

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, 31, 2025

**The Rev. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director
Gregory White, Organist**

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

12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 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.

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A Note on today's service - a special kind of "hymn sing" in which rather than calling out favorite hymns to sing, the hymns are pre-selected to lift up each part of the service. The worship service, like a dramatic play, has a dynamic pattern that starts by warming up to the experience and builds to the crescendo with is the sacrament for the day, or for the exposition of the Word of God in the sermon. Finding hymns for so many facets of what a worship service is reveals the vast diversity of hymns from which we join in song each Sunday. One choral director said music and hymns get to places of our souls words do not reach. He said that the hymns we sing literally teach us the faith. May we each be eager and enthusiastic students today and sing with gusto these great songs of the church.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

This start to the worship service is a time of preparing our hearts and minds to be the church in communion with one another, with Christians around the world, with the saints of heaven.

402-v 1,3

How Lovely, Lord
Merle's Tune

Hal H. Hopson

Call to Worship – please stand if you are able

This order of worship shifts the focus to the Creator and Sustainer of Life. We remember that God is the audience in worship, not the congregation. We remember that God who has given us the breath of life is worthy of praise and adoration.

403-v 1,2,3 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty Joachim Neander
Unser Herrscher

Confession

Before you enter the temple make peace with your neighbor, the Bible says. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All of us need forgiveness and healing. Restored to our full humanity we can then carry out the mission of the church.

432-v 1,2,3 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord C. Hubert H. Parry
Repton

Pardon

Do not be afraid is one of the most repeated lines in the Bible. When we remember that Christ died for us and experience God's love all over again we are better equipped to share God's love with this broken world.

435-v 1,2 There's a Wideness In God's Mercy Dutch Melody
In Babilone

Thanksgiving – please stand if you are able

For God's grace, for the gift and breath of life, for today in Christian freedom.

581 Glory Be to the Father Henry W. Greatorex
Gloria Patri

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Illumination

We don't always have eyes to see and ears to hear. This little prayer

said by the liturgist is to help place us in a posture of reception and openness.

451-v 1

Open My Eyes, That I May See
Open My Eyes

Clara H. Scott

Word of God – the reading of Scripture

The Bible is the Church's book. It is our operating manual, map, field guide for the Christian life.

459-v 1,2,3

O Word of God Incarnate
Munich

Felix Mendelssohn

Exposition of God's Word – the sermon

Both the Hebrew and Christian Scripture depict the nature and purposes of God. We learn of God the Creator, Sustainer (Spirit) and Redeemer (Jesus) and the Kingdom of God. This is good news for a world in which bad news is too often par for the course.

49-v 1,2

The God of Abraham
Leoni

Jewish Melody

265-v 1,4,5

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
Duke Street

John Hatton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

Contrary to an old myth in the church money is not dirty, sinful or impure. It is rather what we make of it, for example, in the church, it is a tool for ministry and symbolizes the giving of our time and talent. It is proper and appropriate to collect it and dedicate it as an essential part of the worship of God.

697-v 1,4,6

Take My Life
Hendon

H.A. César Malan

Statement of Faith – please stand if you are able

On Sundays when the sacraments (communion and baptism) are celebrated we say in unison selections from the Church's Confessions of Faith which may be distilled into one word: Love.

618-v 1,2,4 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Deo Gracias

Alfred V. Fedak

Sacrament—Communion/Baptism – please stand if able

A sacrament is an earthly sign of a heavenly truth. Bread and Wine, Water hold and convey deep truths of our spiritual journey. The latter being a supper that sustains our hearts in Christlike living, The former signifying both drowning/death to our sinful life and nourishment/life for our participation in the community of faith and God's eternal life.

409-v 1,2

God is Here!

Abbot's Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor

724/5-v 1,4

O Jesus I Have Promised

Angel's Story

Arthur Henry Mann

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer – following the sharing of joys and concerns

'Let go and let God' is a phrase that describes what prayer is—trusting the purposes, the will of God enough to cast all our cares on him for ourselves, our loved ones, the state of the world and condition of the planet.

15-v 1,5 All Creatures of Our God and King

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Ralph Vaughan Williams

22-1,4,5

God of the Sparrow

Roeder

Carl F. Schalk

385-v 2,4

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Old 100th

Louis Bourgeois

Sending – please stand if you are able

We go into the world to be ambassadors for Christ, agents of reconciliation to the love of God. To fulfill Isaiah's admonishment to Israel and Jesus' use of that admonishment to describe his own ministry, that is, to feed the hungry, release the captive, heal the sick and visit the lonely.

761-v 1,4 Called As Partners in Christ's Service
Beecher

John Zundel

Benediction – please stand if you are able

The final words of the service are a blessing and charge—to confirm what happened in the worship service to and for the church as the people (who are the church) go back into the world.

372-v 1,3,4

O for a World
Azmon

Carl Gotthelf Gläser

A-723910

Participating in Worship
The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director
Gregory White, Organist
Howard Henry, Liturgist
Grace Agbemenu & Sharon Melius, Greeter
, Live streamer

Next Week:

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathy Hallborg, Sharon Melius & Amy Maundrell, Greeter

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, August 31	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake
Monday, September 1	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, September 2	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, September 4	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, September 5	8:00 am	CBC-UPC Reps @ Charles Drew Magnet School
Saturday, September 5	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
	10:00 am	Choir
Sunday, September 7	<i>Rally Day!</i>	
	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship

From the Pastoral Nominating Committee

We invite you to join us in honoring Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty on his final Sunday with UPC, **September 7**. Following the worship service, we'll gather for a farewell luncheon to thank him for his faithful leadership and to wish him well on his next adventure.

The following Sunday, **September 14**, we joyfully welcome **Rev. Christine James** as she begins her ministry with us at UPC. Please stay after the service for a celebratory luncheon as we greet her with open hearts and warm hospitality.

Let's come together in gratitude and hope as we mark this meaningful transition in our church community.

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. Tom Yorty

Choral Director

Organist

Treasurer

Clerk of Session

Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator

Administrative Assistant

Facilities Manager

Custodian

Interim Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch

Gregory White

James W. Smyton

Pat Cookfair-Casseri

Kathryn F. Hallborg

Peg Kovach

Aaron Vivian

Roll Tomosso

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"