



**Sunday, August 24, 2025**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
**11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Mission Statement:** Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

**Core Values:** We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.

**Vision Statement:** We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

**(302) 658-5288 [UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com](mailto:UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com)**  
**2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805**  
**[www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)**

*We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:*

**The Rev. Brian K. Sanders, Lead Pastor**  
**443-676-2239; [bks0808@aol.com](mailto:bks0808@aol.com)**

**The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry**  
**[melissalemons@gmail.com](mailto:melissalemons@gmail.com); 302-803-8866**  
**Office hours: by appointment**

**Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director**  
**Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director**

**Vida Dawkins, Youth Ministry Director**  
**[vidadawkins@gmail.com](mailto:vidadawkins@gmail.com), 302-345-2617**

YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>

### ***“Enter to Worship”***

\*Those who are able are invited to stand \*\* **Please, no walking or standing during this time. BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader. Where you see a ✝, you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

## **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **PRAISE & WORSHIP**

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **Introduction**

**A:** Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

## **OPENING HYMN- “Oh I Woke Up This Morning”**

**TFF 166 Please Stand**

## Oh, I Woke Up This Morning



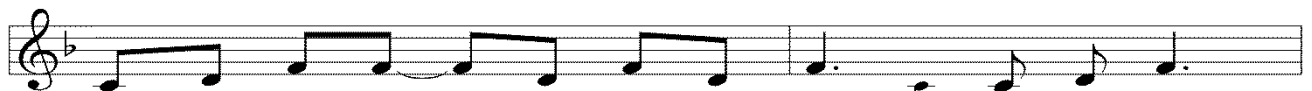
1 Oh, I woke up this morn - ing with my mind, and it was  
 2 Can't hate your neigh - bor in your mind, when you keep it  
 3 Makes you love ev - 'ry - bod - y with your mind, when you keep it  
 4 The dev - il can't catch you in your mind, when you keep it  
 5 Je - sus, the cap - tain in your mind, when you keep it



stayed, stayed on Je - sus, woke up this morn - ing with my  
 stayed, stayed on Je - sus, can't hate your neigh - bor in your  
 stayed, stayed on Je - sus, love ev - 'ry - bod - y with your  
 stayed, stayed on Je - sus, dev - il can't catch you in your  
 stayed, stayed on Je - sus, Je - sus, the cap - tain in your



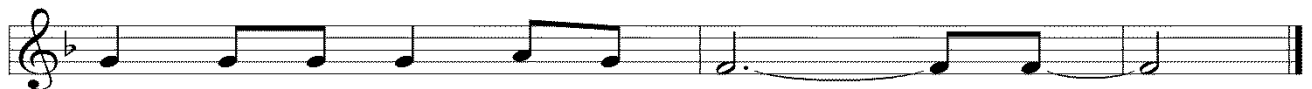
mind, and it was stayed, stayed on Je - sus,  
 mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Je - sus,  
 mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Je - sus,  
 mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Je - sus,  
 mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Je - sus,



woke up this morn - ing with my mind, and it was  
 can't hate your neigh - bor in your mind, when you keep it  
 love ev - 'ry - bod - y with your mind, when you keep it  
 dev - il can't catch you in your mind, when you keep it  
 Je - sus, the cap - tain in your mind, when you keep it



stayed, stayed on Je - sus, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le -



lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WOKE UP THIS MORNING, African American spiritual

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: O God, **mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD (Please be seated)

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29**

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of

the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup> This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please Stand)**

**P:** Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to: **Luke 13:10-17**

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

### **Gospel:**

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had

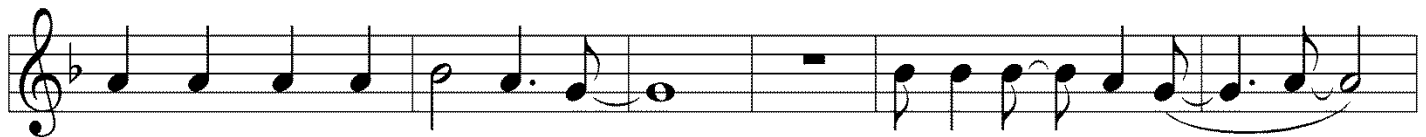
crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY- "Somebody Prayed for Me" TFF 246**

# Somebody Prayed for Me



1	Some-bod - y	prayed for me,	had me on their mind,
2	My moth - er	prayed for me,	had me on her mind,
3	My fa - ther	prayed for me,	had me on his mind,
4	The peo - ple	prayed for me,	had me on their mind,



took some time to pray for me.	I'm so glad they prayed,
took some time to pray for me.	I'm so glad she prayed,
took some time to pray for me.	I'm so glad he prayed,
took some time to pray for me.	I'm so glad they prayed,



I'm so glad they prayed,	I'm so glad they prayed for me.
I'm so glad she prayed,	I'm so glad she prayed for me.
I'm so glad he prayed,	I'm so glad he prayed for me.
I'm so glad they prayed,	I'm so glad they prayed for me.

Text: traditional

Music: SOMEBODY PRAYED, traditional

**SERMON**

**Pastor Brian Sanders**

**Notes...**



## APOSTLES CREED (Please Stand)

**C: 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 into hell.\* 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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, "he descended to the dead," another translation of this text in widespread use.  
From sundaysandseasons.com.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Please sit, stand or kneel)

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders (*leaders may be named*) as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness (*especially*). Manifest your

healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With (*Bartholomew and*) all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **PEACE**

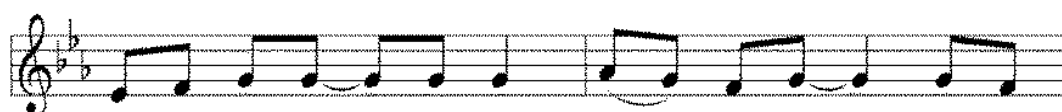
**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always

**C:** And also with you. Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

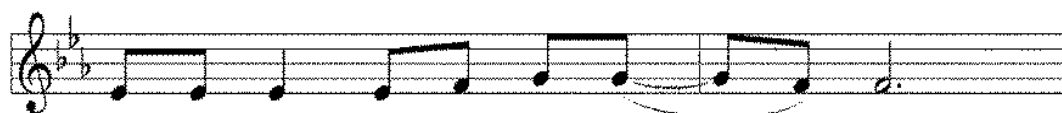
## **OFFERING**

(God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

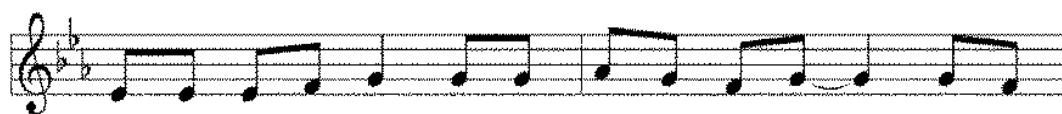
*(During the offering, the ushers will pass the offering plates moving from back to front while a musical selection is played. Then the congregation will sing the Offertory hymn printed below.)*



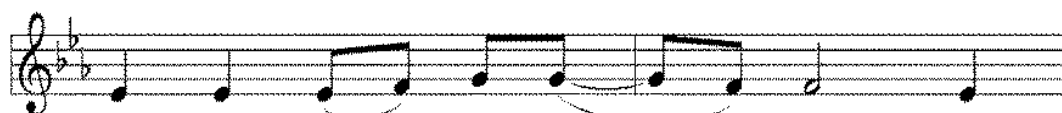
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



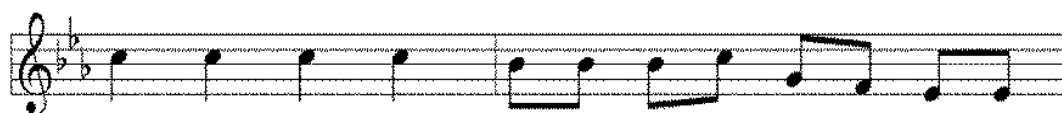
new a right spir - it with - in me.



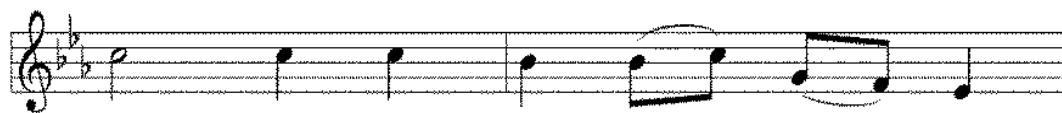
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



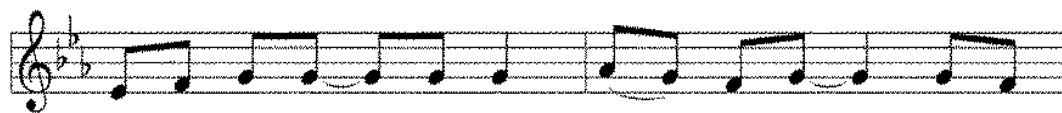
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



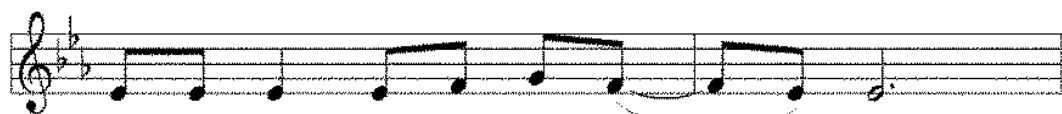
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



hold me with your free Spir - it.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: 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.

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. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask... **Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:  
(*Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39*)

**C:** 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

**P:** The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.



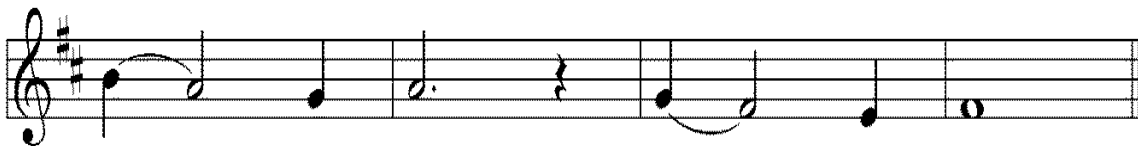
**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A & C:** Mothering God, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

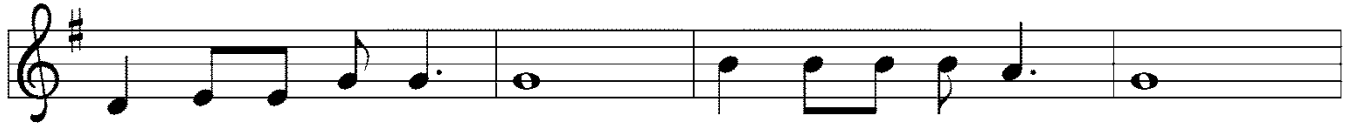
*God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

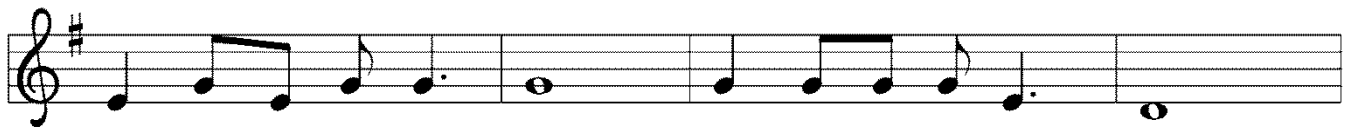
P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN– “This Little Light of Mine” TFF 65 Please Stand**

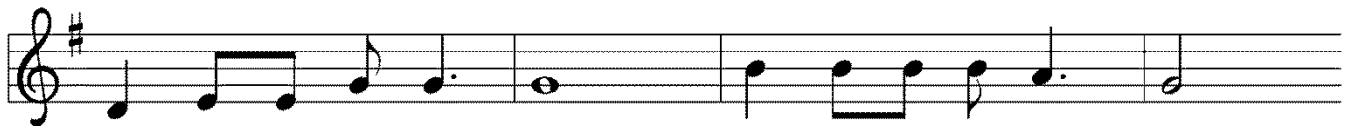
## This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

**“Let us exit to serve”**

*We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....*

**IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. NAMES WILL REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 3 MONTHS, UNLESS YOU REQUEST LONGER. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE to MAKE ADDITIONS – (302) 658-5288.**

**THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

**UNITY CHURCH  
DEBBIE SWAN  
NORMAN GARRETT  
TYLER ALEXANDER  
BILL ELLSWORTH  
REV. LORRAINE  
FAMILY OF CLANCY VEASSY  
DRANE JONES**

**PASTOR BRIAN SANDERS  
PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT  
SPENCER DRUMMOND  
CURTIS JACKSON  
NANCY ELLSWORTH  
RUTH JOE  
ROB FISHER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, Visitors**  
**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL VISITORS TO UNITY THIS MORNING.**  
**IT IS SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU AND PLEASE COME AGAIN.**

***THANK YOU*** to Ted & Etrula Wells for their generous donation of a TV for the Weiser Room.

**PLEASE NOTE** – On Sunday, September 7, 2025, our morning worship will begin at 10:00am. This is a trial basis for the next three months. We will evaluate after that.



**DIANE MAZZONI** – would love to hear from her friends at Unity Church. She is living in an assisted living facility in PA. Her new address is: 130 N. Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, PA 17078.

**RUSSELL CRAIG** – has taken a bad fall in his new location. He is in the hospital and would love to hear from all his friends at Unity. Russell was a long-time treasurer of Zion. His address is: 1940 West Turner Street, Apt. 306, Allentown, PA 18104.

**PUB THEOLOGY** – Through a generous donation, we will be able to resume Pub Theology on the third Sunday of each month. In September, we will meet on Sept. 21, in the Weiser Room, following morning worship, and lunch will be brought in for those attending.

**SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN** - We will be recognizing the children TODAY, for their job well done this past school year and sending blessings for the upcoming school year.

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY** – On Sunday, September 7, 2025, we will honor the memory of Bob Mazzoni with a contribution of \$150 to the Boy Scouts. There will be a picnic after worship. A signup sheet is at the back of the church for donations.

**BOOKBAG & SCHOOL SUPPLIES** – Thank you all for the generous donations. Kim Williams distributed everything!!

**DONATIONS OF SHOES** – are being collected by Joan Lygate for distribution by her granddaughter, Addison Ashworth who is an ambassador to Soles4Souls. We are hoping to collect 500 pair of shoes for people in need. To date, we have collected over 400 pair of shoes. Leave in the Narthex or call Joan Lygate @ (302)563-6464. Thank you!

**PRIVATE PRAYERS** – If you would like extra prayer time, you are welcome to stay at the altar after you have had communion.

**WEEKLY ZUMBA CLASSES** – We will suspend Weekly Zumba Classes for the summer and will resume in the fall.

**Praise and Worship Rehearsal:** every Sunday after church in the sanctuary.

**Dementia Caregiver Support Group:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30pm. Contact Rev. Brain Sanders for more info.

**Food Pantry:** Evening Hours – Every Thursday 5:00-7:00pm

**Prayer:** Anyone interested in 30 minutes of presenting prayer leads is invited to join our Prayer Line every Monday evening at 6:30-7:00 pm. Dial 1-240-591-0390, 315-704#.

**Volunteers needed:** Readers (lectors), Assisting Ministers (Worship leaders), Communion Assistants and Altar Guild. Please consider helping out in this capacity. Also, we need a volunteer liaison for the Boy Scouts to replace Bob Mazzoni. See Carol Egan for more info.

**Council Vacancies:** There are several open positions on Unity Church Council – volunteers needed to oversee Education, Hospitality, and Stewardship Committees; as well as anyone with accounting or bookkeeping skills to assist the Treasurer. See Rob Snowden or Pastor Sanders.

**Offering/Giving:** An alternative way to contribute to Unity is to set up VANCO on your mobile phone by texting (844)794-0738 and follow directions to donate by credit card. There is a “donate now” button on our Website which is [www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)

**Spiritual Direction/Companionship:** If you’d like to talk individually about your faith life and how God shows up for you, contact Pr. Melissa. Sessions are free for Unity members (normally \$50 per hour). Companions usually meet once a month.

**Bible Study has been suspended until the fall.** Please access Zoom as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUTo9>

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87206052414#.....0#,,717690# US (Wash, DC)

**Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414**

**Passcode: 717690**

