



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

August 2, 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.)*

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor Jeff Erno

Special Music

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

One: My people are hungry

Many: There are too many to feed

One: Give them something to eat

Many: We have only five loaves and two fish.

One: You have everything you need

Many: It would take a miracle

One: With God, all things are possible.

Many: In Christ, new hope has dawned

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Erno

Even when our faith falters, O Lord, we will not let you go. Even though we are battered and bruised, O God, we will not let you go. Even when our bellies are empty, we know your presence will satisfy us. We need your blessing, O God, and we will not let you go. Amen.

***Hymn: "When Peace, Like a River"**

Page 2

Prayer of Confession:

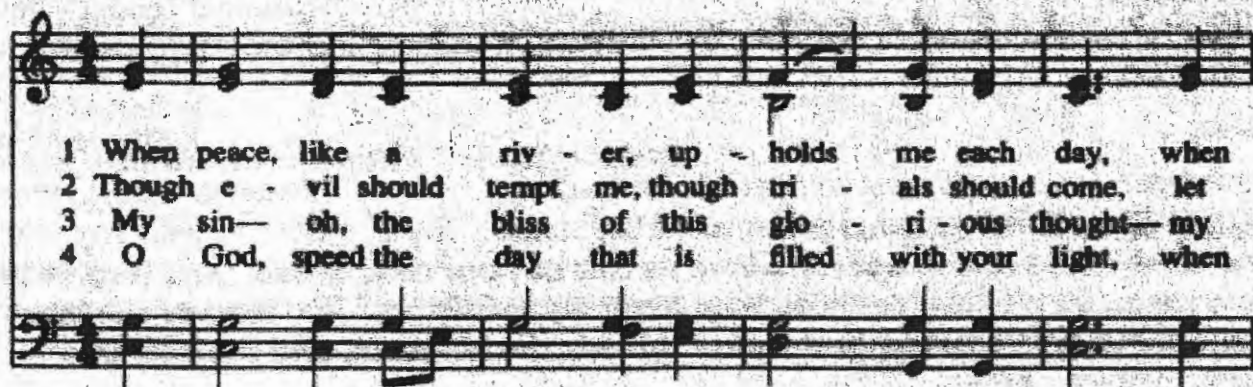
God of mystery and power, you call us home amid our fear and doubt. When we are hungry and weary, we yearn to be filled and revived. When our faith wavers, we long to forsake our clever schemes and find shelter in your ways. When faced with those in need, we dream of doing the impossible for you are with us and work through us. Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others. Amen

When Peace, Like a River

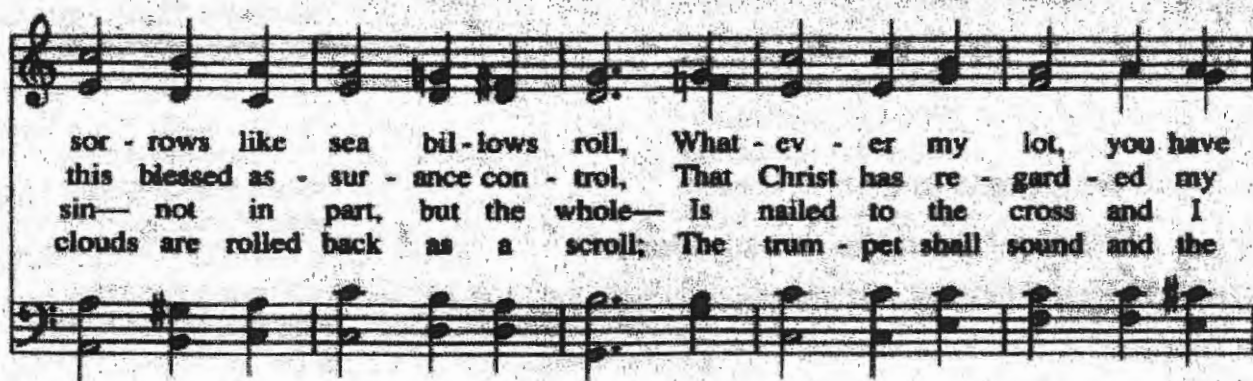
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

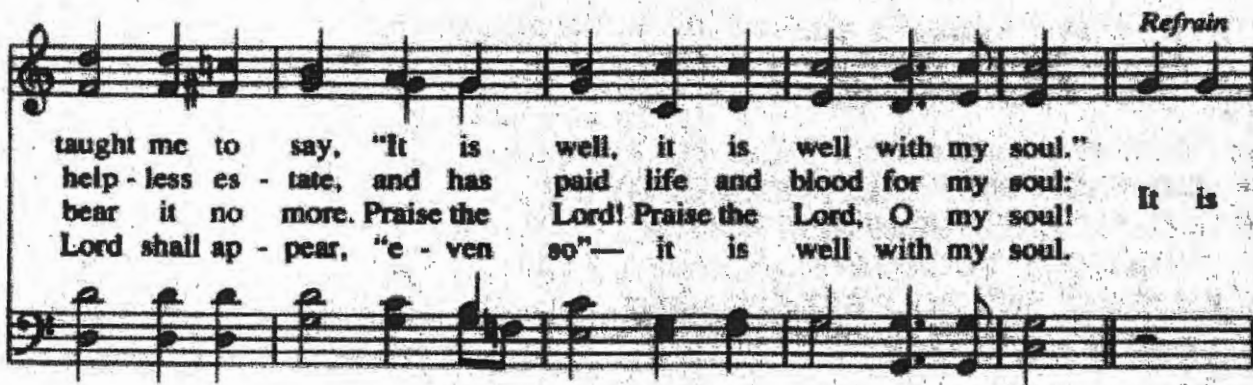
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

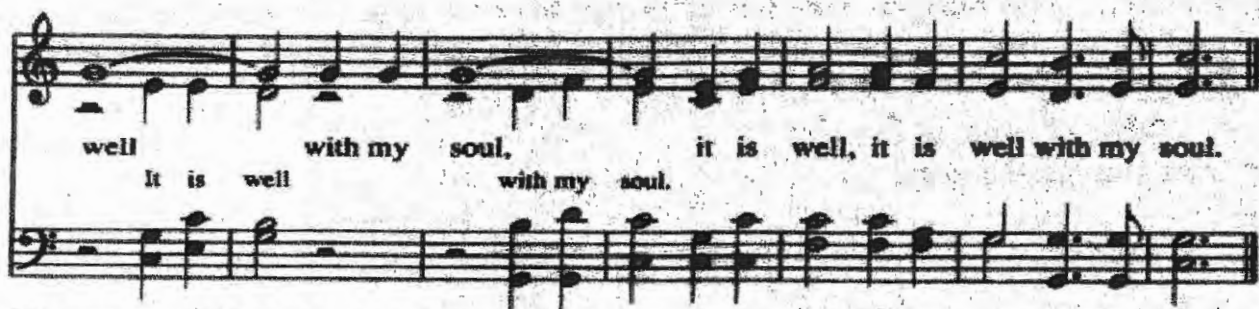


sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife sailed in *Lauterbach*.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jeff Erno

Awaken to the good news of God's love. In Christ, we find strength for the journey and are fed by God's gracious hand.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Jeff Erno

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

Roxanne Todd, 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 32:22-31

1 Peter 5:6-11

Philippians 4:4-7

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

Page 30 Old Testament

Page 235 New Testament

Page 198 New Testament

Sermon: "Wrestling With God"

Pastor Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

Page 4

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (Led by Pastor Liz Wilson)

Insert

Stewardship Message

Announcements

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

Offering:

Offertory "The Rainbow Connection"

***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

Pastor Jeff Erno

Source of Compassion, all you have given us is yours. May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger. May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid. Help us share our abundance with those in want, that the world may be fed and made whole again. AMEN

*Hymn: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Page 5

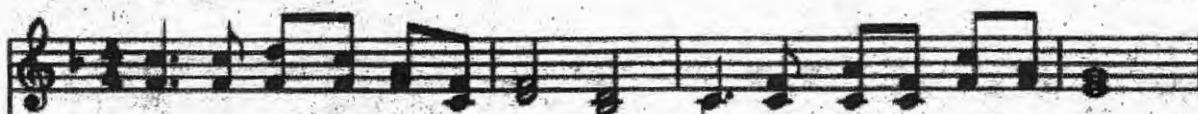
*The Light of Christ goes into the world

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

Phil. 4:6-7



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.



No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Page 4

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.
Charles C. Converse, 1868

HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME

We invite all who worship with us to partake of Holy Communion. As Christ welcomed all, we too welcome all, regardless of church membership or affiliation, regardless of where all are in life's journey.

INVITATION

One: Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all. Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams. Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Celebrate God's love!

Many: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

One: We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace! We celebrate the creative presence that called forth this glorious earth and the heavens above.

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Even when faced with impending death, Christ gave thanks and blessed the fruit of your good earth, offering not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation.

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. Approach in single file down the center aisle. After all have received the elements, we will partake together. Let us partake of the bread. Let us partake of the cup.

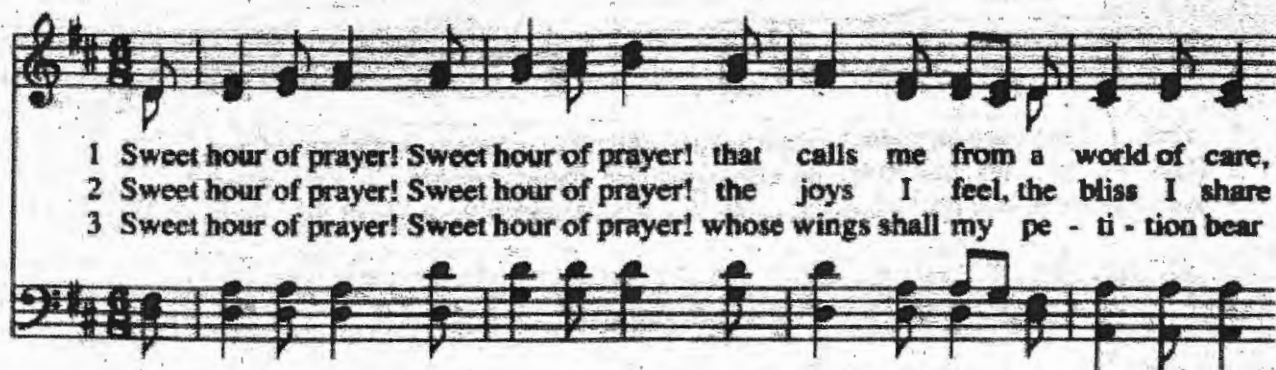
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might be disciples of your love and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that your life and love might flow through us.

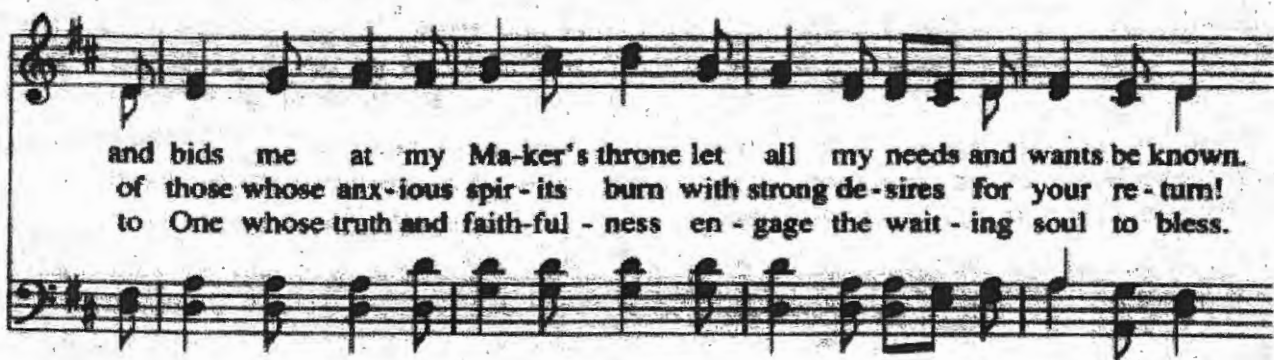
ALL: Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now called to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

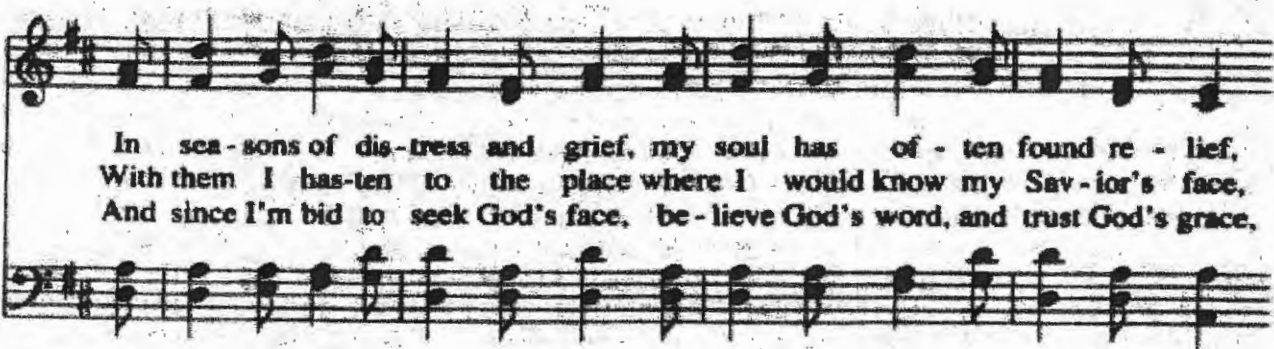
William Walford, 1845; alt.



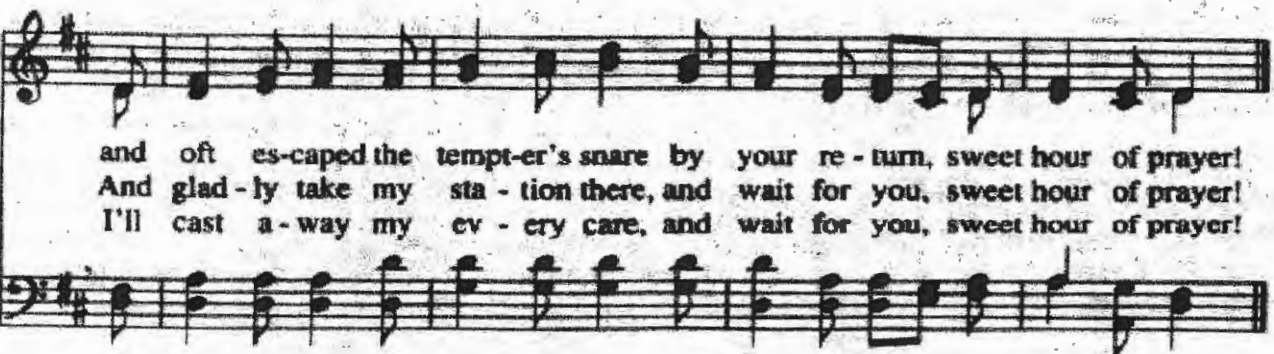
1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known,
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful-ness en-gage the wait-ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of-ten found re-lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re-turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad-ly take my sta-tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a-way my ev-ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Although credited to a different poet when first published in 1845, researchers believe this hymn was written by William Walford. William Bradbury, a highly trained musician, sang under Lowell Mason in Boston and also wrote "Jesus Love Me."

Tune: SWEET HOUR L.M.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1861

*Benediction:

Pastor Jeff Erno

One: Go with the One who brings us through the wilderness into a land flowing with milk and honey

Many: We go with the blessings of God, who greets us face to face.

One: Go with the One who heals our wounds and makes us whole.

Many: We go with the blessings of God, who bathes us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Pastor Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Pastor Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Roxanne Todd

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 (restart in Sept.)

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

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

Monday, 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)

Sunday, September 20

1:00 p.m. Historical Marker Dedication

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of August

Birthdays

August 2: Joe Tubbs

August 9: Liz Wilson

August 11: Marsha Chapman

August 22: Sarah Apigian

August 25: Jim Makedonsky

Anniversaries

August 7: Julianne & Terry Sutton

August 15: Holly & Mike Graves

August 25: Janet & Doug Caporale

- **Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at 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 19 was \$1,660 and July 26 TBA. 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
- 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.

August 2, 2026

Matthew 14:13-21

Face to Face

Carrie Breck had her hands full tending to five children while making meals, washing laundry, and knitting socks for those many little feet. And yet the young homemaker, born in 1855, found the time to write poetry — lyrical words inspired by her praises to God that were always on the tip of her tongue.

It is said that many times she wondered, while busily doing chores, what it would be like to see Christ. So, with the words from 1 Corinthians 13 on her heart that spoke of seeing through a dark glass now but then seeing the heavenly promise clearly — face to face — she began writing.

Her poem would later become the beloved hymn, "Face to Face with Christ My Savior," which was first sung in 1899.

Only faintly now I see him | With the darkened veil between | But a blessed day is coming | When his glory shall be seen.

Five thousand people once had a blessed day that came to them unexpectedly. They gathered on the mountainside hungering to hear Jesus' beautiful words of life — and found themselves soon hungering for something to silent their growling bellies.

Jesus' friends were quick to suggest sending them away to get their dinners in the surrounding villages. Jesus wouldn't have that. He told his friends to give the crowd something to eat. I could only imagine the shock on their faces as they just didn't know how they would feed such masses.

When told there was nothing but five loaves of bread and two fish on hand, Jesus had them bring the measly offering to him. It was then he blessed and broke the loaves and had the food distributed. Everyone had their fill and still there was enough leftover bread to overflow 12 baskets.

There will be a day when we will all come face to face with Christ our Savior. A day when all his glory shall be seen. But until then, we need to keep alert to the glimpses of glory that shine now in the dark. We need to train our eyes to see the God moments. We need to actively seek those God moments, for they are everywhere. Miracles still abound. There is always a measly loaf of bread in our lives waiting to bless, break and share.

Dazzling God, we know that while now we see dimly in a mirror, we will come face to face with You and all Your glory. Help us this day to live into the God moments, expecting miracles where they are least expected. May we go about our busy lives always with Your promise of provision in our hearts. 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