

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

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## WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE,  
AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE’S JOURNEY,  
*YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.*

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“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.”
JOHN 10:11

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(\*) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.)

### A TIME OF REFLECTION

**\*OPENING HYMN: #539 Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?** (ALL VERSES)  
RICHARD GILLARD, 1977; ALT.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)** LAY READER, MARILYN KETTLER

LEADER: JESUS SAYS THAT WHERE TWO OR MORE OF US ARE GATHERED IN HIS NAME, HE IS WITH US.

**ALL: JESUS IS HERE. LET US WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

**ALL: MERCIFUL LORD, YOU CREATED ALL THINGS AND CALLED THEM GOOD. WE THANK YOU FOR THE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE. WE THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTY OF NATURE. WE THANK YOU FOR THE MYSTERY OF LIFE. RECEIVE OUR GRATEFUL HEARTS. AMEN.**

### \*THE GLORIA PATRI (SUNG)

**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.**

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GREATORREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

### SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 10:11-18

SERMON: “THE BEST SHEPHERD”

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

**\*HYMN: #547 AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND** (ALL VERSES)  
ST. 1-4, JOHN NEWTON, 1779; ALT.

### SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.  
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.  
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.  
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.  
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR  
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD’S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN: SING, PRAYER & PRAISE

**#187 LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY** (ALL VERSES)  
JOHN W. THOMPSON, RANDY SCRUGGS, 1982; SCOTT A. RESSMAN, 2009.

### \*BENEDICTION

**\*UNISON RESPONSE:**

**AND GOD WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE’S WINGS, BEAR YOU ON THE BREATH OF DAWN, MAKE YOU TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN, AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF GOD’S HAND. AMEN.**

### POSTLUDE

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

USHERS: MAX & VICKY LINDSAY

GREETER: KATHY MOORE

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: NANCY WEDGE ~ ASHLEY WEDGE  
JOAN & SONNY CHRZAN

ALTAR GUILD: LORI MAYER

LAY READER: MARILYN KETTLER

COUNTER: NANCY WEDGE

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

|          |              |          |                        |
|----------|--------------|----------|------------------------|
| SUNDAY   | SEPTEMBER 28 | 10:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE        |
| THURSDAY | OCTOBER 2    | 5:30 PM  | CHOIR REHEARSAL        |
| FRIDAY   | OCTOBER 3    | 10:30 AM | CLASS: WISDOM OF FAITH |

UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES:

|        |            |          |                           |
|--------|------------|----------|---------------------------|
| FRIDAY | OCTOBER 10 | 11:30 AM | LADIES LUNCHEON (HUNAN'S) |
| SUNDAY | OCTOBER 19 | 11:00 AM | CIDER FEST                |
| SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 9 | 11:00 AM | THANKSGIVING POTLUCK      |
| SUNDAY | DECEMBER 7 | 11:00 AM | HOLIDAY LUNCHEON          |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ THE CLASS, **WISDOM OF FAITH**, CONTINUES THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
- ❖ **FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** ARE NEEDED FOR **OCTOBER** AND **DECEMBER**. PLEASE SIGN-UP ON THE SCHEDULE IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY IF YOU CAN HELP.
- ❖ THE **AREA FOOD PANTRY** IS IN **NEED** OF: TUNA, HAMBURGER & CHICKEN HELPERS; BOXED POTATOES (AU GRATIN, SCALLOPED, CHEESEY); RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTIOS & BEEFARONI; CANS OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP. PLEASE USE THE BAGS ON THE TABLE IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY FOR YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS.
- ❖ **MEMBER DECLARATION CARDS** ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY. IF YOURS HAS NOT BEEN SUBMITTED, PLEASE COMPLETE ONE, AND PLACE IT IN THE BOX BY THE OFFICE.
- ❖ PLEASE CHECK FOR **CARDS AND CARE LETTERS** IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.

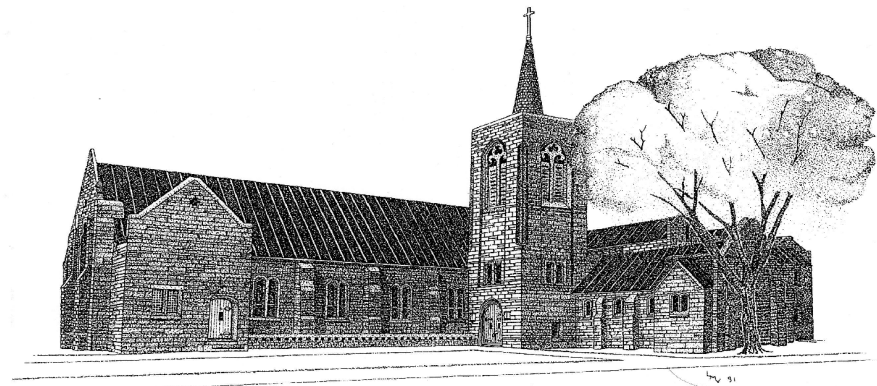
SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

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A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY. A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN'S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 28, 2025

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,  
we welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*



*The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister*

*The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Leslie Reynolds*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday

Phone: (989) 356-1795

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