

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, October 26, 2025

**The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director
Gregory White, Organist**

Services are live-streamed on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/upcbuffalo>

20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 26, 2025
Service for the Lord's Day
10:30 a. m.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In order that people may listen to the music or pray in silence without distraction, please refrain from conversation after the music begins and kindly silence all cell phones. Thank you.

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship. A playroom is available near the sanctuary for young children who are accompanied by their parents.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request which you would like the pastor to include in "Prayers of the People," please fill out the yellow prayer request slip found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate when passed. Ushers will take them from the plate and when the offering is brought forward, hand them to the pastor.

If you would like to borrow a hearing device for the worship service, please see one of this morning's Greeters.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand if able*)

Be glad and rejoice in the Lord our God,
who pours down grace in abundance.

Prayer of the Day

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn #402

How Lovely, Lord
Merle's Tune

Hal H. Hopson

Confession and Pardon

The Invitation

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life's end.

Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows, God's faithful love endures forever.

Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

The Prayer

**Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being, whose
face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we
forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from
proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and
humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our
faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our
refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon:

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Come to the water and remember your baptism. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #581

Glory Be to the Father

Henry W. Greatorex

*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.*

Sharing the Peace and Greetings

As God's forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one another saying, "the peace of Christ be with you".

Sung response Hymn #822

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies, bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 84:1-4

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the
LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest
where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O
LORD of hosts, my king and my God.
**Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

The Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10 (p. 715 of the OT in the pew bible)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14 (p. 81 of the NT in the pew bible)

Anthem: Soli Deo Gloria arr. Patrick Liebergen
Praise the Lord forevermore. Alleluia!

Children's Sermon

Sermon: "Pray With Persistence"

Hymn #435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Dutch Melody
In Babilone

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary

Doxology Hymn #606

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

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #729 Lord I Want to Be A Christian
I Want to be a Christian African American Spiritual

Benediction

Postlude

A-723910

Participating in Worship:
The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director
Gregory White, Organist
LeeAnn Grace, Liturgist
Grace Agnebemu, Greeters
Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Next Week:
Jim Smyton, Liturgist
Sharon Melius & Sandy Robertson, Greeters
Nick Casseri, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, October 26	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake
Monday, October 27	5:30 pm	Pickleball
Tuesday, October 28	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, October 30	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, October 31	6:00 pm	Trunk or Treat
Saturday, November 1	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, November 2	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Soup & Pie Luncheon

TRUNK OR TREAT: We need volunteers to either use their cars or one of the church's tables to hand out candy. It will be 6 to 8pm in the church parking lot. If the weather is cold or rainy it will be held in the gym on tables. In the past it has been a wonderful evening with adorable trick or treaters and hopefully the Buffalo Fire Dept. will be with us again. It's a great way to provide a safe and fun celebration for our neighbors.

Saturday, November 1st: Remember to turn your clock back one hour before bedtime!

Deacons Soup and Pie Luncheon: Join us for lunch Sunday November 2 following worship or take some soup and pie home to enjoy later in the day. Or... do both! The Deacons Soup and Pie Luncheon benefits the Deacons Fund which provides emergency financial assistance to UPC members and congregants. Sign-up sheets for donations of soup and pie are in the narthex and on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall

Welcome Visitors

University Presbyterian Church (UPC), the members and officers, welcomes you today. Your presence strengthens our faith and our commitment as Christ's disciples. We welcome all who seek to follow the Way of Jesus—the way of compassion and justice—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. UPC does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in celebrating the rites of marriage.

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Christine James	Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch	Choral Director
Gregory White	Organist
James W. Smyton	Treasurer
Pat Cookfair-Casseri	Clerk of Session
Kathryn F. Hallborg	Stephen Ministry Referral
Peg Kovach	Administrative Assistant
Aaron Vivian	Facilities Manager
Roll Tomosso	Custodian

Vision Statement of University Presbyterian Church

Let us be **BREAD:**

Beaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

Resounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

Enriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

Acting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

Developing diversity by engaging and welcoming all of God's beloved people