

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, September 28, 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>

16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 28, 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*)

The love of wealth is the root of evil.

Our treasure is the gift of life in Christ.

Prayer of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares, but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; 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 #12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Welsh Folk Melody
St. Denio

Confession and Pardon

The Invitation:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
Our old selves were crucified with him, so that we might be slaves to sin no more. Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

The Prayer:

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon:

Because we were buried with Christ in these waters,
we are also raised to life with him. Believe the gospel!
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:

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 146

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.
**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in
them; who keeps promises forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up
those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the
righteous.**

The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan
and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Blessed indeed are they who put their trust in you, O God, our sure rock and refuge. Guard us from giving to any other the allegiance that belongs only to you. Shine upon us with the brightness of your light, that we may love you with a pure heart and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (p. 210 of the NT in the pew bible)

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31 (p. 79 of the NT in the pew bible)

Anthem: How Can I Keep From Singing Mark Schweizer
 Sanctuary Choir

Children's Sermon

Sermon: "What Does Wealth Do?"

Hymn #753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Alfred V. Fedak
Prayer of St. Francis

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 #720

Jesus Calls Us
Galilee

William H. Jude

Benediction

Postlude

A-723910

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Drew Ludwig, Supply Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Jeff Crane, Guest Organist

Dennis Erickson, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Nick Casseri & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Scott Horton, Live streamer

Next Week:

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Nick Casseri, Sharon Melius & Tom Somerville, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, September 28

9:00 am

Choir

10:30 am

Worship Service

11:30 am

Fellowship Time

Tuesday, September 30

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Thursday, October 2

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Saturday, October 4

10:00 am

Breakfast with Friends

12:00pm

Apple Picking

Sunday, October 5

9:00 am	Choir
10:30 am	Worship Service
11:30 am	International Potluck

TRUNK OR TREAT: As everyone knows by now, we're entering autumn with cooler temps and the return of football. I wanted to get the word out early about Halloween at UPC with our annual Trunk or Treat. It has increased exponentially since our beginning 3 years ago, so I'm hoping for the same outcome this year!! We would like to make it bigger and better if it is possible with more congregational support.

We need volunteers to either use their cars or one of the church's tables to hand out candy. We hold it between 6 to 8pm in the church parking lot. In the past it has been a wonderful evening with adorable trick or treaters and hopefully the Buffalo Fire Dept. will be joining us again. It's a great way to provide a safe and fun celebration for our neighbors.

If you're unable to join us, we could always use a donation of candy for the event. Last year we totaled over 300 participants so there's no such term as "too much candy for this activity!!" If the weather is cold or rainy it will be held in the gym on tables.

For more information or questions, please contact Amy Erickson at (716) 876-6874 or our secretary, Peg, at the church office (716) 836-7660.

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK: The ever-popular International Potluck returns on **World Communion Sunday, October 5** in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Bring a dish from your heritage, an international cuisine you enjoy cooking, or something from your American recipe collection. If you don't cook, plan to come anyway and sample the tasty dishes prepared by others, while enjoying great fellowship!

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND FRIENDS APPLE PICKING AND PUMPKIN FARM: The group is scheduled to leave the church to go **apple picking** and to enjoy other attractions at the Blackman Homestead Farm on **Saturday, October 4 at 12:00 noon**. There is no admission charge, but apples picked are \$1.79 per pound.

If you are interested in going, please e-mail Lee Ann Grace at laghh4@gmail.com or text her at (716) 491-3878 **as soon as possible** to let her know that you wish to go, so that we can be sure to have enough reservations at this popular farm, **and** whether you need a ride or are willing to drive. We want to be sure we have enough cars to accommodate everyone.

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.

University Presbyterian Church welcomes 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 Coordinator
Peg Kovach	Administrative Assistant
Aaron Vivian	Facilities Manager
Roll Tomosso	Custodian

Mission Statement of University Presbyterian Church

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey. We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind and spirit.

“Let Us Be Bread”