



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JULY 5, 2026
PASTOR ~ THE REV. DR. PETER VERMEULEN
912.663.0734



Christ UMC: Faith Moving ~ God's Love Transforming ~

Difference Making

Sunday School ~ 9:00 AM

Worship ~ 10:00 AM

* We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning! We pray you find a warm welcome and a moving worship experience.

* Please register your attendance on the *Connection Card* found in the pew book holder.

* Nursery for **children ages 5 and under** is located across the courtyard in the Fellowship Hall. Please see an usher for assistance in locating.

* Children **Kindergarten thru Fifth grade** will return to their parents following the Children's Moment to participate in the life of the church and receive communion. If you prefer for you child not to receive communion, they may remain in their seat or go forward with their arms crossed over their chest to receive a blessing. Children's bulletins and crayons are available in the Narthex.

* Williams Hearing Assist listening devices are available at the sound booth.

Office: 478.922.0211 / admin@christunited.net

<https://www.ChristUnited.net> / Office Hours: M-Th 9am-4pm, Fri 9-11am

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes: Mason List & Tyler Davidson

Counter & Lay Reader: Les Arent

Live Stream: Joe Galipo

Media & Sound: Mike Crocker

Ushers: Thomas Schoonover* & Nikki Massey

* help with offering



9: Robin Wilcher

11: Dave Razo

JUNE 28 ATTENDANCE: 50 in-person / 11 on-line /
125 FB views

A donation to the Church has been given by Ginny Bramblett in Memory of Maria Register, Denise Vermeulen's sister.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- > Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
- > Psalm 45:-10-17 > Romans 7:15-25a
- > Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE
CHIMING OF THE HOUR
VIDEO
WELCOME
OPENING PRAYER

God of the Ages

NATIONAL HYMN

The Rev. Dr. Peter Vermeulen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather this morning appreciating our freedom to worship God.

People: **May God continue to bless the Church of Christ in this land.**

Leader: We draw near to the God who rules over all nations.

People: **May God continue to bless our country and all the countries in the world.**

Leader: We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all people on the earth.

People: **May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us understand that it begins in our hearts.**

All: Come, let us worship the Lord!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT ~ Pledges

* HYMN OF PRAISE ~ Screen

The Star-Spangled Banner

The Rev. Dr. Peter Vermeulen

NATIONAL ANTHEM

* CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Rev. Dr. Peter Vermeulen

When we look at the relationships we hope to have with one another, and with God, we must admit how broken we are. But, as we gather in the presence of God, we are promised forgiveness and healing, if we will confess our sins. Please join me, as we pray to the One who never ceases to love us,

* UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God. You call us to serve others, and we stay in the coolness of our own homes. You would send us to where the hopeless live, but we are reluctant to leave the comfort of our complacency. You would feed us on the peace and joy of your word, but we pull our chairs up to the tables of those who serve false promises.

Forgive us, Guiding God. Transform our defiance into discipleship, and our rejection of others into the resurrection of welcoming all people as sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us to love as faithfully as you have always loved us, and send us forth to take the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.

Silence is kept

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We open our lips and confess our hearts. God hears our words and makes us new, sending us out to bring hope and joy to all the world.

We hear the good news, we believe the good news, we will live out the good news. Thanks be to God. Amen!

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ UMH #881		Lay Reader & Congregation
* GLORIA PATRI ~ UMH # 70		MEINEKE
MORNING PRAYER	Lay Reader	
* HYMN OF PREPARATION ~ UMH # 696 (all vs) <i>America the Beautiful</i>		MATERNA
OFFERTORY PRAYER		Lay Reader
OFFERTORY MUSIC	<i>Freedom Hymn</i>	Arr. KARTSONAKIS
* DOXOLOGY ~ UMH # 95		OLD 100TH
* SCRIPTURE		2 Corinthians 3:17 / Matthew 11:28-30
	The Word and Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks and Praise be to God!	
SERMON	"Freedom"	The Rev. Dr. Peter Vermeulen
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING		

May the God of steadfast love be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, offer your hearts to God.

We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

Children of God, sing your praises to the One who has gathered us here.

Our songs of joy travel to the very ends of creation.

It was you, Imaginative God, who whispered and the rumble of creation shook the rafters of chaos.

Mighty trees graced valleys with shade, stars glittered in moonless nights, children splashed in the pools of hope.

Every delight was crafted so we might know of that love which would last forever.

When we could not have our way, we took offense at your hopes for us, throwing tantrums as we took flight to follow sin and death through the world.

Amazed at our crafty rebellion, you continued to love us, longing to shelter us in your heart.

When we continued to dishonor your prophets, when we would not welcome their words, you sent Jesus to become that weakness strong enough to destroy sin and death.

So, we join our voices with all who have wondered at your steadfast love, singing your name to the edges of the universe:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of enduring love.

All the gifts of creation delight in you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One whose weakness is our hope.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of all goodness and truth, and blessed is Jesus, your Child, our Savior.

It was he who came, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, with words which could transform our foolishness, with weakness which could strengthen our fatigued faithfulness, with wisdom which could teach us the way of life in all its fullness.

Yet, we were offended by his life, his ways, his humility.

He continued to listen to you, going wherever you sent him - no glory, no wealth, no honor - even to that place called Calvary where sin's thorns crowned him.

Your grace was enough for him, even in the cold shadows of the tomb, and he walked forth into your steadfast love, leaving death behind in the dust.

As we remember his calling us to follow, as we seek to be sent forth to serve, we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

Christ came, to shape our lives like his;

Christ came, to be our Guide forever;

Christ will come again, to gather us in glory.

So now, in this place where we have heard your promises, among these people in whom we have seen the Christ, pour your Spirit upon the gifts of your Table.

The broken Bread of life is all we need of hope for filled, we can go forth to anoint the lost and hopeless with the oil of your compassion.

Your Cup of grace overflows, more than we will ever need, and more than enough to bring healing to those who have known only hardship, rejection, and loneliness.

And when at the end of all time, we discover that it was you who had led us all along the way and brought us to the Table in glory, we will join our voices as one, singing our praise to you, God in Community, Holy in One, even as we unite in praying as we are taught, *(The Lord's Prayer)*

COMMUNION FOR OUR AT HOME FRIENDS

* HYMN OF RESPONSE ~ Screen

For Freedom, Christ Has Set Us Free

ELLACOMBE

* BENEDICTION

We will go to let the Joy of creation lead us into this new day.

We will sing glad choruses of hope to a world in despair.

We go to walk with our Heart's Love beside those whose hearts are broken.

We will touch boastful tongues with peace, we will offer compassion to those frozen with fear.

We will go with your gentle wisdom, Spirit of grace, to walk the streets of the kingdom.

We will bring healing to grudges held far too long, filling those who grieve with the laughter of hope.

VIDEO

POSTLUDE

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

* Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able.

