United Church of Christ ~ California, Missouri

Rev. Michael Matheny **Pastor**

Mrs. Beth Dampf **Organist**

October 25, 2026 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

**All those who are able, please stand.*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Georjie Peck & Nora Wolford

Choral Opening God's Singers

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song Hymn No. 20 "I Love You, Lord"

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!

People: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are Sovereign!

People: Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

Leader: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!

People: Let your favor be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands- O prosper the work of our hands!

*Hymn No. 9 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

*Invocation (unison)

Loving God, we gather before you in praise and thanksgiving, wonder and awe, doubt and uncertainty, joy and pain. We seek your guidance and direction, assurance and challenge, correction, and encouragement. Make your presence known among us this day. Let your Spirit reign in our worship, in our hearts, and in our lives. Just your presence among us gives us comfort, strength, and joy. Be glorified in our love, O God. Amen.

*** Call to Praise**

O Lord, open our lips!

And our mouths shall show forth your praise!

Act of Praise –"Gloria Patri"* *(printed on laminated card in hymnal)*

Time of Greeting

Invitation to Children's Time

Hymn for Children "Jesus Loves the Little Children" p.166

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world,
All the children of the earth, they are precious from their birth,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Children's Time JoAnn Cantriel

Prayer for Illumination (unison) Susan Burger

Gracious God, we hear the direction in biblical law, and we can reduce our faith into all the things we cannot do. We can begin to perceive following you to a way of life that restricts our choices and binds us to certain behaviors. Help us to recognize that life with you transcends the rules and invites us to loving you, our neighbor, and ourselves. Through the Law, the Prophets, and the Messiah, you have helped us know how to love better and more. Help us again today. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 p. 184
Second Lesson: Psalms 9:1-6, 13-17 p. 468
Third Lesson: I Thessalonians 2:1-8 p. 1029

Anthem "Teach Me, Lord" God's Singers

Sermon Text: Matthew 22: 34-46 p. 857
Sermon **The Greatest Commandment**

Hymn No. 227 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*) unison

Invitation to the Offering

*Response *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy Love, we dedicate these gifts to you in hope and trust that, through you, our generosity makes a difference in the world. We give you thanks in advance for the fruit nurtured by this offering. As you bless these gifts, also bless the giver and those entrusted with the stewardship of these resources in your name and for your church and world. Amen.

*Hymn No. 345 More Love to Thee, O Christ

*Benediction

Let love be your law. Let love be your compass. Let love abound and abide. And, know that the God of love is with you and for you, now and forever.

*Congregational Response

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again" – p.580

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude

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Ushers: Jay Bestgen & Tara Meisenheimer

Greeters: Brett & Kendra Hall

Pastor Matheny 414-241-6648
rhonda@calmo-ucc.org / Church office: 573-796-4885
Website: www.calmo-ucc.org

Activities Calendar: October 25, 2026 ~ November 1, 2026

Sunday, October 25
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Worship

Monday, October 26
7:00 p.m. - Brotherhood

Tuesday, October 27
9:00 a.m. – Prayer Cell
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Wednesday, October 28

6:00 – Wednesday Night Meal/Confirmation
6:30 –R.O.K. and God's Singers/Bell Choir
7:30 – Sr. Choir

Saturday, October 31

9:30 a.m.- VeggieTales

Sunday, November 1- All Saints Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Worship - Communion

Looking ahead ~
November 2 – Sunday School Teacher and Officer Meeting
November 3 - Quilters meet
November 9 - Consistory Meeting
November 18 – Women's Guild
November 22 – Totenfest Sunday and Pastor Matheny's farewell day
Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service at The First Christian Church
November 23 – Brotherhood
November 25 – No Wed. night activities including meal
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day
November 27 – Church office closed
November 29 – First Sunday of Advent-Brenda Oesterly

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 8th there will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following the service to update the Congregation on the pastor search status and the upcoming services in 2027.

Sunday, November 22 will be Rev. Matheny's last Sunday. There will be a farewell meal immediately following worship. Food provided by the Church, but if you would like to donate a dessert please sign up or let the church office know. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sancutary and downstairs on the bulletin board and window. Please sign up if you plan to attend the meal on Sunday, Nov. 22 to plan accordingly for food. Thanks.

Wednesday Evening Meals

There are still spots available to help bring desserts or help provide the meal. Sign up on the bulletin board.

If you are coming to a meal,

Please sign up on the clip board at the office window or at the back of the sanctuary.

Or by 4:00 Monday: Call the church office (796-4885)

Email Rhonda: rhonda@calmo-ucc.org

October 28 - 6:00 p.m.

The menu is: **Baked Potato Bar**

A Nursery is available in the upstairs hallway, just outside the sanctuary. The nursery attendant is **Emma Bestgen**. There are activity bags at the back of the sanctuary for children that stay in the worship service.

Need some help with hearing? See an usher at the back of the sanctuary to check out a hearing assisted unit for your personal use in the sanctuary and in the Friendship Hall. We have new units available.

Notice the "Connection Cards" in the pews. They are for our guests or anyone that has a prayer request or needs more information about the church. Please place it in the offering plate.

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Historical Committee would like to display pictures of all our Veterans in the cabinet by the Church office. If you would like to have a picture displayed, please drop it off at the Church office **by November 6th.** Pictures will then be available for pick-up after December 4th.

Please pray for these . . .

Love & Justice in God's World

Family and Friends of: Chase Walker, Earl Engelbrecht, Stanley Henson

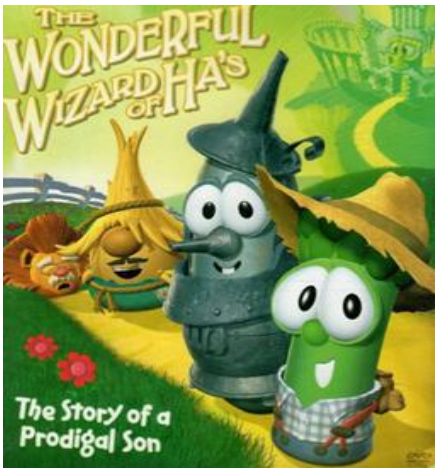
Confirmands: Weston Brandes, William Kissick, Maci Kueffer, Camden Lawson and Sophia Miller

All Those Who Need Our Prayers, including:

Janice Anderson, Alan Meyer, Anjanette Volkart, Becky Zuidervaart, Alan Chambers, Joyce Rohrbach, Cindy Ash, Jackie Heather
California Care: Jimmy Ford, Amanda Volkart, Ida Barry
Valley Park: Jane Burger, Carole Schroeder, Patricia Friedrich
Heisinger Bluffs: Charles Goode
Tipton Oaks: Jo Suggs

All Those Serving in the U.S. Military, including:

Martin Knipker *(son of Kenny Knipker, Naval Base, San Diego, CA)*
Dwight Bowlin *(grandson of the late Jack & Carole Bowlin, Fort Campbell, KY)*
Madelynn Perry *(granddaughter of Jan Anderson, army – Europe)*
Derek Meyer *(grandson of Elaine & Eldred Proctor, Army, Italy)*
Blake Street (*grandson of Jenine Baker, Army, Ft. Drum, NY*)
Cory Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Marine Reserves, St. Louis)*
Tucker Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Army, Kentucky*)
Walker Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Air Force, Germany)*
Philip Crawford (*nephew of Brett and Kendra Hall, Army National Guard-overseas)*



Come Join us at the California United Church of Christ

101 North Oak Street

Saturday, Oct 31st 9:30 am – 11:00

Age 2 to 5th Grade

Matinee & Snacks featuring: The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's

Make a Scarecrow, play Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin,
Roll-A-Pumpkin and Pass the Pumpkin
Do the Monster Dance then take home a Special Treat
Register: contact Ronda Mortenson 573-694-3933 or Church Office 573-796-4885

Food Pantry Items Needed

Each month the Food Pantry is requesting a different food item. For the **month of October, Cake Mix** is the food item requested. Looking ahead, **Peanut Butter is the food item for November.** There is a box in the downstairs foyer to place your food items.

Ministerial Alliance **Thanksgiving Service**
At the First Christian Church-Sunday, November 22nd 7:00 p.m.



Operation Shoebox

Join the Middle School Youth Group for Operation Christmas Child! Pick up a box in the lobby by Friendship Hall and fill it for a child aged 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. We will have a packing party after church on **Sunday, November 15th**, with last-minute items like sunglasses and Bible verse bracelets available. Enjoy pizza afterward.

The MSYF thanks you for your help in this service project! If you have questions, please see Tammy Kilmer or Connie Bestgen.

Prayer from the Search Committee...

Heavenly Father, we approach Your throne of grace with humble hearts, seeking Your divine intervention in our search for a new pastor. We ask for a leader who will have a heart for Your people and a passion for Your kingdom.

I Love You, Lord

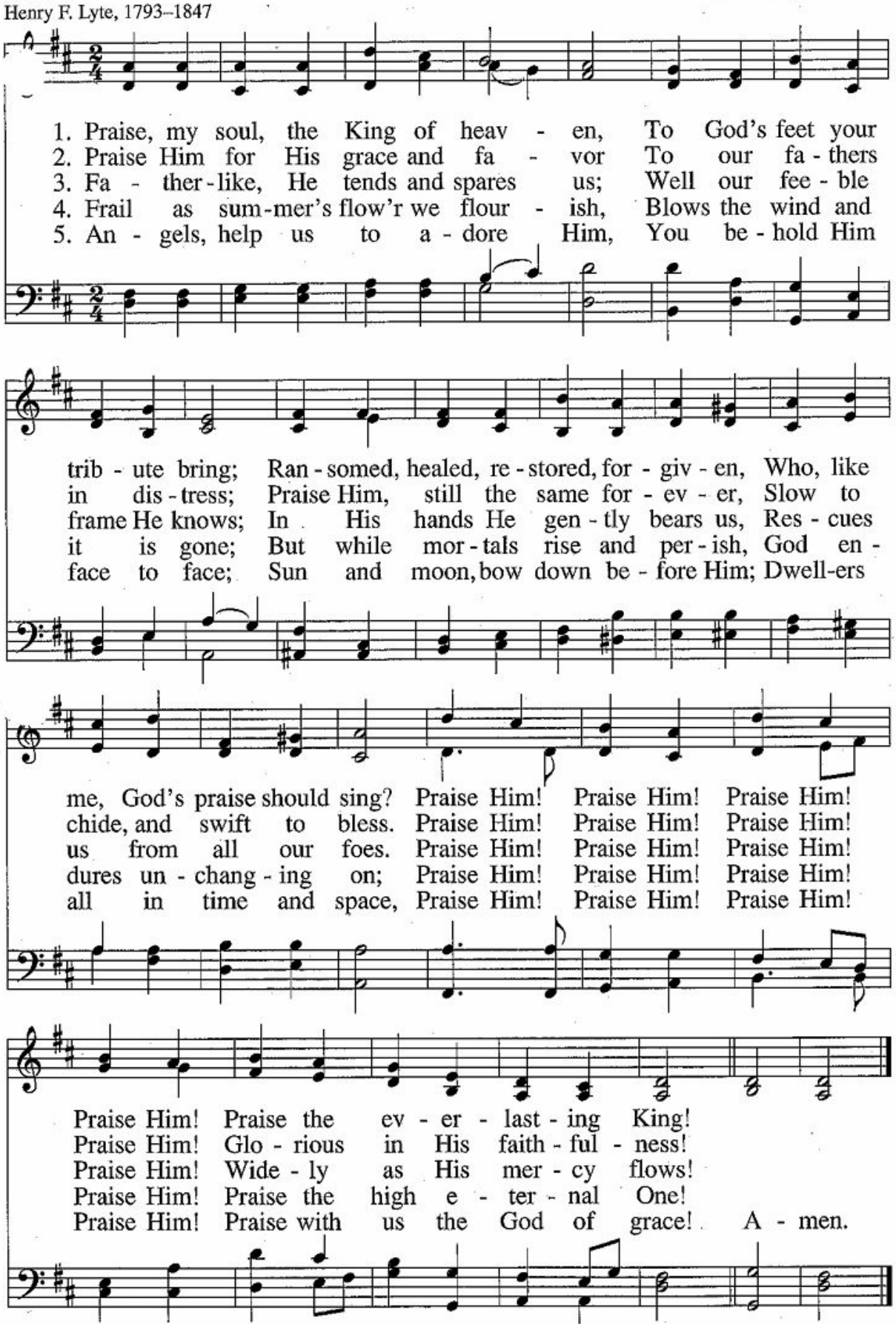


I LOVE YOU, LORD
Irregular

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

John Goss, 1800–1880



Breathe on Me, Breath of God



More Love to Thee, O Christ



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son,
our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the
third day he arose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one
Holy universal Christian Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the
life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom 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 kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory for ever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings
flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

KYRIE

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Congregation: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Minister: Christ, have mercy upon us.
Congregation: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Congregation: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**