

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

The Rev. Katy Moran

Welcome to our church!

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,
and that you will experience God's presence here.*

May God bless you during worship today.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: UIC Pastor

The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**



OPENING HYMN

ELW 650

In Christ There is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



HYMN OF PRAISE

Q Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Q Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

III Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

(I) For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 (II) you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 67

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

² **that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 15:10-28

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to

the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*The minister and congregation greet one another
in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of
physical contact with which you are comfortable.*

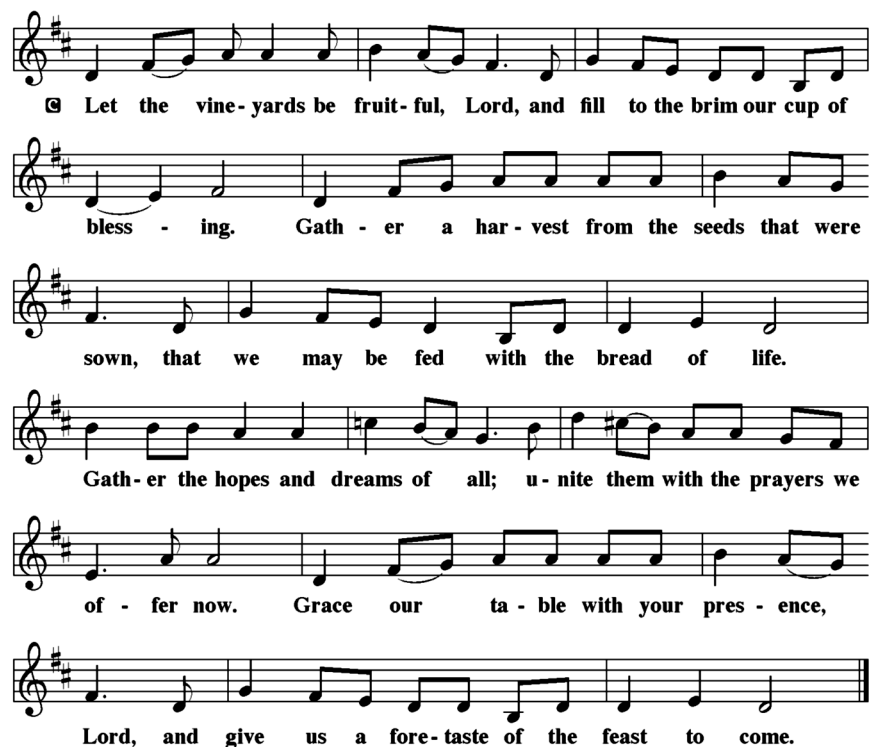
***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

OFFERING

*You are invited to place your offering in one of the
plates as they are passed or to make use of our
online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning
the QR code to the right. You may also place your
offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving
by clicking on the green “Give Now” button*



OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so
that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in
the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now
and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

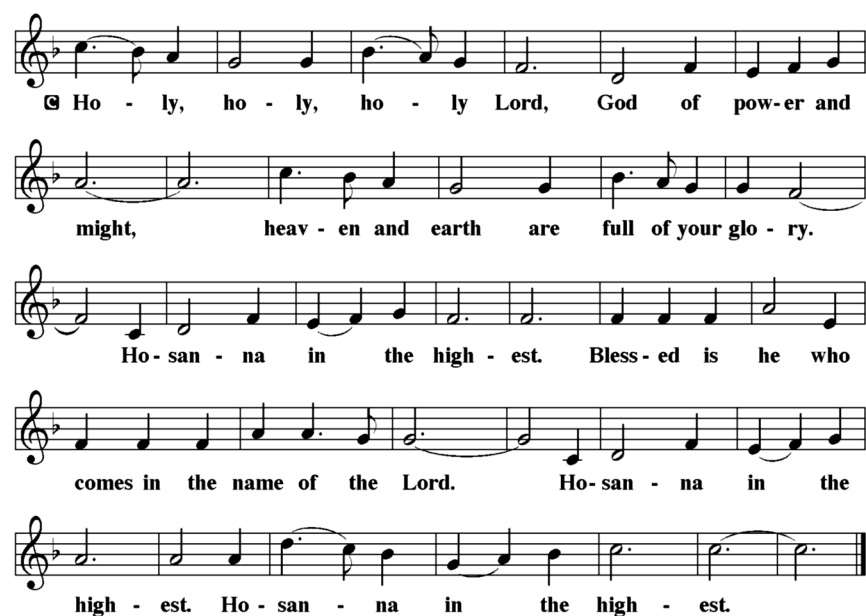
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

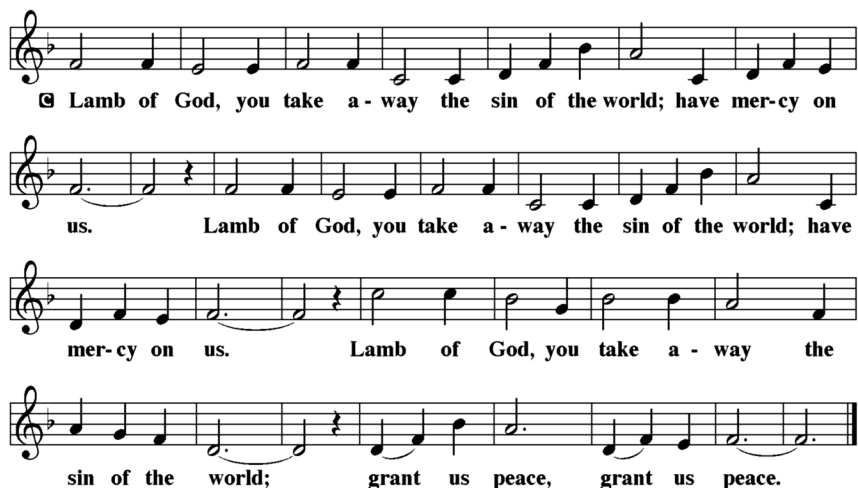
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Thanks be to God.



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord,
and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish
to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

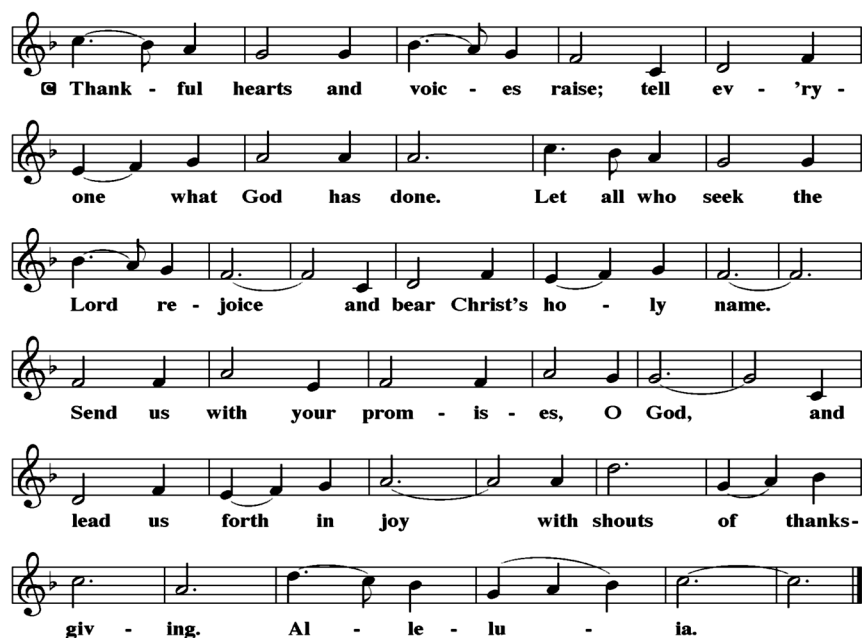
Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 886

O For a Thousand Tongues

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O For a Thousand Tongues'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
in memory of Ginny Criswell.*

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What's Happening at UIC

Sun, Aug. 16 Worship, 10:00am
Mon, Aug. 17 Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
Tue, Aug. 18 Council Meeting, 6:30pm
Wed, Aug. 19 Theology on Tap, 6:00pm
Fri, Aug. 21 Office Closed
Sun, Aug. 23 Worship at Central Oak Heights, 10:00am
 Picnic at Central Oak Heights, 11:30am
 September Newsletter Deadline

Happy Birthday

Bob Troxell 8/19

Bonnie Katherman 8/21

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Michelle Davies, Dan and Gloria McDavit, Diane Powers, Elwood Brown, Ken Baker, Brandon Wirth, Mark Rabuck, Jayne, Gigi Pray, Patrick Moseley, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, Bob Keifer.

Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net.

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.



UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON
AUGUST 5 & 19



Congregational Meeting



Sunday, August 30th

The meeting will take place immediately following worship service.

All members are encouraged to attend.

At the meeting we will hear the proposal and vote on the church steeple repair project.



We're taking a Sunday field trip! Mark your calendars to join us for worship at **Central Oak Heights on Sunday, August 23rd at 10:00am!**

We have rented a golf cart for the day, so rest assured we will get you where you need to be for worship that morning! We hope you will join us for this fun excursion off the hill!

Be sure to stick around afterwards for our annual church picnic! Bring a covered dish to go with the grilled chicken graciously prepared by the Shearer family!

As a bonus, Central Oak Heights is opening up the pool for our use, so anyone who would like is welcome to bring swim attire as well! Don't miss out on the fun!



UIC CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 23rd



Join us for a full day of fun at Central Oak Heights!
Worship will begin at 10am, followed by a church picnic. There is also a pool so bring your swimsuit if you'd like to get in.
Please signup at church or call the office to RSVP for the picnic.
Please bring a covered dish to share and a camp chair!

For those with mobility needs, a golf cart will pick you up at your car and take you where you need to be all day.

Central Oak Heights
75 Heritage Road, West Milton

The church will be supplying BBQ Chicken, water, plates, silverware, napkins, and cups. Please bring something to share. You can signup at church or contact Terri in the office so we can get a head count for the picnic.

The church is also renting a 4-person golf cart for the day for anyone with mobility needs. We will have a driver for the golf cart. The golf cart can pick you up at your car and transport you anywhere you need to go during the day!! If you have any questions please contact Terri in the office.



This September UIC is launching a cohort of intentional small group ministries within the congregation! This is a new format of ministry where around five households will regularly gather together for a time of community building, fellowship, and mutual support. We will begin this Fall with five host groups taking place at different times with different hosts throughout the week, so sign up for the group that works best for you!

With this ministry, you are especially encouraged to sign up for a group with folks whom you have not gotten a chance to know well within the congregation! Part of our

desire with this ministry is to get to know one another a little bit better so that there are fewer “less familiar” faces to us when we gather on a Sunday morning!

To get us started, each group will begin by gathering around a six-week study series titled *Understanding the Christian Faith*. This series will be tied to a Sunday morning preaching series from Pr. Justin and will include both a book and video component as follow up during the small group gatherings later in the week. Copies of the book are already available at the church office. If you’d like, you can make a \$13 donation to help offset those costs!



Goals for UIC Small Groups

Create Belonging

“You are welcome here.”

Build Relationships

“You are known here.”

Extend Support

“You are cared for here.”

Communicate Value

“You are vital here.”

Bonus: It’s scriptural! 1 Corinthians 12:14-31



In the meantime, we hope you will prayerfully consider which group you'd like to join! We'd love to see as many folks as possible get connected through this new ministry! Check out the signup sheets in the fellowship hall to sign up today! See Pastor Justin if you have any additional questions!



Why Small Groups for UIC?

New needs/challenges at UIC

- Shifting composition post-pandemic
- New “normal” in participation
- “Pastor, I look around and don’t recognize people!”



The Importance of Community

“In other words, we live into our humanity as made in the image of God more fully in community. Not only that, but in small groups, we work out our humanity, and our mission, as we seek to follow Jesus together.”

Fuller Institute Video



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Worship Leader	Katy	Justin	Justin
Social Hour		Church Picnic	
Bread/Wine	Michelle S.	Sharon W.	Donna B.
Altar Guild	Sue K.	Mary Lou K.	Megan C.
Digital Host	Terri C.	Kathy G.	Beth G.
Greeter Front Door	Kathy G. Ted M.	Bob S. Trudy S.	Cheryl R. Dale R.
Greeter Side Door	Rosemary K.	Terri C.	George W.
Lector	Brad C.	Beth G.	Ted M.
Usher	Michelle S. Kathy A. Ken C. Rosemary K.	Beth G. Terri C. Ted M. Shirley M.	Jane M. Michelle S. Bob S. Trudy S.
Comm. Assist.	Brad C. Dave B.	Mary Lou K. Michelle S.	Celeste C. Cheryl R.
Guest Relations	Jay H.		George W.
Offering Counter	Connie S. Jay H.	Michelle S. Jared R.	Beth G. Pam H.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.