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Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

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UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH

October 11, 2026

The Season of Ordinary Time

CELEBRATION OF NEW BEGINNINGS AS WE WORSHIP

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning after some time away, we're delighted you're here. Please stop at the back of the church after worship to receive a welcome packet and learn more about our church community.

* Please stand as you are able

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Josh Coram

We Offer Prayers and Praise

CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

A visible reminder of Christ's presence among us

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER FOR GOD'S SPIRIT

* HYMN

Praise to the Lord #88 vs 1, 2, 4

WE CONFESS AND GOD OFFERS FORGIVENESS

All: God of patience, you come to us again and again. You invite us into your presence of joy and celebration. And yet, too often, Loving God, we have too many other things to do and think about. Forgive us. You offer grace again and again- a free gift given in love. And yet, too often, loving God, we don't even notice. Forgive us, Lord. *Time of Silent Prayer*

Leader: Accept our prayers and create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

All: Do not cast us away from your presence or take our Holy Spirit from us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, Amen

GOD'S GRACE DECLARED

Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to you, O Christ!

God Comes to Us Through the Spirit

TIME FOR THE YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART

Song God Welcomes All # 32 2 times

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING *(remain seated)*

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing # 563 vs 1, 3

SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:1-14 *(Common English Bible)*

22 Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. 3 He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. 4 Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. 6 The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. 7 “The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire.

8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. 9 Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’ 10 “Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. 11 Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. 12 He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless.

13 Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’ 14 “Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

Luke 14:15-24 *(Common English Bible)*

15 When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus’ remarks, he said to Jesus, “Happy are those who will feast in God’s kingdom.” 16 Jesus replied, “A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. 17 When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, ‘Come! The dinner is now ready.’ 18 One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, ‘I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ 19 Another said, ‘I bought five teams of oxen, and I’m going to check on them. Please excuse me.’ 20 Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ 21 When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go quickly to the city’s streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.’ 22 The servant said, ‘Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.’ 23 The master said to the servant, ‘Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

MESSAGE Keep Your Fork

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwa

We Respond to God's Love with Our Lives

*** HYMN** Let Us Build a House # 36 vs 1, 2, 5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *ending with the Lord's Prayer*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

Josh Coram

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, ONE.

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

All: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness we have all that we have. May what we give be a reflection of our gratitude. Use us and what we have gathered to feed the world with your love through Jesus Christ, Amen

God Goes with Us into the World

*** CLOSING HYMN** Christ Be Our Light # 715 vs 1, 2, 5

*** CHARGE**

The goal of our lives together in Christ, as Christ's Body: Go now and share the love of Christ with each other and the world. Let us be unique and beautiful as we share the mind of Christ Jesus as *The Beloved Community*. Go be Light!

*** GOD'S LOVING BLESSING**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing # 812 v 2

POSTLUDE

Josh Coram

*** Please stand as you are able**

Please join us for refreshments across the street in the Church Center immediately following worship.

Serving Today

Lay Leader.....Lana Meissner
Greeter(s).....Stephens
Flowers.....Lana Meissner
Coffee Hour.....Jan Porter
Music.....Josh Coram
Usher.....John Meacham
Zoom Host.....Jim Ninos

NOTE Next Sunday : The Gathering- Brunch Worship

Anyone who would like to help with set up, come to the Church Center at 9:30 AM! And thanks in advance!

October Benevolence of the Month

The Allegany Senior Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote programs and develop resources to assist older, frail, or low-income seniors in the county. One of their core services is assisting with funding for Meals on Wheels through direct financial contributions and developing partnerships with merchants such as Shop and Save. They also coordinate and fund the Personal Emergency Response System which provides emergency short-term financial support for seniors. There are no paid staff, but dedicated volunteers who recognize the shortfall between government funding services (e.g. through the Allegany County Office for the Aging) and needs of seniors in our community.