

LOOKING AHEAD

September 4	5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Soup Kitchen AA
September 9	8:15 – 9:15 am	Coffice Hour at The Hive
September 11	10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Worship All-Church Picnic Soup Kitchen AA

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace.**

The Deacon for August is **Diane Adams**. **Michele Procko** is your Greeter today. **Diane Adams** gave flowers for the altar in celebration of Karli's return!

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm, other times by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm



The United Church of Chester

An Open and Affirming Church

September 4, 2022



Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
September 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *Ville Du Havre (It is Well)* arr. C. Callahan

INTROIT *As We Gather* M. Fay and T. Coomes

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this Labor Day weekend, let our efforts be in union with God's all-inclusive love;

Let all our works be united to God's great Work of Creation, and may our work be perfected in it.

As a breath of fresh air fills us and then becomes part of the atmosphere,

So may our labors become the building blocks of God's work on earth.

And in the same way may those among whom we live and work also be drawn into God's embrace,

That we may understand how all of us work together for good. Amen.

*HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* 527

INVOCATION (The Rev. C. Arthur Bradley)
Diane Adams, Deacon

Hearten us, O God, with the knowledge that only half the road we travel is a lonely pilgrim road, and the other half has been traveled by seekers in every age. Allow us to hear the footsteps of those who have gone before, those who come after, and all those that accompany us. Before each turn in the road and each new doorway of experience make us unafraid, eager for tomorrow's joys and events, resourceful and flexible enough by your grace to turn the difficulties into opportunities and the obstacles into stepping stones. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 34.8-10

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them— that all should set free their Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one should hold another Judean in slavery. And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that all would set free their slaves, male or female, so that they would not be enslaved again; they obeyed and set them free.”

ANTHEM *Potter's Hand* D. Zschech

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philemon 1- 25

SERMON *“It's Complicated”* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

(Overlooked and Underpreached – VII)

“Perhaps this is the reason [Onesimus] was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but as more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.”

(Jeremiah 34.15-16)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (*“trespasses”*)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *Find Work* Rhina P. Espailat b.1932

*HYMN *Go Down, Moses* 497

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Come Share the Lord* v 1. B. Leech

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Go Down, Moses
(When Israel Was in Egypt's Land)

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go,

Refrain

*Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh,
to let my people go.*

Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, let my people go, if
not I'll smite your first-born dead, let my people go,

Refrain

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go, to lead
the Hebrew children through, let my people go,

Refrain

Then Miriam danced and sang her song, let my people go,
"Our God has triumphed over wrong!" let my people go,

Refrain

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go, and let
us all in Christ be free, let my people go,

Refrain