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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
October 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Recit Tendre* — G. Corrette

CALL TO WORSHIP

At the dawn of a new week, we remember that each new day is a gift from God.
May we honor that gift with gladness and joy.
The God who raised Jesus Christ from death also raises us all into a new life daily.
And we thank God for the potential of each new day and each new life.
Praise be to God, Christ and the Spirit:
Our loving Creator, our blessed Redeemer, and our eternal Comfort and Hope; Amen.

*HYMN — *Great Is Your Faithfulness* — insert

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, worker of wonders, you have made this day for joy and gladness. Let the presence of Christ be among us this morning, opening the scriptures to us, and breaking open the truth in our midst. Set our hearts aflame, and open our eyes, that we may see in his life and example all that the prophets foretold, and recognize him in the faces of one another, as the Christ in us, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ecclesiastes 3.9-15

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to

everyone to be busy with. Everything is made suitable for its time; moreover a sense of past and future has been put into our minds, yet we cannot discern what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for us than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we live; moreover, it is God's gift that everyone should eat and drink and
take pleasure in all our toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

ANTHEM *"Here I Am, Lord"* D. Schutte arr. A. L. Page

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I Thessalonians 1.1-10 (p. 1077)

SERMON *"The Good Demons"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"Happiness [is] the exercise of vital powers along lines of excellence, in a life affording them scope."
(Aristotle)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY **-** *Sweet By and By* and *Shall We Gather at the River*
Words by S. Bennett, Music by J. Webster, setting by J. Raney

*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 *Wild Geese* Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

*HYMN *When We Are Living* 415

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends, in all your living, and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Der Kaffeeklatsch* Haydn

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 18	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Christmas Fair Mtg** Soup Kitchen	October 22	8:00 am **7:00 pm** 6:30 pm	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal** Scouts – Pack Mtg
October 19	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	October 23	**8:15 am**	**Coffice** hours at **The Villager**
October 20	8:00 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Chester Hose Co. using parking lot only	October 24	4:00 pm	Brian House Halloween Party
October 21	6:30 pm	Scouts	October 25	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Mtg.** Soup Kitchen

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 October is **Pat Holloway.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Peggy Phillips.** You were greeted this morning by **Peggy Phillips**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Elaine Gaudette** and **Bill Lostocco**.

Christmas Fair Meeting – Today

There will be a meeting today following the worship service for all who are interested in participating in the Christmas Fair. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860.399.7772 or Brenda Johnson at 860.526.2998.

Outside Work Day – Saturday, November 7th

Join the Trustees in cleaning up outside of the Church and the CE building from 8:30am to 11:30am. The Trustees and others have done some clean-up work already and it's time to pick up those pesky leaves. Rain date is November 14th.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm