

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Happy is everyone who trusts in God.

Many: **We long to be in God’s beautiful assembly. Our hearts sing for joy!**

One: Happy is everyone who trusts in God.

Many: **God keeps the sparrow and the spring. God sustains the splendor of creation.**

One: Happy is everyone who trusts in God.

Many: **In God, we go from strength to strength. God hears our prayers, bestows blessings and honor, and withholds no good thing. Praise our God!**

*Opening Song:

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

#14

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Lovely God, you abide with us. We acknowledge your presence among us with peace, trust, and thanksgiving. It is good to be with you. It is good to be with one another. Fill us with your Spirit and revel in our worship. May this time give you honor and fortify us as your people, your ambassadors, and your agents of love and hope in the world. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our sun and shield: we may long to be in your house, but our deeds show how tough it is for us to live there. Called to follow, we search for paths to take us back to our old ways; given the words of eternal life, we weakly proclaim the gospel to others; offered the path of salvation to walk upon, we stumble down the rocky roads of our world. Forgive us, Guardian of our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit, so we may serve your people with all that brings them life. Let your Word, Jesus Christ, the One we have come to believe and know is our Savior, be confirmed in us in every word, every deed, every thought, every moment in the days to come.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Today, receive the Bread of Life; today, hear the words of eternal hope; today, trust in the One who hears our prayers, and showers grace and forgiveness upon us.

Many: Today, we are set free to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 84

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Jesus, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI:

“Glory Be to the Father”

#734

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 with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10, 11, 22-30, 41-43 read from *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“A House for God”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Strong and Giving God, receive our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources for the building of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. May we give with a spirit of courage, trust, and empathy. May our faithful stewardship receive confirmation through changed lives and renewed communities for your glory. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely" #545

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-59

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burnett
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Birthday's: August: 30-Laurie Zook

Sunday, August 25: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

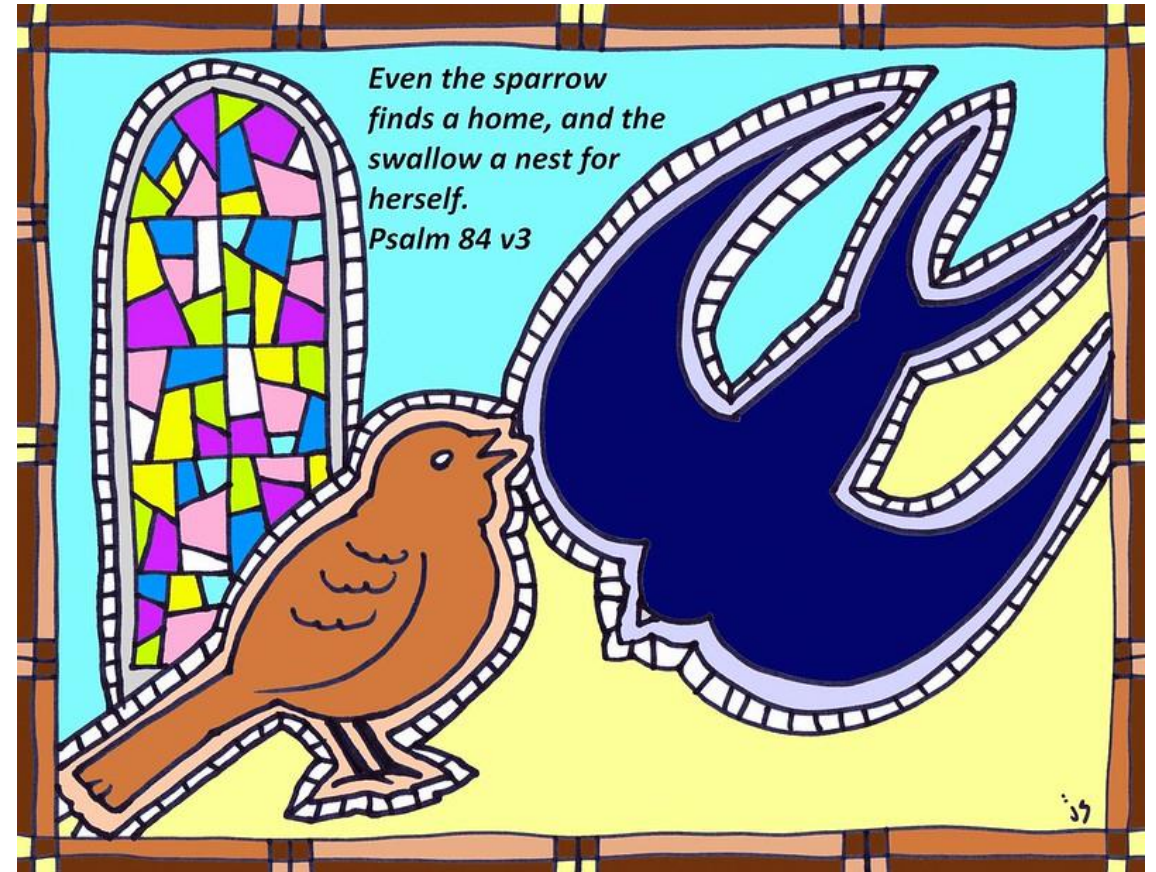
Tuesday, August 27: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill

Friday, August 30: 10:30am.- Evangelism and Outreach Teem Meeting in the Meeting Room

Sunday, September 1: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

The September, October, November issue of Our Daily Bread and the Led By the Spirit - 10 Reflections of Our Daily Bread may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

Our church is scheduled to do 2 routes of Meals on Wheelies from September 3-16. There is a Sign-up Sheet in the Parlor Bulletin Board.



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United Church of Christ*
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