



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

[www.icucc.org](http://www.icucc.org) • 248-628-1610

July 19, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.



**Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!**

**God is Still-Speaking,**

**Immanuel Open and Affirming Statement:**

We welcome and affirm all people in celebrating diversity. We welcome to our faith family people of every race, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and those who have doubts or questions.

**Thank You for taking the time to turn off your cell phone during the worship service.**

Prelude

\*Bringing in the Light of Christ

(\* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Special Music

Children Message

Jeff Erno

Pastor Liz Wilson

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

**\*Call to Worship**

One: God knows us better than we know ourselves

**Many: Even in the darkest places, the light of God's love is there**

One: There is nowhere we can flee from God's presence

**Many: In the heavens and in the depths, the Holy One abides with us**

One: We are God's children, serving the Lord from generation to generation

**Many: God is the one who keeps promises and who provides for us wherever we go**

One: How awesome is this place!

**Many: This is God's house and the gateway to the heavens.**

Invocation

Holy God, source of our dreams, we seek to find deep renewal in our faithful worship and reflection. We seek to remember our connection with you, as generations before us and generations to come. Come into this space and enliven our hearts, that we may feel your creative spirit guiding us into the next steps of where we should go to bring people into a genuine community. Amen.

Jeff Erno

**\*Hymn: "How Can I Say Thanks?"**

Insert front & back

Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

God searches and knows you. God is familiar with all your ways. God loves you as a precious child, making you co-heirs of glory and the multi-generational promises that free us from frustration and fill us with hope. Peace and hope are yours in the name of Christ. Amen.

GOD

14

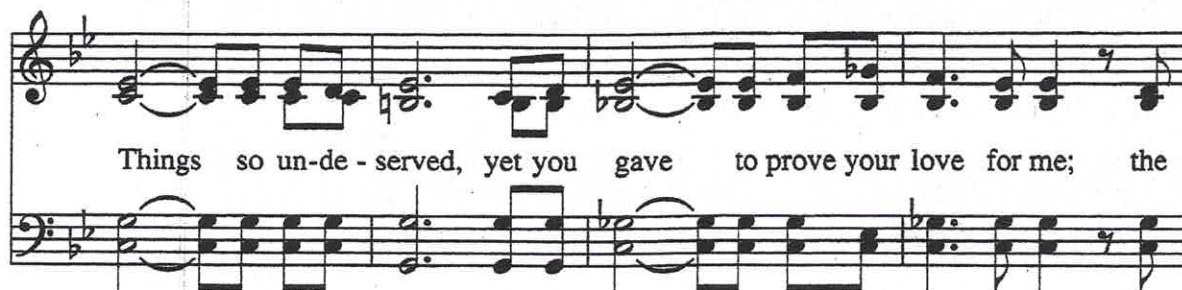
Ps. 115:1

# How Can I Say Thanks

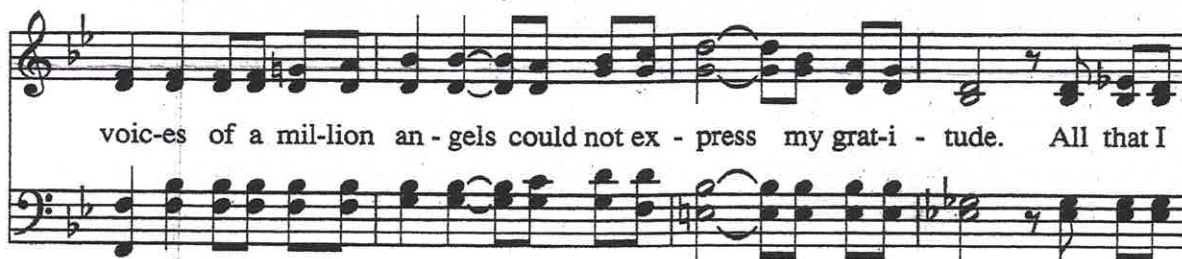
Andraé Crouch, 1971; alt.



How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?



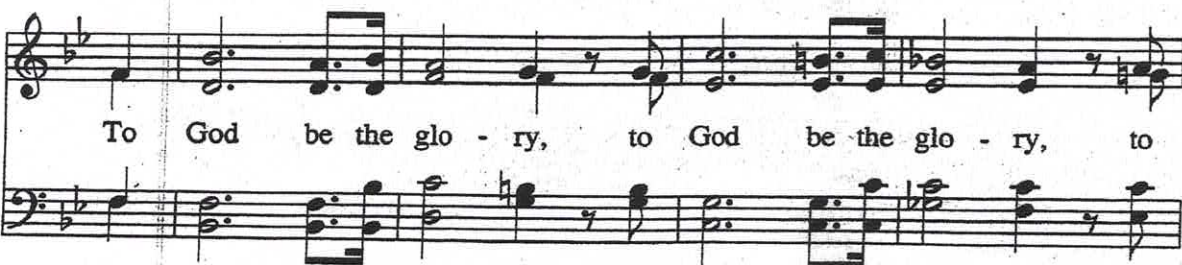
Things so un-de - served, yet you gave to prove your love for me; the



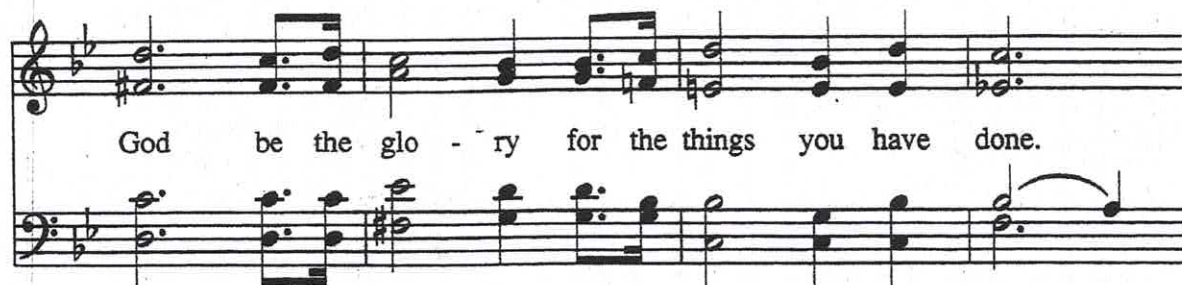
voic-es of a mil-lion an - gels could not ex - press my grat-i - tude. All that I



am, and ev - er hope to be; I owe it all to you.

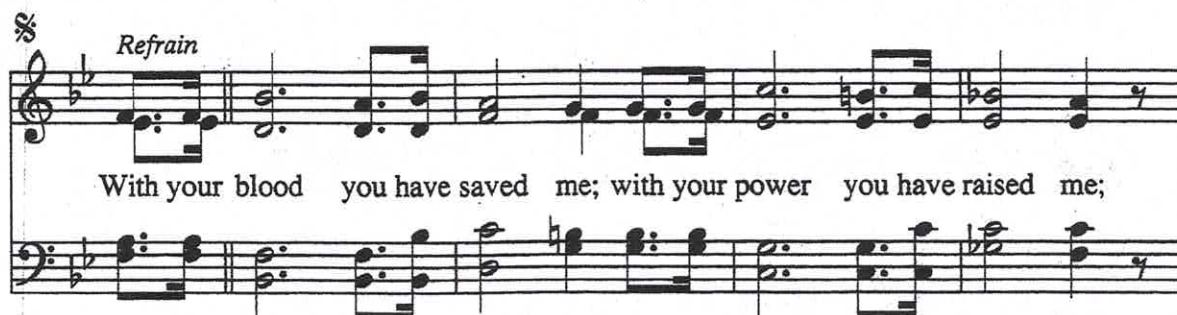


To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry, to



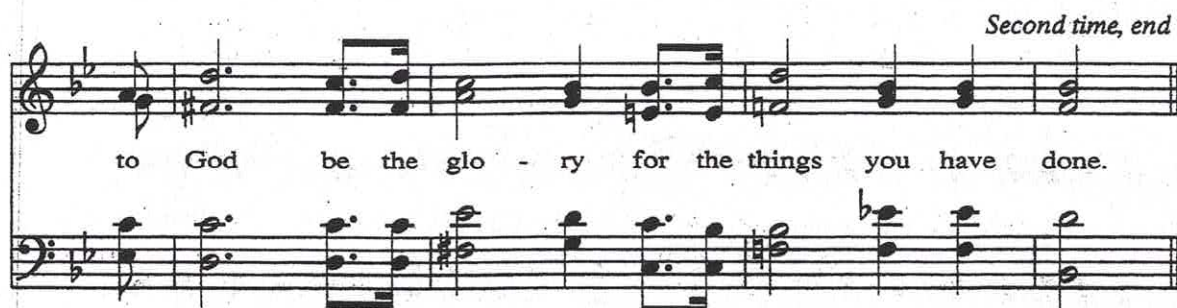
God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.

§ *Refrain*

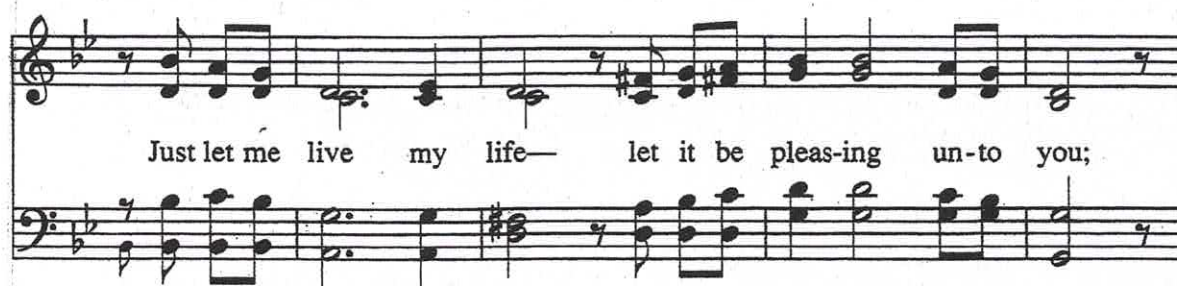


With your blood you have saved me; with your power you have raised me;

*Second time, end*

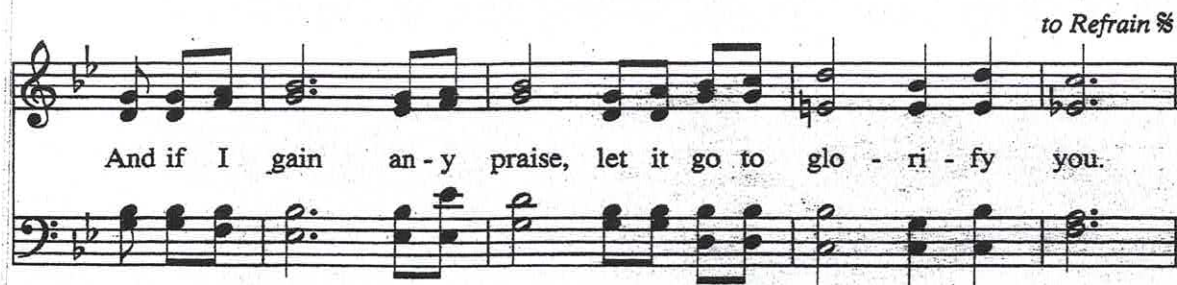


to God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.



Just let me live my life— let it be pleas-ing un-to you;

*to Refrain §*



And if I gain an - y praise, let it go to glo - ri - fy you.

*Andraé Crouch, the son of a bishop in the Church of God in Christ, belongs to the contemporary gospel era. Beginning in 1969 this new gospel music was made to "rock" with the help of electronic instrumentation.*

Tune: MY TRIBUTE Irr. with refrain  
Andraé Crouch, 1971

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

**Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers."** (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

**The Lord's Prayer:** (use words most comfortable for you)

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 28:10-18

Romans 8:12-28

Matthew 13:24-30

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

Page 25 Old Testament

Page 158 New Testament

Page 14 New Testament

Sermon: "God Has a Plan, and It Is Good"

Jeff Erno

**\*Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"**

Page 3

Stewardship Message

Announcements

*(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)*

Offering:

Offertory

**\*Doxology:** (The tune is found on page 356 of your red hymnal.)

**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...**

**PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW...**

**PRAISE GOD, ABOVE, YOU HEAVENLY HOST...**

**CREATOR, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST...AMEN.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Jeff Erno

Holy Harvester, you have been planting seeds of blessing and provision for thousands of years. In gratitude for all you have done, we give you thanks and praise. For the work you have called us to accomplish in this season, we give our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. For the harvest yet to come, we pray for your direction and protection that all we contribute may bring forth your fruitful bounty in the field of your heavenly dream. Amen

**\*Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"**

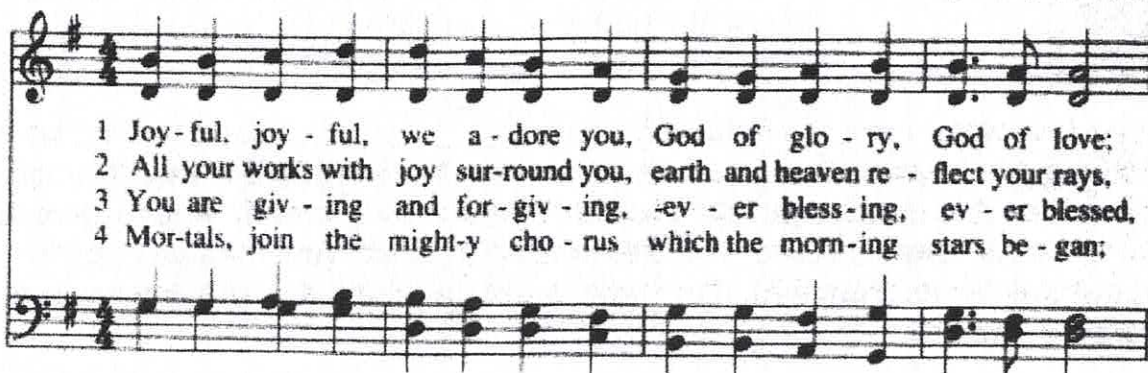
Page 4

**\*The Light of Christ goes into the world**

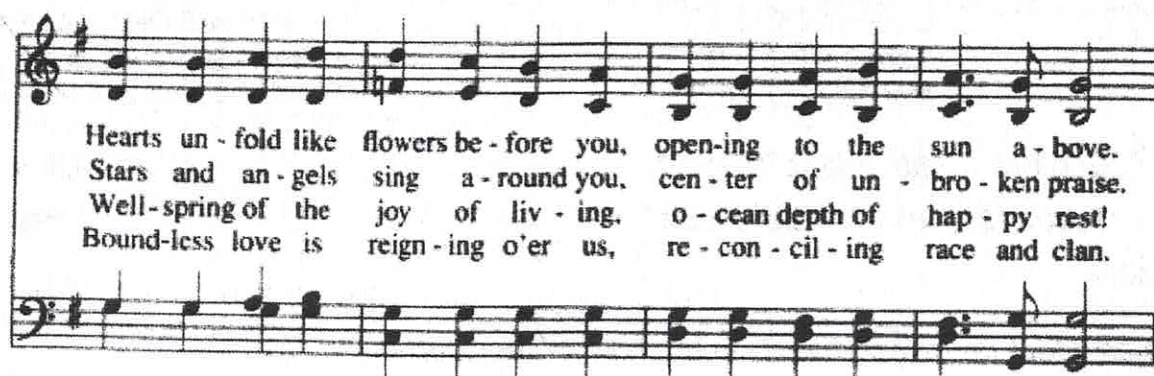
## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



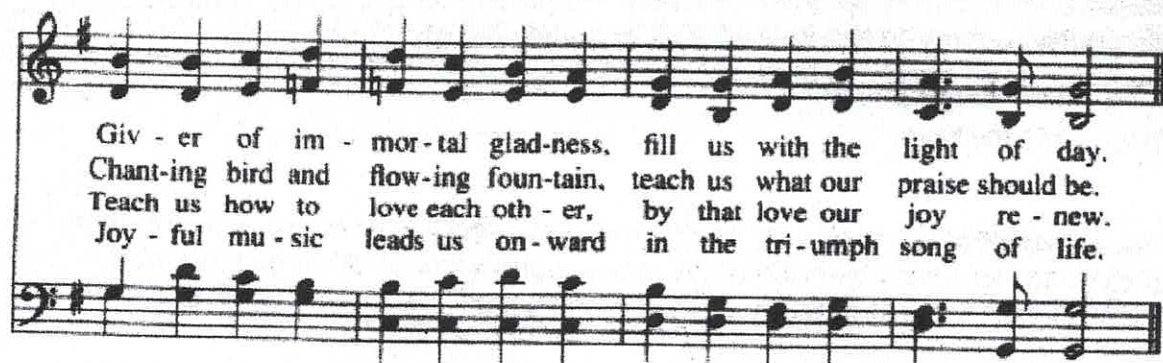
1 Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, -ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,  
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;  
 Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.  
 Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.  
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

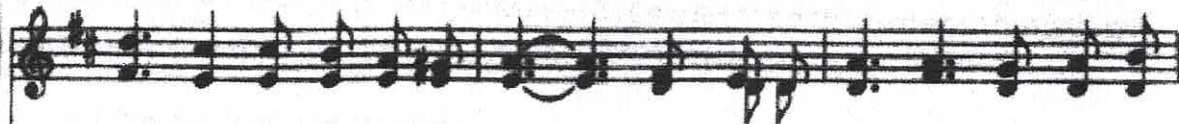
Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller.

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.



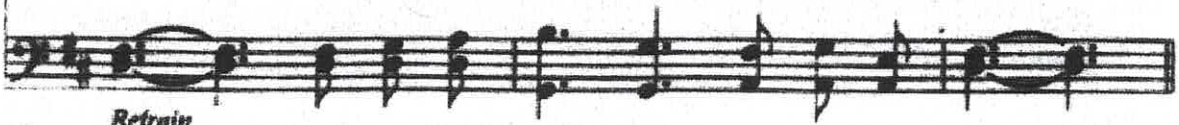
1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.  
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.



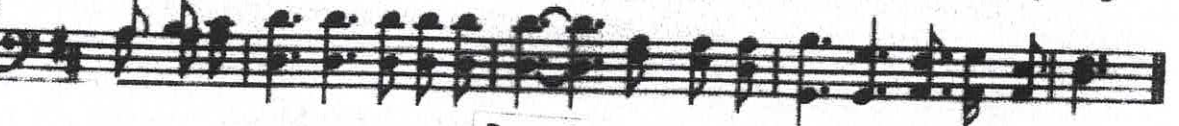
Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 55 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.

From The New Century Hymnal,  
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Tune: ASSURANCE, 1st.  
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

\*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: Grow strong, taking in the living waters of love

**Many: We grow deeply, being grounded and rooted in faith**

One: Grow to new, heights of love and mercy

**Many: Striving to move always toward the mercy, justice and truth of God's dream**

One: Go from this place in a growth mindset

**Many: May we light up the world with the illuminating grace of God's presence.**

**ALL: AMEN**

**Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.**

Grace for fellowship hour

Jeff Erno

\*Postlude

*We scatter to serve*\*\*\*\*\*

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### **Join together for refreshments in Fellowship**

#### **In Worship and Service Today**

**Sermon:** Jeff Erno

**Liturgist:** Dave Noffert

**Children's Message:** Pastor Liz Wilson

**Choir Director:** Ken Martin

**Accompanist:** Ann McKinley

**Our Tech team:** Tammy & Ken Martin

**Floral Arrangements:** A gift created by Amy Wilson

**Ministers:** All the Immanuel Church faith community

**Sunday School:** Amy Wilson, Liz Wilson, Susanne Waldrep

#### **Church Officers & Staff**

**Moderator:** Ken Martin

**Vice Moderator:** TBA

**Treasurer:** Art Nagasaki

**Council Secretary:** Susanne Waldrep

**Clerk:** Susanne Waldrep

**Church Secretary:** Sue Molczyk

**Building & Grounds Team Leader:** TBA

## **Calendar at a Glance**

### **Weekly Events**

**11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship & Fellowship**

**5:30 p.m. Community Meal every Tuesday**

**5:00 p.m. Wednesday Free Meals**

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday Choir practice (last practice until Sept.)**

**6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting**

**4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group**

### **Sunday, July 19**

**9:30 a.m. Book Study**

### **Sunday, August 3**

**7:00 p.m. Council Meeting**

### **Sunday, August 16**

### **Scriptures at Scriptor Park**

Service, Baptism, and potluck picnic (bring a dish to pass & your chair)

- **Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at [www.icucc.org](http://www.icucc.org)**
- **Please join us for Sunday Service via Virtual Worship. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordimmanuelucc> You do not have to join facebook, it will ask if you want to join. If not click no and it will still get you to the service.**
- **Treasurer's Note:** Our offerings for July 5 was \$2,065. We need to collect \$1,675 each week to fund our approved budget. **Remember to honor your pledge commitments and tithes, especially when you miss any Sundays!** Art Nagasaki, Treasurer
- **REMINDER** to bring in flexible plastic Kroger packaging for recycling. Call Peggy with questions. The sock program has been discontinued.
- Please continue to collect and donate your pop can tabs. There's a container in Fellowship Hall. Pop can tabs help support the Ronald McDonald Houses where parents can stay when their child is hospitalized. Tammy will be sending our donation later in May to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor.
- Knitters, crocheters and crafters: If you need yarn for projects, we have a wide variety of colors and types in our craft room downstairs. Just let Tammy or Ken know
- "What Is the Bible?" book study, Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in church lounge, every Sunday through July 19.
- Please remember to sign the black attendance book at the end of each pew.
- Our annual "Scripture at Scriptor" summer picnic is coming up in August. We will be having a baptismal service after the picnic. If you are interested in being baptized or re-professing your faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak to Pastor Jeff.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of July:**

### **Birthdays**

July 3: Connie Habermehl

July 3: Justin Willcock

July 7: Garrett Wilson

July 15: Aaron Douglas

July 19: Terry Sutton

July 29: Mary Beth Wiechert

July 30: Art Nagasaki

July 19, 2026

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## Wheat and Weeds Together

Wheat and weeds growing together! Yikes! This is a disaster! What are we to do?

So would have been the reaction of farmers when discovering weeds swaying in the wind alongside their cash crop of wheat.

Jesus knew the two together was not a good thing. He also knew that this was a perfect illustration to pose a more pressing question: How to deal with the good and evil mingling in the world?

And so, our Savior and Friend tells the parable about the wheat and weeds, pointing out that there's no way to prevent the "weeds" in life from coming into our fields. But be of good cheer. In God's time, the weeds will be separated and burned. Of course, Jesus is speaking of the time of judgement.

As it was with the actual weeds in the field, we must wait and let them grow, for if they are ripped out too early, precious wheat stalks might be taken as well. How many innocents have been hurt by our own exuberant weeding?

Jesus' parable makes better sense when we turn to the earlier use of the word "tares" rather the contemporary use of "weeds." Tares are referring to darnel which is a poisonous weed that looks just like wheat.

This agricultural insight gave me pause, and the more I thought on it, the more I kept coming back to how quick we are to judge others before discerning their true motives or seeing deeply into their hearts. It seems increasingly that we label others as evil, wicked, no good, etc. Yet could it be that those we are labeling too quickly really are the wheat in the field?

I'm not saying that there isn't evil mingling with good in our world. Evil does a good job mimicking good. We need to be able to call it out when identified. But in a world so raw with distrust, we also need to stop before we speak and think before we label.

We also need to be aware of the wheat and tares in our own spiritual fields. St. Catherine of Siena, for example, heard this parable as one pointing to the presence of virtue and vice in her own heart.

There is a field of wheat and weeds in all our lives. And while we try our best to nurture the good and weed out the bad, it is not always easy to discern which is which. But God knows and God will step in and sort it out. Not sure how I wanted that to sound — hopeful or ominous? I guess it all depends how you, my dear reader, heard it.

*All-knowing God, You are aware of the good grain we are growing as well as the weeds of division and contempt that are thriving. We want only our best selves to flourish, so be merciful to us when You sort out our own fields. May Your grace be abundant as it is amazing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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