



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 25, 2026

Thoughts before worship:

“Their heart was in the right place,” is a phrase we say all the time when someone’s intentions don’t match an unintended outcome. What do we do when our hearts are in the wrong place? Today, we acknowledge the truth that sometimes our hearts need to be changed and brought back to the goodness of God. Let us bravely embrace God’s calling on our hearts. – Rev. Amber Neuroth

Prelude

Introit

Bambelela

Traditional South African,
adapted by Mairi Munro & Philip Jakob

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Opportunity to Check-In

*Call to Worship

The prophet Joel calls to us, “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound the alarm on God’s holy mountain.”

Why is God sounding the alarm?

God’s people are filled with anguish and mourning. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

How do we answer God’s call?

We turn our hearts toward God in worship today.

We gather gratefully to worship our God, who welcomes us with steadfast love.

*Invocation

Together, let us pray:

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note: Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship, please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.

Note 2: The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD**.

Note 3: If you would like to color, draw, or fidget during worship, no matter your age, feel free to pick up a coloring page, blank paper, or play dough, from the white table in the back. You can also use a finger labyrinth, located on the credenza in the back.

*Everyone is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Holy God, we come to you today as a jumble. Our minds are clouded with worries for things both small and large. We go through mental checklists for the small things. For the bigger anxieties, we helplessly wonder about the future of our lives, our nation and our planet. We bring our troubled hearts to your word today, knowing that we need a change. Help us today with gentle whispers of your spirit, so that we can glimpse the good future that you plan for us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

NCH 21

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Together, let us pray:

Holy God, we acknowledge that sometimes our hearts are chasing after the things of this world- wealth, influence, and fame. We want to find relief from our pain and hopelessness. We forget that you are the only possible source of our peace. Rend our hearts and draw them back to you, overwhelming our doubts with your grace. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

From ancient to modern times, God has been steadfast in offering us mercy and grace, as we turn our hearts again and again. In this moment, let your hearts rest in God's boundless love. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Stewardship Moment

Jeanne Ward & Patty Gropp, Mission Team

Anthem

Saints Bound for Heaven arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
Our bondage it shall end by and by.
From Egypt's yoke set free, Hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan we'll return by and by.

Our Deliverer He shall come by and by.
And our sorrows have an end with our three-score years and ten.
And vast glory crown the day by and by.

And when to Jordan's floods we are come.
Jehovah rules the tide And the waters He'll divide.
And the ransomed host shall shout we are come.

Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice!

*Shouting Glory to our King Till the vaults of heaven ring,
And through all eternity we'll rejoice!*

Call to Prayer

Later in the service, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here, or you can fill out a prayer card and hand it to an usher.



Prelude to Scripture

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from The Old Testament

Joel 2:1-18

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is
near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
in ages to come.
³Fire devours in front of them,
 and behind them a flame burns.
Before them the land is like the garden of
Eden,
 but after them a desolate wilderness,
 and nothing escapes them.
⁴They have the appearance of horses,
 and like war horses they charge.
⁵As with the rumbling of chariots,
 they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
 devouring the stubble,

like a powerful army
 drawn up for battle.
⁶Before them peoples are in anguish;
 all faces grow pale.
⁷Like warriors they charge;
 like soldiers they scale the wall.
Each keeps to its own course;
 they do not swerve from their paths.
⁸They do not jostle one another;
 each keeps to its own track;
they burst through the weapons
 and are not halted.
⁹They leap upon the city;
 they run upon the walls;
they climb up into the houses;
 they enter through the windows like a
thief.
¹⁰The earth quakes before them;
 the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
 and the stars withdraw their shining.
¹¹The Lord utters his voice
 at the head of his army;
how vast is his host!
 Numberless are those who obey his

command.
 Truly the day of the Lord is great,
 terrible indeed—who can endure it?
¹² Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with
 mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
 Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.
¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and
 relent
 and leave a blessing behind him,
 a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord your God?
¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
 Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
 gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
 Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her canopy.
¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar,
 let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,
 weep.
 Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
 a byword among the nations.
 Why should it be said among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’ ”
¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land
 and had pity on his people.

Response to the Reading

God’s word inspires us and sustains us.

May we build communities of generosity.

God’s word challenges and provokes us.

May we build communities of justice.

God’s word renews and heals us.

May we build communities of the heart.

***Hymn**

Spirit, Open my Heart

See back page

Message

A Change of Heart

Brittany Mahannah

Silent Meditation

Community Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

The Lord Will Listen

John L. Bell

Call to Offering

Peg Wade and Mary Bunyard, Community Building

You may place offerings in the plates or give them online at community-ucc.org by clicking "Donate." Our ushers will now come forward to receive our offering.



Offertory

But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?

G.F. Handel

Kathy Lee, soloist

*But who may abide the day of His coming
And who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.*

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

God of steadfast love, we know that our hearts and actions go together. Thank you for these gifts of the heart that will lead to good ministry and action. Sustain both our hearts and actions for all that is to come. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

*Sending Hymn

God Be With You

NCH 81

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

We Will Go Out with Joy

Andrew Donaldson,
Hilary Seraph Donaldson

Postlude

Please join us in the Parlor for the afterparty

Acknowledgements

Liturgy by Rev. Amber Neuroth

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Spirit, Open My Heart

79

Unison
♩ = 132

F B^b F B^b C Dm

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of liv-ing.

B^b C Dm F/C Gm F/A B^b

As you love may I love, in re-ceive-ing and in giv-ing,

C⁷ F B^b F **Fine** F B^b F

Spir-it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re-place my sto-n-y heart
2 Write your love u-pon my heart
3 May I weep with those who weep,

F/A B^b C Dm Dm⁷ Gm/B^b

with a heart that's kind and ten-der. All my cold -
as my law, my goal, my sto-ry. In each thought,
share the joy of sis-ter, broth-er. In the wel -

F/C Dm F/C Gm F/A B^b C D.C.

ness and fear to your grace I now sur-ren-der.
word, and deed, may my liv-ing bring you glo-ry.
come of Christ, may we wel-come one an-oth-er.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994

Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997

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WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

7 8 6 8 with refrain

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher and Presider: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Grant Robbenolt **Ushers:** Sue Fristoe, Mary Bunyard
Accompanist: Andrey Ivanov **Music Director:** Kathy Lee
Audio/Video: Susan Pawlicki, Roger Wade, Sean Walker

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Leah Roberts-Mosser
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Director of Youth Ministries:

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Rev. Connie Bandy | connie@community-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Kathy Lee | music@community-ucc.org

Accompanist:

Andrey Ivanov

Office Manager:

Zoe Hoover | info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Beth Hogan*

Past Moderator: Susan Pawlicki*

Incoming Moderator: Bill Gropp*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup

Community Building: Peg Wade*

— **Care Team:** (Coordinator Open)

— **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

— **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbenolt

— **Driver's Ministry:** Mary Bunyard

— **Visitor & Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

— **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

Health & Wellness Team: Chase Skye, Kelly Tull

Hospitality Team: Rocio Arroyave Jamison & Dennis Jamison

Children & Family: Alison Anders*, Jennifer Johnson

Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

Identity: Keri Evans* (open)

Mission: Jeanne Ward* & Patty Gropp

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Sue Fristoe*, Shane Brownfield

Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward, Marla Elmore

Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: Mara Smith*, Sebastian Major

Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Izzy Collazo | izzy@ucccampusministry.org
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