



Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church
Accessible to All

September 13, 2026

10:30 am



Madonna of Mercy (~1462), [Wikimedia Commons](#)

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

Prelude

People, We Have Met To Worship
Arr. John Carter

Kathy Spencer, piano

Welcome

Rev. Mike Bass

Life of the Church

Joys and Concerns

***Call to Worship**

Monica Johnson

In the house of Love, there is no hierarchy of value.

Every life is cherished.

In the presence of Love, we shelter each other from harm.

Love calls upon us:

to divest from evil,

to come home to ourselves,

to share what we have.

May Love welcome us today!

Passing of the Peace

An opportunity to share words of peace and belonging. The ancient, traditional greeting is "peace be with you" with a response of "And also with you."

***Hymn**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

#393

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Receiving New Members

Rev. Mike Bass

Sarah VanGundy, Lin Moeller & Jackie Pollack

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church. With the help of the Holy One, may we continue to grow together and be witnesses of God's Love made known to us in Jesus.

Anthem

We Are Many Parts
Marty Haugen

CCUCC Choir

Ancient Witness ** Matthew 18:21-35 [*Inclusive*]

Monica Johnson

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Is it seven times?" Jesus replied, "No, not seven times. I tell you, seventy-seven times. And here's why.

The kin-dom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed ten of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, 'I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!' Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt. Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, 'Pay back what you owe me!' The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!' But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor's prison until the money was paid. When other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?' Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had

been paid in full. As my Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

Sermon

Accounting for Mercy

Rev. Mike Bass

***Hymn**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth
(Let It Begin With Me)*

(insert)

Responding to Live Faithfully

Prayers of the People & the Jesus Prayer:

Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker, Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The praise of your name echo through the universe. The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world. Your heavenly will be done by all created beings. Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. Amen.

Inviting Generosity

Offertory

You Raise Me Up
Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham

Ginny Hauser, flute

Doxology

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

*September's loose offering will support
N-Sid-Sen.*

Sent with Love into the World

***Hymn**

They'll Know We Are Christians

(insert)

(We are one in the spirit)

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Send down the fires of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Send down the spirit breathe life in your people, and we shall be
people of God.

Call us to be your compassion
Teach us the song of your love.
Give us hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring, make us ring with
the song of your love.

Send down the fires of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Send down the spirit breathe life in your people, and we shall be
people of God.

*Please stand as you are able.

† As an inclusive and open faith community, we attempt to convey gender
inclusive images, terms, and language of God.

All inserted songs printed with permission OneLicense #A-714060

Call to Worship liturgy by M Jade Kaiser of enfleshed. Adapted by the Rev. Mike
Bass.

Doxology by Roger Lynn.

**Large print bible and large print hymns are available on the back table. Ask an
usher for assistance.

Assistive listening devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Announcements

COFFEE HOUR: All are welcome to stay for coffee and treats and fellowship after worship today, just across the entryway to Brewster Hall.

Weekly coffee time is **Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** We will meet at **Pups & Cups** on Main St through the month of September. All are welcome to drop in between 10:30 and 11:30 for our no-host social time with Pastor Mike.

Choir is back! Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at **9:15 am**. Everyone is welcome.

Come join us for yoga in Brewster Hall every **Wednesday at 5:30 pm**. Bring your yoga mat and practice with us.

Online registration is now open for our N-Sid-Sen Family Camp Weekend, **September 18-20** - <https://camp.pncucc.org/camp-events/>. Camp is roughly \$150 per person, and includes six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch) and two nights lodging. If you are interested in receiving a sponsorship for the event, please contact Corey Johnson (mjohnson34227@roadrunner.com) before registering. Registration ends, **Friday, September 11**. We hope you can join us for this annual, spiritually enriching experience! See the weekly updates for fun themes this year.

Today the Faith Development Team will begin a learning community program for elementary aged children. Beth Waddel and Bill Condon will teach the first month, offering sessions that focus on sharing, self-control, stillness, and patience. Each week we will begin immediately after the Children's Moment.

The next session of Queer Quest will begin on **Friday, September 18th at 6:30 pm**.

Civics Education on **Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 pm**.

STAFF

Mike Bass

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Office Hours: M/Th 9-12pm;

T 12-4 pm, W by appt.

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Kathy Spencer

Pianist

Emma Trayte

Childcare Coordinator

THIS WEEK AT CCUCC

Monday, September 14

Justice & Witness 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 15

Coffee @ Pups & Cups 10:30 am

Building & Grounds 1:30 pm

Wednesday, September 16

Office closed

Faith Development 5:30 pm

Yoga 5:30 pm

Thursday, September 17

Congregational Care 1:30 pm

Civics Education 6:30 pm

Friday, September 18

Queer Quest 6 pm

N-Sid-Sen Camp through Sunday

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Usher: Tricia Grantham

Liturgist: Monica Johnson

Coffee Hour: Barbara Hammond

Tech Team:

Doug Blanks-Hindman

Carl Hauser

Herb Hill

Corey Johnson

Bill Condon

Don Peters

Music:

Carl Hauser, choir director

2026/27 CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Sandy Evenson

Moderator-Elect: Lisa Carloye

Treasurer: Carl Hauser

Clerk: Frances Clark

Stewardship & Finance Team:

Herb Hill

Building & Grounds Team:

Doug Blanks Hindman

Faith Development Team:

Charlene Toews

Congregational Life Team:

Mary Carloye

Congregational Care Team:

Nancy Gillard

Shared Ministry Team:

Tricia Grantham & Susan Poch

Justice & Witness Team: Kym Dye

Outreach Team: open

Welcome To CCUCC

*Our mission is to welcome all into a loving, progressive faith community,
knowing our actions reflect our Christian values:
to question and explore beliefs and assumptions,
to strive for peace and justice, and
to care actively for the earth, our community, and one another.*

The Core Values of Progressive Christianity

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the way and teaching of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.
2. Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honoring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class, or ability.
3. Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
4. Embrace the insights of contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity and sustainability.
5. Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.

“Core Values of Progressive Christianity” 2022 Edition;
ProgressiveChristianity.org©

*We acknowledge that we stand on land stolen from Native and
Indigenous people. We are on Nimiipuu land and we recognize that
they were the first people here.*

*We acknowledge that we benefit from the prosperity of the United
States, which was built on the labor of enslaved people.*

Scan code here to donate your loose change to
local non-profit.



Key words in the Text
Matthew 18:21-35

A Life of Togetherness: forgiveness and the unforgiving

From BDAG Greek/English lexicon (2000), et.al.

Adelphos (ἀδελφός), “brother or sister.” Peter seems to be referring to people sharing a life together. Kinship may deepen responsibility towards community, but it doesn’t change the power dynamics when it comes to things like who controls finances, employment, reputation, and access.

hebdomēkontakis / hepta (ἑβδομηκοντάκις / ἑπτάκις)
“seventy seven times.” The Greek is ambiguous when it comes to whether the text is saying 77 or seventy times 7. On the one hand, there is an echo of Lamech’s promise to exact revenge seventy-sevenfold for escalating vengeance. On the other hand, Jesus could be illustrating the ginormous disparity between 7 and 490 (77*7) and relating that to the difference between 100 denarii (100 days of wages) and 10,000 talents (the combined annual revenue of the territory Herod ruled was 900 talents). Jesus seems to be reversing the ancient formula from limitless violence and/or limitless debt to (almost!) limitless mercy and forgiveness.

Aphiēmi / daneion (ἀφῆκεν / δάνειον), “forgive” and “debt.” Release from an obligation one will not be able to pay. Debt is a bond of labor, security, and freedom — all under someone else’s control. The first repayment is literally impossible in the ancient world. The second repayment, while possible, is just beyond reach as it represents one hundred days worth of wages. That would be crushing. There is a larger question here about repayment in general, or the idea of owing, whether it be money or favors.

Doulos / syndoulos / basanistēs (δούλων / συνδούλων / βασανισταῖς), “slave,” “fellow slave,” and “torturer,” respectively. Unlike employees, enslaved people cannot resign from their role. The “slave” holds power over the “fellow slave” even though subject to the authority’s power. The “torturer” is essentially a mafia-style goon sent to extract payment.