

SAINT STEPHENS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



AUGUST 17, 2025 | 9:00 AM | TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We do not have Sunday School during the summer months. During the Time for All Ages, children will receive a snack and an activity sheet.

Use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in presenting the offering.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, 21st century
"Scripture is much more full of hope than of journalism...."

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering one time to the church, to a special offering, or to set up regular giving, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



Stay in the loop!

Sign up for text alerts to stay updated on all upcoming events and church news. To join, text "Join" and your email to 715-255-1232.

SOMETHING TO INSPIRE <https://youtu.be/W3yTBms5EWI>

PRELUDE

GREETING

The joy and peace of God be with you all!

And also with you.

Alleluia! My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. (Jn. 10:27))

Alleluia!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us sing to the God of Hosts

who provides for us, and whom we worship in this space.

How awesome is our God

who created from nothing all that is beautiful in this world;

who anticipates our every need;

who loves us beyond measure. O God, our God give heed to our presence. Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise. Amen.

*PRAISE HYMN

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

#21

PASSING THE PEACE

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

A LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went

about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

This is the Good News. In this truth we find eternal life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"All My Hope on God is Founded"

#88

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

MISSION FOCUS Bluejay NEST, Bluejay AID, and Bluejay Pantry

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS “Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring” #379**

Words: Mary Anne Parrott, 1982

Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784

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***Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill
The ministry disciples have, empower’d to do your will***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God loves a generous giver! Let us pray with joy as we dedicate these gifts:

**Loving and merciful God,
we offer these gifts in gratitude
for all the ways in which you have blessed our lives.
With these gifts we commit ourselves to serve you
and to work for peace in this world.
Bless these gifts that they might be used
in ministries of restoration and reconciliation. Amen.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN “God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” #439**

***BENEDICTION**

As our worship service ends, our worship through service begins anew.
The peace of God which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of our
Savior, Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God almighty, the Savior and the
Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

***BENEDICTION “Wherever You Go”**

Next Pg

Words and Music: Barbara Hamm

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*Wherever you go, God is with you;
Wherever you go, God is there.
Wherever you go, whatever you do,
You are in God’s care.*

*Wherever we go, God is with us;
Wherever we go, God is there.
Wherever we go, whatever we do,
We are in God’s care.*

POSTLUDE

Wherever You Go

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. Wher - ev - er you go, — God is with you; wher -
 2. Wher - ev - er we go, — God is with us; wher -

-ev - er you go, — God is there. Wher - ev - er you go, — what -
 -ev - er we go, — God is there. Wher - ev - er we go, — what -

-ev - er you do, — you are in God's care. —
 -ev - er we do, — we are in God's care. —

THANK YOU!

Musicians today are Darlene Johnson and Tiffany Bucheger.

Radio Ministry is in memory of Ruth Buck from family and friends.

Livestream is sponsored by Harlan Fausch in loving memory of Phyllis Fausch, whose birthday is on August 16 from her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Technical Director: Jody Meyer and Corey Dornbrack



Kari is putting together the Labor Day parade, and we would love for you to join us! If you're interested in walking in the parade and sharing the joy of Saint Stephens and our ministries, just drop Kari an email at kari@ststephensucc.net. We can't wait to celebrate together!

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Any readings about family are a good opportunity to help children figure out how they are related to family members. Get a sheet of paper or some poster board and draw a family tree. Start sharing stories about the relatives you remember that your children may not have known—and other stories about the people they do know.

You can put pictures over the squares and circles in your tree if you like.

Ask your children about friends and church members. Do they feel like family sometimes? How would you diagram them into the tree?

If you do get pictures out, talk about who looks like who in the family. What skills—musical, craft, woodworking, math, compassion, patience, athleticism—do you see in different people in the family? If some children are adopted, talk about the difference in appearances and how gardens are beautiful because of the variety of the flowers. Family and faith become the soil that nourishes all of us and makes us part of the same garden.

List a special gift each person on the tree brings to your family. Share the “Family Gifts Tree” at the next big family gathering and say a prayer giving thanks for each family member.

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