

**Faith**  
UNITED CHURCH of Christ

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor  
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus  
Dr. Ruth Foley | Music Director

Sunday, June 1, 2025  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Ascension of the Lord  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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## WELCOME

*Time of Silent Preparation for Worship*

## PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 47) *Liturgist: Corky Forney*

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!

Acclaim the Creator with loud songs of joy!

**People: For the Beloved of our hearts is the mighty God,  
the Most High over all the earth.**

Leader: Sing praises to our Beloved God,

**All: Sing praises!**

## INVOCATION

**\*HYMN** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* Black, #2173

## **\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and awesome God, we come into your presence holding regret for our sins and failings. There is greatness in us, and deep longing for goodness. There is also weakness in us, and capacity for evil. Too often we deny our better selves and refuse to hear your voice. Too often we do that which we should not do. Lift us up, O God of mercy. Put our sins and failing behind us. And draw us into your heavenly light and truth. Help us to live more faithfully, and more fully into the possibilities you put before us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

## **\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

## **SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 1:1-11

### **ANTIPHONAL READING Psalm 47 (translation by Nan Merrill\*)**

Clap your hands, all peoples!

Acclaim the Creator with loud songs of joy!

**For the Beloved of our hearts is the mighty God,  
the Most High over all the earth.**

Love is our birthright,

our heritage to be shared with all.

**Let Love rise up to shouts of acclamation;  
join in the celebration of creation!**

Sing praises to the Creator, sing praises!

Sing praises to the Beloved, sing praises!

**For Love has created the universe,  
let us dance to the flute and the harp.**

Love reigns over the nations,

awaiting an answer to its call.

**May the leaders of the nations gather  
to bring peace and justice to all.**

For the earth belongs to Love,

who yearns to see creation healed!

**Sing praises to the Beloved!**

**\*HYMN** *How Majestic Is Your Name*

Black, #2023 2x's

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 24:44-53

**SERMON** "Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder"

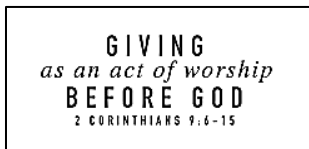
### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN** *The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve*

Black, #2241

**\*GIFTS and OFFERINGS** *There is an offering plate on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources. Amen.*



**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

### **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. And also for those whose needs we do not know.

For Bill Bates, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Stephen Dearth, Sonne Durphy, Barb Fink, Louise Forney's family, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Carol Mueller, Claudia Renzi, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Fred Shear, Linda Smerka, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore's family.

**For Those in the Military:** Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Justin Slighter (Air Force), Joe Solak, Mary Solak, Aaron Wellman, and Mark Williams.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Today and Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be held at Faith United Church of Christ. Classes start at 10:00 and will end about 11:15. Fun activities and games will be shared while students learn about Jesus.

- Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. **Joyce Whittemore Memorial Service** followed by reception in Fellowship Hall.
- We will be collecting our **Strengthen the Church Offering** on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.
- **Wear your red!** On Pentecost, June 8<sup>th</sup>, we remember the “tongues of fire” representing the Holy Spirit descending on the gathered followers of Jesus. This is the only Sunday in the church year when the designated liturgical color is red. You can help us display and spread the spirit of this day by wearing red to church on June 8<sup>th</sup>!
- Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. **Men’s Group Meeting.**
- Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. **Music Recital.**
- Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> We will be **honoring our graduates.** Please provide names of loved ones graduating and a brief description of relation, school and continuing education or job if applicable.
- Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> **Summer Hours.** Worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

### **OPERATING BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES**

Average weekly operating expenses: \$2492  
 Offering collection from May 25, 2025: \$1783  
     Current: \$1767                      Benevolent: \$16  
 Attendance on Sunday, May 25, 2025: 33