

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, October 19, 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>

19th Sunday after Pentecost, October 19, 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*)

Pray always, and do not lose heart.

God will grant justice to the faithful.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

Conrad Kocher

Confession and Pardon

The Invitation

1 John 3:2

We come before God not as despised sinners,
but as beloved children.

With the confidence of children of God,
let us humbly confess our sin.

The Prayer

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon:

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

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:

Testify to us, O God, by the voice of your Spirit. Put your law in our hearts, write your word in our minds, and show your will in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love your teaching! All the day long it is in my mind.
Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my study.

I am wiser than the elders, because I observe your commandments.

I restrain my feet from every evil way,
that I may keep your word.

**I do not turn aside from your judgments,
because you yourself have taught me.**

How sweet are your words to my taste!
They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

**Through your commandments I gain understanding;
therefore I hate every lying way.**

Holy God, you are just in all your ways and your commandments are the greatest of treasures. Teach us to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (p. 213 of the NT in the pew bible)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8 (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 #465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus Charles Converse
Converse

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 #688

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Morecambe

Frederick Cook Atkinson

Benediction

Postlude

A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Val Macer, Liturgist

Nick Casseri, Katherine Hallborg & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Scott Horton, Live streamer

Next Week:

LeeAnn Grace, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, October 19	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	1:00 pm	PFLAG
Tuesday, October 20	10:00 am	Deadline for Network articles
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, October 22	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, October 26	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake

Please Note: The deadline for newsletter articles is 10 am this Tuesday, October 20th.

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