One: In a world where it's so tempting to write people off who challenge us with their perspectives or see things differently than we do.

Many: May we be loosed into belonging.

One: When it seems easy to avoid conflict, to hold a grudge, or linger in resentment.

Many: May we be loosed into belonging.

One: When relationships incur inevitable difficulties and the hopes we place in community require God's grace.

Many: May we be bound with love and loosed into belonging.

One: We gather now to worship a Savior who brought people together knowing that togetherness would require honesty, humility, and above all love.

Many: Let us worship honestly with humility, bound together with love.

***Opening Prayer**

God who binds us in love and loosens us from all that keeps us apart: loosen the grudges we carry, the distance we mistake for peace, the tendency to write each other off. Bind us instead to one another — more durable than disagreements, honest, humble, unafraid to hold fast to community. Open our ears to what needs speaking, our hearts to what needs hearing. Bind us with love. Loose us into belonging. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Message for All

Prayer of Jesus

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.

After the Message for All, children are invited to sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground.

Reflection

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

One: Hear this good news: God has never required us to be finished before we are loved.

Many: We are forgiven. We are held. We are made new — not once, but again and again, as many times as it takes.

One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, bound by love, loosed into belonging.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. We will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org and/or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

SHARING A MEAL TOGETHER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of Bread, Pouring of Cup

Sharing Bread and Cup

Prayer

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn**

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH 332

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Amen/This Little Light of Mine

Traditional and Rev. Henry Hogan and Laura B. Davis

Worship Leaders: Jeff Darwin (Music Dir.) and Pastor Peter Morris

Special Musicians: Mark Sieger, Kelly Jetzer, and Michael Bryant

Readers: John Rosch

Communion Preparation: Kim Thoresen and Terry Hoffman

Media Room: Jeffrey Lipford

Fellowship: Mark and Janis Hanson

Thank you to those volunteers who may have stepped in after the bulletin was printed!

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you.



Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Visit and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Ulrika Swanson at ulrikaswanson@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org.

God! When Human Bonds Are Broken 364

1 God! When hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 Use us as a means of bless - ing: make us strong - er, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn - ing: God! En - cour - age and re - new!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1929-, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
 MUSIC: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

8.7.8.7.
 MERTON

MUCC Relational Covenant Drafts - August 2026

The Short Version:

We commit to create a space where all can experience God's boundless love through relationships, acknowledge that conflict is a normal risk of this holy work, and pledge to face those conflicts with an open mind, a loving heart, an appetite for the hard work of personal change, and the gratitude to make amends.

The Long Version:

As Memorial United Church of Christ, a community of faith which aims to reach out in ever-widening circles, we strive to witness God's all-inclusive love in Jesus Christ through our relationships with each other.

We acknowledge we each desire to be treated as a whole person with attentive respect, genuine regard, and deep love.

We ourselves offer this love, respect, and regard to others with an ear poised to listen and a mind eager to witness the boundless diversity of God's creation.

We acknowledge that conflicts will arise and that disagreement can be a healthy, normal part of nurturing deep relationships. When this happens, we commit to:

1. Create an open, safe, curious environment for all invested parties to communicate
2. Courageously listen to and thoughtfully speak of our mutual understanding of the conflict
3. Cooperate to understand the root of the conflict
4. Identify and follow through with a solution, open to the truth that a just and holy answer may demand courage, discomfort, and an ongoing, committed effort to grow and change.
5. Make amends with gratitude, grace, and humility while honoring the fact that healing can take time.

We believe that approaching our relationships in this way will give us the audacity to grow deep, intimate relationships, the eyes to see the next widening circle we have yet to reach, and the strength to radically love as our mission and our God demands.

Adopted for use by Church Council
8/12/2026

Building and Grounds Fall Workday Saturday September 12

All are welcome and encouraged to come to the Fall Work Day from 8 a.m. to Noon on September 12. The Building and Grounds Committee has a list of tasks for the day that includes:

- 1) Bush trimming
- 2) Weeding and cleaning of the gardens and around some of the plantings
- 3) Limited tree trimming around memorial trees, the patio area, and front areas of the property
- 4) Some trail maintenance in the woods
- 5) Assembling the new fire pit
- 6) Repairing the doorbell
- 7) Painting the church sign
- 8) Other tasks as needed (We need your input!)

Come for part or all of the morning with work clothes, gloves, and tools that you think would come in handy. Coffee, juice, fruit, and mystery carbs will be provided.

Mark Hanson for the Building and Grounds Committee

CHAMPOUT (CHURCH + CAMPOUT)

SAVE THE DATE! September 19-20 @ 5:30 PM - 11 AM

Schedule:

- Saturday BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner) - 5:30 PM
- Saturday Movie + Popcorn - 7:00 PM
- Sunday Breakfast Potluck - 8:30 AM
- Sunday Pajama Church - 9:30 AM

Enjoy the great outdoors with easy access to the cool indoors! We'll kick things off Saturday evening with BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner) at 5:30 PM. A campfire will be available for cooking. Afterward, enjoy a movie (title TBA) and popcorn inside the sanctuary. Then you can choose to stay overnight inside the church or outside in your tent. Tents can be set up anytime throughout the day on Saturday.

Sunday morning, bring a dish to pass (refrigeration available) for a breakfast potluck at 8:30 AM. Stay in your comfy clothes and plan to attend Pajama Church at 9:30 AM. Families are welcome!

Please note this is not a drop-off event for youth. If you are not a camper, feel free to join the fun for any of the scheduled activities. The overnight stay is not required.