

Community of Christ Lutheran Church Fourth Sunday after Pentecost July 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Stephen C. Bond

THE GATHERING



Welcome Musical Prelude

"What Is The World Like"

Pastor Steve Bond

Eric Dickey

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.* 

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.

Hymn Sing "One Hymn Chosen by the Congregation"

#### Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** And also with you.

Hymn Sing "Two-Three Hymns Chosen by the Congregation"

#### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

### **Childrens Sermon**

# THE READINGS

# The First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

<sup>10</sup> Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her-<sup>11</sup> that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. <sup>12</sup> For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. <sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child. so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

# The Second Reading: Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16

[<sup>1</sup> My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup> For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup> It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup> As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!



#### The Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 P The Holy Gospel according to....C Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;

<sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'"

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

<sup>17</sup> The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup> See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

P The Gospel of the Lord! C Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon "Without a Diagram" Pastor Stephen Bond Hymn "What Is The World Like?" ACS 1047 What the world like when God's will 1 is is 2 What is the world like when God's will is What the like God's is 3 is world when will God's What the world like when will is 4 is 5 These the ries that Je im are sto sus done? Mus seeds tard grow more than done? Wit ness the wan der ing done? No is neigh bor just more done? Read for feast ing. we у with parts, filled the Spir it who can ceive: roots thread the we con child com ing home: watch as the al ly friend: thrives or peace in watch through night, tend the ing our Born through joins us one. as our



#### The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

**P** Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

#### A brief silence.

**AM** You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace and strengthen our faith by the example of all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

**AM** All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

**AM** You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

AM As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain; Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Lisa Boltz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Staci, Martina Benton, Amy Meagher, Brenda, Kian Schumaker, Lynne Lark, Danny Romick, Graham Schwartz, Nancy Meyer, Stephen Bond, Gene Heising, Tom Druschel, Ruby Ruthford, Riley Raitz .... and all that we remember in silence. Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace, hear our prayer.

**AM** Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

**AM** You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

**P** Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.** 

#### THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A "gluten-free" host option is available upon request as well.

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!** *Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.* 

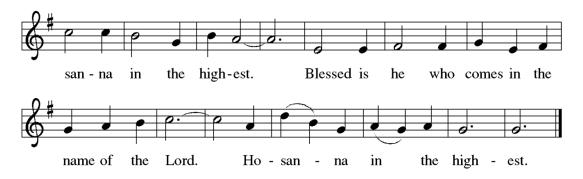
The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

**Our Tithes and Offerings** *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.* 

#### **Offering Prayer**

**AM** Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.** 



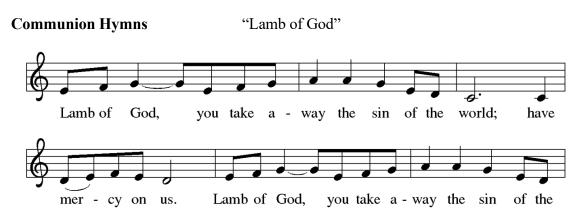


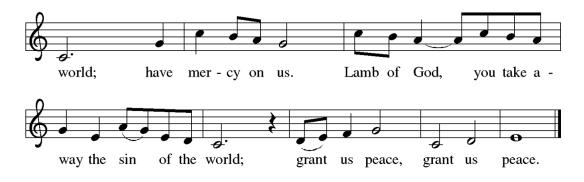
#### The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...C 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 and ever. Amen.





Hymn Sing "Two Hymns Chosen by the Congregation"

#### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.** 

#### Prayer at the Sending of Communion

**P** Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

# THE SENDING

#### Milestones & Announcements:

#### The Blessing

**P** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.** 

Hymn Sing "One Hymn Chosen by the Congregation"

#### Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. Thanks be to God! AM And next week, bring a friend!

# Making Jesus Known"

#### Hard Sayings Of Jesus—Summer Sunday Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings after worship for the summer edition of our Adult Sunday School class. We'll gather in the council room (also the Thursday afternoon Bible study room) at about 10:15 a.m. for a new series that will take a look at some of the difficult sayings and actions of Jesus to explore what they mean (or what they don't mean) and to unpack some otherwise complicated and challenging teachings of Jesus. What did Jesus mean when he said, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom?" What about when Jesus said, "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword?" Why did Jesus overturn the moneychangers in the Temple? And what could be going on when Jesus told his disciples to leave behind parents, family, and children for the sake of following him? We'll be looking at a different passage and a different "hard saying" each week, so come when you can, and join the conversation, each Sunday this summer, here at Community of Christ!

#### Good Trouble: A Study in Amos (Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.)

In a time when people confused financial success with divine favor and focused on ritual rather than righteousness, God raised up a bold truth-teller and poet named Amos. And like all of the authentic prophets of ancient Israel, he was able to both comfort the afflicted... and to afflict the comfortable. Whether he was calling out the Respectable Religious Leaders of his day or pointing out how the most vulnerable of his society were being taken advantage of, Amos was willing to risk his reputation and his comfort in order to wake people up. He regularly got himself into what the late John Lewis used to call "good trouble." And his witness is an important one for us today, as people who promise every time, we affirm our baptism that we will "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." So, join us for an in-depth study of this prophet on Thursdays this summer as our next Thursday afternoon Bible study at 1:00 p.m., co-led by Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie. We'll be starting up with this series on June 5, in the council room, and we'll be offering weekly video summaries as well to catch up if you can't join us in person around the table. We hope you'll be a part of this summer-long series here at Community of Christ studying Amos!

# Summer Spiritual Practice group "In The Presence of God"

This summer, as part of Vicar Natalie's internship project, we will be offering a weekly Summer Spiritual Practice group. The goal of this group is to learn a variety of ways to pray and draw close to God and to contribute to the NW Ohio Synod's theme of the Year of Listening. The spiritual practice group will meet on **Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall **ending on August 28**<sup>th</sup>. There will be a variety of pastors from the community who will help teach and lead the spiritual practice,

including Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Pastor Sarah Schaaf (NW Ohio Synod), Pastor Warren Clifton (Hope United Methodist - Whitehouse), Pastor Matt Musteric (St. Peter's Lutheran -Martin/St. Luke's Lutheran- Curtis), Vicar Jacinda Jones (St. John's Lutheran - Findlay), Pastor Chris Hanley (Glenwood Lutheran Church - Toledo), Pastor Meg Boger (Zion Lutheran - Waterville), Laurie Mauro, Pastor Steve Bond, and Vicar Natalie. Some spiritual practices include Taizé worship, centering prayer, praying with beads, visio divina, praying the labyrinth, Legos as spiritual practice, art, walking meditation - prairie meadow, improv, hymn singing. This is an *intergenerational group*, meaning all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend! For some practices, kids will break off into a separate group. Sign-ups for this event will be available at the kiosk or on SignUp Genius on our website at <u>www.commofchrist.org</u> by clicking the "Worship & Events Signups" button starting in May. We request that you RSVP for the dates you are planning to attend, so we can plan for supplies. If any kids will be attending, please enter how many and their ages, or 0 if not applicable.

**Kids Summer Reading Program** This summer, Community of Christ will be offering a summer reading program for kids. All summer, the Gathering space will house a bookshelf with ten different faith-based picture books for kids to read throughout the summer. Kids are encouraged to pick up a reading checklist, which lists all of the books to read. They can check out up to two books per week by signing out the books on the cards found inside each book and placing them in the "check-out" slot at the bottom of the bookcase. When they are finished reading and return the books, they can take a sticker from the bookshelf and add it to their reading checklist to keep track of what they have read. Once they have read all the books, they can see Vicar Natalie for a prize! The books we are reading include: Found: Psalm 23, Where God Lives, The Apostles' Creed: For All God's Children, Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus, Who is My Neighbor? Maybe God is Like That Too, The Marvelous Mustard Seed, God's Holy Darkness, God Created, What is the Bible?

New Children, Youth and Family Ministry Facilitator To Begin July 14! After many months of work seeking, interviewing, and deliberating over candidates, our joint task group with neighboring congregation Providence Lutheran in Holland is happy to report we have a candidate who has been hired for our new shared Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Facilitator position! We are happy to welcome Bryce Hinegardner to both Community of Christ and Providence for this new joint position! Bryce's start date will be July 14, and in that first week, he'll be getting acclimated at both congregations, with a plan that eventually he'll have twenty hours a week at each location and a regularly rotating presence on Sunday mornings in worship between Community of Christ and Providence. We'll have a chance later this August for a meet and greet with Bryce on a Sunday morning after worship, and you can look for an introduction from Bryce himself in our August newsletter as well. But in the meantime, we wanted to share the good news that our task group has found a winsome, passionate, energetic, and diligent person to step into this new ministry coordinating role for the ministries of our children, youth, and families here at Community of Christ! Welcome to Bryce!

#### Outreach Invites You to "Be The Evidence of God's Love" with New Apparel



The folks at the Outreach Committee invite you to be faithful—and fashionable!—while we also raise money for a neighborhood cause this summer. We invite you to order one of these new t-shirts with an original design that says, "Be the evidence of God's love" on the front, and has our Community of Christ logo on the sleeve! We'll be taking orders through July and hope to have shirts available in August and definitely in time for Blue Jean Sunday at summer's end! These will be a great way to share your faith, encourage someone to show God's love, and help a good cause. The profits will be sent to

Neighborhood Bridges of Anthony Wayne Area for their weekend backpack food program for school students. Shirts are \$15.00. You can order in person on Sunday mornings by cash or check, or use the electronic sign-up on Sign-Up Genius. <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-57071426-</u> <u>community</u> If you have any questions, please contact one of the Outreach Committee members. Thank you! Committee Chairman: Greg Myers, Committee Members: Shelly Hayes, Rose Ackerman, Robin Fritz, Kristen Schuchman, Kari Swagler, Cindy Smigelski, Tammy Myers, Cammie Abraham, Pastor Steve

"Into Your Hands"—An Encore Workshop on Christian Funerals and End-of-Life Questions In early May, Visitation Ministry hosted a Saturday morning workshop co-led by Vicar Natalie and Pastor Steve on Christian funerals and questions that often arise in end-of-life situations. We had a very positive response to that event, and a number of people who were not able to attend because of timing asked if it could be shared again. So, this summer, we invite you to join us for an encore presentation of *Into Your Hands*, on the evening of Tuesday, July 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., covering the same content as the workshop we offered back in May. Sign up at the kiosk to join us for a chance to learn, discuss, and bring your questions. We'll also be able to share details about our usual practices for funeral services and meals here at Community of Christ, and we'll offer a chance for any who wants to think through their own wishes for service details to do so. Maybe this is a subject you've been putting off thinking about, or maybe you've just needed a reason to finally sit down with loved ones and talk through your wishes. But we hope that this workshop can be helpful for you, and we'd invite you to join us to find out more. Then, coming up in the fall, look for a new workshop that will look at another set of issues related to death and dying, focusing on documents like living wills, healthcare power of attorney, and estate planning, in case those topics are of interest to you, too. The Visitation Ministry is grateful for the chance to get to present good information and workshops on topics that you find valuable, so please let us know if you have ideas for future topics that you would like covered in an educational format like this—see Cheryl Fischer or Cinda Pontsler.

Join Us for our monthly singing visit at Blue Creek Nursing Home this *Tuesday*, *July 8, at 10:00 a.m.*, 11239 Waterville Street here in Whitehouse. Hope to see you there!

Looking for a Flexible Bible Study Option? If you've wanted to join a Bible study but your schedule hasn't allowed, it—or you missed one of our past studies—we have a great solution! The church library now offers over 21 Bible studies on DVD for you to borrow and complete at your own pace. To check one out, simply use the sign-out card attached to the DVD, place it in the pocket on the side of the bookcase, and return the DVD and card when you're finished. Please note: You'll need to order your study book for each series. Topics include *Exodus, Genesis, Hebrews, James*, and many more! Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

**The Ladies' Lunch** will be Friday, July 25th, at 11:30 a.m. We will be going to Inside the Five Brewing Co. at 127 Third St, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Please sign up at the kiosk so I know how many are coming. They do not make reservations, but going early, I was assured there would be plenty of room for us. I am looking forward to trying a new place. Bring a friend!! Call Becky King with any questions at 419-349-7319.

#### 2025 Community of Christ Days and Olivet at Urban Wholistics Farms

Spend a morning at the farm with us! There are plenty of ways to help: support Sonia with the children's gardening program, assist at the kids' farm stand, or pitch in with general farm maintenance. Bring your kids or grandkids—there's something for everyone. We'll be visiting on Saturday, July 26, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. if you'd like to caravan. If you'd like to drive from your home, the address is: Urban Wholistics, Tatum Park by SONIA Organics 1209 City Park Toledo, OH 43604 Please sign up at the kiosk. Any questions? Call Sarah Rockwell – 419-261-2843

#### **Concert Committee Invites YOU to hear the Garms Family Acoustic Gospel Concert—July 27 at 4:00 p.m.** This summer, the Concert Committee is pleased to host the Garms Family, a musical ensemble and family that "bands together to love on people with live music, honest stories, and God's Word." On the afternoon of Sunday, July 27, at 4:00 p.m., join us in the worship space for a concert featuring piano, drums, fiddle, banjo, bass, mandolin, and more. A free-will offering will go to the performers as they make their tour, sharing music across the country, but no tickets are required. We hope you'll take time out this July for an afternoon of good music as we welcome the Garms Family this summer!

# SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>!

Let's lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support in the Toledo Pride parade on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, "God's love is for you!" to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that's all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year's T-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in Sign-Up Genius on the church's website.



# Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join us for fellowship and baseball! Cheer on our Toledo Mudhens as they take on the Memphis Redbirds.

- Sunday, July 20th at 4:05 p.m.
- Tickets are \$11 each cash only

• The last day to sign up is TODAY! July 6th on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk! Pay Michelle or Chad. For questions, call or text Chad Ackerman at 419-350-4879. Hope to see you there!



#### Altar Flowers given by Wayne & Becky King in Celebration of their 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary **V**

Church Office Hours 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday) Please note...... Hours may vary with vacations. Please call ahead ©

<b>Care Givers Meeting</b>
Monday, July 7, 6:30 p.m.
Summer Story Time
Tuesday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.
Social Action
Thursday, July 9, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, July 9, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Spiritual Practices Series</b>
Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.



Sunday mornings, @ 9:00 a.m., both in person and Facebook Live



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message

or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!