

THE SPIRE

Summer 2025

We seek to be a Christian community by worshipping God through prayer, music, and the proclaimed Word. Following Christ's example, we enthusiastically reach out to everyone with compassion, respect, and love so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.

Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC

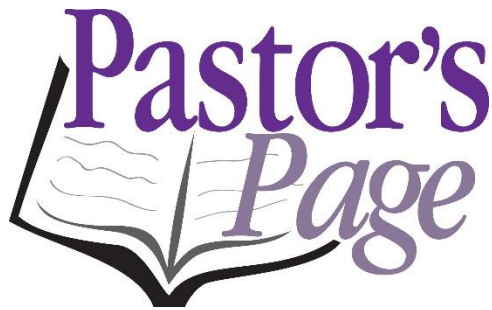
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An Open and Affirming Congregation

Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.



"This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it."
(Psalm 118:24)

Dear Friends,

As summer unfolds around us, I hope you and your loved ones are well and that you're finding time to breathe in the sunlight and enjoy the season's warmth.



Pentecost & Pride Highlights

So far, we've had a vibrant and meaningful summer together as a congregation. Kicking off June, **Pentecost** was one for the books: gathering around the campfire, with Whendi Cook Broderick leading us in classic camp songs, s'mores, and laughter. These are the moments that remind us what true community feels like.

Another highlight was welcoming **Reverend Katie Omberg** for **Pride Sunday**. Their message about belonging and the strength found in our

authentic selves struck a chord with many. Afterward, we held our very first **Pride Bazzar on the church lawn**: This inaugural event brought together local artisans, resource tables, and organizations championing and supporting LGBTQ+ folks and their families. The lawn buzzed with energy, conversation, and connection—a powerful statement of our commitment to **radical inclusion**.



Outdoor Worship & Baseball Sunday

Throughout the summer, we continued our tradition of **outdoor worship**. If you haven't made it out yet, consider this your gentle nudge—bring a lawn chair if you have one, but don't sweat it if you forget. We always set out extras. There's a different kind of reverence found in sunlight, fresh air, and the easy company of neighbors.

Another summer highlight was **Baseball Sunday**, a spirited gathering led by **Rev. Mary Perry**. Even though rainy weather moved us indoors, her energy and passion were undeterred. Baseball Sunday is proof that faith and fun can absolutely coexist, and that there's room on the field—and in our hearts—for everyone.



Farmer's Market

Meanwhile, the Farmer's Market is going strong! Be sure to stop by the

church every **Tuesday between 2pm-6pm** for fresh produce, vendors, jams, and more!



Personal Notes & Devotional Gatherings

On a personal note, I'm in the thick of writing my next book—a collection of devotionals. Recently, I finished a coaching program through Tehom Center Publishing. Soon, I'll be launching a series of devotional gatherings here at the church. We'll read, reflect, and grow together, and everyone who joins will be acknowledged in the book. More details are coming soon. Please be in touch with me if you are interested. I truly hope you'll be a part of this journey with me.



Upcoming Events

September 7, 10:00am: Blessing of the Animals—A ritual honoring the profound connections we share with our animal companions. All creatures, scaly or furry are welcome.

September 14, 10:00am: Welcome Sunday & Community Potluck—Join us for Welcome Sunday and bring a friend—these gatherings are a chance to reconnect, extend hospitality, and share in the richness of our community's spirit.

September 20, 5:00pm-7:30pm: Fairy Houses in the Garden—Wander through the garden, admire the creativity of our community, and cast

your vote for your favorite fairy house. **If you're inspired to build and display your own, sign up at this link. ** This whimsical event invites everyone to step into a world of imagination and wonder while connecting with others and the natural beauty around us. Be sure to invite a friend!

**

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Share Your Story

I'd love to hear from you—**what has been your favorite moment of summer so far?** Your stories and feedback help shape the life of our congregation. If you have a new idea for a ministry or project you'd like to take on, please get in touch with me at pastoruccmillis@gmail.com or call the church office.

Thank you for your **steadfast support, your questions, your laughter, and your willingness to show up for one another.** This community is what it is because of all of you.

Peace,
Rev. James



We have been fortunate to have had a few outside services this summer—hopefully more to occur!

The Deacons are responsible for the services when Rev. James is not here. For August, we have 2—Aug 17th and Aug 24th. We would still like a suggestion or two for the deacon-led Sunday in September. Please contact Kathy Stevens with any thoughts you have.

Would you believe Aug 31st is the middle of the Labor Day Weekend? And then we are planning Welcome Sunday! Rev. James has set Welcome Sunday for September 14th, so circle that day on your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors!

There is always room for your name on the deacons roster, if you are a member and if you feel so called. Thank you.

Thanks to Jan Krohn for the Blueberry squares on July 13th. Special thanks to Jen Payne and Artie for their help every Sunday with drinks and goodies. We always appreciate it

when someone supplies the treats—a sign-up sheet is on hand each week for you to help in that department.

Kathy Stevens
Katie Andrews
Arthur Payne
Keith Jefferson



Your Voice At The PRC

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) has new members and we are meeting with Rev. James. We plan to meet on a regular basis. Some of our primary goals are to support the relationship between Rev. James and the congregation and to foster communication with the community. We seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns.

We are striving to be one Body in Christ, Please remember, Rev. James truly welcomes your voice.

Suzi Sennott, Maria Melchionda,
Jo-Ellen Franklin-Briggs



The Church Office will be closed during the weeks of Aug 11th and Aug 18th when Pastor James, and our admin, take vacation. Emails to the Pastor, or the Church Email address will be met with an away message. If you have a pressing concern that needs to be addressed prior to their return, please leave a message on the Church Voicemail and a volunteer will check that mailbox regularly.

The Church Office will re-open for normal office hours on Friday Aug. 29th.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

We are looking to resume our monthly newsletter in September. If you have any articles for the September issue of the Spire, please email them to Laura **No Later Than Aug. 20th**! (Yes, you will get an automated away message, but I still need this deadline so I have time to compile the newsletter upon my return.)



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