



**THE CALL OF
ABRAM**

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
A United Church of Christ
(708) 865-1282

Second Sunday after Pentecost
“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

June 11, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff
Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759
Lawrence Underwood, Music Director
Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director
Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor

Altar Flowers: Noreen Love
Liturgist: Kathy Marinier
Ushers: Dorothy Randle and Minnie Rice

Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ
1840 Westchester Boulevard
Westchester, IL 60154
708/865-1282
www.westchesterucc.org
Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com

(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in
so we can share it with others)

****ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM**
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE

WORSHIP SERVICE

"Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters?" – James Baldwin

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THAT WE WOULD BE TRANSFORMED

#669

"Jesus, Come, for We Invite You"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Marinier

Leader: We have somehow found our way to this church.

People: **But it is not THIS church that is the issue; it is that we want to know God more fully in our lives and we want to live lives more faithfully every day that is important.**

Leader: We want to know our "call". We want to know why it is that we can do what we can.

People: **We want to be fulfilled. We want to know why we are here, and we want to know that how we live and serve brings meaning and hope to others because of You.**

ALL: BREATHE YOUR SPIRIT UPON US, LORD.

RESTORE US, RENEW US, CHALLENGE US TO LIVE MORE HONESTLY AND LOVINGLY IN YOUR SIGHT. AND MAY GREAT GRACE ABOUND AS WE RESPOND TO YOUR CALL TO BE FAITHFUL. AMEN.

A Reading from God's Holy Word

Kathy Marinier

From the Gospel: Matthew 9:13; 18-2

p. 7, NT, Pew Bible

p. 10, NT, Large Print

*A GLORIA PATRI

#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 without end. Amen. Amen."

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE LORD

#720

"With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord"

PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

Pastor Mills

THE MORNING OFFERING
(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK
OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)

*THE DOXOLOGY

#34

*“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”*

*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

We give that others might live, and we give that others would come to know and take to heart the very Love of God. May blessing come upon what is given, and may strong and helpful ministries emerge as we use these gifts in ways that truly honor how You desire they be used. And this, in Jesus’ Holy Name we pray. Amen.

THE MEDITATION

“Doing Ministry Beyond What is Comfortable”

*THAT WE WILL EVER PRAISE HIM

#356

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Mills

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This month we are collecting for Strengthen The Church Offering. Through the Strengthen the Church Offering we fund initiatives for leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Learn more at ucc.org/stc Please use the enclosed envelopes or just write STC on your regular offering envelopes.

CPR is being taught at the **Westchester Fire Department** at no charge. Classes are held monthly at the Fire Station 10240 Roosevelt Rd., Please call 708/345-0433 to register. Next two classes June 10, 9 am to 12:30 pm and July 25, 6 pm to 9:30 pm.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

TODAY Noon—Chicago Tamil Worship
ALL WEEK Sticks and Stones Preschool Day Camp
Westchester Park District Day Camp
MONDAY Pastor at Economic Dev. Mtg. 7:30 a.m.
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY Bible Study on Zoom
10-2 Secretary of State License Renewal
Here a Mobile Service
THURSDAY
FRIDAY Set up for Barb Mills Retirement Party
SATURDAY Retirement Party for Barb Mills 11:30 a.m.
NEXT SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship
FATHER'S DAY Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES: Diane Ollie-Coleman, Lou Bender, Walt Suva, Mary Linville, John Micah, Shirley Patton, Emil Poprawski (and we remember his beloved Pris), Carol Hoppe, Pastor Bob Hempel, Elaine Dildine, Dick Dolnics, Carol Tibbie, Marilyn Sinde, Ed Monahan, Scott & Sharon Marczuk, Delores Patak, Aldona Kitt, Jerry Volkmar, Judy Frandsen, Gary Locigno, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Carin Lucas, Lil Suva, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Milton and Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Raymond and Patrick McCarthy

FRIENDS IN PRAYERS: Vi and Richard Allen, Barb Anthony, Sharen Barile, Andee Brown, Lindsey Bzdyl, Evaleen Catrambone, Jim Craver, Dolores Donnelly, Pam Ensley, Denise Faikus, Lefirm Ellis, Ed Flowers, Bob Fridrych, Herman Goodloe, Addy Grande, Nancy Guerra, Donna Hansen, Kerry Ann, Kylie Grayson, Karen Hekr, Aimee Hudson, Miranda Johnson, Yolanda Keith, Betsy LeClerc, Martha Legging, Bill Lietzow, LeAnn Lipman, Lynn & Art, Sandy Matilus, Greg Moore, Amy Morlier, Patrick Mueller, Rich Panesh, Pat brother-in-law to Betty Ann Richeson, Brenda Phillips, Diana & Larry Ridener, Jake Roger, Scott Rouse, Jeff Schroeder, Heather Steanrod, Addilen Tibbie, Anthony Taylor, Luella Terry, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Sr., Elmer Weil, Gloria Williams, Carol Wischhover, Monica Wojdziak, David Yondorf, Mary Lou Zellman

OUR MILITARY: Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler (Ft. Bragg, NC), Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks-Peace Corp. South Africa

ON THE ROAD TO ORDINATION (From our Cluster 4):
Rose Norris (Mont Clare UCC).

HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term: Marylu Mills (Pastor Joe's mom) - in hospice at Hearthside Manor, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe 410 Irving Park Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191 Room 418; Allan Pegues —Symphony Chicago; Steve Tomporowski – Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (at Terra Vista, 1635 Ardmore, Oakbrook Terrace, 60181)

We grieve with the Kolb and Olsen families in the death of **Pat Olsen** (who used to come to our fish fries). Pat was Maris Kolb's sister.

New Phone Number for Lil Klippel—630/594-4177

BIRTHDAYS THRU 06/18:

06/11 James Mikos

06/15 Lou Bender, Robert Tavernier

06/17 Joyce Kelstrom

06/18 Matthew Marczuk

ANNIVERSARIES THRU 06/18:

06/14 Shain & Jillian Diaz, 9 years

06/15 Hans & Mary Straube, 49 years

We received two very wonderful gifts this last week—the Food Pantry gave us a large donation for using our church for their Fund Raiser, and Claudia and Jim Gabel (who help with the Pantry) gave us a wonderful gift!! Bless you all!!

We celebrate with our sister churches Mary Mother of Grace Divine Parishes in the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of their pastor, **Father Neil E. Fackler**. (from Pastor Joe—I would love if you sign the card in the narthex that we can send to him in recognition of his ordination)!! We also learned that Father Jerry Joyce will formally retire soon after many wonderful years as a priest here in town. Again, a card is in the narthex for him!!

669 Jesus, Come, for We Invite You

1 Je - sus, come, for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
 2 Je - sus, come! trans - form our pleas - ures, guide us in - to
 3 Je - sus, come in new cre - a - tion, heaven brought near by
 4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness; make us will - ing

friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
 paths un - known; bring your gifts, com - mand your ser - vants,
 power di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
 to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,

speak, and let us hear your word: lead us through our
 let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may
 chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of
 all the best you have to give: let us find your

need or doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
 work in se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
 your dis - ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
 hid - den rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

WORDS: Christopher Idle (1938-)

MUSIC: Sicilian melody, 18th c.

SICILIAN MARINERS

8.7.8.7.8.7

With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord 720

Unison

1 I thank you, Lord, for each new day, for mead-ows white with dew,
 2 I thank you, Lord, for wind and rain and for the sil - ver moon,
 3 I thank you, Lord, for hand and heart to of - fer up your praise.

for the sun's warm hand up - on the earth, for skies of end - less blue,
 for ev - ery dai - sy's lift - ed face, for ev - ery love - ly tune,
 I thank you, Lord, for tongue to speak of all your lov - ing ways.

for fruit and flower, for lamb and leaf, for ev - ery bird that sings,
 for win - ter's white, for au - tumn's gold, for har - vest and for home,
 For health and strength, for work and play, for loved ones far and near,

with grate - ful heart I thank you, Lord, for all those sim - ple things.
 with grate - ful heart I thank you, Lord, for each good gift I own.
 with grate - ful heart I thank you, Lord, for all that I hold dear.

I Will Sing of My Redeemer 356

1 I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his won-drous love to me;
 2 I will tell the won-drous sto-ry how, my lost es-tate to save,
 3 I will praise my dear Re-deem-er, his tri-umph-ant power I'll tell,
 4 I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his heav-en-ly love for me;

on the cru-el cross he suf-fered from the curse to set me free.
 in his bound-less love and mer-cy he the ran-som free-ly gave.
 how the vic-to-ry he giv-eth o-ver sin and death and hell.
 he from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Sing, O sing of my Re-deem-er, with his blood he pur-chased me,

on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the debt, and made me free.

WORDS: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887)

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D.

**WCC - Financial Reporting - Four Months Ending April 30, 2023
(Pre-Audit Results)**

	<u>Actual April 2023</u>	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
INCOME			
Account			
Operating Income/Pledges	49,192		
Loose Plate	591		
Sub-Total Oper. Income	49,783		
Facility Donations	20,345		
Total Operating Income	<u>70,128</u>		
Total Budgeted Oper. Exps	93,831	102,696	(8,865)
Operating Gifts	<u>5,000</u>		
Operating Results	<u><u>(18,703)</u></u>		

Four Months Year-to-Date Results:

Operating Income: 70,128

Budgeted Operating Expenses: 93,831

Results:

Expenses over Income after operating gift was (18,703)

Thank you for your continued support to sustain our church operations and missions supporting our surrounding communities and the wider world.

ON-LINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!

WCC introduces a new electronic option for making your offerings to the church.

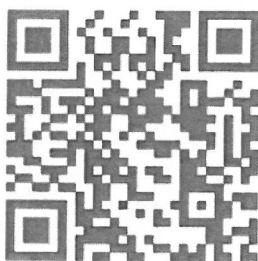
We are utilizing VANCO Financial Solutions to safely and securely make your offering. Your gift will be automatically debited from your checking/savings account or processed using your debit/credit card.

Vanco Online Giving allows:

1. Anytime and anywhere giving, conveniently and securely.
2. No need to write out physical checks or prepare envelopes
3. Schedule for and manage recurring offerings.
4. View your complete online-giving history.

You can access Vanco by using our website

www.westchesterucc.org and click on the E Giving tab - or - scan the QR Code on your smart phone



If you need any help please see Sue Becerra or Carolyn Savage or call the church office.



Acknowledging Holy Ground

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the work of our conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. The offering funds leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, and new and renewing congregations.

What does it mean for us to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church? United Church Camps, Inc., an outdoor ministry related to the Wisconsin Conference UCC, took this question to heart. It renamed its oldest outdoor ministry site as the Daycholah Center, incorporating the Ho-Chunk name for Green Lake, chosen to honor the Ho-Chunk people who were the original keepers of this land.

The process began at the 2019 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. The conference adopted a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. The Doctrine was used to justify the seizure of land from indigenous people. Conversation between Ho-Chunk UCC members and

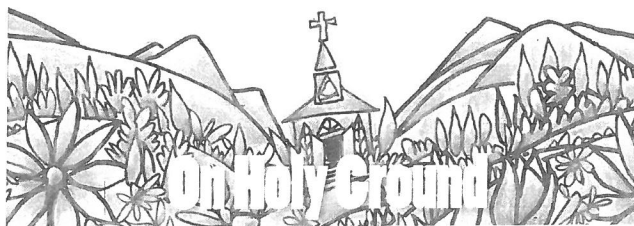
Outdoor ministry leadership identified that a retreat center with "Pilgrim" in it could be offensive and a barrier to living out the camp mission.

The Alliance for Justice, a justice initiative started from the Ho-Chunk UCC in Black River Falls with funding from the national UCC, facilitated a process of deep spiritual work. The multi-year process offered UCCI the gift of a name: Daycholah Center.

People gathered to rededicate the center on Indigenous Peoples' Day, Oct. 11. There were speakers, a fire circle and a shared meal. Karena Thundercloud, vice president of the Ho-Chunk Nation, captured the essence of the day and of Outdoor Ministry when she asked us to "think about the life of this lake, (how it) brought us together, and will continue to connect us in our greatest identity as a community."

The compassionate and generous spirit of the Ho-Chunk people filled the air. They gave us gifts of blankets and star quilts, leather pouches containing passages of Scripture on small scrolls, fragrant cedar pouches and a hand-carved walking stick. They performed traditional smudging and presented UCCI with a Ho-Chunk Nation flag that will fly over Daycholah's welcome center.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.**



The Call of Abram

In today's story, God calls Abram and his family away from the place they are living, and into a new home that is being prepared for them. In this story, God promises to be with Abram and his family for always, not just in this generation but the next and the next and the next. There are many reasons that a family might be called to leave the home somewhere on the globe, for the promise of a new one - war, famine, climate change, economic opportunity, religious freedom, or to freely love, express their gender and thrive in any number of ways. When a family is called in this way, God's promise of accompaniment might meet them in the form of a United Church of Christ congregation or other entity.

In the UCC, "We have a long history of providing and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees and the protection of asylees within the United States, while advocating for and responding to the needs of those displaced globally."^{*}

Are you or your congregation feeling called to be the face and hands of God for a resettling family or individual? If so, there are a number of grants available that can help you help God fulfill the promise of presence made to Abram long ago and to many others in this time.

Search the web to find more information about UCC Global H.O.P.E. Refugee & Migration Ministries Grants. Some of them include:

- Migrant Empowerment Match Grant: Career development funding for individual migrants across a range of visa statuses.
- Migrant Community Program Seed Grant: For churches creating community enrichment programs for migrants.
- Refugee Resettlement Booster Grant: Funding for churches to resettle a single or multiple families through a local refugee resettlement office, the U.S. Sponsor Circle Program or the Church World Service Remote Resettlement Program.
- Refugee and Migration Solidarity Grant: For UCC churches and conferences to meet emergency mass care needs.
- Asylum Accompaniment Booster Grant: Funding for churches hosting or resourcing asylum seekers.
- Ukrainian Sponsorship Seed Grant: Awards for churches to sponsor Ukrainian nationals.

^{*}<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/refugee-and-migration-ministries/#anchor1>

