

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

September 29, 2024

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

**Courage for Community**

An ad sponsored by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, which ran during last winter's Super Bowl, reminded viewers that silence isn't golden when others are being persecuted.

It featured Clarence B. Jones, a civil rights activist and draft speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., who, as images of hate flashed on the screen, spoke these words, "All hate thrives on one thing: silence."

A Jewish woman named Esther, who would become Queen of Persia, knew all about speaking up for the good of a community. Her story, recorded in the Book of Esther, tells of the Jewish people living in exile in Persia after the destruction of the First Temple. Under the reign of King Achashverosh, a royal advisor named Haman concocted a plot to wipe out the Persian Jewish community. Esther, along with her guardian, Mordechai, were able to foil Haman's plot and save the Jewish people.

At the climax of this story, Mordechai calls on Esther to speak up. Esther hesitates at first for she fears her own safety, being a Jew herself in the inner court. Mordechai reminds her that her voice needs to be heard.

In the end, Esther finds her courage — and voice. To this day, Esther is remembered and celebrated as a hero and an advocate on the Jewish celebration known as Purim.

The need to speak is great, yet still so very scary for many of us as we fear our own safety and security. Throughout history, though, God calls for voices like Esther's, like Clarence B. Jones' — like yours — to speak for those whose voices are not being heard.

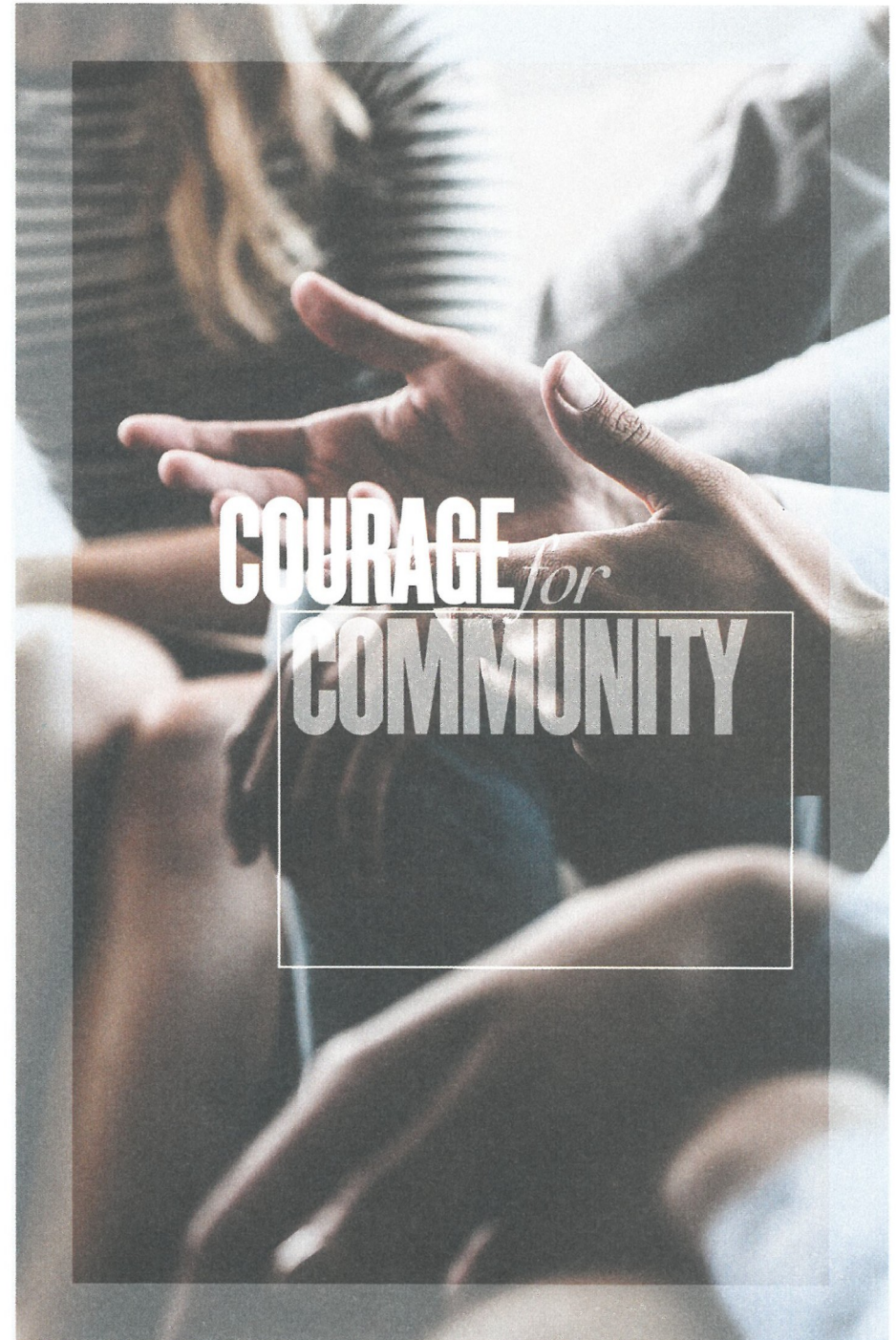
Ask God for the courage to do so and trust the words to come.

*Loving God, give us the courage of Esther to speak up when we see communities hurting. May our words not be confrontational or hateful. Rather, may they be filled with a love that points to Your glory. Amen.*



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE  
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BUC0105



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

**Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s  
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

**September 29, 2024**

**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: Bob Von Laven**

**Liturgist: Carol Hoppe**

**Ushers: Peggy Boswell and Dorothy Randle**

**Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ**

**1840 Westchester Boulevard**

**Westchester, IL 60154**

**708/865-1282**

**[www.westchesterucc.org](http://www.westchesterucc.org)**

**Email: [westcomchurch@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND  
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

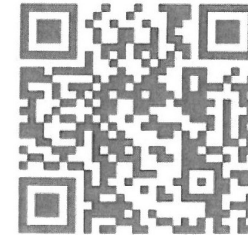
We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool,  
Which you can access through our website.

When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips,  
Our bills here at church don’t go away.

We need your help!!

Remember to give, and if it is a special gift,

There is a way to make a note on the  
Vanco page. Make clear what the donation  
is for!!! Thank you!!



**Manna news!!!** Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It’s a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees. Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dol-nics or Sue Becerra.



**HANDBELL  
CHOIR**

**Bell Choir** is every Saturday from 8:30-9:15 in the Sanctuary. We welcome all new members! Please come and join us. No music experience needed.

Thank you, Joyce Kelstrom, Director

**Save these dates - Harvest of Crafts** is Saturday, November 16th and we need volunteers to work on this day. We also need volunteers to help set up on Wednesday, November 13th. We are selling Treasures and Trinkets items for \$2 or some items we make prices. As you do your Fall closet cleaning and find you would like to donate to Treasures and Trinkets please bring your items to the south basement or call Barb Mills for pickup 708-562-0759. Questions or if you wish to volunteer call Barb Mills!!

Our new Website is up and running!! You can access it at <https://westchesterucc.org> We hope you find it accessible and helpful!!!

BRING **empty RX bottles** and place them in the bin marked "RX bottles". Please remove any label and make sure they are clean.

**Save the Date**—Saturday December 7th  
**Razzle Dazzle Is Coming!**

Parish Fellowship in appreciation for the women in our congregation, we put on a lovely luncheon followed by entertainment. Please make sure you mark your calendar for this popular and fun event! More info soon! Bring a friend!

To the Members and Friends of the Westchester Community Church.....

Your kindness and concern have meant do very much and will always be remembered. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you for all your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards and visits to dad. You all meant the world to him; he was blessed to be a member of such a caring and loving congregation. We will be forever grateful.

May God bless you all,

**Pam and Brook Martens & The Family of Jerry Volkmar**

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

***"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live."***

**– George Bernard Shaw**

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*OPEN OUR HEARTS TO YOU, LORD #457

***"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"***

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Carol Hoppe

Leader: Help us move beyond mere belief and mere talk.

**People: Help us move toward a faith which is so honest, so true, so loving, so good, that all would see our commitment to follow You.**

Leader: We want our congregation to reflect and embody the Ways of Christ.

**People: So may our prayers be true to You, and truly considerate of our neighbors. May our worship be honestly taken in to our hearts, and not just heard.**

Leader: And may what we do following worship be a joyful and loving response to You.

**ALL: MAY WHAT WE DO BE A THANKFUL AND LOVING RESPONSE TO OUR NEIGHBOR BECAUSE OF JESUS!!**

#### MUSIC OF PRAISE

WCC Bell Choir

***"Immortal, Invisible"***

***"How Great Thou Art"***

A Reading from God's Holy Word

Carol Hoppe

***From the Gospel: Mark 9:38-50***

p. 35, NT, Pew Bible

p. 55, 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 #88

*“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”*

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING Carol Hoppe

AN OFFERTORY

**(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)

**May our gifts reflect a growing faith, and we pray that everyone here will grow in their faith. We want each person to be more healthy, and more able to help the people around them come to know the love of Jesus. Bless now these gifts to Your Divine Purposes, through Jesus’ Holy Name. Amen.**

A Reading from God’s Holy Word Carol Hoppe  
*From the Pastorals: James 5:13-20* p. 181, NT, Pew Bible  
p. 281, NT, Large Print

THE MEDITATION— *“The Difference Between Saying  
You are a Christian and Being a Christian”*

\*GUIDE US IN THE WAYS OF FAITH #615

*“Community of Christ,” vv, 1,2, & 4*

THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING Pastor Mills

+++++

JUSTICE & PEACE

# 615 Community of Christ

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,  
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door  
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor:  
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:  
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931 - )  
MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)  
Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

JESUS CHRIST

# 88 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Unison G2 C D C G2 C

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your

prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav-en to earth

to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

## CALENDAR

TODAY Worship 10 am  
Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. THIS WEEK  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>

NEXT SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

## BIRTHDAYS THRU 10/6:

09/29 William Milleville  
09/30 Neil Leibundguth, Hannah Sweazey  
10/01 Denice Kaminski  
10/03 Rev. Joseph Mills  
10/04 Brynn Bures, Charlize Mlynarczyk, Bridget Henning  
10/05 Alice Meskan, Coraline Christiansen, Vicky Rowe

## ANNIVERSARIES THRU 10/6

10/05 Pete and Shawna Torres 22 years  
10/06 Bill and Ann McCarthy 51 years

## THINKING AHEAD

**Craft Workshop**—Every Monday from 9:30-11:30. We are making crafts to sell at the November 16th Craft Sale

**Sassy Stitchers**—3rd Monday of the month at 7pm

**Book Club**—Wednesday, September 25th at 5:30 in the lounge. We finish up the book and watch the movie Overcomer.

**Card Making**—Friday, September 27th from 10am to 2pm. South Basement. Bring your lunch. Think Christmas!!!!

**Scrapbooking/Diamond Art**—Thursday, October 24th- 9 am-9 pm, Friday, October 25th 9am-11pm, and Saturday, October 26th 9am-9pm

To Westchester Community Church, Members and Friends:  
You know **Bob Hempel** loved a church dinner of any kind, so there was no having this last event luncheon for him at a venue. Whether your washed a dish, filled a tray, made the drinks, wiped a table, arranged flowers, dried a bowl, swept a floor, wrote the bulletin and preached the sermon, provided music, typed and ran the bulletin, who did I forget, you get the idea!! My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!  
Blessings and Love,  
Elaine, Aaron, Ed and Kim Hempel

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

### PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:

Allan Boyd, Cindy Cox, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Virginia Hodina, Aaron & Elaine Hempel, Chuck Yeiser, Linda Belice, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Marilyn Sinde, Bettyann Richeson, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Pat VonLaven, Barb Sweazey, Sandra Bradley, James Hixon, Jeanie Rowe, Allen Meskan, Aldona Kitt, Judy Frandsen, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy

**FRIENDS IN PRAYERS:** Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Sherri Cozzi, Drake Dennis/Family, Dylan & Dyson, Bill Ernst, Father Neil Fackler, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Herman Goodloe, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Mary Ann, Cheryl Jargstorf, Larry, Tom Lindsey, Julie McGee, Julie McLean, Frieda McKinnon, Leslie Mills, Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Gary Schultz, Anthony Taylor, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Jr., Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman, Adam 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

**HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term:** Elaine Dildine—Sheridan at OakBrook, room 255; Donna Hansen—Tennessee, Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Sara Zellman—the Pearl, Hinsdale; Marylu Mills - in Hospice, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

We grieve with **Ann and Bill McCarthy** in the death of Ann's brother in law **Robert LaShelle**, and with our Scouting community in the death of long-time leader **Bill Raysa**.



COMMITMENT & RENEWAL

## 457 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

D D G D

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
2 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart, in my heart;  
3 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart, in my heart;  
4 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart, in my heart;

A Bm G D G/D D

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.

G D Bm

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

D A7 Bm G D

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN