

LABOR DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

AUGUST 31, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

SHENKEL UCC

FIRST BAPTIST, POTTSTOWN

TEMPLE UMC

OPEN TABLE UCC

CEDARVILLE UMC

ST. JOHN'S UCC

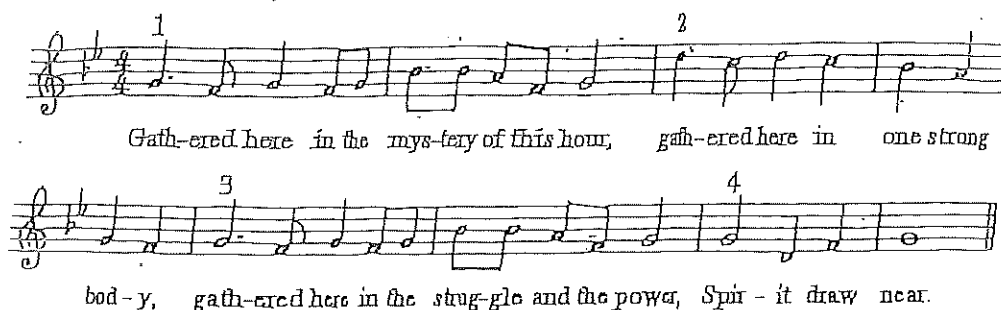
Labor Day Community Service August 31, 2025

Prelude Standin' in the Need of Prayer (arr. Giamanco)

Welcome/Announcements

Choral Introit "Gathered Here"

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990



Call to Worship

We hear whispers everywhere

Uncertainty on many sides

There are those who wait for us to slip into uncaring and unloving ways.

But the Lord is with us to stand up for us!

Our mighty God, our strong deliverer!

We have committed our cause to you!

You are our sure and certain hope

Sing to the Lord! Sing praises to our God!

SING TO JEHOVAH

Dan Wolgemuth

With Energy

1)
2)

Worship Leader Congregation & Choir WL C&C

Sing to Je-hov - ah. Sing to Je-hov - ah. Let the raft - ers ring. Let the raft - ers
Dance with Je-hov - ah, Dance with Je-hov - ah, feel your spir - it grow. feel your spir - it

WL C&C WL C&C

ring. Sing of His glo - ry, Sing of His glo - ry, He's the King of
grow. Dance in His pre - sence, Dance in His pre - sence know that He is

C&C WL C&C

kings. He's the King of kings. Songs of thanks-giv - ing, Songs of thanks-giv -
Lord. know that He is Lord. Move by His pow - er, Move by His pow

WL C&C

- ing, mu - sic of joy; mu - sic of joy;
- er, live in His love; live in His love; all by His

grace, His gift of faith, we can lift our voic - es up in praise!

Chorus

Sing out His sto - ry, tell your neigh - bor

of His end - less love. Live in His glo - ry,

grate - ful now to be a child of God.

2 1. 4 12. 3

Prayer of Confession (based on the three versions of the Lord's Prayer)

O Holy God in heaven, through your son, Jesus Christ,
and with the encouragement of your Holy Spirit,
you have taught us to pray for ourselves and the world:

Forgive us our debts.

**We know that we have not ensured every human being
those qualities of life that you call us to provide.**

We admit the part we owe to the debts of
Freedom, security, equality, and identity, for all people.
Have mercy on your people gathered here, O Lord.

Forgive us our trespasses.

**We know that we have sometimes invaded
the boundaries of other peoples' lives so that
we might have the best and most for our own lives.**

Because we have not always respected the lives of others,
the poor are still poor, the hungry are still hungry,
and the invisible are still invisible.

Have mercy on your people gathered here, O Lord.

Forgive us our sins.

**We know that we have turned our hearts away from you.
Through private thoughts or public actions,
we have rebelled against your laws and your will.
As individuals and as a community,
we confess that we have not kept your commandments.**

We have not loved you.

We have not loved others.

We have not loved ourselves.

Have mercy on your people gathered here, O Lord.

Help us to forgive.

We have not received what we expected.

Our lives have been stepped on.

We have been hurt by the disobedience of others.

Forgive us as we forgive our debtors;

As we forgive those who have trespassed against us;

As we forgive those who have sinned against you.

Have mercy on your people gathered here, O Lord.

O God, we ask for your forgiveness, even as you have already forgiven us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

We ask for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
to guide us on our path of repentance.

For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

“Where Justice Rolls Down”

Choir Anthem

Scripture Reading

Psalm 46

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Joel Dugan

Witness to Truth

Rev. Zack Jackson

“Great is Your Faithfulness”, v 1

SSBk #22

Witness to Truth

Rev. Mike Remel

“Great is Your Faithfulness”, vs 2 & 3

SSBk #22

Prayers of the People

Collective Offering for Operation 143

Rhoda Kidwell

Offertory “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

J.S.Bach

Piano duet: Joy Jannotti and Susan Royer

Congregation Specific Offering

“Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen”

SSBk #10

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

“God is Here! As We Your People Meet”

NCH #70

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep-herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov-ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

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Celebration of Holy Communion

Prayer:

Oh, we see the orange blades of fascism
knifing out through the leaves.

We feel that autumn edge to our easy days,
the coming frost of fear.

We know what we're seeing,
the erasure of truth, the hoarding of power,
soldiers in the streets
and neighbors disappearing.

We know how to interpret these.

But there are other signs hidden in the present moment:
the great tidal movement of compassion,
strangers holding hands,
the tilting of the earth toward light,
the buds of God swelling,
the hands of Love on the clay as it turns on the wheel.

The present moment is not just these minutes.

(Relax; you will arrive in time.)

It's not just these days, or even years.

(Yes, this will get harder before it gets easier.)

The present moment belongs to the eternity of grace;
this moment, this year and this eon are enfolded.

The final resurrection is also today.

The Suffering One is already present,
who inhabits every tragedy with mercy.

The end, in which all is made well and whole,
is also in this moment.

The present time isn't just one phrase,
but the whole story.

Eyes open, friends. Even now the Mystery expands. (Steve Garnass-Holmes)

We remember that on that night of betrayal and desertion, that Jesus shared a meal with his friends and followers. At that meal he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to all saying, "This is my body, given for you, do this for the remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave it to all of them saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this for the remembrance of me." As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

(We will observe 'pew communion' with the trays being passed to the congregation. Only grape juice is offered. There is a gluten free option for bread.)

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

SSBk # 6

Benediction

Postlude

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

August 31, 2025

**Four opportunities to review the
2026 Keystone Budget
before the vote on November 22nd**

On November 22nd, the churches of the future Keystone Conference will have a zoom meeting to approve the Keystone 2026 budget. In order to familiarize yourself with that budget you may access it at by going to psec.org, and clicking on the slider at the top of the page "Keystone Conference", and scrolling down to "Keystone Budget".

Members of the Keystone Budget & Finance team are offering four Town Hall opportunities, via zoom, to ask questions on the budget, prior to November 22nd.

These sessions are a great opportunity to ask questions, gain clarity, and better understand the budget ahead of our online meeting on November 22, when we will vote on the budget's approval.

There are four opportunities to participate:

Sept. 8 – Monday 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Registration: <https://2026budget0908.eventbrite.com>

Sept. 17 – Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 am

Registration: <https://2026budget0917.eventbrite.com>

Sept. 22 – Monday 6:30 -7:30 pm

Registration: <https://2026budget0922.eventbrite.com>

Oct. 14 – Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Registration: <https://2026budget1014.eventbrite.com>

Still looking for volunteers for the 2026 Keystone Conference meeting

Plans are underway for the next statewide gathering of the Keystone Conference. The event will be held on Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 in 2026. Our gathering will be held at Millersville University in Lancaster County. This will be a time of worship, Being the Church, meeting new friends, and forming new relationships.

Several committees are forming to plan details for the 2026 event. If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees, please forward your contact information (name, current Conference, and email address) to Shirley Keith Knox at skeithknox@comcast.net. All meetings are held ONLINE.

Volunteers ARE Needed for the following Conference Planning Areas:

Worship - Volunteers needed in the following key areas: Visual arts – designing and preparing the worship and prayer spaces, music leaders.

Workshops - Assistance needed to identify and schedule workshop presenters.

Display and Vendor Space - Volunteers needed to identify and coordinate vendors and exhibits.

Technology - Volunteers needed to identify, operate, and obtain technology for worship, hybrid business meetings, and workshops.

Mission/Service Project - Volunteers needed to coordinate a Conference-wide mission project that occurs at this summer gathering.

Registration Volunteers - Volunteers needed to prepare registration materials and assist at registration table at the university.

Youth and Children - Volunteers needed to identify childcare coverage and youth programming.

Fun & Hospitality - Volunteers needed to coordinate a strong welcome upon arrival at the venue, as well as ideas for fun.

Accessibility - Volunteers needed to arrange signage and coordinate local arrangements for golf carts, scooters and other accommodations that assure all attendees can fully participate in all events.