

"To equip the saints for the work of Ministry, for building up the body of Christ"

Ephesians 4:12

Together

Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting 2025

June 22, 2025

"Together"

Gleanings from
Our Delegates

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Note: Hymns are enlarged in large-print bulletins - of which there are plenty!

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

Ringling the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" *African Spiritual*

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE.

In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting.

They now contribute to spiritual practices and well-being in many spaces.

***Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

Holy One – Breathing in your spacious peace, we welcome this day.
Resting in your expansive love, we welcome this day.

Trusting in your perpetual hope, we welcome this day.
Living in your created image, we welcome this day. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #181)** “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”
verses 1 & 3-4

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

God of all – your world weeps, yearning for a sign of mercy.
Your love works through our hands.

A friend is in anguish, besieged by unexpected pain.
Your love works through our ears.

A multitude are harmed and weary from prejudicial ways.
Your love works through our eyes.

A stranger faces death alone, wondering if anyone will remember.
Your love works through our tears.

A neighbor is lonely, longing for someone to come alongside.
Your love works through our bodies.

Forgive our resistance and open us further to your Spirit’s movement –
Through all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Passing the Peace *(seated)*

...smiles and gestures of peace — to those online and seated near us

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

**Briar Bettin (6/23 – 6yrs), Jed Seeger (6/23), Forrest Whiterabbit, Jr (6/24),
Paul Spilseth (6/25), Shizuko Purnick (6/26)**

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Time with Telae | Children & youth can join Telae downstairs for a story, singing, and a craft
Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Proclaiming God's Love

Contemporary Reading | by Nan C. Merrill

A companion text to Psalm 34

Reading from the Epistles | NRSV, New Testament, p. 193

Ephesians 4

One: Here ends the readings. All: Thanks be to God!

Morning Message

"Together"

Gleanings from Our Delegates to the MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting

As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walk West (St. Paul):
a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience,
where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (insert) “I Dream of a Church”

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“Lead Me On”

Wilson

***Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below – Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Gracious One, we offer common gifts through our daily living. With gestures of strength, words of daring, prayers of kindness – we shape the tone and texture of how your vision is realized. Remind us that we are each a part of your whole. We dedicate our financial gifts and our very lives to your way of love. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #391)** “In the Midst of New Dimensions”
verses 1—2 & 5

***Sending Song (NCH #249)** *...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

Refrain: Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.

Verse: To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness without end.
Go, now, my friends, and do the same,
Until we come again.

Refrain

***Parting Music** *...as we greet one another*

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!



Community Worship in the Park @ Lakeside Park—Pavillion #4

July 6 | 10:30 am (note time change)

Join us as we worship with Bethlehem Lutheran and stay after for a picnic provided by the BLC Men's Group and BCAL.

Bring lawn chairs, a food pantry donation, and a friend!

PRAYER CORNER

*For Rolf Dittmann's friend **Jeff**, resilience as he undergoes testing on spine polyps.

*For **Bob and Sharon Neuenfeldt** as Bob enters hospice. May they both be surrounded in love in the coming time.

*With **Randy Gutzmann**, we give thanks for community as a motivator for healthy living.

*For the family of **Nancy**, a friend of Bob Dickie and Cindy Parsons, as they mourn her death.

*For Rolf Dittmann's sister, **Solveig**, relief from pain while unable to use meds after a knee replacement.

*For **Bob Heurung**, grateful and humbled while smoothly healing after a mass was removed from his colon. May peace be with Bob and Wendy as they await test results.

*As the **MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting** approaches, we pray for a fruitful experience for Pastor Clare, Kathleen Dennison and Mary Horak Binger as delegates from our congregation.

*For **Bob**, son-in-law of Cindy Baker's cousin, facing next steps after a metastatic cancer diagnosis.

*For a friend of our church, **Dan Maturen**, healing amid an infection after hip replacement.

*For Bob and Cheri Schwartz's granddaughter, **Bea**, as she starts new school and therapy programs.

*As **immigrant sweeps** occur throughout our country, may human dignity and wellbeing be upheld.

Conversations from the Heart

June 25th | 10 am & 6 pm



The Welcome and Care Team invites you to our new program offering on Wed. June 25th at 10 am and 6 pm.
A time of conversation in order to foster deeper personal connections within our church community.

Facilitated by Chris Bordeaux.

All are welcome!



**Pastor Clare at NACCC Annual Meeting in St. Louis | June 20—24
and on vacation | June 26—July 3**

In the event of a question or urgent need, please contact:

Megan Adams, Office Coordinator
(office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, 651-439-5667)

Urgent Pastoral Concerns:

Rev. Jenny Lind Larsen, First United Methodist Church (June 22—24)
(cell: 612-408-0173, church office: 651-439-1880)

Rev. Amy Vigesaa, Bethlehem Lutheran Church (June 26—July 3)
(cell: 651-439-3450)



St. Croix United Church
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org

Parents' Night Out

Evening Fun for Kids, 4 - 17 years old:

- Snacks
- Games
- Activities

Children must be potty-trained.

June 28th (4th Saturdays this summer... July 26th and Aug. 23rd)
5:30 - 8:30 pm

- St. Croix United Church | 309 N Third St, Bayport
- **Reserve your spot** with Telae (our Youth Director) by email: MusicAndYouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org or call/text: (612) 203-0859 **by June 27th.**

**Social Justice
in the St. Croix Valley**



Thursday, July 10th at 7 pm

(meets monthly | 2nd Thursday at 7 pm)

Join a group of your St Croix Valley neighbors to move forward with actions promoting social justice through community building and action planning.

Areas of interest include:

Building a community of justice

Communication initiatives

Equitable access to food, housing & transportation

Promoting literacy and educational freedom

Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

Scan the QR code to register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



St. Croix United Church
309 N. Third St Bayport, MN | 651-439-5667 | www.stcroixunitedchurch.org



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | June 23, 7 pm

Social Justice Team | June 24, 5:30 pm

Leadership Council | June 24, 6:30 pm

Gentle Tai Chi | June 25, 10 am

Conversations from the Heart | June 25, 10 am

Youth Choir | June 25, 3:30 pm


Conversations from the Heart | June 25, 6 pm

*All activities at St. Croix United Church
unless otherwise noted...*

Thank you to today's partners: Pastor Sandra Johnson (worship leader), Kathleen Dennison & Mary Horak Binger (the MN UCC Annual Meeting delegates), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), Carol Dusbabek (usher), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar decor)



St. Croix United Church

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll

pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

Megan Adams | Office Coordinator

office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667

Telae | Music & Youth Director, Interim Choir Director

musicandyouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (612) 203-0859

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You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla- vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

I Dream of a Church



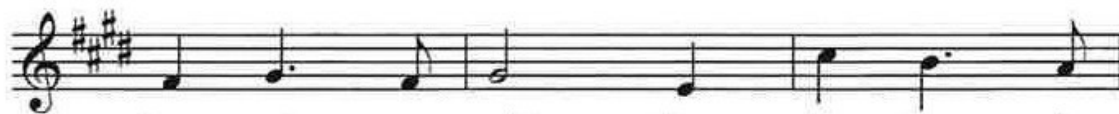
1. I dream of a church_____ where
2. O God, fill our hearts_____ to



ev - 'ry-one is wel - come, I dream of a
reach out in wel - come, make us to



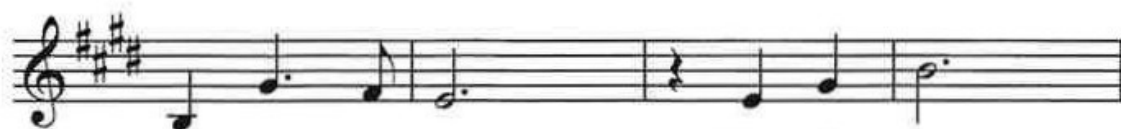
place_____ we all can call home. I
see_____ your vi - sion once more. Let's



dream of a world where jus - tice is
dream of a world where our hands are



flow - ing with hope and peace grow-ing, — where
your hands, we of - fer our - selves, — O



God's will is done.
God, make it so.

Make it so,



make

it

so!

We



pray

for

that day,

make it

so.



We dream

of

a

world

where



Love

reigns

a - mong us

and your

will

is



done,

O

God,

make

it

so!

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994