

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

September 20, 2026—10AM



Touching the Wound

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

We are a Congregation that celebrates our LGBTQIA+ kindred

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor

Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

Marty Meyer, Music Director

Warren Cooper, Musician

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Barnby, arr. Berry

Pastoral Welcome

Webb Mealy

Announcements

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Beth Sayler

Invocation

Will O'Brien

***Call to Worship**

Will O' Brien

Leader: Creator God, you made us in love, you endowed us with your own Spirit. Today you draw us near to you in the fullness of our humanity.

People: Open our hearts to the truth of our belovedness.

Leader: Merciful God, you know our wounds, our fears, our broken places. Today you invite us to bring our full selves to you, in honesty and vulnerability.

People: Help us to know our deep need for your mercy and to embrace the fullness of your mercy.

Leader: Compassionate God, you hear our cries of suffering and despair. Today you summon us with an assurance that you know our struggles and you offer us healing.

People: Help us to trust in your presence and lean into your tender embrace.

Leader: Our God calls us into His presence. We gather this morning, knowing both our belovedness and our brokenness, carrying both our sufferings and our joys, bearing both our fears and our hopes.

All: We come in gratefulness, in joy, and in hope, open to how God's Spirit will move in us and stir up to greater love.

Let us worship God! Amen.

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

NCH 23 (1,2)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Webb Mealy

Psalm 69: 1-3, 6-18, 30-36 (NRSVUE).

1 Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

2 I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.

3 I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

6 Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me,
O Lord GOD of hosts;
do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me,
O God of Israel.

7 It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

8 I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

9 It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

10 When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became a byword to them.

12 I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.

At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help 14 rescue me

from sinking in the mire;

let me be delivered from my enemies

and from the deep waters.

15 Do not let the flood sweep over me

or the deep swallow me up

or the Pit close its mouth over me.

16 Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;

according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

17 Do not hide your face from your servant,

for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

18 Draw near to me; redeem me;

set me free because of my enemies.

30 I will praise the name of God with a song;

I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

31 This will please the LORD more than an ox

or a bull with horns and hoofs.

32 Let the oppressed see it and be glad;

you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

33 For the LORD hears the needy

and does not despise his own who are in bonds.

34 Let heaven and earth praise him,

the seas and everything that moves in them.

35 For God will save Zion

and rebuild the cities of Judah,

and his servants shall live there and possess it;

36 the children of his servants shall inherit it,

and those who love his name shall live in it.

***Passing the Peace** (*in a safe and sensitive manner*)

We Regather in Song:

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH 393 vs 1

Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life
Is like to that above.

Prayers of the People

Carol Swingle

Prayer leader: after a prayer: Lord in your mercy

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

***All:**

**Our Creator/Mother/Father/Spirit,
who is in Heaven,**

hallowed be your name.

Your Kin-dom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our faults, as we forgive the faults of others.

and deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kin-dom, power, and glory, forever. Amen.

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Rain Willover

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NRSVUE)

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from

us. 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, 9 persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, 10 always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. 11 For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us but life in you.

13 But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and therefore we also speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and will present us with you in his presence. 15 Indeed, everything is for your sake, so that grace, when it has extended to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

John 20:24-29 (NRSVUE)

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Sermon

Touching the Wound

Will O'Brien

Time of Silent Reflection

[In the silence after the sermon, we allow the sacred text and dialogue of the sermon to settle in our hearts, bones, bodies, and souls. We do this by opening our hearts and inviting God to settle the message we needed to hear.]

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

AAHH 471 (1,2)

*Prayer of Commitment

Leader: Loving and Gracious God, we have gathered in your presence this morning to know more deeply the mystery and miracle of your love.

People: We receive your gifts and open our lives to your transforming power.

Leader: You have invited us to know the truth which will set us free.

People: Free us from the illusion of invulnerability that keeps us from living our true humanity.

Leader: You have shared our struggles, our sufferings, and our wounds.

People: Give us the courage to touch our own wounds so as to better know the wounds of all people.

Leader: You have made known to us your boundless mercy and loving kindness.

People: Reveal to us the miracle of our common humanity, even as it shows itself in our shared pains and struggles.

Leader: You have revealed to us the way of discipleship – a way of healing, struggle, radical love, and true joy.

People: Instill in us a deeper commitment to lives of compassion, liberation, and Beloved Community.

Amen.

Offertory Music *My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me*

Gabriel (144 in AAHH)

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

If you prefer to give electronically, please use your cell phone camera to scan this QR code.



***Doxology** *(sung)*

**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.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

O God,
We share our offerings from our resources, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, in the days ahead, that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

***Canticle of the Turning** [insert]

*Benediction

(People gather in a circle up front to participate in the benediction)

Deep Peace

201

♩ = 44

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj7 D

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

E Bm7 Cmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D G

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

Em Bm7 Cmaj7 G Am7

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am7 Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you.____
 love, my love I give to you.____
 joy, my joy I give to you.____

Our worship has ended, and our service has just begun...

Please join us for fellowship in the Parlor.

THANK YOU to ALL helping with Worship Today:

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Webb Mealy, Rain Willover: Lay Reader(s)

Kang Chen, Rain Willover: Fellowship Hour

Susan Ward and Greg Sayler: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 9/27/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Bart Yost: Tech Support

: Lay Reader(s)

Ann Boohar, Kang Chen: Fellowship Hour

Linda Ardao and Webb Mealy: Counters

Church Office Hours This Week

	<u>Pastor Lynice</u>	<u>Administrator</u>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Day Off</i>	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	10-4	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	10-4	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	10-4	<i>Church House</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Day Off</i>	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Work from home</i>	---

UCCEG Worship & Events

9/22/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-in person or join via Zoom)

9/27/26: 10am-Worship

Save the Date:

9/29/26: 7pm: Worship Team (Zoom)

Prayer Requests

Please fill out a prayer request form (on the table in the Foyer) and place in the offering plate, email office@ucceastgoshen.org, or contact Carol Swingle for any updates or additions to our prayer list.

We pray for the following members and friends of UCCEG:



Cliff Keljikian, Anne Phinney, Ron Rising, Family of Jim Wilson, Cherri Murphy, Marquita Kinard, Bunny Watts, Jeff Fletcher and family, Roger Meacham, Joanie Youse, Rain Willover, Nancy Jane van Krieken (mom of Beth Anne Keates), Andy and Thea Mahard, Johari Jabir, Jane and Frank Resides, Barbara Booth and family, Rafael Barber, Debra Ann Leapheart and family, Lanning and Deanne Risher as they deal with serious health issues, Lester Allen (uncle of Bonnie Jackson and brother of Beverly Myles), Bonnie Jackson and family on the loss of her brother Roy Garlisch, Pete Speece, Annie Sherman, Claudia Morrow, Cathie Bonner (Carolyn Scherer's cousin), Lurch Hill, Jeanine Hiester, Lizzy Hinton, Jim Dormond, family and friends of Don Rising, Denise.

Announcements and Community Notices

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND COMFORT FOR THE RISING FAMILY:

Beloved long-time UCCEG member Don Rising passed away peacefully on September 9 with family gathered around him. Please pray for God's presence and support for Gloria and the rest of the family at this time of loss. Follow this link for the obituary and for details about the funeral which will be at Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester, PA 19382 (up the hill from UCCEG) on Monday October 5, 2026. The viewing and visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with services immediately following at 11:00 a.m.

<https://www.donohuefuneralhome.com/obituaries/donald-rising>
[Donald G. Rising Obituary Sep 9, 2026 - The Donohue Funeral Homes Inc.](https://www.donohuefuneralhome.com/obituaries/donald-rising)

THE CLEARING - SEPTEMBER 20TH

On Sunday, September 20, Pastor Lynice will be away facilitating **The Clearing: Black Queer and Trans Music and Healing Retreat** at Kirkridge

Retreat and Study Center. The 20 participants include **two Black queer people from West Chester’s historic East End—“Mud Row”—and one from Coatesville**, grounding the retreat in relationships here in Chester County. **Will O’Brien will serve as our guest preacher**. We are grateful to Will for bringing the Word and worshipping with us.

CAFÉ SCRIPT — ALL ARE WELCOME!

Café Script meets Tuesdays from 1–2 pm on Zoom as we continue our journey through the Gospel of **Mark, with Matthew, Luke, and John** still ahead. All are welcome — come as you are, whether you join regularly or drop in from time to time. Cafe Script is hybrid—taking place at the Church House and on Zoom. Carolyn sends the Zoom link out every week. We hope you will join us for this time of Scripture, reflection, and shared learning.

WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD (WCFC)

Thank you from WCFC: Thank you so much for your continued generosity to the West Chester Food Cupboard for the growing number of families who rely on us. Please put items in the bin in the foyer. No glass items please. If you care to give a monetary donation, please write a check payable to UCCEG with WCFC on the memo line or put cash in a church envelope, label it for WCFC, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you.

OUTREACH FOR SAFE HARBOR

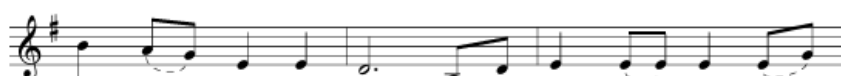
Thanks to all who contribute to this essential ministry of service to the houseless and those working towards a permanent housing situation. If you would like to learn about volunteering opportunities, please see Webb Mealy. Monetary donations will support purchase of special baskets/bins for refrigerated food storage. If you care to donate, please write a check payable to UCCEG with Safe Harbor on the memo line or put cash in a church envelope, label it for Safe Harbor, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, And the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952

Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular with refrain; Irish melody; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

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