LOOKING AHEAD

August 14	**10:00 am**	**Deacon's Meeting**
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA
August 19	**8:15 am**	**Coffice hours at The Hive**
August 20	**11:00 am**	**Sally Ackerman Funeral Service**
August 21	**9:00 am**	**Worship**
	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	AA

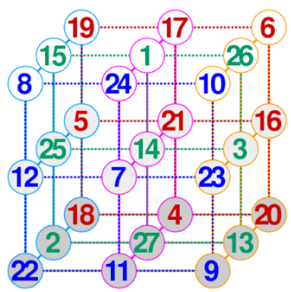
NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 **Michele Procko.** Flowers are given on the altar by **Cheryl Archer and Paul Indorf** in celebration of our Church Family. Our Greeters for today are **Pat and Rick Holloway**.

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

August 14, 2022

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
August 14, 2022 9:00 a.m.
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

PRELUDE *So Long and Thanks for All the Fish* B. Howerdel

INTROIT *God Is Here Today* (Mexican Gathering Song)
Sung by Pat and Rick Holloway, Cheryl Archer and Paul Indorf

CALL TO WORSHIP
Sometimes God calls us into ministry in difficult and unfamiliar places;
If God is calling, then we will follow.
Sometimes God asks us for things that seem too costly, too dear;
If God is asking, then we will say "Yes!"
Sometimes God expects us to rise to the challenge without being either called or asked.
If we are the people of God, we promise to serve reflexively and instinctively! Amen.

*HYMN *Lord, You Gave the Great Commission* 355

INVOCATION Michele Procko, Deacon
God of grace and glory, you have called us, generation after generation, through the loud rushing voice of your spirit, to be your people, faithful and courageous. As Jesus accepted and embraced his mission, so also we seek our mission and ministry through the inspiration of your spirit to join in Christ's transforming work. Today your spirit continues to move over and through and around creation: immerse us in your grace, mark us with your image, and fill us with the spirit that leads us to the example of Christ our Lord, by whom we bring every prayer; Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ezekiel 1.15-21
As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl; and the four had the same form, their construction being something like a wheel within a wheel. When they moved, they moved in any of the four directions without veering as they moved. Their rims were tall and awesome, for the rims of all four were full of eyes all round. When the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. When they moved, the others moved; when they stopped, the others stopped; and when they rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

ANTHEM *Ezekial Saw de Wheel* (spiritual)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Titus 2.11-15

SERMON *"The Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt
(**Overlooked and Underpreached – V**)
"As for the appearance of the [4] wheels and their construction…
being something like a wheel within a wheel."
(Ezekiel 1.16)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

POEM *Gaps in the Wall* Silvia Purdie,
Presbyterian Pastor and Poet, New Zealand

*HYMN *God of Life* 242

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Lord, You Give the Great Communion

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.
Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
Refrain

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward, asking that the world around us share your children's liberty.
Refrain

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive." Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give. May your care and mercy lead us to a just society.
Refrain

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
Refrain

God of Life

God of life, in Christ you lead us, guiding us along the way. In our past, through joys and sorrows, you have been our strength and stay. Keep us faithful, true disciples, in our learning and our praise, celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

God of words and Word Incarnate, words that challenge and embrace, grant us boldness in our speaking, while we know your loving grace. Give us words both clear and winsome, loving hearts and list'ning ears, celebrating past and present, consecrating future years.

God of music, psalms and anthems, help us sing your faith anew: melodies expanding worship, harmonies enriching, too. May our lives be hymns in action, tuned to Christ in note and rhyme, celebrating past and present, consecrating future time.

God of days and years and eons, still you call as in the past. Work undone demands our labor; justice yearns for peace at last. Yours the vision and the challenge; ours the mission and the praise. Celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.