

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 27, 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE A Mighty Fortress

David Cherwien

CHORAL INTROIT O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is gathering us from many different places.

No one is worthy, but all are invited.

God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.

God cares for us amid our pain and losses.

We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.

We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.

Taste and see how good God is.

Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

We will bless our God in all times and places.

Let us exalt God's name together!

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

All-powerful God, we invoke your presence among us, for we need the knowledge and energy you alone can provide. Your ways are wonderful beyond our understanding. When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone, you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern. We take heart to think that you are calling us to yourself, opening our eyes to see your wonders as if for the first time. We want to be a part of your faithful remnant in a world that too often loses sight of the holy. Help us, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#43

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, O God, that our lives have made of you a distant deity. We listen to what others say about you, but we have seldom glimpsed for ourselves who you are. We are dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer. We are not ready to repent in dust and ashes, but we do ask for mercy as we face up to sins we have not recognized and wrongdoing we have tried to ignore. Instill in us a

new appreciation of righteousness, and help us to grow in the way you would have us go. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God, who has reached out to us in love, welcomes even our timid answers. God is most generous in blessing us and lifting us beyond our losses and our fears. In Christ, we are linked with God's saving grace for all time and eternity. Let us praise God, recognizing that faith has power to heal.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL ANTHEM As the Deer

Martin Nystrom

Ahnali Zifko, flute

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. James Deters

***HYMN** Open My Eyes, That I May See

#557

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-30 (p. 889)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

On insert

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Sarabande

Antonio Vivaldi

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (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.

***HYMN** Be Thou My Vision

#532

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Take heart; your faith is making you well.

You will know wholeness and peace beyond your suffering.

We have witnessed miracles of transformation.

Christ grants insight and deep inner healing.

You are chosen as disciples and apostles of good news.

You have gathered to learn; now go out to witness.

It is hard to share good news that people resist.

We fear we do not know enough to defend our views.

God needs no defense from us but welcomes our thanks.

We can tell others about our own journey with God.

Our gladness and our humility are genuine.

We pray that God will work in and through us. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** Spirit of the Living God vs. 2

#297

POSTLUDE I Thank Thee and Praise Thee

Carl Simone

*All those who are able, please stand.

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, offering plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a play room is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

VMIX Lynn Adams **STREAMING AUDIO** Ernie Bliss

SANCTUARY SOUND Becky Deters

PRODUCTION Lynn Adams

TECH SUPPORT Ernie Bliss

LAY READER Tenlee Lund

USHERS Linda and Chuck Gottschall

COFFEE HOSTS Ann and Jim Fridsma

BAKERS Lois Armstrong and Alisa Kolwitz

PLAY ROOM Alisa Kolwitz

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry upcc.familyministry@gmail.com

Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant upcc.office214@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITIES

- 10/28 Susan - Out of the office 10/28-10/30
(Volunteers will be covering the office)
- 10/30 5:30 pm Church Halloween potluck and party "Faith over Fear"
7:00 pm Choir practice
- 11/3 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME! FALL BACK**
9:15 am Sunday school (Pre-K -High school)
9:15 am Adult Sunday school
10:30 am Worship service

BIRTHDAYS

- 28 Lynn Adams
- 30 Paul Van Pernis & Mary Zinnecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank Offering

Each year Presbyterian Women participate in the **Thank Offering**, which began in 1888 when women were urged to give one dollar over their usual contribution as a "thank offering to her Lord". The offering provided funding for grants for mission initiatives in the United States and internationally. This year they hope to support six projects in the U. S. and two internationally, with 40% related to health ministries. One of the grants will go to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Dakota Presbytery in the amount of \$18,000 to provide the Welcoming Baby ceremony where new mothers are taught parenting skills such as nutrition, nurturing baby care, and healthy relationships. The blue offering envelopes are in the pew racks for your consideration through Nov, 10th.



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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD



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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCHWIDE

HALLOWEEN PARTY & POTLUCK

THEME: FAITH OVERCOMES FEAR

COSTUME PARADE, TRUNK-OR-TREAT, GAMES,
CRAFTS, ESCAPE ROOM, AND PRIZES!

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES AND ALL AGES!

30th
Oct
2024

(PLEASE NO SCARY
COSTUMES, GORE, OR
VIOLENCE/WEAPONS!)

5:30 PM-
7:30 PM

BRING A DISH TO PASS. SET UP FOR TRUNK-OR-TREATERS IN THE BANK PARKING.

Sponsored by the UPCC Middle School Youth Group

For more info: 715-682-3093 upcc.familyministry@gmail.com 214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, WI

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THANK OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, 2024

This year's Thank Offering will provide for eight projects, ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Your support helps make these a reality. Here's what some of the grants will do:

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota: \$18,000. Waniyetu Consulting provides young mothers teaching and direction for their role as a parent. Plans to bring back Welcoming of the Baby ceremony which celebrates the birth, and teaches parenting skills, nurturing baby care and healthy relationships.

Voices of Jubilee, Virginia: \$37,160. Pairs incarcerated youth with mentors who have experienced incarceration. Includes restorative justice training and hospitality dinners to create communities that transform lives.

Wake County, North Carolina: \$50,000. SAFEChild-Stop Abuse for Every Child- prevention and intervention services.

Lake County, Florida: \$50,000. Forward Paths: Housing for homeless youth . Provides housing and personalized plan for each youth to have meaningful work and live independently by age 25.

Peace Promise, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: \$25,000 Offers education, advocacy, economic empowerment to survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Grant will help equip and renovate a kitchen for two new social enterprises that will employ survivors and offer mentoring and on-the-job training.

Presbyterian General Assembly, Office of Immigration Issues: \$15,000. Provides advice and resources toward a more just immigration system. Grant will provide software to track legislation and give an understanding of issues and info to contact lawmakers.

International grants: Democratic Republic of Congo, \$50,000.

Presbyterian Ministries with vulnerable children: community-based effort provides training for project that builds local safety nets, care of homeless children and prevention of child neglect, abuse and abandonment.

Haiti: Higgens Brothers Surgicenter: \$25,000. Ambulance purchase to transport patients to major medical centers and enable medical practitioners to visit distant villages to treat residents.

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Matthew 13:1-30 (p. 889)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no roots, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!" Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen but never understand, and you will indeed look but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes so that they might not look with their eyes, and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn — and I would heal them.' "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'