Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" Stephen Gabrielsen

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: Family of God, whom do you seek?
All: We seek God, who calls us to love our neighbors, tend creation, and care for the least of these.
One: Family of God, whom do you serve?
All: We serve God, who calls us to justice and embraces us with grace.
One: Family of God, whom do you praise?
All: We praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

*GATHERING HYMN "Praise to the Living God" #8 *New Century Hymnal vv.1-3*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)
Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
whose word brough forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)
God of justice and grace, you have given us so many talents and gifts to be used in your world.
You have given us these gifts because you trust us to use them well — and you will be with us in all our work.
We confess that sometimes we disappoint you when we denigrate the value of our gifts or become so fearful of failure that we don't believe that we are capable of helping in this world.
God, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. *(Silent confession)*

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Rejoice and celebrate! God has placed God's trust and love deep within our hearts.
Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Praise to the Living God" *v.4*
Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:14-30 Pew Bible p.807
A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God!

SERMON Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Be Now My Vision" #451 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)
Be now my vision, O God of my heart; Nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word; ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me, now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise, you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart, great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joy, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

RESPONDING

We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

WELCOME
Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate
the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.
There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

ADDRESS
The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.
This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT
Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?
We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

OFFERTORY "Crusaders' Hymn" Silesian Folk Melody; Arr. Frederick Swann
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #778 *New Century Hymnal*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMISSIONING HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"#82 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)
Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding" Herbert Howells

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes

1. Adapted from www.umcdiscipleship.org
2. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com
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Donate from your smart phone

Thanks for your contribution to the ministries of Hope UCC!

Hope United Church of Christ Statement of Welcome and Mission

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ. We are an open congregation. We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status, gender, gender identity(ies) / expression(s), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history. It is our mission, inspired by God's Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please come, for all things are ready.

--*Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010*

SEASON OF SHARING 2026

Lydia's House Holiday Gift Card Ministry -

November 29 - December 13

Help us support *Lydia's House*-a refuge for mothers and children in abusive family relationships. Please consider donating a gift card from Walmart, Aldi, Schnucks, Target, Old Navy or Amazon.

Please place your donations in the offering plates.

Lydia's House Pins –

November 29 - December 20

Colorful and festive pins will be sold for $20.00 each following both worship services. Proceeds benefit *Lydia's House*.

Heifer International –

November 29 - December 20

As an alternative to more "stuff," give the gift that truly keeps giving! Heifer International provides a variety of animals to families in the USA and across the world, to help them establish a source of income. Donation cards can be given to friends or families indicating you "bought" a flock of chickens, honeybees or even a water buffalo in their honor! Please stop by the table in the narthex before or after the 10:30 service to get your Heifer donation cards.

Christmas Fund –

December 20

Formerly known as the 'Veterans of the Cross.' This fund helps provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. Envelopes for this annual United Church of Christ offering will be in your bulletins on December 20th.

LYDIA'S HOUSE
A Place of Healing - A Voice of Hope

HEIFER® INTERNATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE