

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a person's hands raised in prayer. The hands are silhouetted against a background of warm, glowing bokeh lights, creating a sense of spiritual light and hope. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Holy Welcome

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

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

July 2, 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: Carol Hoppe in memory of Don
Liturgist: Steve Scheffel
Ushers: Bob VonLaven and Otis Randle
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

"America is known as a country that welcomes people to its shores. All kinds of people." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE STAND THIS DAY FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*TO REMEMBER OUR NATION IN PRAYER #727

"America, the Beautiful"

*CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Scheffel

Leader: We give, not to get, but because we want to reflect the very nature of the Lord,

People: who is the nature of joyful giving,

Leader: who is the Spirit of graciousness and sharing.

People: We seek, not to get, but to make possible a relationship with Jesus. We seek not get, but to help with what is truly needed that others might live.

ALL: "WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU." WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AND MAY CHRIST'S JOY BE KNOWN AND LIVED!!

A Reading from God's Holy Word Steve Scheffel

From the Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42 p. 8, NT, Pew Bible
p. 13, 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 PRAY TO THE LORD #437

"Jesus Loves Me"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

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)

Steve Scheffel

It can be as small as the cup of cold water, and as great as a spiritual outpouring of kindness, but what we give today we pray will spur us on to acts of graciousness and compassion towards those You call for us to bring Your Good News. And this, giving thanks for what You give us, in Christ Jesus’ Name. Amen.

A Reading from God’s Holy Word

Steve Scheffel

From the Gospel: Genesis 18:1-15

p. 10, OT, Pew Bible

p. 17, OT, Large Print

THE MEDITATION

*“Inviting, Welcoming, and Becoming One in You”
(Moving Beyond Words into Practice)*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Remembrance

The Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

(feel free to use what you have at home to participate with us in this Sacrament)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Make possible an excitement about our calling in You, O Lord. Engage us in things that are great, and, even in the ordinary, help us see how extraordinarily You are at work. Send us forth now to do that faithful work, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*WE ARE SENT FORTH TO HONOR OUR CALL

#541

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Mills

+ + + + +

CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship 10 am

Noon—Chicago Tamil Worship

ALL WEEK

Westchester Park District Day Camp

MONDAY

TUESDAY

4th July Parade—ending here, 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

No Bible Study this week

Pastor at Burial offsite

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

Conboy Funeral Home will be holding their **Senior Baseball Outing** on Sunday, July 23 Schaumburg Boomers vs. Trois-Rivieres Aigles at Schaumburg Boomers Stadium. Included Free bus transportation, free admission tickets to the game, free lunch with soft drinks served. Boarding will begin at 11 am return to funeral home approx 5 pm. Sign up By July 3rd, call Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home 708/562-5900.

Our Community will celebrate the 4th of July on Tuesday the 4th with a Parade beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Mayfair/ Dorchester as in previous years, ending at our church.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES: Carol Hoppe, Diane Ollie-Coleman, Arlene Ivers, Lou Bender, Walt Suva, Mary Linville, John Micah, Shirley Patton, Emil Poprawski (and we remember spouse 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, Robert Baker, 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

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

HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term: Mary Lou Zellman—Elmhurst; 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),

BIRTHDAYS THRU 07/09:

07/04 Arlene Ivers

07/05 Liliana Lopez

07/06 Susan Becerra

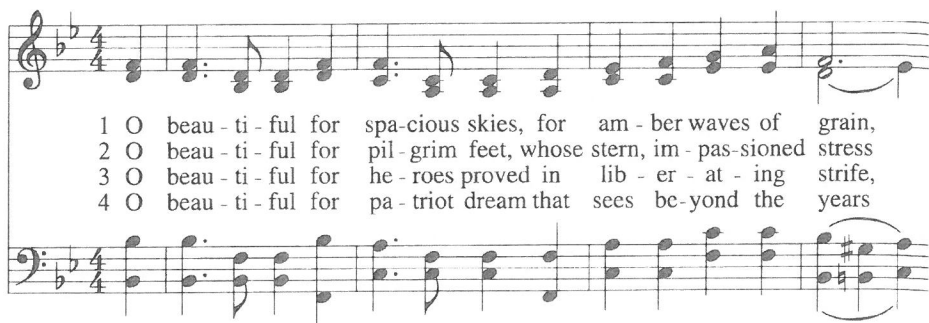
07/07 Kimberly Powers

07/08 Susan Calles, Denise Karpes

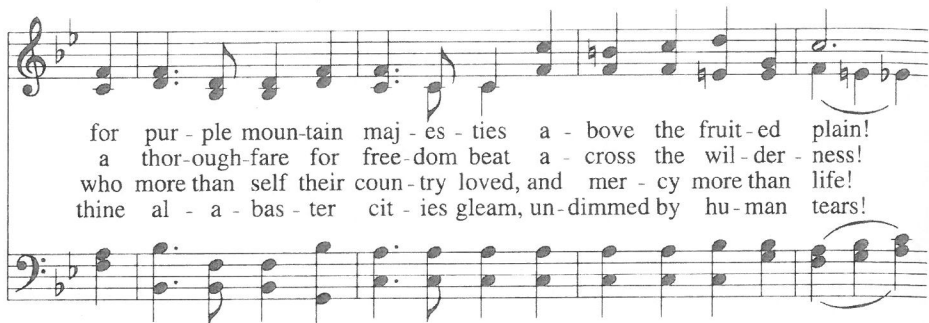
ANNIVERSARIES THRU 07/09:

None

America, the Beautiful



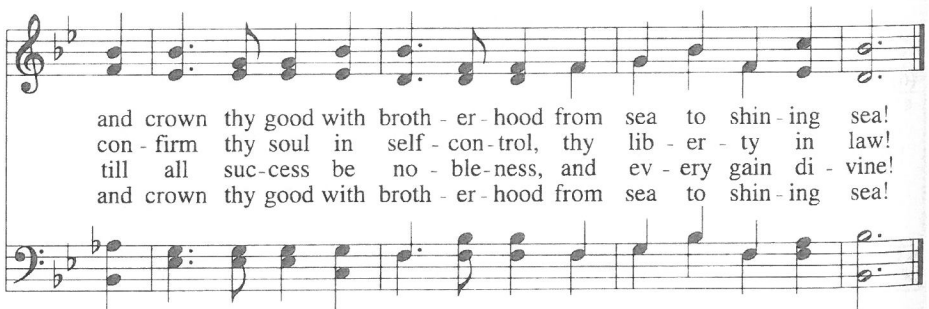
1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine!
 and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!

Jesus Loves Me

1 Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so!
 2 Je - sus loves me, he who died heav-en's gate to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! He will stay close be - side me all the way;

Lit - tle ones to him be - long: they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 he's pre - pared a home for me, and some day his face I'll see.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

541 Church of God, Elect and Glorious

1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, ho - ly na - tion, cho - sen race;
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness in - to his most mar - velous light;
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, stran - gers to God's heart of love;
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, be the peo - ple he in - tends;

called as God's own spe - cial peo - ple, roy - al priests and heirs of grace:
 brought his truth to life with - in you, turned your blind - ness in - to sight.
 but he brought you home in mer - cy, cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove.
 strong in faith and swift to an - swer each com - mand your Mas - ter sends:

know the pur - pose of your call - ing, show to all his might - y deeds;
 Let your light so shine a - round you that God's name is glo - ri - fied;
 Let his love flow out to oth - ers, let them feel a Fa - ther's care;
 roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing through your sac - ri - fice and prayer;

tell of love which knows no lim - its, grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 and all find fresh hope and pur - pose in Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 that they too may know his wel - come and his count - less bless - ings share.
 give your lives in joy - ful serv - ice—sing his praise, his love de - clare.

ON-LINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!

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

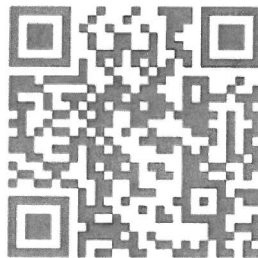
We are utilizing VANCO Financial Solutions to safely and securely make your offering. Your gift will be automatically debited from your checking/savings account or processed using your debit/credit card.

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.

July 2, 2023

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

[Jesus said:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

These are the very last words in the stirring and challenging set of instructions that Jesus gives to the disciples before he sends them forth to heal and to drive out evil. Their task is daunting, to go from town to town, carrying nothing with them. As they go, they are to speak to anyone who will listen, of Christ's healing and saving power. Jesus warns them this task will be difficult and at times even feel divisive. If anyone does not listen to the disciples, they are to shake the dust of that place from their feet and move on, preaching and teaching to new people. Jesus ends his instructions by reminding his followers that those who welcome them welcome Christ among them, and those who welcome Christ among them will find their way to God.

These words continue to ring out for our denomination as delegates gather in person this weekend for the 34th United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the theme, **Making All Things New**. During this time, attendees and delegates have the opportunity to fully live Jesus' welcoming vision. Like the disciples, they are encouraged to speak the truth of Christ's healing and life-giving presence. Like those who encountered the first disciples, sometimes that truth can feel challenging or even divisive. But Christ calls General Synod attendees to both speak and listen anyway.

This speaking and listening happens at General Synod this week over committees with clear agendas, in less formal conversations in hallways and parking lots, in worship and workshops, over vendor tables and, of course, in the main assembly, where all delegates gather to pray, deliberate, listen and speak. We do all this because Christ continues to assure us that where our words are welcomed, God is present. And when we can discern God's presence, we can better sense what God is calling us towards.

As the 34th General Synod draws to a close, we thank God for the opportunity to follow these old instructions as we Create A New Thing!

