Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Pastor & Teacher
Every Member of the Congregation, Ministers
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Diane Adams, Deacon

PRELUDE — *A Highland Medley:* — I. MacLachlan
Loch Lomond (trad.), *Skye Boat Song* (trad.), *The Dark Isle*

INTROIT — *Rejoice in the Lord Always* — E. Tarner
Cheryl Archer, Paul Indorf soloists

CALL TO WORSHIP
May God look on us and know how much we strive to be a place of gracious hospitality and extravagant welcome, creating a space that is open to those in need and those new to our community.
Because no matter who we are, or where we are on life's journey, we insist all God's children can find a church home here.
We pray that our doors be open for both our family and our wider community, that all may find greater connection and wholeness.
We are committed to reaching out to those looking for a church home, so that they might know the love of God which we experience here.
So we strive to be a place where friends and neighbors, strangers and sojourner alike journey with us as vital traveling companions.
Together, may we be the people we know God has always wanted us to be. Amen.

* HYMN — *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* — 87
The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me: thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight, thy blessed grace bestoweth, and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

*INVOCATION (from Psalm 65; Kirk of Scotland, prayer for July 16 2023)

You formed the mountains by Your power and armed Yourself with mighty strength. You quieted the raging oceans with their pounding waves and silenced the shouting of the nations. Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, You inspire shouts of joy. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 2.15a-22

Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well. The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, 'How is it that you have come back so soon today?' They said, 'An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock.' He said to his daughters, 'Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to break bread.' Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said, 'I have been stranger living in a strange land.'

ANTHEM *On Eagle's Wings* M. Joncas

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS John 17.11-21

SERMON *"Trading Places"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

(**Five to Seven for Good Behavior – II**)

"I have been a stranger living in a strange land."
Exodus 2.22

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Just A Closer Walk With Thee* unknown

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *Red, Red Rose* (1794) Robert Burns (1759-1796)

*HYMN *Abide With Me* 487

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide! When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, it glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies; heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord abide with me.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name* E. Hopkins

LOOKING AHEAD

July 16	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	July 21	**8:15 am**	**No Coffice Hours**
July 18	8:30 am	Yoga	July 23	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
July 20	8:30 am	Yoga			

The Irish Dance Group will be meeting July 17th through July 21st from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

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 the month of July is **Diane Adams.** Our Greeter for today is **Peggy Phillips**. Flowers on the altar were provided by **Peggy Phillips.** Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Tobin** who has accepted the position of church treasurer and many thanks to **Bob Luther** who has been our treasurer for the past four years!

Closer to Free Fundraiser
On September 9th our parking lot will be used as a rest stop for the Closer to Free Fundraiser bicycle ride for Smilow Cancer Center. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the church office at 860 526-2697.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Alan is on vacation until 7/28/23

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