Community UCC
We're worth our words
Welcoming Progressive Community
Vibrant Messengers of Hope

Champaign, Illinois | Thirty-First in Ordinary Time, Year A | November 1, 2026

Thoughts before worship:
The Apostle Paul reminds us of our "treasure in clay jars." That treasure is all the joy we are holding in the fragile and beautiful clay jars of our church. We are merely temporary custodians of the gifts of God in Christ. When we focus on these treasures of God rather than on the jars themselves, God's gifts can grow. May we feel the gift of God's presence today. - Rev. Amber Neuroth

Prelude

Introit *Bambelela* Traditional South African, adapted by Mairi Munro & Philip Jakob

***Call to Worship**
Welcome to a celebration of God's love for us!
Even in our fragility, we welcome God's gifts.
You've come to the right place. This is a place where all of us can seek God's presence and share our hearts.
We are glad for we wrestle with our faith far too often.
Don't fear! God is with us always, like treasure in the clay jars of our lives.
May God's gifts multiply among us today! Amen.

***Invocation**
Together, let us pray:
Holy God, we come to your Word again today as empty vessels, ready for your love. Speak right to our hearts. Help us to envision new ways to keep our fragile vessel intact. Inspire us to envision the future you have for us. Amen.

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.

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

***Opening Hymn** *O God, as with a Potter's Hand* NCH 550, v.1 solo, v.2-4 all

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Together, let us pray:

> **God of mercy, we are tempted to swing between the extremes. We can arrogantly think we are responsible for everything, or we can helplessly throw up our hands, thinking we can't make a difference. We forget the delicate balance between your treasure and our clay jars. Renew our hearts. Help us to be "afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed." Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness
The Holy Spirit has marked us with a seal of love, pouring the treasure of God's grace into us. God sees beyond our fears and failings to give new hope each day. Be assured of God's love and be at peace.

***Passing the Peace**

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.

Dressing the Altar for Communion
You are invited to bring a photo or memento of those you have loved and lost to the chancel.

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table
Paul described the church as a fragile clay jar, easily chipped and not apparently special. But when God's love is poured into that same fragile clay jar, it comes alive. This table is a place where the treasure of God's love meets the humble vessel of our community. In the simple bread and cup, we find a banquet of God's abundant welcome for all. For every person welcomed today, we know

that there are many more waiting for God's love and grace. We pray that even in our humble clay jar, more people might know the treasure of God's love.

Community Joys and Concerns

Introduction to the Ritual

Remembering
We remember those who have died this past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve. We remember that when we come to this Table, we re-member the body of Christ; we are the Body of Christ. This Body, broken and scattered, dismembered and dispersed, is gathered together and made whole, re-membered and made holy in this moment, by the grace of God. And so, it is good and right that together, we lift up the names of the people who have gone before us, to remember them.

After the bell rings, declare that they too are "Present in Christ."

Today, we lift up the members and friends of Community United Church of Christ upon whose passing this church gathered together to mourn.

We remember:
Kent Henkel
Shirley Bastiani

We also lift the names of dear ones who we have loved and lost.

We remember (*please say the names you want to remember aloud*). We also remember those who have been disappeared from their communities. They too are present in Christ.

At this table we remember a God who loves us without end, and in Jesus, fed the hungry, washed the feet of his disciples, and said, "This is my life poured out for you."

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Together, let us pray:

> **Oh God, we give you thanks that though death may be at work in us, so is life in Christ. We leave this table with the blessings of God who created us as clay jars, fragile and filled with purpose. In this meal, we give you thanks for Christ who transforms us and the Spirit who pours over us. Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn** *For All the Saints* NCH 299
CUCC Choir, Congregation joins choir in singing v. 1, 3, 5

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 Epistles 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves
for Jesus's sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in
our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power
belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed,
perplexed but not driven to despair, 9 persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed,
10 always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made
visible in our bodies. 11 For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's
sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in
us but life in you.

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.

Message *Subversive Stewardship*

Call to Offering *Ilsa Kantola & Pastor Izzy Collazo, Youth and Campus Ministry*
You may place offerings in the plates or give them online at community-ucc.org/donate.
Our ushers will now come forward to receive our offering.

Offertory Pie Jesu from Requim Gabriel Fauré
Elena Negruta, soloist

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.
Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Blessed Jesus, Lord, grant them rest.
Blessed Jesus, Lord, grant them eternal rest.

Prayer of Dedication
Together, let us pray:

Holy God, Source of All, we are striving to live in a balance of maintaining your church in good stewardship—not too rich and showy that we ignore our mission and not too poor that we struggle to survive as a community. Thank you for these gifts for the clay jar of our congregation. We pray that we steward them with honor and gratitude, so that they will be treasured blessings in the world. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *We Will Go Out With Joy* Andrew Donaldson, Hilary Seraph Donaldson

We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.
Alleluia! We will go out with joy!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will go out with joy in the Spirit, we will go out with God.

Postlude

Please join us in the Parlor for the afterparty

Acknowledgements
Liturgy by Rev. Amber Neuroth
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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher and Presider: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Izzy Collazo
Ushers: Sebastian Major, Marla Elmore
Accompanist: Andrey Ivanov **Music Director:** Kathy Lee
Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, John Osborne, Roger Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Leah Roberts-Mosser
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Accompanist:
Andrey Ivanov
Office Manager:
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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
www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry email: info@ucccampusministry.org

Community United Church of Christ

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