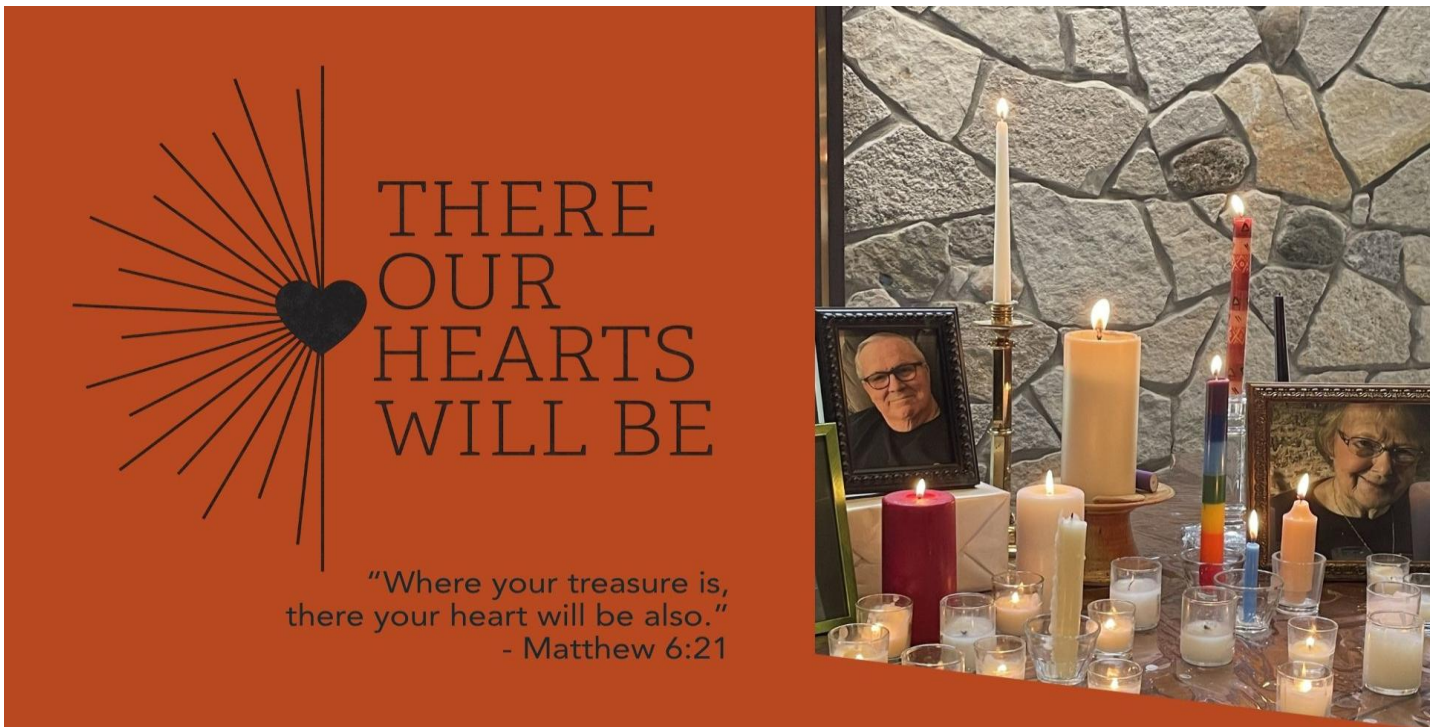




~ Welcome Visitors! ~

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. 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.

* We are having our **BIG Halloween Party** which will be happening during the entire hour so come and join us before church in the Sunday School rooms for candy trading, games and a movie!

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Funeral March of a Marionette

Charles Francois Gounod

Welcome and Community Connections

*Opening Song

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

NCH 35

*Call to Worship

One: God is able to do more than we could ask or imagine.

Many: God goes beyond our doubt to give us faith.

One: God is able to give more than we can understand.

Many: God goes beyond our cruelty to give us kindness.

One: God soars to reach our minds and hearts.

Many: God goes beyond our anger to give us empowerment.

One: God expands our possibilities.

Many: God goes beyond our injustice to give us hope.

*** Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that sometimes we don't believe in each other; and other times, we struggle to believe in ourselves. We feel anger but we have nowhere to direct it. We feel despair with nowhere to turn. We forget the love you have written upon our hearts. Forgive us and renew us. Restore our hearts, so that all people will know your love and joy. Amen.

*** Assurance of Pardon**

***Hymn**

O Savior, for the Saints

NCH 298

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Scripture

1 Kings 3:4-9

Special Music

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Melody

Wisdom Literature

Proverbs 3:1-12

Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

NCH 472, vss 1 & 2

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307. 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

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.

SHARING A MEAL

Come to God's Extravagant Table—wherever you are. Those who are blessing and receiving the sacrament at home, please prepare a slice or small loaf of bread, corn tortilla, or rice cake to share and a cup or small cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.

Invitation to the Table & Words of Remembering¹

Communion Music

Shall We Gather at the River/Deep River

arranged by Michael Larkin

*Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please come forward and take a piece of bread, which you may dip into one of the cups. All the bread is gluten free. The brown cup has wine; the blue cup has white grape juice. All are welcome at this meal. If you are worshiping at home, you may serve yourself. Or, if you are with others consider serving each other.

All are welcome at this meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Many: Gracious God, we thank you for this meal in which you have nourished our bodies and spirits. Send us into the world in love, for the sake of the healing of all Creation, in the name and Spirit of extravagant love and grace. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

* Song for Going Out

For All the Saints

NCH 299 vss 1-3

*Benediction

*Postlude

Praise the Lord with Trumpet and Drum (Psalm 150)

Jewish Traditional Melody

BLESSING of the MEMORIAL TREE

Today we continue a long tradition at Memorial UCC as we remember people in the congregation who died the previous year. Approximately 10 minutes after the close of worship, we will gather in the Community Orchard in front of Memorial UCC (weather permitting):

- **The 2025 Memorial Tree is being blessed in memory of**
 - **Mary Marty**
 - **K C Carlson**



*Our New Beginnings Tree
planted during the pandemic*

Liturgy for the Blessing of the Memorial Trees

In memory of the saints of the congregation who died in 2025
Mary Marty and K C Carlson

GATHERING IN GOD'S SANCTUARY

¹ Adapted from Steve Garnaas-Holmes, "World Communion Sunday," World Communion Sunday – Unfolding Light, March 1, 2023, <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/world-communion-sunday-2/>.

Remembering Our Story—Through Prayer and Blessing²

Pastor Peter: Holy God, we know you hear our prayers. You are the God who sees and knows all pain—infertility and illness, despair and death... With open hearts and open palms, gracious God, we come to you with our joy and our pain.

All: Spirit of heaven and earth, the work of your hands is made known through your bountiful creation and in the lives of those who live their lives in your grace. Today we celebrate the ways you have led us through seemingly bottomless valleys and unknown paths these past few years. We have experienced your presence as we embraced Being the Church in ways familiar *and* new.

Pastor Kris: We remember our faith community, Memorial, was birthed during another time of great change. For over 100 years we have been a Church on the Move, just as you created us to be, O God.

May this water speak of the power of your life in our midst, deeply rooted and ever growing. Let us pray...

All: We have so much to be thankful for, and we know that you are part of all of that. Holy God, we know, *we know*, you are listening. We know you are here, for you are the God of hospital rooms and graveside services. Be among us. Hold our hurt. Heal our wounds. Draw us closer to one another, and closer to you. With the hope of people who dream, Amen.

Tree Blessing

Reflective Reading

Prayer for Autumn Days

Joyce Rupp

CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY

***Blessing and Benediction**

Worship Leaders: Linda Brant (pianist), MUCC Instrumentals, Pastor Kris Gorton and Pastor Peter Morris

Readers: Barb Gallogly-Turner and Terry Hoffman

Communion Preparation: Linda Brant and Terry Hoffman

Media Room: Jeffrey Lipford

Fellowship: Cindy and John Rosch

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

² Adapted from "Tree Planting." Let All Creation Praise. Accessed September 24, 2019. <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/worship-services/tree-planting>; and a prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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.

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