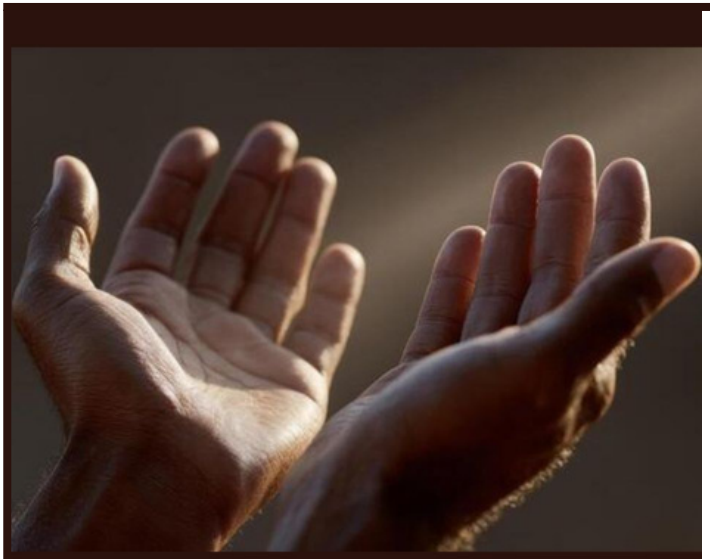


October 25, 2026

"Connect – Stewardship Deepens Connections"

Welcome!
We encourage wearing name tags.
Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "Heal Our Land" *Brook*

...quietly acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

One Whoever we are and wherever we are on our life journey -
All **We are welcome here - beloved within the body of God**

Singing Bowl *...centering ourselves in stillness and breath*

Opening Words from a Neighbor

**indicates sitting or standing*
NCH = New Century Hymnal SPP = Sing! Prayer and Praise

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

Welcoming God, as weary camels through the gate called Needle's Eye, we come.
Help us to unburden ourselves as we cross this threshold into worship.

Unburden us of the desire for things. That's not who we are.
Unburden us of our striving against others. That's not who we are.

Unburden us of our fear of falling short. That's not who we are.
Lift these things away, so we can be here as our truest selves. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (insert)** "All are Welcome"

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Loving God, you call us as individual members of one body. Your love and light make us one. You make us branches of one tree. Yet we too often divide ourselves. We strain or disregard our connections. Forgive us for the many ways we divide and hurt your body. Help us choose ways that unite us and heal us in all our wonderful diversity and imperfection. Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

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

Choral Anthem "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

This little light of mine...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Do we have any birthdays this week?

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...

Sunday School | *Children (age 3 - gr. 4) can go downstairs with Carol*
Youth Group | *Youth (gr. 5-12) can go with Eli'jah to our downstairs Youth Room*
Nursery | *Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to use the downstairs nursery*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV, p. 81* Luke 18:18-30

Ancient words can speak to us today. **We listen for our still speaking God.**

Contemporary Reading | *Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer*

"For When We Greet Each Other"

God speaks wisdom through our neighbors. **May we be moved by what we hear.**

Morning Message "Connect - Stewardship Deepens Connections"

Prayer Song (SPP #111) "Be Still and Know"

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

We use several versions of this prayer, faithfully expressed across the ages

Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kindom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Witnessing Steward **Cindy Parsons**

Connect, Grow, Love | Our Oct. 25 - Nov. 8th annual Giving Drive invites us to consider pledging financial support for our congregation's ministry in 2027

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check, or electronically (scan the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards are in pew pockets

We can hover a hand over the plate as it passes - to bless gifts of time, talent and money

Offertory "God From Whom Blessings Flow" *Watts*

***Song of Thanks**

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Song (SPP #187)** "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle*

Irish Blessing
sung twice

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand

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

Today following worship:
all are welcome to longer for refreshments and good company!



Adult Forum

TODAY | 11 am

This morning, we continue a study of Christians in Palestine, "A Moment of Truth--Faith in a Time of Genocide." Come join us and learn about the descendents of the first church.

PRAYER CORNER

*With Sharon Neuenfeldt, prayers for her friend **Ginny** as she mourns the death of her 2-week old granddaughter, Poppy.

*With **Cindy Parsons**, as she helps her daughter, **Erin**, move from Vail to Golden, CO (new housing, new job opportunities) - prayers of blessing on new beginnings.

*With the Gromoll family, prayers for **Aidan** as she provides medical care in a resource poor area of Pakistan.

*For **families facing seemingly insurmountable struggles**, especially as the holidays grow near - may they be surrounded with love, hope, and support.

*With Therese Thorson, prayers for those who loved her cousin, **John**, who died recently.

*With Bob and Wendy Heurung, we pray for the loved ones of the local 11-year old boy, **Kai Yoo**, who passed away after an accident between his electric scooter and a car. May our communities find ways to address safety amid this new technology.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering

October 11 - 25th

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

Envelopes available in your bulletin, or in the entryway.



Connecting with the Word - *"Stewardship" is our current theme!*

Wednesday, Oct. 28th | 11 am *@ church & Zoom*

Come any Wednesday to explore the biblical and contemporary readings for the coming Sunday. We examine each passage, wonder about its meaning, and discover connections to our own faith journeys.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to Zoom.



Congregational Forum - Properties

Sunday, Nov. 1st | 11 am

Members of St. Croix United Church are invited to attend an informational meeting regarding our church properties on November 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the church basement.

Representatives from Flourish Placemaking Collective (our consultant) and our Church Properties Task Force will be present to share the results of the recent congregational survey, provide updates on their work, and answer questions from members of the congregation.

Please note that this meeting is for informational purposes only. No proposal will be presented, and no vote will be taken at this meeting. An official congregational meeting, at which a proposal will be presented and a congregational vote conducted, will be scheduled for a later date.

We strongly encourage all interested members to attend, learn more about the survey findings and building-related discussions, and participate in the question-and-answer session.

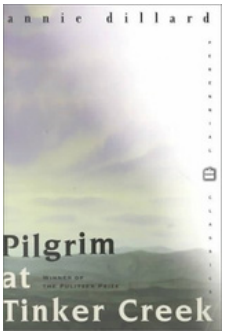


Vigil for Our Democracy - *mark your calendar*
Monday, November 2nd

Gather with neighbors in our Sanctuary on the eve of Election Day. We will lift up the well-being of our democracy through music, spoken word, and resource sharing.

A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Pastor Clare to help with music, reading, or hospitality.



Faith & Spirit Book Club - *mark your calendar*
Thursday, November 12th | 6 pm

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dilliard
"A personal narrative highlighting one year's exploration on foot in the author's own neighborhood in Tinker Creek, VA. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek & contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall she watches a monarch butterfly migration & dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot; she collects pond water & examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, & plays 'King of the Meadow' with a field of grasshoppers."

Questions? Contact Mary Piasecki (715-205-8692) or Betsy Runke (303-229-5763)

Valley Bookseller in Stillwater has copies for 15% off!

Soup & Shop is coming!
Saturday, Nov. 21st | 10 am - 3 pm

Want to help? Sign-ups are available in the Fellowship Hall for:

- Crafts
- Soups, Baked Goods, Pies, Cookies (for variety boxes)
- Kitchen & Dining Room help
- Cashiers, Greeters, Raffle Assistants
- Set-up and Clean-up
- Porch Pot & Swag Party

Used large plants pots are currently being collected to make Porch Pots! Feel free to bring yours in! They can be left in the upstairs large Corner Classroom. Thank you!

Questions can be directed to Mary Horak Binger (651-357-8601).



Week at a Glance

Pastor Clare away at Clergy Retreat | **Oct. 27 - 29**

Connecting With the Word | **Oct. 28, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom
FREE Community Meal | **Oct. 28, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Teen Time | **Oct. 28, 6 pm** | @ Church

Soup & Shop Team | **Oct. 29, 9 am** | @ Church
Nominating Team | **Oct. 29, 2 pm** | @ Church



All Saints Sunday - *mark your calendar for* **November 1st**

We're collecting names of those we want to honor on All Saints Day during worship. We will say and light a candle for each name.

Please email Megan with names you'd like to remember during this special service by Tuesday, Oct. 27th.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Mary Horak Binger & Gary Piasecki (ushers), Sharri Kinkead (greeter), Mary Piasecki (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Jill Greenhalgh & Rolf Dittmann (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Kim Klisch (children's activity)

St. Croix United Church
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org @SCUCBayport

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

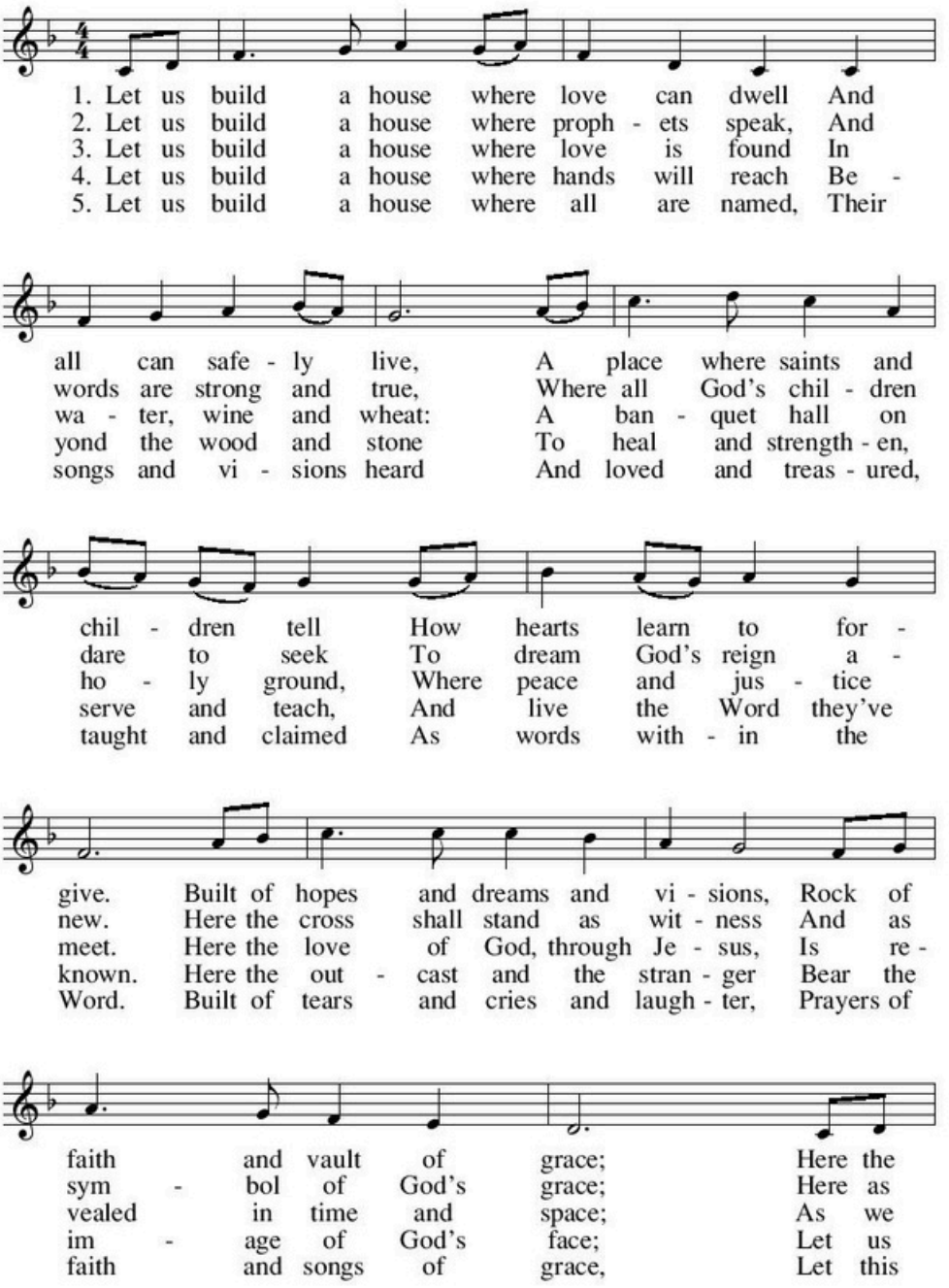
Megan Adams | Office Coordinator
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667

Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator
youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (920) 650-1225

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux | Music Director
(651) 470-1502

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All Are Welcome





Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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**May be sung as a round beginning at measure two.*

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Spanish paraphrase: Anthony Cabrera, 2009.

RESPOND

187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

